

HYPERALLERGIC

12 REVELATORY EXHIBITIONS FROM 2017

By John Yau, December 31, 2017



My roundup of memorable exhibitions from the past year includes one that opened in 2016 but closed in 2017, and one that I did not write about. The list is not arranged hierarchically so that readers should not project anything into the order in which I put them. It had to do with memory rather than preference. What guided my choices was simple: I wanted to call additional attention to exhibitions that showed me something I had not seen before, and, in some cases, might not even been aware of not having seen it.

4. Teju Cole: Blind Spot and Black Paper at Steven Kasher

Teju Cole's filmic pairing of photograph and text turn the images into shots from an ongoing chronicle of what he has seen and the states of consciousness it has provoked in him, the unexpected connections and associations. These include biblical texts, classical texts, yesterday's and today's news, memories, research, and much else. They are a record of a man's attempt to stay alive and alert, open to the world he is literally passing through.