

NEW YORK



## NYBG

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NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

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DEC. 6, 2013

## The 10 Best Art Shows of the Year

By Jerry Saltz



Mike Kelley's 'Deodorized Central Mass With Satellites' (1991–99). Photo: Joshua White/Courtesy of Perry Rubenstein Gallery, Los Angeles. © Estate of Mike Kelley.

### 1. “Come Together: Surviving Sandy, Year 1”

*Curated by Phong Bui*

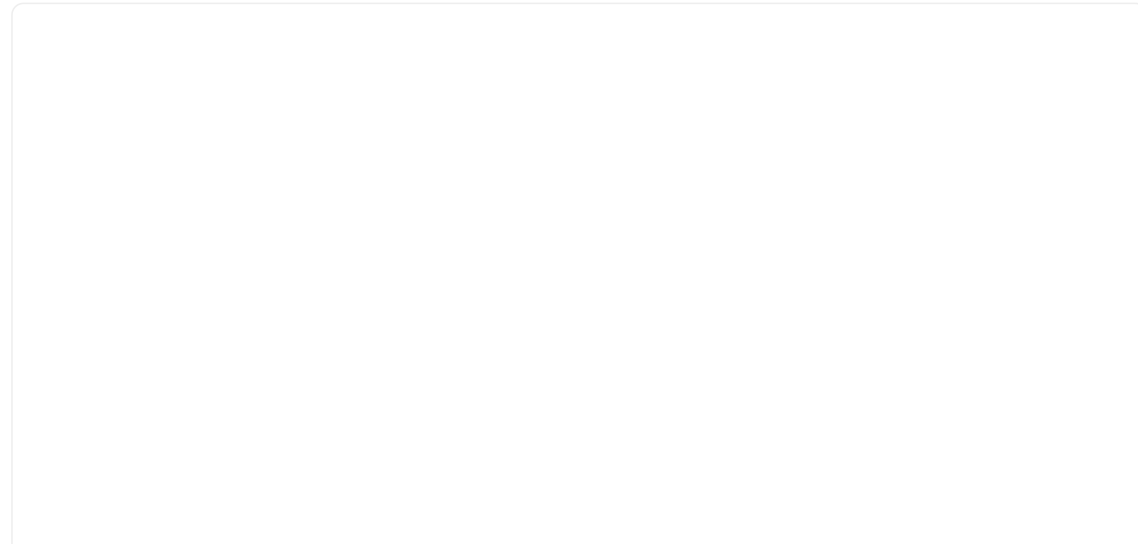
I call birdbrained-bullshit on all those who snip that New York is a pure trading floor, one that's lost its place as a nexus of artistic activity. Every inch of “Come Together: Surviving Sandy, Year 1” organized by *Brooklyn Rail* publisher Phong Bui—a show of 627 works by nearly 250 local artists in a spectacular setting—gives the lie to this idiotic swipe. With well-known names but mainly lesser-known local artists, this exhibition verified that New York is as alive and brilliant as ever. Maybe more so, with artists spread out into all the boroughs,

living poor but with style. Which is one of the foundational conditions of any great indigenous art scene. Naysayers, get out into the fray or stay home and stay silly.

## **2. Mike Kelley**

*At MoMA PS1*

There are few young artists who don't owe the late Mike Kelley some gratitude. This building-filling show proves that he remains the rare talent who could fill up PS1 and still make you want more. You are missed, Mike Kelley. You didn't have to do it.



## **3. Boxer at Rest**

*At the Metropolitan Museum of Art*

This astounding Hellenistic bronze masterpiece, briefly lent and shown in the long main hall of the Met's Greek and Roman wing, struck me dumb the first time I saw it. Everything within me collapsed. I beheld some ultimate rendition of humanity, immeasurable depths, mysteries.

## **4. Carol Bove, "RA, or Why Is an Orange Like a Bell?" and "Qor Corporation: Lionel Ziprin, Harry Smith and the Inner Language of Laminates"**

*At Maccarone (organized with Philip Smith)*

This excellent artist didn't sound an artistic off-note in either of her simultaneous gallery shows (or in her "MoMA Project," also up this summer). In "Qor," Bove co-curated the work of an overlooked cabal of shamanic artists; in "RA," which was all her own, she gave us something worthy of a MacArthur.

## **5. Lucy Dodd**

*At David Lewis Gallery*

This 32-year-old pulled off the super-rare feat of making two of the ten best solo shows I saw this year. First, in an Upper East Side townhouse, she showed a handful of huge abstract paintings that looked like caviar organizing itself into knowable patterns of communication. Then, in her current outing, her speckled, stained, and splotched paintings sing the body mysterious. I spy a great talent in the offing; also maybe a great gallery.

