



The hipster

Can still fit into skinny jeans. Uses words like "investigate" and "subvert" without referring to congressional hearings.

Safe bet: At the Art Museum of the Americas, "The Ripple Effect: Currents of Socially Engaged Art" celebrates public-practice-based art, which often looks more like activism than art. Through Jan. 13. 201 18th St. NW. 202-458-6016. www.amamuseum.org.

Best bet: One of the most avant-garde shows in town is at the Renwick Gallery, the Smithsonian's museum of American craft and decorative arts. Don't think stodgy vases and bowls. "40 Under 40: Craft Futures" boasts Nick Dong's interactive "Enlightenment Room," a tile-lined chamber where one visitor at a time experiences Tibetan chant-

ing and the gradual blast of more than 600 LED lights. Through Feb. 3 at 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW (Metro: Farragut North, Farragut West). 202-633-7970. www.americanart.si.edu/renwick.

In the neighborhood: Part photography, part anthropology, "Taryn Simon: A Living Man Declared Dead and Other Chapters I-XVIII" uses portraiture to examine religion, race, politics and the meaning of family. Through Feb. 24. Corcoran Gallery of Art, 500 17th St. NW (Metro: Farragut West). 202-639-1700. www.corcoran.org.

Where to eat: Bombay Club. Authentic Indian food, plus happy-hour discounts on drinks and small plates. 815 Connecticut Ave. NW. 202-659-3727. www.bombayclubdc.com.

What hipster wouldn't enjoy a visit to Nick Dong's "Enlightenment Room" at the Renwick Gallery?

NICK DONG