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## Nuit Blanche: Our picks of the night for culture vultures, newbies and families

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Special to the Star

Over the past year, Douglas Coupland has crashed a car in Etobicoke, put out a YouTube call for strangers to mail “titanium pins, breast implants, pacemakers, stents, metal plates, dental retainers” and similar objects to a Vancouver P.O. box, and entered into a professional partnership with Kensington Market butcher Sanagan’s Meat Locker.

No need to worry, though — it was all for art.

Specifically, it was preparation for Coupland’s parental-guidance-advised Nuit Blanche installation *Museum of the Rapture*, opening at 7:03 p.m. in Toronto City Hall’s parking garage.

There’s been “a bottomless amount of details involved” in prepping for this evening, Coupland says via email. “I had never heard of custom car crashing until this.” (Coupland provided the desired crash specs, while a GTA company specializing in such matters executed the job.)

*Museum* isn’t meant to address religious themes, Coupland said, but rather highlight the question “where does your body end and the universe begin?”— a question with more relevance than ever in our era of cloud computing and crowd sourcing.

The installation will also integrate some of his *Slogans for the Early 21st Century* series: paintings bearing humorous-yet-foreboding mottos such as “Hoard anything you can’t download” and “That sickening feeling when you realize you’ve lost your cellphone will soon be permanent.” Coupland has created more than 100 of these works in the lead-up to Nuit Blanche, with a selection also on display until Oct. 6 at Daniel Faria Gallery.

Coupland is just one of more than 500 artists working madly today to get 158 Nuit Blanche projects set up for Saturday night.

### Our guide to the best of Nuit Blanche

#### For the Culture Vulture

- **Trisha Brown Dance Company at Dundee Place(1 Adelaide St. E.):** New York choreographer Brown, known for suspending dancers off walls and buildings, restages her 1968 piece *Planes*, a rare opportunity to view an important and stunning early work.
- **Daniel Barrow at the Drake Hotel (1150 Queen St. W.):** The 2010 Sobey Art Award winner goes large-scale with a projection performance, *Telling Stories*, in the Drake’s windows every hour from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. and an epic piece projected on the front of the building all night.
- **Slavoj Zizek at City Hall (100 Queen W.):** A maverick name in cultural theory forms an unexpected addition to our big art party, discussing capital and the end of the world from 11 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.
- **Jon Sasaki at Queen W. & Brock Ave.:** The dryly witty Sasaki both deflates and inflates Nuit Blanche hype with this reality-show-style competition: who can stay awake in the cold all night, touching a cube van? The winner will get Sasaki’s \$500 artist fee.
- **Christian Marclay at the Power Plant (231 Queens Quay W.):** Yes, worldwide hit *The Clock* is here for a few months yet, but there are only a few chances left to see the work in the wee morning hours and prove your art-loving bona fides.
- **Also on the radar:** Oliver Husain’s *Moth Maze* at City Hall’s parking garage; Kelly Mark’s feature film debut, *Scenes from a Film I’ll Never Make, With Alternate Scores*, at the Eaton Centre (220 Yonge St.); Hadley + Maxwell’s perpetual load-in for “Nirvana’s last concert” at the Elgin (160 Victoria St.); Ceal Floyer’s punny inversions at Richmond Adelaide Centre (130 Adelaide St. W.).



For families: A family flash mob dance kicks off All Together Now.

### For Art Newbies

- **Janet Cardiff at Trinity St. Paul's (427 Bloor St. W.):** Viewers worldwide have been moved by Cardiff's audio installation, *The Forty Part Motet*, and its sensitive reproduction of a 16th-century choral piece.
- **Shelley Miller at Metro Hall (55 John St., viewable from King east of John):** Graffiti and street-art fans will get an interesting "segueway" to contemporary-art appropriation practices in the work of Miller, a Montreal artist who tags walls and creates throw-ups with cake icing. Sweet.
- **Geoffrey Pugen at City Hall:** Pugen's point-for-point re-enactment of Bjorn Borg and John McEnroe's 1980 Wimbledon tiebreaker was a hit of last year's Nuit Blanche. Will Pugen do it again in 416-788-9663, his re-creation of a 1990s rave?
- **Yves Caizergues at Sun Life Financial Tower (150 King St. W.):** Old-school video game fans will enjoy a shot of nostalgia with this light installation, *Green Invaders*, displaying gleeful, prancing space invaders.
- **Built for Art at 401 Richmond (401 Richmond St. W.):** Artist-led karaoke, screenings, French-pop Scopitone videos of the 1960s and galleries open to 2 a.m. are among the attractions.
- **Also on the radar:** Hanson & Sonnenberg's sculptures of "drunk" light standards behind Toronto City Hall or at Temperance and Yonge; at TIFF Bell Lightbox (350 King St. W.), silent films with piano accompaniment or, if you're feeling more gory, a montage of 101 zombie disaster scenes; *Fly by Night* at the Gladstone Hotel (1214 Queen St. W.), featuring civically minded projections by Broken City Lab and a time-capsule display.

