

Lafayette Square is an Art Destination!

Art critic Doug MacCash weighs in on the best of 2009

By [Doug MacCash, The Times-Picayune](#)

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Should old exhibits be forgot and never brought to mind? No way.

In 2009, the New Orleans art scene was as colorful and explosive as the night sky on New Year's Eve. It was the year the curtain closed on Prospect.1 New Orleans amid international applause, the year Louisiana ArtWorks went to work, Ogden Museum of Southern Art director Rick Gruber bowed out after a triumphant decade, and the Voodoo Music Experience got into the art biz.

Here's a toast to my 10 favorite 2009 exhibits, objects and installations.

The suite of sculptures in Lafayette Square — including Louise Bourgeois' eye-shaped benches, Tara Conley's weird bronze "Bunny" and Aria Da Capo's giant, concrete morning glories — bring a certain "Alice in Wonderland" vibe to the city center. The works, put in place from 2008-2009, are part of freelance sculpture-park producers Michael Manjarris and Peter Lundberg's all-volunteer "Sculpture for New Orleans" project that has so far planted 28 modernist marvels in public spaces and college campuses.

Thanks Doug. We think the three pieces are great too!

