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Best of 2017: Our Top 15 Brooklyn Art Shows

From project spaces off the beaten track to nonprofits in Dumbo, galleries in Bushwick, and the Brooklyn Museum, there was so much strong work in the borough this year.

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(illustration by Hrag Vartanian/Hyperallergic)

It's been an exceptionally good year for art in Brooklyn, from the borough's flagship museum and the galleries in Bushwick to the nonprofits in Dumbo and Red Hook. Some galleries in neighborhoods not typically associated with contemporary art grew into their own this year, making regular visits to Bed-Stuy and Park Slope essential. Here are our favorite shows we saw in 2017 without crossing a river, creek, or other borough border.

3. *Race and Revolution: Still Separate — Still Unequal* at Smack Mellon



jc lenochan, "Unfinished Business: 'What You Think Matters Too.' (Part III)" (2017) (Seph Rodney/Hyperallergic)

June 24–August 6

This [exhibition](#) was the second iteration of a show curated by Katie Fuller last year: *Race and Revolution: Exploring Racial Injustices Through Art*. That exhibition used visual art to illustrate deeply problematic historical events, many of them precipitated by the US government. [This version](#) was well served by the addition of a second curator, Larry Ossei-Mensah, who helped to find artists who would extend and deepen the critiques of the first show, to move beyond simple illustration to posing probing queries and haunting polemics. —*Seph Rodney*

14. Ron Baron, *Beyond-Beyond* at Smack Mellon



Installation view of Ron Baron's *Beyond-Beyond* at Smack Mellon (Benjamin Sutton/Hyperallergic)

September 23–November 5

Ron Baron's [large installation](#) paired ceramic sculptures of adult and children's shoes in a quiet meditation on parenthood, generational divides, and transmission. My interest in this exhibition was partly in the way the artist was able to expertly suggest a myriad of narratives that never fully emerge into a coherent whole even as seeds of new narratives suggested themselves throughout. Where did the people go? Are they safe? Who is missing? We don't know but we feel their loss. —*HV*