





NEW YORK

THE APPROVAL MATRIX

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

COMPILED BY DOMINIQUE PARISO AND CHRIS STANTON

		HIGHBROW				
DESPICABLE	<p>UPenn sold out its trans student athletes.</p> 	<p>MEASLES TESTING</p>  <p>We did it! U.S. records most measles cases in 33 years.</p>	<p>Yellin/Scott Rudin plots a Broadway comeback with <i>Little Bear Ridge Road</i>.</p> 	<p>Aatish Taseer's travelogue memoir, <i>A Return to Self</i>.</p> 	<p>Lisa Yuskavage's drawings at the Morgan.</p> 	
	<p>Ted Cruz was on vacation again during a Texas natural disaster.</p> 	<p>Trump cuts hamper forecasters just in time for hurricane season.</p> 	<p>East River Plus Pool set to open in 2027. Sure, Kathy...</p> 	<p>... While Parisiennes frolic in the Seine for the first time in a century.</p> 	<p>Aysegül Savas's globe-trotting short-story collection, <i>Long Distance</i>.</p> 	<p>Six months in, per MTA figures: Congestion pricing is working.</p> 
	<p>Eric Adams's potential parting gift? One more rent hike.</p> 	<p>ICE now has a bigger budget than the entire federal prison system.</p> 	<p>Send the meteor now—an AI-powered site is ranking restaurants by diners' attractiveness...</p> 	<p>Critic Molly Young's 80-page zine about pregnancy, <i>Privacy</i>.</p> 	<p>The book totes at Jonathan Anderson's Dior debut.</p> 	<p>Moomins take over the Brooklyn Public Library.</p> 
	<p>Floundering car executive announces plan to launch new political party.</p> 	<p>... And someone is playing tricks with AI to impersonate Marco Rubio.</p> 	<p>The party for Michael M. Grynbaum's Condé book, <i>Empire of the Elite</i>, is at the old Condé cafeteria.</p> 	<p>BRILLIANT</p>		
<p>Beloved Meatpacking spot Hector's Cafe and Diner will close after 76 years.</p> 	<p>Another summer, another lifeguard shortage.</p> 	<p>Drones keep spotting sharks near NYC beaches. We'd rather not know.</p> 	<p>The world's most expensive cheese sells for more than \$42,000. Behold!</p> 	<p>The Thornton brothers triumphantly return as Clipse...</p> 	<p>... While the Gallagher brothers haven't killed each other on the Oasis tour. Yet.</p> 	
<p>At this point, Prime Day Week might as well be a whole month.</p> 	<p>Peacock drops <i>Murder, She Wrote</i> from platform, braces for wrath of Angela Lansbury fans.</p> 	<p>We're not so sure about "Rob Mac"...</p> 	<p>Cardi B brought a rook to Paris Fashion Week because who needs handbags?</p> 	<p>Kesha's first Dr. Luke-less album, <i>Period.</i></p> 	<p>Alex G summer.</p> 	
<p>A second <i>Love Island USA</i> contestant has a history of using racial slurs.</p> 	<p>Freaks celebrated with baby oil outside the Diddy trial.</p> 	<p>TSA's gross shoes-off policy is finally ending.</p> 	<p>... But <i>Always Sunny</i> is back for its 17th season.</p> 	<p>"Bette Davis Eyes" battle royal: Ethel Cain vs. JoJo Siwa.</p> 	<p>Joey Chestnut reclaims his belt in Coney Island.</p> 	
		LOWBROW				

PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY IMAGES (ADAMS); THOMAS BIRCH; MIKE MANDUANI; ICE; WIREIMAGE; HEATHER CRISP; RUBIO; FINE; CONGESTION PRICING; CARB; KESHA; CLIPSE TOUR; JANE EWING; CHESTNUT; WINDHO; LIFEGUARD; CHAIR; RAIN; SHARE; AMAZON; MAC SHOES; FRIENDS OF - BOON; INQUIRY; NYU; INSTAGRAM (PRIVACY); DIOR (SAG); LISA YUSKAVAGE (COURTESY OF THE ARTIST); AND DAVID ZWINGER; BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY (MOOMINS); COURTESY OF THE PUBLISHER (A RETURN TO SELF); LONG DISTANCE; EMPIRE OF THE ELITE; PATRICK MCCLHENRY (PKT'S ALWAYS SUNNY); GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS (CHEESE); PACOCK (LOVE ISLAND); GOOGLE MAPS (HECTOR'S CAFE); NBC (MURDER SHE WROTE)