

Art

Best of 2017: Our Top 20 Exhibitions Around the World

We traveled around the world this year to look for some of the best art exhibitions and found some gems in Germany, South Africa, Spain, UAE, UK, and beyond.

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This year may have brought out some of the worst in humanity, but many of us found inspiration and solace in art. This list is the best of what we saw around the globe and reminds us that great art and curation continue to make an impact on the world. From larger themes (Russian Revolution) to major biennials (Sharjah) and smaller shows, we were traveling a lot this year and present our favorites.

14. Zach Blas's *Contra-Internet* at Gasworks Gallery (London)



Zach Blas, "Contra-Internet" (2017), installation view (commissioned by Gasworks; Art in General, New York; and MU, Eindhoven, image courtesy the artist, photo by Andy Keate)

September 21–December 8

Just because the internet's infrastructure is invisible doesn't mean that it's not important. Zach Blas's *Contra-Internet solo exhibition* at Gasworks Gallery in London smartly refrains from bloviating about the dangers of social media and digital communications in the Trump era; instead, he focuses on reifying the economic architectures of power that dominate today's web. The queer "contra-internet" Blas desires will only come when we destroy

our current digital landscape. This new network is a polyphony, a digi-web of ostensibly plagiarized radical manifestos that nevertheless aim toward true freedom from government and corporate surveillance. With the annihilation of net neutrality, we are closer to a dystopian digital future than ever. Blas suggests we scrap the whole thing and find some electro-queer enlightenment. —*Zachary Small*