THE ART ISSUE
BY DAVID SHRIGLEY
Thumbs up or thumbs down?
David Shrigley’s new sculpture has landed in Trafalgar Square. We get his verdict on all things London

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This week’s Time Out in no time at all

‘When a male bee climaxes, his testicles explode’
The things a pest controller knows

Full circle
Brixton Windmill turns 200 this month, and is opening its doors to visitors for tours

Jubilation!
The night tube has arrived on the Jubilee Line. Check out the places to party at all hours

London Cocktail Week
Shakers at the ready – the annual festival is back in town

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October 4 – 10 2016 Time Out London
Hello, London

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This week is a big week for big art. Trafalgar Square has just unveiled its cheesiest 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!

YOU SAID IT
What you’ve been rating and hating online

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

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

The Turner Prize show opened last week, and soon had you exercising your critical skills: ‘Foolish, narcissistic, self-indulgent, self-important, crafty, garbage for the self-obsessed glitterati and the willfully 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

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COMMENT OF THE WEEK

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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.'

Driverless cars
'I’m afraid not. It just doesn’t make good sense does it?'

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

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

Scented toilet paper
'I have no opinion about scented toilet paper.'

The Turner Prize
'You're basically rubbing perfume into your anus, you either like that or you don't.'

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

'You're not really rubbing perfume into your anus, it's just that rubbing the perfume in 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.'

'There's a lot of vomit on it, though.'

'I didn't say I wanted to ride on it.'

The night tube
'Has to be a good thing.'

'Get rid of it.'

'Yeah but it's attached to him.'

Nigel Farage's new moustache
'To hell with Nigel Farage and his moustache.'

'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.'

Conceptual art
'Yeah, best kind of art!'

Street art
'Street art's good.'

'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.'

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

Vandalism
'That which is art, is good. That which is vandalism, less so.'

Being called 'Shriggles'
'That's fine.'

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.'

Children in art galleries
'Well-behaved children in art galleries: thumbs up. Feral children in art galleries: thumbs down.'

'Yes, I said a child destroy a piece of art once.'

'Was it a piece of my art?'

'It wasn't. Has that happened?'

'Of course it's happened!'