

NIGHT GALLERY

2276 E. 16th Street, Los Angeles, California 90021

nightgallery.ca

Kelsey Adams, "Nine stellar highlights from Toronto's art scene in 2020," *NOW*, December 22, 2020.



Nine stellar highlights from Toronto's art scene in 2020

These are the best moments, shows and accomplishments in a tough year for the arts

By Kelsey Adams Dec 22, 2020



Courtesy of Immersive Van Gogh

It's been a rough nine months for the Toronto art world.

For the romantics among us who crave the rush of an art opening or the wonder of leaning in to get closer to an artwork, 2020 has been difficult.

Artists had their shows put on indefinite hiatus, major festivals like Contact Photography Festival and Nuit Blanche had to pivot online and funding for emerging artists vanished.

But in terms of accessibility, virtual gallery tours, art talks on Zoom and online archives made 2020 the year where art was at our fingertips. Without the barriers of ticket pricing or location, anyone could tune into a free virtual drawing lesson hosted by AGO (NOW Reader's Choice for **Best Museum**) or a virtual walk-through of the Power Plant's current exhibitions with an audio guide from the artists themselves.

Not to get sentimental, but it's uplifting to think about all the great things that happened in a year that felt like a dud in so many other ways.

In that spirit, here are our our picks for the best 2020 Toronto art moments, shows, accomplishments and announcements.

NIGHT GALLERY

2276 E. 16th Street, Los Angeles, California 90021

nightgallery.ca



Courtesy Cooper Cole

Tau Lewis, Symphony at Cooper Cole

Tau Lewis at Cooper Cole

In a year where mounting any show felt like a triumph, **Tau Lewis's** first solo at Cooper Cole Gallery, **Triumphant Alliance Of The Ubiquitous Blossoms Of Incarnate Souls** was a godsend. It was cut short by the second lockdown, but luckily before that people flocked to see it. The scale of the works, sewn by hand and made from reclaimed household materials, is colossal. She dyed the fabrics in pastel pinks and peaches and soft browns to resemble a light-filled womb. The maternal, genderless beings exist in their own sci-fi realm, exuding a soothing tenderness. Her show was one that made us feel a little warmer and a little closer, exactly what I needed after months of isolation. I saw a handful of shows in person this year, but Lewis's was the only one that felt like a warm hug.