

THE APPROVAL MATRIX

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

HIGHBROW



Oakland police go way, way overboard on an OWS crowd, fracturing the skull of a protesting Marine veteran.

Pepper-spray cop Anthony Bologna didn't just get docked vacation—he was also cruelly reassigned to a precinct closer to his home!



There is a **3-year-old fashion model**.



Jon Corzine's weirdly arresting, blue-bordered **official governor's portrait**.

The **102-foot slide** by Carsten Höller connecting the fourth and second floors of the New Museum.



Actual mass excitement for a non-*Harry Potter*/*Twilight* book inspires **midnight release parties** for Haruki Murakami's *1Q84*.

Robert Durst, suspiciously connected to several deaths but never convicted of murder, moves back to the city **and buys a house next to a funeral home**.



Middle-aged Australian financial-news satire sounds boring, yes. But Google "Clarke & Dawe" and have your mind blown.



Will Ferrell's Mark Twain humor-prize award ceremony on PBS.



The **Statue of Liberty's torch-cams**.



John McCain has **made the same exact joke** about low congressional approval ratings 27 times since 2006.



Penn Badgley says he **never learned the meaning of the financial terms** used in *Margin Call* ...

... Which turns out to have been an **inadvertently great-slash-disturbingly realistic character choice**.



These are not only cute, they help protect penguins after oil spills.

The Jehovah's Witnesses are **planning to sell the Watchtower building**, a Brooklyn institution, and head upstate.



DESPICABLE

BRILLIANT

Burger King and Domino's are both labeling new products "artisan."



Halloween decorations in nice bars.



Project Runway judges' **inability to say bad things about Anya** even when her clothes are really, really bad.

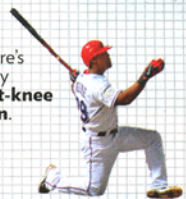


A **Dexter plot** revolves around police who've never heard of the Book of Revelation, the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, etc.



The impenetrably amazing British comedy series **Snuff Box** is finally available on DVD in America this month.

Adrian Beltre's absolutely ridiculous **bent-knee home run**.



Max on Happy Endings is turning from lovable rascal into borderline sociopath.



Porn-y "teen bride" **Courtney Stodden** is generally unbearable ...



Redheaded British teenager King Krule's drowsy indie-dub jam "**The Noose of Jah City**."

This season of *The Walking Dead* sounds **slurpier** than the last.



... But **getting kicked out of a pumpkin patch for dressing like a skank** is still funny.



Rihanna's **crazy-hot-angry performance** in the "We Found Love" video makes quite a case for Rihanna becoming a movie star.



There's a company that **turns kids' drawings into stuffed animals**.

A Twitter user named **Mister PeePee** is documenting his effort to masturbate in each Starbucks bathroom in New York.



LOWBROW

PHOTOGRAPHS: ALEX DE MORA (KING KRULE); COURTESY OF LIFETIME (PROJECT RUNWAY); JOJO WILDEN/COURTESY OF ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS (MARGIN CALL); RICHARD FOREMAN/COURTESY OF ABC (HAPPY ENDINGS); EARTH/CAMPAR (STATUE OF LIBERTY); KEVIN DIETSCH/NEWSCON (BELTRE); DUSTIN RESCH (CONAN ART); KEVIN WOLFE/ABC (STATUE OF LIBERTY); COURTESY OF THE NEW MUSEUM (CARSTEN HÖLLER); UNTITLED (SLIDE); COURTESY OF CHILD'S OWN (STUFFED ANIMAL); WWD/CONDÉ NAST/CORBIS (DURST); PATRICK MCCORMACK (DURST); GLOBE PHOTOS/NEWSCON (DURST); BARRY