

May 28 2026

The New York Times

“Art Gallery Shows to See in May”

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# The New York Times

## Art Gallery Shows to See in May

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By **Dawn Chan, Jillian Steinhauer, Travis Diehl and Will Heinrich**

Published May 7, 2026 Updated May 28, 2026

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*This week in Newly Reviewed, Dawn Chan covers Huguette Caland’s unstuffy art-making, a curious group show, Jimmy Tucker’s joy and Emily Kraus’s mechanical painting.*

WEST VILLAGE

### Tromarama

Through June 13. The Kitchen, 163B Bank Street; 212-255-5793, [thekitchen.org](http://thekitchen.org).



Installation view of “Tromarama: Upon a Machine,” in which computer programs convert text into code that activates instruments. via Tromarama and The Kitchen; Photo by Kris Graves

The Indonesian collective [Tromarama](#) has made a name for itself with artworks that cleverly transform social media posts into more abstract and symbolic outputs. For example, “Contract” (2025) used posts on X tagged #force to prompt the playing of infrasonic recordings of twitching muscles, which emanated from speakers embedded in Korean instant noodle cups.

For their first solo show in New York, Tromarama — formed by Febie Babyrose, Herbert Hans and Ruddy Hatumena in 2006 — has turned their attention to artificial intelligence. “[Upon a Machine](#)” consists of a series of melodicas, soprano recorders, microphones and lamps that are connected via tubes, wires and quotidian objects like ladders, lawn chairs and mops. A screen features an A.I.-generated, karaoke-style video interpretation of the comic “The Life and Times of Scrooge McDuck.” Computer programs convert the text into code that activates the instruments and lights in real time.