## **6. Ragnar Kjartansson, "A Lot of Sorrow" and "The Visitors"**

*At MoMA PS1 and Luhring Augustine*

This Iclander showed himself master of the razor-thin world between sincerity and irony—a

new place for emotion, maybe called ironerity or sinrony. Unspooling this space, he gave us the National performing “Sorrow” for six hours straight until bliss erupted; in his gallery exhibition, he showed us what the artist Laurie Simmons has called “the music of regret.”

### 7. Eleanor Ray

*At Steven Harvey Fine Art Projects*

When I stumbled on the small oil paintings of this very young artist at this tiny Lower East Side gallery, I gleaned what might be the power of the conservative. Figuration, older ideas about space, surface, and paint in intimate interiors, street scenes, and winter landscapes—all evince delicate touch, acute eye, and quiet power.

### 8. Larry Bamburg

*At Simone Subal*

Mobiles made of bird bones, terrariums with living logs with crafted porcelain “wood,” mushroom ecosystems growing on grafted bark in vitrines with nearly 100 percent humidity: This artist’s ideas of unusual materials, form, space, and coloration make him a sculptor-chemist to be reckoned with. This gallery has some of that wild alchemy, too.

### 9. Katherine Bernhardt

*At the Hole*

The art world digs guys who paint big, gestural, and figurative. Not so much the women who do it. Enter the always unruly Katherine Bernhardt, who’s been wowing me with her wild-style painting for ten years. Here, she teamed up with her Moroccan rug-dealer husband to create a cross between great painting and the Casbah.

### 10. In the Affirming Spirit of “Surviving Sandy,” Seven Artists and Events That Made New York Great This Year

Thomas Hirschhorn’s *Gramsci Monument*; Trisha Baga at Greene Naftali and the Whitney; William Copley and Bjarne Melgaard at Venus Over Manhattan; [Trisha Donnelly at MoMA](#) and Rosemarie Trockel at the New Museum, lingering from the end of 2012; and Banksy’s month of art in New York. Just kidding about that last one.

■ LEAVE A COMMENT



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## THE LATEST

**TALKING TO** | 27 MINS AGO

**Romy Gill Makes Her Own Luck** “Anybody in their right mind would’ve given up.”

*By Charlotte Druckman*

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11:05 A.M.

**Farewell, My Hot de Blasio Summer**

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10:50 A.M.

**Grab a Cup of Tea, *Bridgerton* Season 3 Is on Its Way**

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10:00 A.M.

**How Rachel Comey Broke With Uline**

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9:36 A.M.

**The Bullying Allegations at the Center of HYBE’s Next Big K-Pop Group, Explained**

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9:06 A.M.

**The Brand Is Sad: 7 Standout Moments From *Desus & Mero***

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9:00 A.M.

**Life Is a Highway (Finally)**

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**CRIME** | 8:00 A.M.

**The Criminologist on Trial for Serial Arson** Professor Maynard taught students about life at the margins of society. Now he is charged with a crime his field is only beginning to understand.

*By Andrew Rice*

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**SCREEN TIME** | 8:00 A.M.

**TVs Are Too Good Now** Why does *Home Alone* look better than the latest Marvel fare on the most advanced displays?

By Lane Brown

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8:00 A.M.

**The Weed Merchants of Washington Square Park**

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8:00 A.M.

**The Best Pilates in New York**

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5:00 A.M.

**The 10 Very Best Towels**

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YESTERDAY AT 11:11 P.M.

**Two White Guys Are Going to Space!**

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YESTERDAY AT 10:34 P.M.

***What We Do in the Shadows* Recap: Blood Life**

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YESTERDAY AT 9:49 P.M.

**Flo Milli Dropped *You Still Here, Ho?* Two Days Early**

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YESTERDAY AT 8:17 P.M.

**How to Stream Lollapalooza 2022 From Your Air-Conditioned Home**

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YESTERDAY AT 7:10 P.M.

**Same-Sex Marriage Now a Wedge Issue Dividing Republicans**

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YESTERDAY AT 6:46 P.M.

**Drake Sleeps in a Race-Car Bed, According to BeReal Memes**

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YESTERDAY AT 5:59 P.M.

**Arnold Schwarzenegger Terminated Co-star With Fart**

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YESTERDAY AT 5:52 P.M.

**How Abortion-Rights Chants Became an Anthem 🔊**

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