

# HYPERALLERGIC

## ARTICLES

### Best of 2016: Our Top 15 Brooklyn Art Shows

We could never leave Brooklyn and still miss a slew of shows in our home borough. From outdoor art along the waterfront to group shows in Bushwick and ambitious political projects at Dumbo nonprofits, there was no shortage of great work in Brooklyn in 2016.



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Deborah Kass's "OY/YO" (photo by Benjamin Sutton/Hyperallergic)

Admittedly, we do venture to Manhattan, Queens, the Bronx, and even Staten Island to see art, but increasingly the offerings in our home borough are so rich that we needn't cross a river, creek, or narrows. From the continuously expanding array of galleries in Bushwick to the countless

institutions and nonprofits in Dumbo, Gowanus, Crown Heights, Sunset Park, and points in between, Brooklyn art spaces pulled off ambitious things in 2016. Here are our favorites.

## 5. *SIGNAL* at Smack Mellon



Gil Yefman, "Tumtum" (2012) at Smack Mellon  
(photo Benjamin Sutton/Hyperallergic)

*March 5–April 17*

Curated by Alexis Heller, this exhibition featured works by 11 artists imagining non-binary gender identities. While the theme and concept were immediately engaging, part of what made the show so successful was the fantastic range of pieces, not only in medium but in terms of tone, from Gil Yefman riotous, hanging orb of knitted orifices and erect phalluses, to Carlos Motta's short documentary portraits of intersex

and transgender activists. The exhibition had serious political edge, devastatingly emotional projects, and a very pronounced capacity for humor. Between *SIGNAL*, the election-themed omnibus *We the People* over the summer, and Nona Faustine's solo show of charged nude self-portraits in January, this was a good year at Smack Mellon. —BS