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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.

10. Deborah Kass, “OY/YO” in Brooklyn Bridge Park



*Deborah Kass, “OY/YO” (2015) in Brooklyn Bridge Park
(photo Benjamin Sutton/Hyperallergic)*

November 10, 2015–September 28, 2016

This canary-yellow icon on the Brooklyn waterfront, with its reversible readings and exasperated riff on modernism’s male cannon — based on a pair of prints by Kass satirizing Ed Ruscha’s “OOF” (1962/63) — was such a popular piece of public sculpture that it spawned a petition to make it permanent. It also proved irresistible to Dumbo’s tourist droves, who used it as a popping exclamation in their photos of the Lower Manhattan skyline or the picturesque concrete canyons of the surrounding neighborhood. Though it has since been removed, it is apparently destined for a more permanent home in Williamsburg, so those 601 petition signers may prevail in the end. —BS