

NEW YORK

The Approval matrix: Week of December 25, 2017

Our deliberately oversimplified guide to who falls where on our taste hierarchies

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THE APPROVAL MATRIX *Our deliberately oversimplified guide to who falls where on our taste hierarchies.*

HIGHBROW

DESPICABLE

BRILLIANT

LOWBROW

Everybody who isn't a corporation or a plutocrat hates the tax plan, but that doesn't seem to make any difference to the GOP.

"No one gets creamed more than New Jersey from this tax bill," said Mark Zandi, chief economist for Moody's Analytics.

Cornel West v. Ta-Nehisi Coates: Twitter beef ft. white supremacist **Richard Spencer**.

A joint study by Artnet Analytics and Maastricht University puts numbers to the way **sexism** limits how quickly women can find success in the art world.

The rise of "fake news" as a phrase. A Marist poll put it as the second-most annoying this year, after perennial empty conversation-filler "whatever."

President Trump's new "National Security Strategy" drops climate change from its list of threats. Hopefully that big, beautiful wall is **watertight**, too.

Rupert Murdoch is totally confident that the **sex-harassment** problems at Fox News are a thing of the past.

First Sunshine and now the Lincoln Plaza Cinemas are being shuttered. Makes you just want to sit at home and watch **VOD** in protest.

The new animatronic Trump at the Disney World Hall of Presidents doesn't **sniff-sniff** as it speechifies.

Issa Rae is now working on **two** new shows for HBO.

The Decemberists sing Lin-Manuel Miranda's song about **Ben Franklin**.

Roman and Williams' new Soho shop and cafe **Guild**, because one-percenters don't have to be tacky.

Can you be one of Camila Cabello's "Real Friends"?

The **dreamy**, laid-back earnestness of "Into You," by Jesse Boykins III ft. Noname.

The Taylor Swift: The Swift Life app was almost immediately **overrun** by the Trumpy part of her fan base.

A Christmas Story Live should probably never have been allowed to **live**.

Pitch Perfect 3 needs to **Auto-Tune** its plot a bit to make some sense.

The **Real Housewives of Atlanta's** Sherée takes a gamble on love with an **incarcerated** man.

Jennifer Hudson's "Burden Down," a ballad about being the one who always has to get shit done. (Yeah, the **holidays** can feel like that.)

The **fish nuns** (a.k.a. the Caretakers) are the best part of the new Star Wars movie.

Why are taxi receipts printed with what seems to be **disappearing ink**? Bad news if you've waited till the end of the year to do your expenses.

There's a "Justin Bieber" sex doll.

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Bob's Burgers gets a pop-up. Put the **belch** in Bob Belcher!

End-of-the-year **layoff season**. Bye, 2017!

Mario Batali's **cinnamon-roll** apology.

Why does the emoji "black Santa" look so **sad**?

The MTA is replacing the ancient train cars of the C line with new, longer ones. Which will make your time on a stalled train more **comfy**.

Philosopher Baroness Onora O'Neill **ran rings** around Fareed Zakaria at the Berggruen Institute smartfest at the NYPL.

Woozy landscapes by Joseph Yoakum that wove at Susan Inglett Gallery.

Alvin Ailey's staging of Jewelle Williams Jo Zoller's **all-female** Shelter.

Myriam Gurba's mordant #MeToo memoir, **Mean**.

Claire van Kampen's *Farinelli and the King at the Belasco*: a **duet for two virtuosos**.

Doirance Dance, toe-tapping holiday **tap** fun at the Joyce.

Laura Owens's Whitney **menagerie**.

The Times UFO exposé: Maybe our space overlords will have a **civilizing** influence on us.

I WANT TO BELIEVE

WEDON

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Ann Magnuson guest-curated MoMA's Club 57 show.