

THE APPROVAL MATRIX

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

HIGHBROW

The president finally tries out being **presidential** (Introducing: compassionate ethnonationalism.)



Possibly related: his discovery that being president is hard, complaining that "nobody knew health care could be **so complicated**."



The once very well-regarded Thomas Campbell to **abruptly depart** the Metropolitan Museum.



The 85-year-old Sofia Gubaidulina's **ecstatic**, **ecstatic** new Triple Concerto, with the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Carnegie Hall.

Steven Levenson's **slippery** and indelible new play, *If I Forget*.

Moonlight is Best Picture. Please ignore the **mix-up**.



Betsy DeVos confuses the Jim Crow history of historically black colleges with "school choice."



A Yayoi Kusama pumpkin got **smashed** at the Hirshhorn by a clumsy selfie taker.



Following Iranian director Asghar Farhadi's Oscar win, the official Persian-language State Department account, @USAdarFarsi, tweeted its congratulations, then **deleted** them.



The Lucky Ones, Julianne Pachico's brilliantly **wacked-out** collection of linked stories about Colombia's long civil war.



L'incoronazione di Poppea, at Carnegie Hall: Monteverdi's opera about Nero, a chaos-causing, torture-loving **narcissist**.

Julian Schnabel's smashing new plate paintings, which look like **flowery, scaly** hedges.



Tyler Cowen's *The Complacent Class* diagnoses our **national sclerosis**.



Alice Neel, "Uptown," at David Zwirner in Chelsea.

Jill Scott kills it at Afropunk's restless and inspiring **Unapologetically Black** concert at the Apollo.



Border-control airport follies: Muhammad Ali Jr. detained in Fort Lauderdale and asked, "Are you a **Muslim**?" ...



... Also detained: a French Holocaust historian, Henry Rouso, in Houston, as was one of Australia's most popular **children's-book authors**, Mem Fox, at LAX.



\$65 million sure would pay for a lot of book advances in a world of shrinking **non-ex-presidential** book advances.

Introducing the Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement office—giving **voice** to xenophobia.



Wasting away again ... uh ... soon there will be a Jimmy Buffett-themed **Margaritaville** senior-housing complex in Florida!



According to a new study by a watchdog group, most Airbnb revenue in black New York City neighborhoods goes to **white** hosts.



Meet Handle, this jumping robot. Now imagine it brandishing a **gun**.

The dizzyingly self-assured new production of *Sunday in the Park With George* (Jake Gyllenhaal is **mesmerizing**) ...



... And *Sunday in the Park*'s home, the just-reopened Hudson Theatre, is now the **nicest** on Broadway.

Owen Campbell's **beatific** timidity in first-time writer-director Miles Joris-Peyrafitte's *As You Are*.



Dinner With DiMaggio, a memoir of getting to know **Marilyn's ex** in his last years, written by his doctor and friend, 40 years his junior.



Residents of St. James Towers in Clinton Hill voted not to **cash out** but to stay in the Mitchell-Lama affordable-housing program.

Saint Laurent designer Anthony Vaccarello **mixed** men's and women's looks.



BLACK ft. Jhené Aiko's "First Fuck." A reminder that **sluts** are optimists at heart.



... But, okay, it's **awesomely petty**.

- Level of petty:
 - Low
 - High
 - Remy Ma

Remy Ma goes after Nicki Minaj with below-the-um, **belt** dis track "SHETHER" ...



Peeps Oreos will turn your saliva **bright** pink. And your toothbrush.



Sexual-harassment allegations at Tesla and Uber.



The zoom-in on this dog's **nose** meme craze. And yet, the meme is never wet, which means it's not happy.



Sylvan Esso's single "Die Young" is **ironic** about that idea.

DESPICABLE

BRILLIANT

LOWBROW

*PICTURE (ROUSSO, BLACK); COURTESY OF FACEBOOK (ALI); JOAN MARCUS (IF I FORGET); COURTESY OF CURAZA (SPREADABLE)