

Observer, December 17, 2015

OBSERVER

The Top 10 NYC Gallery Shows of 2015

by Ryan Steadman



#7. Jon Kessler; "Jon Kessler's Gifts" at Salon 94, February 15, 2015–March 28, 2015. Pictured: Installation view of Jon Kessler's exhibition "Jon Kessler's Gifts" at Salon 94. (Photo: Courtesy of Salon 94)

When a show can enthrall one of the most powerful art advisers, a technologically gifted art handler; a Marxist sociologist and a seven-year-old all at once, I take notice. Jon Kessler has been wowing art insiders for years with his whiz-kid mechanical sculptures and installations, but this show of intimate and uniquely generous (downright bizarre by mainstream market standards) kinetic sculptures simply titled "Jon Kessler's Gifts" lifted the profile of this quintessential New York City artist even higher. In fact, Kessler's elegant surrealist riffs, which incorporate '50s toys, Chinatown oddities and other sundry items, also double as love letters to the crazy, messy multicultural city we call home. What a gift indeed.