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Nuit Blanche Returns to Toronto for One Night Only

We spoke to Maximo Gonzalez, Brendan Fernandes, and eL Seed, three of the artists who presented their work at the all-night art exposition.

10.02.2018

by Timothy Latterner



While New York and Los Angeles may be the American epicenters of art, film, and design, don't sleep on our neighbors to the north and their bustling arts scene in Toronto. This weekend, contemporary artists from around the world

flocked to the city, known as possibly the most diverse city in the world, to partake in Nuit Blanche—an all-night art exposition and event where artists coat the streets with murals, installations and everything in between.

From sunrise to sunset on Saturday, artists took to the streets to create works based rooted in heritage, political views, beauty, and design. The one creations from the one-night-only event are only available to be seen for a short period until they're disassembled, bringing Torontonians out into the streets to see the work being constructed and unveiled.

Since 2006, the arts district of the city has been consumed by incredible works from some of the biggest names in the art world, and this year was no different. We spoke with the five favorites on their inspiration behind each work and why Nuit Blanche has become such an important staple for the international art community.

Brendan Fernandes is also looking to make a statement. His work, speaking out for LGBTQ+ rights and cultural advancement, made a big splash this year. Unlike the other projects, his auditory creation *On Flashing Lights* balanced sound and light in a piece that could be experienced for mere moments.

"This work is inspired by my continual quest to define a 'safe space' for Queers and to question the progress and value of our civil rights," explains Fernandes. "My work is an ongoing project that asks provocative questions through the forms of dance, performance and 'movements' in all sense of the word. All leading to this idea of social solidarity and exploring what forms that can take."

Throughout the process though, the piece isn't merely a declaration, but a question posited to the world, using the Toronto streets as a speaker. The intended impact of this project is to make a political statement. To get people to think about each other in a way where dance and gathering are reconsidered next to the question: what is a safe space? And what does it mean to create a safe space for one another? Who is providing that for marginalized groups in our community?