

Schwenderer Martha, '4 Art Gallery Shows to See Right Now: Kim Jones's gritty assemblage-sculptures'.  
[www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com), 30 December 2020.

## Kim Jones

Through Jan. 9. Bridget Donahue, 99 Bowery, 2nd floor, Manhattan. 646-896-1368;  
[bridgetdonahue.nyc](http://bridgetdonahue.nyc).

The trauma of being a U.S. soldier in the Vietnam War reverberates through Kim Jones's tough, gritty assemblage-sculptures, drawings and endurance performances. Examples from 50 years of Mr. Jones's oeuvre are on view in "[RATS LIVE ON NO EVIL STAR](#)" (a cryptically evocative palindrome) at Bridget Donahue.

Mud, rats and thrift-store objects play a prominent role for Mr. Jones's creative universe. (An early performance, partially referencing his experience at war, consisted of burning live rats onstage, which raised the ire of activists.) Here, "Little Tike" a sculpture reworked from 1973 to 1999, is built around a pink toy plastic vehicle augmented with foam, wire, gauze, and other materials and parked vertically on the wall. "Untitled" (1969-2019) is a pair of military trousers issued to Mr. Jones; with eerie, spectral figures painted on the legs, he may also be referencing the leg braces he wore in childhood.



Kim Jones's "Little Tike," made of plastic, acrylic, ink, wood, cord, foam rubber, nylon, wire, gauze, paper, tape, cheesecloth. Kim Jones and Bridget Donahue; Gregory Carideo

Photographs of Mr. Jones's grueling urban performances in the 1970s are included in this show, as well as recent drawings, often over photographs. A video on Bridget Donahue's website documents [a 1979 performance-walk](#) in which Mr. Jones slathered himself with mud and carried a big homemade armature around the streets of San Francisco. At once artist, shaman and alienated Everyman, his work resonates at this moment, when raw creativity is being summoned in the service of healing battered bodies, psyches and spirits.