

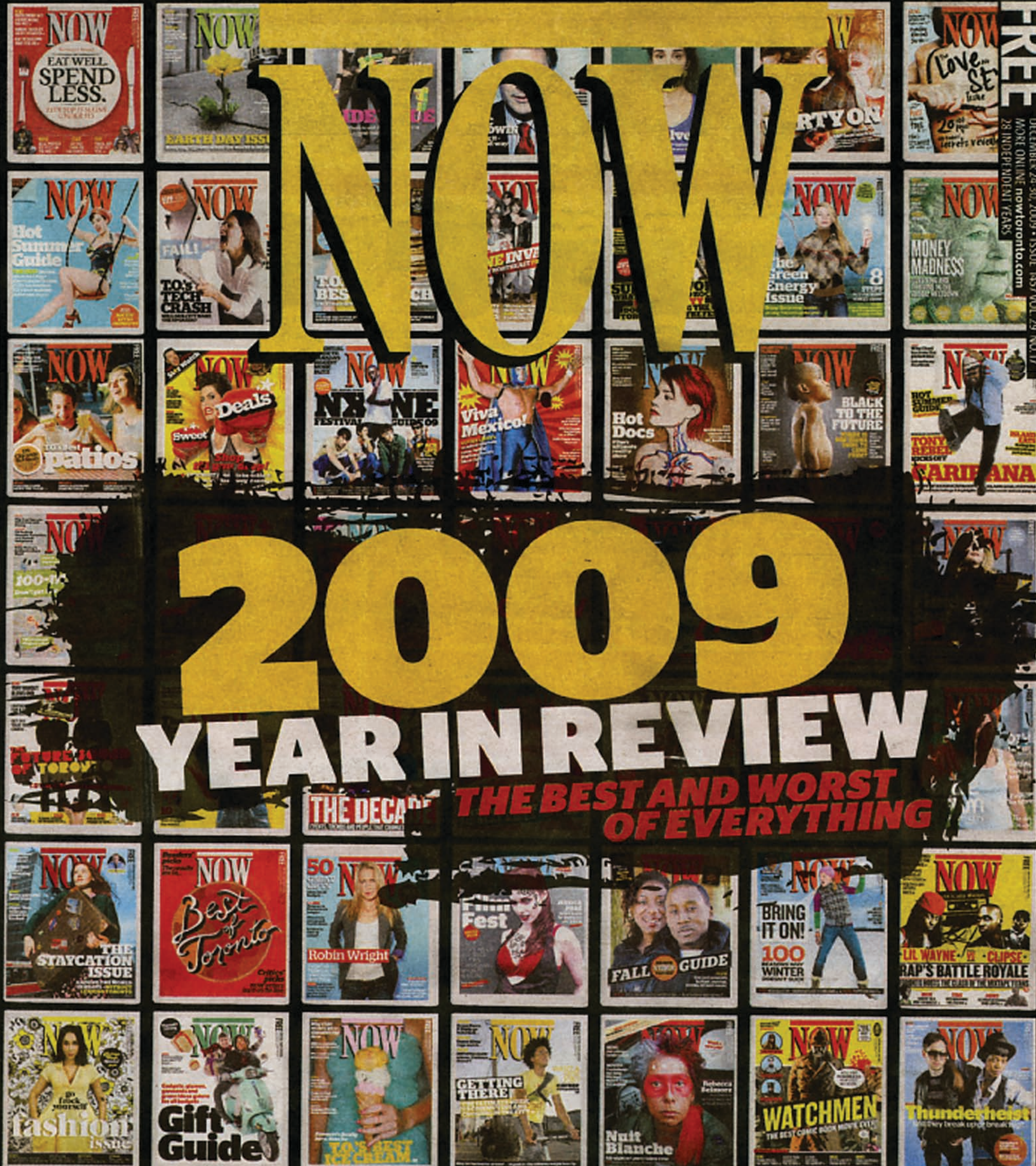
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NOW