### For families

- **Alison Norlen at Brookfield Place (181 Bay St.):** Saskatchewan's Norlen, known for large drawings of roller coasters, hopes to create a version of an old amusement-park lighthouse in Brookfield Place's Calatrava atrium.
- **The Piano at Hart House (7 Hart House Circle):** An exhibition focusing on pianos in art includes works by Gordon Monahan as well as Michael Snow and Dean Baldwin. Some of the emerging-artist installations and kinetic sculptures next door at the University of Toronto Art Centre also look fun.
- **Jeanne Holmes at Richmond Adelaide Centre (111 Richmond St. W.):** A family flash mob dance at 7 p.m. kicks off *All Together Now*, an all-night program featuring dance classes from ballet to Bhangra to hip hop.
- **Nuit Blanche at the Royal Conservatory of Music (273 Bloor St. W.):** Award-winning children's book author Cybèle Young (*Ten Birds*) will create new artworks live, and Lemon Bucket Orkestra ("Toronto's only Balkan-Klezmer-Gypsy-party-punk-super-band") will play tunes, among other attractions.
- **Rhonda Weppler & Trevor Mahovsky at Bay Adelaide Centre (333 Bay St.):** This West Coast duo will create a lantern-shaped convenience store that will give away 2,000 lanterns during the evening, in the spirit of much-loved events like the Singapore Lantern Festival.
- **Also on the radar:** Shadow-puppetry, music and mural-making till midnight at Regent Park's new Daniels Spectrum (585 Dundas St. E.), and Google Earth projections and collaborative book writing at Artscape Wychwood Barns (601 Christie St.).

### Nuit Blanche Survival Tips

**Layout:** Nuit Blanche's officially curated exhibition projects are in one walkable zone this year bounded by Peter St. to the west, Gerrard St. to the north, Jarvis St. to the east and Front St. to the south. Independent projects stretch as far as Roncesvalles, St. Clair, Greenwood and Queens Quay.

**Best routes:** Street closures will create pedestrian thoroughfares on Yonge between Wellington and Gerrard, Bay between Wellington and Dundas, Queen between Jarvis and University, King between Jarvis and Peter, and Church between Front and Shuter. Walk these routes and you're likely to catch (or be directed to) most of the curated projects.

**Transportation:** The Yonge-University-Spadina subway will run all night from Keele to Woodbine, as will the Bloor-Danforth line from St. Clair West to Eglinton. Last trains depart terminals at 7 a.m. Sunday. GO Transit will have more late-night service; check [gotransit.com](http://gotransit.com) for details. Dundas, Queen, King and (on GO) Union are the best stations to disembark for official exhibition projects.

**Food:** Food trucks are new this year. You'll find them in three spots: Bay Street north of King (near the TD Centre), Albert Street east of Bay (west entrance of Eaton Centre) and Church Street north of Queen (near Metropolitan United Church). Some restaurants and bars are open late; check Nuit Blanche's website for the details. It's always good to bring snacks and water from home, just in case.

**Washrooms:** Washrooms and rest areas can be found at each of the food truck areas listed above as well as on King Street West at John (near

Metro Hall) and Gould Street east of Yonge (near Ryerson).

**Information booths & first aid:** Information booths will be in David Pecaut Square (King Street West between Simcoe and John), Yonge-Dundas Square and Metropolitan United Church (Queen Street East at Church). First aid stations are also be nearby each of these.

**Accessibility:** Each Nuit Blanche venue is asked to identify whether their location is accessible. Check the Nuit guide and website for designations.

**Overall:** Dress for the weather, be flexible (sometimes standing in line just isn't worth it) and keep an open mind.