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Art World

Here Are the 10 Absolute Best Works of Art We Saw Around the World in 2018

From John Akomfrah's gut-wrenching films at the New Museum to Tschabalala Self's homemade bodega in Shanghai, here's the art we'll remember most.

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There's a lot of art out there. A lot of it is notable in the moment, but doesn't necessarily stick in the mind. Then there's that show—or that individual work—you can't forget. Below, our editors pick the most memorable, exciting, and enchanting art they saw this year.



INNER COURSE, THE AGONY OF IT ALL (2018) at the Bunker in West Palm Beach and at <u>Smack Mellon</u> in Brooklyn

If you haven't made it to Beth Rudin DeWoody's private West Palm Beach art space the Bunker yet, you should know that it is every bit as spectacular as you've heard. Welcoming visitors during the first-annual New Wave Art Wknd, DeWoody and her curator Laura Dvorkin also arranged to hold a special performance by INNER COURSE, a project from Rya Kleinpeter and Tora López.

THE AGONY OF IT ALL, originally staged at Brooklyn's Smack Mellon over the summer, sees Kleinpeter and López, outfitted as retro housewives a lá Lucille Ball, in twin beds. Surrounding them is a mountain of outrageously sexist books about women—some well-meaning, others unabashedly misogynistic. They sip wine to console themselves, reading aloud until they break into tears, blowing their noses theatrically and offering visitor tissues.

The piece was hilarious, but also heartbreaking. At first, you think, how ridiculous these books are. Then, you remember that someone took the trouble to write each of them—and some quite recently. These words are a reflection of the attitudes of the patriarchy, still deeply ingrained in our society even in the age of #MeToo. If you or someone you love doubts the continued relevance for feminism, think again.

-Sarah Cascone