2009

YEAR IN REVIEW

THE BEST AND WORST OF EVERYTHING



New Year's Eve Guide Over 100 ways to say hi to 2010 40

We like to watch



NEW NT HOLIDAY JAM

Sam Roberts, Ron MacLean, Dave Hodge, Kathleen Edwards, Jim Bryson and City and Colour's Dallas Green perform Kenny Rogers's *The Gambler* last Monday night at the Phoenix for the Sick Kids Hospital fundraiser. 4:43



NEW NT RIVERDALE SHARE

Steven Page performs *The Hanukkah Song* at Riverdale Share. 4:15



NT NOW MAGAZINE: THE MOVIE — EPISODE 9

Final episode looks ahead, with Mayor David Miller, activist Dave Meslin and theatre artist Michael Hollingsworth speculating on the future of NOW. The episode also features Jim Cuddy and David Mirvish. 7:35

NT THE HOA HOA'S Toronto's Hoa Hoa's (pronounced "wah wahs") churn out colourful psychedelic soundscapes at their album release this week. 5:10

NT GERMANS Toronto indie rockers Germans introduce their new lineup and perform a song at the Garrison. 7:08

NT THE XX UK's newest buzz band play Toronto. Watch them perform their hit VCR on NOWTUBE, plus give a feature interview. 5:40

NT NOW MAGAZINE: THE MOVIE — EPISODE 8

Watch NOW move up in the world in this half-mock, half-doc Web series. In this episode, NOW buys, renovates and relocates to its new home on Church Street.

NT NOW MAGAZINE: THE MOVIE — EPISODE 7 At NXNE, Jian Ghomeshi and Zack Werner compare their early NOW experiences, and John Kastner compares the paper to *LA Weekly*. 5:20

NT BLUE RODEO Look up! It's Jim Cuddy and the gang playing on a roof. And it's so good, we put up two videos of it. 1:59 and 5:36



24 hours a day
nowtoronto.com/video

art

DAVID JAGER, LEAH SANDALS and FRAN SCHECHTER's

Top 10 art shows

Looking back on a year rife with controversy — Reena Katz versus the Koffler, John Greyson versus TIFF — we've created a top 10 list of shows characterized by ingenuity and a political edge.

1 LEONA DRIVE PROJECT October 22 to 31

Curators Janine Marchessault and Michael Prokopow, joining others throughout North America in an effort to put art in empty real estate, offered local artists a block of bungalows slated for demolition near Yonge and Sheppard. Community-minded videos and installations in and around the properties by Richard Fung, John Greyson, Oliver Husain, Ryan Livingstone, An Te Liu and others vividly evoked the postwar suburban experience.

2 CANDICE BREITZ Power Plant, September 19 to November 29

With her music vid rejigs and movie-star mimicry, international artist Candice Breitz has always been pop-cult clever. But for a special Power Plant/Partners in Art commission, she hit a vein of personal story gold; her films of real-life Canuck twins, titled *Factum*, balanced savvy and sentiment to tremendous effect.

3 CEDRIC BOMFORD Red Bull 381 Projects,



Top show
Leona Drive
Project put art
into empty
real estate.

September 10 to October 10

Emerging BCer Cedric Bomford gained fame for crafting massive structures out of scrap. Here, he took that game to the next level, building a treehouse-like tower that let viewers peek into VIP offices. Melding childlike fun, surveillance-society paranoia and class critique, this show wowed newbies and veterans alike.

4 FUNKAESTHETICS Justina M. Barnicke, February 12 to March 23

Curators Luis Jacob and Pan Wendt celebrated the "funk system of thought" in a trippy retrospective of late-20th-century glittery, rhythmic outsider culture anchored by Afro-naut spaceman Sun-Ra's videos and album covers. Leigh Bowery's extreme club-wear and Adrian Piper's video *Funk Lessons* were at the party, too.

5 LIZ MAGOR Doris McCarthy, September 15 to October 25

The BC sculptor's unsettling *Storage Facilities* installation combined cigarette



Design
For The
Other 90%
empowered
have-nots.



Funkaesthetics
looked
back on
the funk
system
of thought.

butts, candy wrappers and other evidence of human weakness with dead animals, all cast from polymerized gypsum, into a dreamlike display that stuck in the mind, raising questions about escape and desire.

