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The Toronto visual arts community chooses its favourite shows of 2016

We surveyed artists, curators and our own writer to see which 2016 shows moved them most. Their answers reveal an immense range of artistic visions.

BY **NOW STAFF**

DECEMBER 21, 2016 6:28 PM

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Courtesy of the AGO

MILADA KOVÁCOVÁ *Circulation manager of photography journal Prefix, whose fall/winter issue, with the theme Scanning The Archives, is on stands now. Next up at Prefix gallery is a Circuit Gallery show of photos by Philip Cheung, January 12 to February 4.*

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FRIDAY

JANUARY 13, 2017

Critics' Picks

THE TEXAS COMEDY MASSACRE 2

Jan 13, 2017 8:30 PM - 10:30 PM

FOX & FIDDLE

My choice for best show of 2016 is **Theaster Gates: How To Build A House Museum** (Art Gallery of Ontario, July 21 to October 30).

One of the most important criteria for a successful installation is whether it activates the space. This was the only time I have experienced an exhibition at the AGO that actually activated and enlivened the fragmented layout of the fifth floor. The closing day featured breakdancers and a huge dance party.

The installation massaged the audience members' experience of pop culture while covertly conveying a political message with music by the Trammps (Disco Inferno) and Frankie Knuckles. Gates's artistic practice continues to push boundaries for all, not simply the art-goers.

KIM SIMON *Curator, Gallery TPW. Close Readings, curated by Alison Cooley and featuring five artists who explore how we engage with art, runs January 14-February 25.*

Impressed is an understatement for how I felt after the stunning performance by **k.g. Guttman (I ask the audience to close one eye**, at Blackwood Gallery, September 16 to 18), presented as part of Blackwood's brilliant program Running With Concepts: The Choreographic Edition.

The work brought together Guttman's unique research as a choreographer and thinker of both civic and intimate space, somehow seamlessly guiding audiences on a journey back and forth between gut-wrenchingly beautiful affective experience and rigorous critical thought.

I was so blown away that now Guttman is starting a longer-term relationship with Gallery TPW, beginning with the inclusion of a book work in our January exhibition and culminating in a solo show in 2018.



Andy Fabo's *The Craft Of The Contaminated*

Critics' Picks

NEXT STAGE THEATRE FESTIVAL

Jan 4, 2017 - Jan 15, 2017

FACTORY THEATRE

Critics' Picks

INFINITY

Jan 4, 2017 - Jan 29, 2017

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JAN 13, 2017 **FOOD**

BY **NATALIA MANZOCCO**



JESS DOBKIN RUNS, DANCES AND EVOKES MYSTERY IN THE MAGIC HOUR

Her themes are a bit opaque, but the performance artist is always entertaining [more →](#)

BY **SUSAN G. COLE** JAN 13, 2017

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JAN 13, 2017 **ART**

BY **FRAN SCHECHTER**