



OCTOBER 29, 2014 9:00 AM by RANDI BERGMAN

After years of being described as "just like New York but smaller," Toronto has



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neighborhoods and atmospheres (see Chinatown, Little India, Little Italy, Little Portugal); its annual Pride Week is one of the world's largest, boasting upwards of a million visitors each year; and the art, fashion, and restaurant scenes-not to mention its coffee culture—is booming. Here, we take a look at the best that 1/11Art Gallery of Ontario

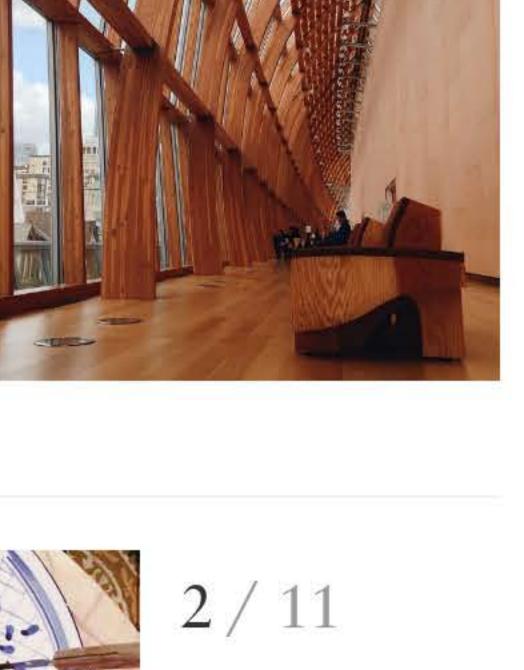
some legitimate reasons for newfound bravado. One of the most diverse cities in

the world, Canada's cultural capital is home to an incredibly rich variety of



back in '08, the AGO has become bold in its scope, hosting everything from an exhibit on Michelangelo's drawings (currently on view) to one about Patti Smith's photographs and personal objects. The Royal Ontario Museum also boasts standout architecture, quite literally, jutting from its storied walls with the Daniel Libeskind -designed deconstructivist crystal. Photo: Courtesy of Stephanie Yeow / @sheephanie

Since its Frank Gehry renovation





Bar Isabel Wunderkind chef Grant van Gameren has dominated Toronto's food trends of late, first with the carnivorous Black Hoof and now with Bar Isabel, the Spanish-spun tapas restaurant unanimously loved for its oaky, hole-in-the-wall

> recent titans, Anthony Rose, holds court on Dupont Street with a troika of hotspots, Rose and Sons, Big Crow, and Fat Pasha, which all ride the Eastern European Jewish -inspired schmaltz trend. Photo: Courtesy of Jennifer W. / @beansnpork

ambiance and its spicy

boquerones. Another of the city's



Meanwhile, the city's largest green,

Come summertime, Trinity

Bellwoods Park is a veritable

and contraband microbrews.

hipster haven of picnic blankets

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Park Life

High Park, is a cherry blossom paradise each April. For something a bit further out of the city center, Scarborough Bluffs is thrilling with its spectacular cliffs. Photo: Courtesy of Pauline / @xxpaulineeexx



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Casa Loma, a Gothic Revival castle

built in the early twentieth century

remains a curious, fantastical must

on any first-timer's list. For the

Cemetery is an equally, if a bit

eerie, step back in time, with

sadcores, nearby Mount Pleasant

graceful tombs dating as far back

Photo: Courtesy of Hailey Hye-young Park /

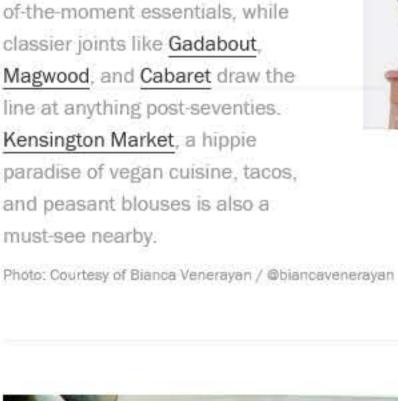
Casa Loma

as 1876.

