

## The Best of Everything, 2016

by PADDY JOHNSON and MICHAEL ANTHONY FARLEY on DECEMBER 30, 2016 LISTS



*Deborah Kass*

We were pretty sure 2016 was a stinker until we sat down to reflect on all that was good. Going through the images on our phones and our archives, we learned there's actually quite a bit to celebrate. So much so, in fact, it took us an entire week to assemble this post. That's quite a bit of time, but it was worth every minute. Here's to all the artists, curators and performers that made our days and lives better this year

# Best Public Art



*Deborah Kass*

**Venue:** Brooklyn Bridge Park

**Producer:** Two Trees

**Exhibition:** Deborah Kass, OY/YO

**Dates:** 2015-Aug 2016

I'll admit to initially being skeptical of the merit in Deborah Kass's public artwork "OY/YO". It's almost too simple a concept: a look at the sculpture facing into Brooklyn reads as the working class greeting, "YO". Turn it around for a work commute into Manhattan and "OY" is what you get—back to the grind, as it were.

Unlike most Brooklynites who commute to Manhattan, AFC's offices are located beside the park, so living with this sculpture every day has not only convinced me of its merits, but that the eight-foot-tall, five-foot-deep, and 17-foot-wide yellow aluminum text might be the best public art that's ever graced the fields of Brooklyn Bridge Park. Past the fact that it never seemed to get old, the sculpture was so beloved that the grass around it was worn down to sand due to foot traffic. The sculpture was taken down in August after its run, but not before a petition addressed to New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio ran to make the piece permanent. Perhaps we need to redirect that request to Two Trees, though, the company that originally commissioned the project. Bring "YO/OY" back! -PJ