

ARTFORUM

Best of 2019
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EACH DECEMBER, Artforum invites a group of distinguished critics, curators, and artists from around the world to consider the year in art. Ten contributors count down their top ten highlights of 2019, while four others select the single exhibition or event that, for them, rose above the rest.

NAIMA J. KEITH

9. Cauleen Smith (MASS MoCA, North Adams, Massachusetts; Curated by Susan Cross)

In this sprawling multimedia installation, Smith immerses viewers in heaps of seemingly innocuous stuff from our lives, asking us to ponder the thoughtlessness with which we accumulate it all. She illustrates the looming potential of ecological catastrophe as it intersects with themes and narratives of black resistance and feminism, and her message is compelling: "Can you feel the Earth rotating around the sun? This is your spaceship. Act accordingly."