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40 Artists Share Their Favorite Shows of 2017
Written by: Scott Indrisek
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At the end of each year, critics and editors eagerly (and oh-so-authoritatively) weigh in on what they found to be the best work of the last 12 months. But why not go straight to the source, asking some of our favorite creatives what thrilled, moved, and inspired them in 2017? Here, without further ado, we present a year-end wrap-up that lets the artists decide what mattered.

Joe Reihsen

Neil Raitt, "Misty Rock," at Anat Ebgi, and Friedrich Kunath, "Frutti di Mare," at Blum & Poe, both in Los Angeles

"I have to say it is hard to pin down a favorite show, but definitely the most stand-out opening night in Los Angeles this year was experiencing Raitt and Kunath across the street from one another. Both shows were completely immersive, creating lush, fictive landscapes for the romantic ideal of the painter—through the lens of an L.A. transplant. For Raitt, the idea of the American landscape is informed by growing up in Britain and seeing Bob Ross on TV, but the latest works in the show seem to reflect his recent move to Los Angeles. And I'll quote Kunath for his take on his own exhibition: 'If Arte and Merv Griffin co-produced a reality TV show, it might go something like this.'"