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ARTICLES

Best of 2017: Our Top 20 NYC Art Shows

It was a powder keg of a year in visual art, with strong, politically inflected, deeply personal, and wildly inventive exhibitions that touched on the classics, courted controversy, and yielded new favorites.

It's been a tumultuous, exciting year for visual art in New York City, with no shortage of controversy; beloved artists getting their due; and exciting, inventive curation from major museums to independent galleries. New York art lovers seem ever more willing to get off the beaten path, and museums in the Bronx and Queens were particularly rewarding of an adventurous spirit. Here are the best shows we saw this year.

14. *Tamara Gonzales: Ometeoli* at Klaus Gallery

January 6–February 12



Tamara Gonzales, "Two Moons" (2016)

A talented painter with a strong sense of color, Tamara Gonzales has an indiscriminate appetite for cross-cultural pollination and distills the dissonance of contemporary life into her art objects in such a way that they can seem as jarring as they are soothing. In this show, she presented three connected bodies of work and each was fully developed and sophisticated in their own way — my favorites were the stylized tapestries made by artisans in Peru

based on Gonzales's designs. As I wrote at the time, "[Looking at her paintings, you can feel unmoored from the boundaries of form as they swim in waves of moody azure, crimson, and the muddy waters of darker hues.](#)" I can't stop looking. —HV



(Illustration by Hrag Vartanian/Hyperallergic)