Notes from the Wunderground, and more

By Ken Johnson

The ICA opens, plus fine shows on war, bohemia, and technology

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The most significant event of the year in Boston was the December opening of the Institute of Contemporary Art's spectacular new building. With its long glass facade and its boldly black, inhuman-style street-face facade, the ICA's façade + Boetti design is not beautiful, but nothing short of awe-inspiring. The 42,000 square feet of interior space houses more than 300 galleries of contemporary art, making it one of the largest museums of its kind in the world. The ICA has been designed to be a hub for cultural activity, with a theater, a restaurant, and a bar all located on the ground floor. The ICA's most significant exhibition of the year was "The Wunderground: Art and Technology in the Modern World," which featured works from the 19th century to the present. The exhibition explored the relationship between art and technology, and how they have influenced each other over time. The exhibition included works by artists such as Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Edison, and Alexander Graham Bell, among others. Overall, the ICA's opening was a major event for the city of Boston, and it is sure to become a major destination for art lovers and tourists alike.