6 DESIGN FOR THE OTHER 90% OCAD Professional, Octo- ber 4, 2008, to January 25

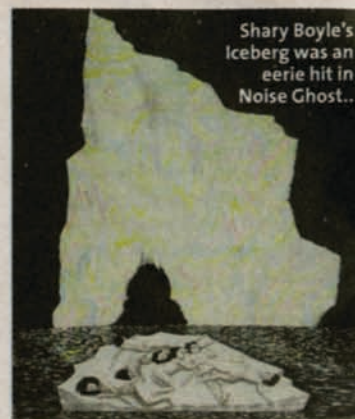
This inspiring touring show from New York's Cooper-Hewitt Museum took design out of boutiques and into the world of ingenious innovations that empower have-nots and subsistence farmers by enabling affordable access to irrigation, water purification, computers, housing and health care solutions.

7 NOISE GHOST Justina M. Barnicke, May 28 to August 23

Shary Boyle and Shuvina Ashoona, artists known for creating windows into dreamlike and downright grotesque imaginary worlds, compared mythologies in this intriguing collaboration curated by Nancy Campbell. Ashoona's mythical renderings of daily life in her native Cape Dorset and Boyle's delicately wrought evocations of psychosexual nightmares sparked a curious and utterly original dialogue between two magical realist visions.

8 MAURA DOYLE Paul Petro Contemporary Art, April 24 to May 23

Hinterland Who's Who met Art School Confidential at Maura Doyle's spring



Shary Boyle's
Iceberg was an
eerie hit in
Noise Ghost..

solo show — and to surprisingly pleasing effect. Copying beaver-built structures as documented in scientific studies, Doyle's sculptures looked on-trend with the art world's "unmonumental" obsession while sneakily undermining art's (and humanity's) sense of self-importance. Irreverent, funny and strangely resonant.

9 ITS TIME Drake Hotel, April 20 to June 1

Mia Nielsen and Catherine Dean's subtle curatorial choices highlighted varied photographic approaches to time. Chinese contemporary art duo the Gao Brothers' wall-sized *The Forever Unfinished Building* wielded conceptual digital photography to create a dreamlike social-political manifesto. Elaine Sotcki's photos of strangers pretending intimacy were equally intriguing, as was Anne Arden McDonald's painterly use of photographic paper. The show proved that the Drake's keeping its edge.

10 GEOFFREY FARMER Nuit Blanche, October 3

Nuit Blanchers had a chance to test Brion Gysin's flickering sculptural invention, the Dream Machine, at Geoffrey Farmer's *The Blinking Eyes Of Everything*. Viewers experienced the calming and visionary properties of four machines made out of simple cylinders with cutouts spinning on turntables and illuminated with hanging bulbs. Farmer's organ composition, building minimal clusters of sound, further transformed the space into a meditative oasis of vibration and light.
art@nowtoronto.com

THIS WEEK IN THE MUSEUMS

ART GALLERY OF MISSISSAUGA Multimedia: Linda Duvall, Harrell Fletcher and Wendy Red Star, to Dec 24. 300 City Centre. 905-896-5088.

ART GALLERY OF ONTARIO Photos: Edward Steichen, to Jan 3. Sculpture: Alexander Calder, to Jan 10. Beautiful Fictions: Photography, to Jan 17. King Tut: The Golden King And The Great Pharaohs, to Apr 18 (\$14.50-\$32.50). \$18, srs \$15, stu \$10, free Wed 6-8:30 pm. 317 Dundas W. 416-979-6648.

BATA SHOE MUSEUM Sculpture: Thierry Agnone, to Dec 31. Bound For Glory: Winter Sports Footwear, to Mar 21. On A Pedestal: From Renaissance Chopines To Baroque Heels, to Sep 20. \$12, srs \$10, stu \$6. 327 Bloor W. 416-979-7799, batahoemuseum.ca.

CAMPBELL HOUSE MUSEUM Painting: Asuman and Atanur Dogan, to Jan 29. 160 Queen W. 416-597-0227.

