

**PRESSBOOK**

Paola PIVI

*ARTnews*

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## Art News November 2013 Lilly Wei

### Paola Pivi

#### Galerie Perrotin

The challenging title of Paola Pivi's show, "Ok, you are better than me, so what?," the inaugural exhibition of Galerie Perrotin's New York space, is provocative, in the whimsical, somewhat dadaist manner characteristic of the Alaska-based (but peripatetic) artist. This new, finely feathered flock of eight nursery-colored polar bears (all 2013) was another instance of Pivi's improbable juxtapositions. The bears, a vulnerable species, have been her protagonists in the past, as befits Arctic neighbors, and they underscore her environmentalist leanings. Nearly life-size, they seemed at home in their urban space, standing, sitting, or lying down in a variety of anthropomorphized poses. One red bear had its substantial (but adorable) rump in the air, its head down, like a sulking baby, and is simply called ?. Another was lolling on its back, its pink legs in the air, titled *Mama no more diapers, please*. And a dark-blue one, on all fours, had a label that says, *It's not fair*. Indeed, it is often not.

On a more ominous note, *Here it comes the hunter* designated the bright-green bear installed overhead, above the entrance. And to the left a blue beast seemed to be springing forward; it was tagged, *Who told you white men can jump?*

Downstairs was *Money machine (true blue, baby I love you)*—Pivi could be a lyricist for a rock band—a slotted, metal cube of blue rising to the ceiling that spit out money, albeit slowly. Viewers warily circumambulated the imposing object—the ATM as sacred shrine, perhaps—and they were invited to take or contribute, as they wished. Most were not tempted by the small change on the ground, but with global economies in the state they are, one might think, Every little bit helps.

—Lilly Wei



Paola Pivi, "Ok, you are better than me, so what?" 2013, urethane foam and plastic feathers, installation view. Galerie Perrotin.