

# BOMB

## Looking Back on 2017: Art

Haley Mellin  
Artist

The new gallery Parker, opened in 2017 by Sam Parker, had an exceptional show of works from the '60s and '70s by Franklin Williams. The sculptures gave me a sense of being home. Not only is the gallery located in a residence in Los Feliz—I had gratitude to be in a place with wooden floors, light switches, and the other trappings of domestic normalcy—the exhibition itself lent a humanness and an interest in the animal world, that I appreciated within the current political and social climate. One sculpture of what looks to be a snail, opened a world where language can point but does not suffice. That said, while I was recovering from a surgery this spring, *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating* (Algonquin Books) by the author Elisabeth Tova Bailey, was kindly read to me by my mother, and I thought of this text while looking at this sculpture and the exhibit. We need shows like these.



Franklin Williams, *Untitled*, 1966. Acrylic, gesso and yarn on women's underwear, broken toilet seat and canvas stuffed with cotton batting, over wooden support, 10 x 12 x 23 inches. Courtesy of Parker Gallery.

Haley Mellin, "Looking Back on 2017: Art." *Bomb* (December 14, 2017), accessed online.