@park.h.hailey







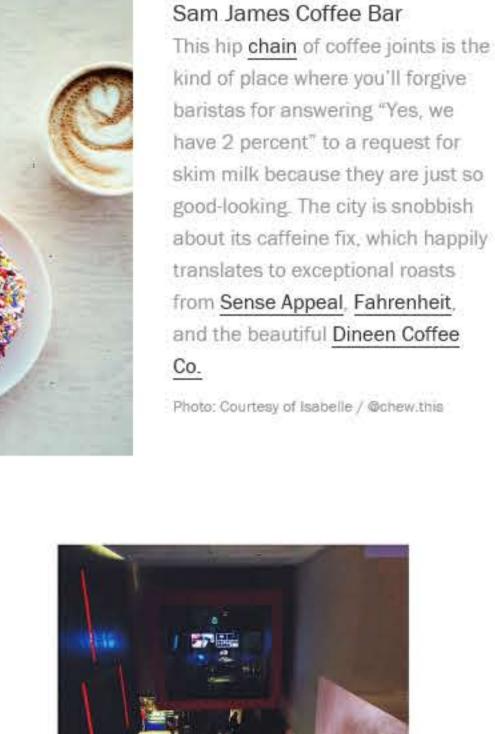
end's many outposts, 69 Vintage,

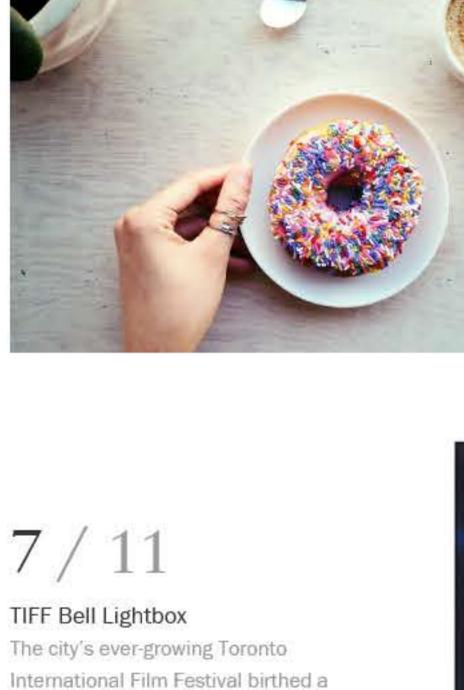
Chosen, Silver Falls, I Miss You,

and Penny Arcade are superb for



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permanent home few years back,

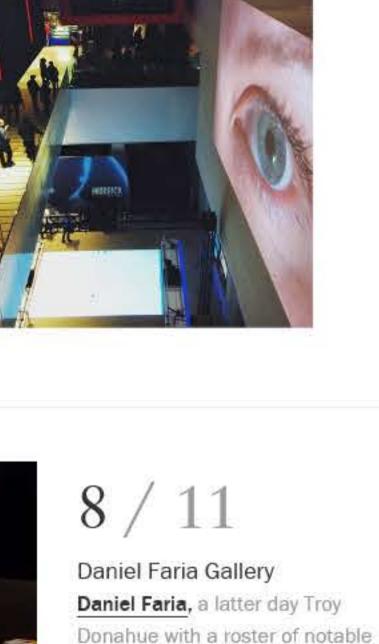
which will play host to "Stanley

Kubrick: The Exhibit" through

Photo: Courtesy of Shivani Kohli /

2015.

@hopefulvagabond



Canadian artists (most notably,

former garage on the city's west

Contemporary, and Hermann &

Roenisch, Neubacher Shor

Audrey keep things similarly

Photo: Courtesy of Shari Orenstein /

interesting.

Oshariorenstein

Douglas Coupland), exhibits from a

side. Other arbiters of cool like Clint



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The Drake Hotel

Toronto's hip transformation. The Gladstone Hotel is a worthwhile stop nearby, each hotel room uniquely designed by local artists. Photo: Courtesy of Kristina / @kristina_ezhova

With its many outposts (a chain of

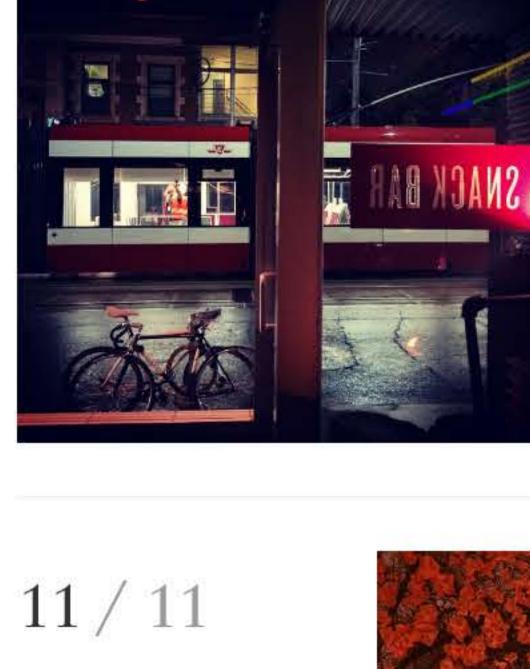
eatery, and a cottage country inn),

The Drake Hotel is at the heart of

boutiques, a Financial District







Hoof's Cocktail Bar, and the abovementioned Bar Isabel. The snack/drink mix is done craftily at

more common than dance parties,

concocted at the Carbon Bar, Black

the former of which are best

416 Snack Bar, with its rotating

menu of miniatures. Photo: Courtesy of Michelle Pinchev / **Ocitybyheart**

is not without precedence, with

Shopping

Holt Renfrew having held the highend chalice for years and The Room at Hudson's Bay upping the ante with a focus on Brit-lead avant-garde (an Isabella Blow retrospective is on view through the month). Meanwhile, smaller boutiques like 119 Corbo boast an Antwerp Six-bent selection of Dries Van Noten, Ann Demeulemeester, and Maison Martin Margiela. Photo: Courtesy of Daniella Fers / @daniellafers

Toronto's impending luxury deluge

