

## 2014 in Review: The most vital, transcendent art exhibitions in Memphis

Fredric Koeppl

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Now is the time to separate the good from the great, the satisfactory from the sublime. It happens at the end of every year, as writers in the arts and cultural fields come up with their lists of the 10 Best This or That. I am, of course, no different and can play this game too, though the annual exercise requires a bit of anguish and examination.

What distinguishes most of this selection of 10 exhibitions is a sense of magic and transformation, an effort on the part of the artist to transcend the everyday and reach into a vital and mysterious realm of the imagination. Other than that aspect, this is a wholly eclectic group of work, exciting, inspirational, ambitious and finely wrought.

**John Salvest, “Disappearing Ink,” at the Art Museum of the University of Memphis, April 4-June 28:** As homage to the printed newspaper, whose days seem to be numbered, Salvest paired paper ephemera and written/spoken/filmed narratives from a widely diverse group of people with a giant, soaring, spectacular installation of 1,400 front pages of the Arkansas Sun transformed into bird shapes.