

SPERONE WESTWATER
257 Bowery New York 10002
T + 1 212 999 7337 F + 1 212 999 7338
www.speronewestwater.com

Smith, Roberta. "5 Great Art Exhibitions to See in New York Before They Close." *www.nytimes.com*
(*The New York Times*), 21 December 2017.

The New York Times



A scene from Michael Landy's "Break Down" (2001). Credit Michael Landy, via Sperone Westwater, New York

The winter holidays get a bit frantic, and not just with gift-buying and related rituals. All those art exhibitions you've been meaning to see for months are closing soon. Don't panic — one strategy is to use art-viewing to mitigate the holiday stresses. Here are some worthwhile shows that may have escaped your notice and will all close after New Year's (with one gallery exhibition that ends sooner). These worthy shows may just rekindle your stamina.

Sperone Westwater Gallery

By coincidence another great, if laconic film is on view near the New Museum: Michael Landy's "Breaking News — New York" at the Sperone Westwater gallery. This is his 2001 "Break Down," in which we see Mr. Landy, an erstwhile Young British Artist, and a group of skilled assistants systematically disassemble all his possessions — a total of 7,227 items including his car, the contents of his studio (nearly 400 artworks), as well as furniture, clothing, books, foodstuffs and his refrigerator. Everything is placed in plastic bins on conveyor belts leading to a compactor.

The whole process lasted two weeks, unfolding in a vacant department store on Oxford Street that was open to the public and yielded over five tons of landfill. Relentless and humbling, the video is being shown in

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New York for the first time, with its equally mind-boggling accompaniment, “Break Down Inventory”: a detailed list of Mr. Landy’s belongings that took three years to compile before their destruction. The printed document wallpapers a large space, floor to ceiling, and is also available in book form. Commissioned by Artangel, the London nonprofit, “Break Down” and its inventory should be on permanent view in a museum. It is a monument to the mindless consumption of material goods and waste that plague the world. The show also includes scores of skillfully subversive red-and-white drawings borrowed from other artworks, newspaper headlines and protest slogans to further convey the anxieties and crises of the moment, but “Break Down,” now 16 years old, sums them up most hauntingly. (Through Dec. 23; 257 Bowery, Manhattan; speronewestwater.com.)