DESIGN EXCHANGE Parallel Nippon: Contemporary Japanese Architecture 1996-2006, to Jan 11 (free). Design Exchange Award Winners, to Feb 21. \$5, stu/srs \$4. 234 Bay. 416-363-6121.

GARDINER MUSEUM OF CERAMIC ART Sculpture: Viola Frey: For The First Time: Recent Acquisitions 2005-2009, to Jan 10. A Celebration Of Anniversaries In Medals, to Jan 31. \$12, stu \$6, srs \$8; half-price Fri after 4 pm. 111 Queen's Park. 416-586-8080.

MCMICHAEL CANADIAN ART COLLECTION Painting: Clarence Gagnon; prints: Ed Bartram, to Jan 3. Nunannguag: In The Likeness Of The

Earth, to Jan 17. Woodland School, to May 9. \$15, stu/srs \$12. 10365 Islington (Kleinburg). 905-893-1121.

MOCCA Multimedia/Installation: John Heward and Insohn Ha, to Jan 3. Pwyc. 952 Queen W. 416-395-0067.

MUSEUM OF INUIT ART Dolls From The Kivalliq, to Dec 31. Sculpture/prints/drawing from the collection, ongoing. Inuit Sea Goddess; Dolls From The Esther Sarick Collection, to Jan 31. \$6, stu/srs \$5. 207 Queens Quay W. 416-603-7591.

POWER PLANT Nothing To Declare: Current Sculpture From Canada; projection works: Michael Snow, to Mar 7. \$6, stu/srs \$3, free Wed 5-8 pm. 231 Queens Quay W. 416-973-4949.

ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM The Dead Sea Scrolls; Installation/sculpture: Joshua Neustein and Hamra Abbas; Vanity Fair Portraits 1913-2008; photos: Nigel Dickson, to Jan 3. Kings Of The Punjab, to Mar 28. East Asian Paintings & Prints, to Jul 4. \$22, stu/srs \$19; \$11, stu/srs \$9.50 Fri 4:30-9:30 pm; free Wed 4:30-5:30 pm. 100 Queen's Park. 416-586-8000.

TEXTILE MUSEUM OF CANADA Kaleidoscope: Antique Quilts, to Mar 21. In Touch: Connecting Cloth, Culture And Art, to Apr 11. Fashionably Wrapped: The Influence Of Kashmir Shawls, to May 31. \$12, srs \$8, stu \$6; pwyc Wed 5-8 pm. 55 Centre. 416-599-5321.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ART CENTRE From Antiquity To The Middle Ages: The Malcove Collection, ongoing. 15 King's College Circle. 416-978-1838.

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MUST-SEE SHOWS

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS Painting: Gordon Anderson, to Jan 6, 2010. 21 Morrow. 416-532-5566.

DIAZ CONTEMPORARY Sculpture: Mowry Baden, to Jan 9, 2010. 100 Niagara. 416-361-2972.

GLADSTONE HOTEL Textiles: Hard Twist—New Twist, to Jan 3, 2010. 1214 Queen W. 416-531-4635.

NARWHAL ART PROJECTS Little Crowns group show, to Jan 10, 2010. 680 Queen W. 647-346-5317.

O'BORN CONTEMPORARY Photos: Dominic Nahr, to Jan 7, 2010.

710 Yonge. 416-413-9555.

ODON WAGNER Painting: Viktor Mitic, to Dec 24. 196-198 Davenport. 416-962-0438.

ONTARIO CRAFTS COUNCIL Ontario Craft 09, to Dec 31. 990 Queen W. 416-925-4222.

PEAK GALLERY Canadiana: The Essence Of The Canadian Landscape group show, to Jan 16, 2010. 23 Morrow. 416-537-8108.

VARLEY The Automatist Revolution: Montreal 1941-1960, to Feb 28, 2010. \$4. 216 Main (Unionville). 905-477-9511.

YDESSA HENDELES ART FOUNDATION Strait-Jacket, ongoing. Sat noon-5 pm. 778 King W. 416-413-9400.