

Stephen Friedman Gallery

Time Out
The Art Issue by David Shrigley
4 October 2016
Issue 2400

TimeOut

The Art Issue



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in no time at all

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landed in Trafalgar Square. We get
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October 4 – 10 2016 Time Out London

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Hello, London

Caroline McGinn Editor
@carolinemcginn

THE ART ISSUE
BY DAVID SHRIGLEY

This week is a big week for big art. Trafalgar Square has just unveiled its cheeriest ever commission for the Fourth Plinth: David Shrigley's huge thumbs-up to London. Tate Modern's Turbine Hall has been filled with inflatable fish, bacteria, sounds and flashing lights (p70). And the art world is descending on Regent's Park where Frieze art fair kicks off on Thursday. But London's art is something we should be proud of any week of the year. It's spectacular, it's a culture-magnet for the rest of the world, and it's mostly freely available for everyone to see. We've celebrated art in London with a cover by Shrigley (see interview, p24) – and a poll to find your favourite public works of art (p29). London: you're a masterpiece!







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Cover
David Shrigley



What you've been rating and hating online

The government of Hungary labelled London a 'no-go zone' because of immigration. Cue expat sympathy (cheers, Zoltan): 'Radicalism, nationalism, xenophobia. I feel ashamed to be Hungarian. Sorry, UK, for Orban's government.'
Zoltan D via Facebook

We wrote about the differences between north and south London, but David had one extra point: 'Up there in north London you have blue signs saying "So and so lived here". Down here we have yellow signs saying "Did you witness this murder?"'
David L via Facebook

Two Harry Potter-related houses went on the market, but Sheeza's holding out for the biggies: 'Let me know when the Black or Weasley family homes go on sale.'
Sheeza L via Facebook

Sorry, Sheeza: 12 Grimmauld Place is now owned by an offshore shell company and The Burrow is a hedge fund manager's second home. Finally, a super-fast lunch spot opened in Moorgate, but Brandon wasn't impressed: 'I know we are all short on time, but I've never finished a day and been like: Oh man, if only lunch had been 35 seconds faster!'
Brandon M via Facebook

COMMENT OF THE WEEK

The Turner Prize show opened last week, and soon had you exercising your critical skills: 'Foolish, narcissistic, self-indulgent, self-important, craftless garbage for the self-obsessed glitterati and the wilfully deluded; an irrelevance in the real world; a decadent insult to working people and a form of Nero fiddling while Rome burns.'
Peter J via Facebook



Is that you, Brian Sewell? Have a bottle of Lanson Black Label champagne, and congrats on your reincarnation.

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David Shrigley


Methamphetamine: thumbs down

Avocados: thumbs up


Artist David Shrigley has made a huge thumbs-up sculpture for the Fourth Plinth. So our Art editor *Eddy Frankel* asked him to give a thumbs up or thumbs down to some important London stuff. Portraits *Andy Parsons*




Pigeons
'I don't like pigeons because they're like rats with wings, and they carry disease. I don't know: I do like all living creatures, they're just the ones I like least in the urban environment.'




Avocados
'A big yes. Popeye and his spinach, that's me and the avocado.'




Drugs
'Drugs are kind of important. We can't live without drugs. It just depends on the drug, you know? Methamphetamine: thumbs down. Avocados: thumbs up.'




Yoga
'Yoga: yeah! Hot yoga: no. Unhygienic.'




Shorts
'Shorts on men under the age of 30: thumbs up. Shorts on men over the age of 30: thumbs down.'
EF: 'I'm 31 and I'm in shorts.'
'Just get over it.'



Snacks in the cinema
'No way. It's like snacks in church.'



Marmite
'Yes. I'll tell you another thing about Marmite - a combo. Marmite on toast and black tea with milk. That's the way it should be.'



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David Shrigley

Flatpack furniture
‘To hell with flatpack furniture and the shop that sells it.’

The night tube
‘Has to be a good thing.’
EF: ‘There’s a lot of vomit on it, though.’
‘I didn’t say I wanted to ride on it.’

Crystal Palace Dinosaurs
‘Yeah, I love dinosaurs. Not so keen on Crystal Palace, but dinosaurs, yeah!’

The Turner Prize
‘I think it’s good, as long as I don’t have to be nominated for it. It was hard work: you have to do loads of interviews.’

Being interviewed
‘Right now it’s great. But sometimes, urgh, it’s hard.’

Nigel Farage’s new moustache
‘To hell with Nigel Farage and his moustache.’
EF: ‘I think his moustache is a good thing.’
‘Yeah but it’s attached to him.’

Scented toilet paper
‘I have no opinion about scented toilet paper.’
EF: ‘You’re basically rubbing perfume into your anus, you either like that or you don’t!’
‘You’re not really rubbing perfume into your anus, it’s just that rubbing the perfume into the anus is a side-effect of trying to do something else. All right, scented toilet paper, get rid of it. I’m a bidet man, given the choice.’
EF: ‘Wow. That’s a bold claim for someone who’s not French!’
‘Everybody likes a bidet, don’t they? Once you figure out what it’s for, bidets are really useful.’

Conceptual art
‘Yeah, best kind of art!’

Street art
‘Street art’s good.’
EF: ‘All of it!’
‘Most of it.’
EF: ‘Some of it.’
‘That which is art, is good. That which is vandalism, less so.’

Vandalism
‘Oddly, I do still quite like vandalism. There’s quite a thin line between street art and vandalism, and it’s an interesting one. It’s good for now.’

Boris Johnson
‘Sorry, Boris, I’m one of Sadiq’s men now.’

People who rip you off
‘It’s flattery, right? People who steal your art, that’s the most sincere form of flattery.’

Being called ‘Shriggles’
‘That’s fine.’

Children in art galleries
‘Well-behaved children in art galleries: thumbs up. Feral children in art galleries: thumbs down.’
EF: ‘I saw a child destroy a piece of art once.’
‘Was it a piece of my art?’
EF: ‘It wasn’t. Has that happened?’
‘Of course it’s happened!’

Other people called David
‘Most of them are OK. If you walk down the street in London and go “Dave!” at least 25 percent of the men will turn around. Which is a good thing! I once went to a wedding where about 50 percent of the men were called David. I think that’s a thumbs up.’

→ ‘Really Good’ by David Shrigley is the latest commission for the Fourth Plinth. You can see it in Trafalgar Square until March 2018. Watch our video with David at www.timeout.com/reallygood.

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