

Rogan's List 2017

Greetings cherished WFU parents! Below is an annual roundup I've done for a dozen-plus years, listing the best books/films (etc.) I read/watched (etc.) this year; rule is they have to have been published/released (etc.) in 2017. If you're new to this, send me a recommendation of your own (for last year or an '18 highlight, in months ahead) & you'll get a List again next year.

List regulars missing a quasi-poetic opening: check out the 'found poem' following best songs list; strung together memorable lines from millennial musicians. Portrait of an age? A little worrisome if so.

Enough prelude; let's get to it....

Books 2017

Fiction

18. Andrew Sean Greer, *Less*. Cleverness & craft carry tissue-thin plot; turns poignant near end.
17. Joyce Carol Oates, *A Book of American Martyrs*. Narrator's mock U. Michigan application essay's alone worth the price of admission (which ain't cheap, at more than 750 pages total).
16. David Williams, *When the English Fall*. Post-apocalypse; close to the earth, Amish remain. Also splendid in related 'ecopocalypse' genre: Kim Stanley Robinson's *New York 2140*.
15. Arundhati Roy, *Ministry of Utmost Happiness*. Back, 20 years (!) after *God of Small Things*, Roy crams the entire subcontinent into two intertwined stories. Sprawling but often exquisite.
14. Haruki Murakami, *Men Without Women*. A favorite novelist whose stories less sure-footed.
13. Brian Van Reet, *Spoils*. Anguishing Iraq novel by decorated veteran; jihadist POV scenes humanize endless conflict. Same genre, vastly different: Jay Baron Nicorvo's *Standard Grand*.
12. Joanna Howard & Joanna Ruocco, *Field Glass*. Science meets poetics in unsettling future.
11. Emily Fridlund, *History of Wolves*. Weaves together narratives, each a novella in own right.
10. Hideo Yokoyama, *Six Four*. Sustains tense, mysterious tone across 500+ pages: rare feat.
9. Hernán Díaz, *In the Distance*. Silver-voiced Díaz recasts US immigrant pilgrim's progress—through loveable/maddening/loveable (etc.) Swede named Håkan. Thanks for rec, Kerem.
8. Elif Bauman, *The Idiot*. Could trim 50 pp, but lovelorn Selin's perfect-pitch voice—Turkish-American Harvard frosh, by turns poignantly lost & confidently ironic—is well worth the trip.
7. Jesmyn Ward, *Sing Unburied, Sing*. Family reunion, of a sort, configured as modern *Odyssey*.
6. Lisa Ko, *The Leavers*. Why Deming's birth mother abandons him in NYC to return to China, and what happens thereafter: an epic in miniature.
5. Mohsin Ham, *Exit West*. Nadia & Saeed: greatest literary couple since Florentino & Fermina.
4. Min Jin Lee, *Pachinko*. Kaleidoscope of memorable characters across four generations of Korean *zainichi* in Osaka, Tokyo, and other perfectly-rendered Japanese locales.
3. Andrew Krivák, *The Signal Flame*. Central Europeans in '70s rural PA, indelibly drawn.
2. Jennifer Egan, *Manhattan Beach*. Plot so engrossing, I read a 2nd time for literary brilliance.
1. George Saunders, *Lincoln In the Bardo*. You may labor a bit at outset, as our most inventive living author proceeds via mostly-fanciful historical 'citations.' Persist: the rewards are endless.

B List/A List [Annual entry: beloved authors whose 2017 'B' grades still outdo all others' A.]

- Salman Rushdie, *The Golden House*. Comes alive halfway, when entereth an improbable & nutty new US president; the satire essentially writes itself, & Rushdie only half-trying elsewhere.
- Nicole Krauss, *Forest Dark*. A far cry from *History of Love*, self-referential to little point.
- Jeffery Eugenides, *Fresh Complaint*. Liked several stories; loved *Virgin Suicides* & *Middlesex*.
- Donna Leone, *Earthly Remains*. Strange entry in her great Venice corpus: the crime (rich cad's scandal) soon entirely forgotten, morphing into a tale of enviro-degradation & advancing age.
- Tom Perrotta, *Mrs. Fletcher*. Frayed human connections, less persuasively than *Little Children*.
- Lee Child, *The Midnight Line*. Not cracked a Reacher thriller? 2017 entry a good gateway drug.
- Louise Erdrich, *Future Home of the Living God*. Turns her considerable gifts to dystopia.
- Joshua Ferris, *The Dinner Party*. Title story perfectly sends up NYCers now; others lagged.
- Paul Auster, *4 3 2 1*. Love so many of his novels; this one feels worked over thrice too often.

Non-Fiction

18. Nancy MacLean, *Democracy in Chains*. Provocative, if ultimately too conspiracy-theoretical for my taste...but much to absorb & ponder. Thanks for flagging, Rev. Queen!
17. Pankaj Mishra, *Age of Anger*. Charts our resurgent anger epidemic, arising a century ago.
16. Neil De Grasse-Tyson, *Astrophysics ...* and Lawrence Krauss, *The Greatest Story Ever Told—So Far*. Our deepest scientific—& metaphysical—questions, with best answers we've managed.
15. Kim Phillips-Fein, *Fear City*. Bad old financially-desperate 70s NYC, in hands of a master.
14. Bernadine Barnes, *Michelangelo & the Viewer in His Time*. Supreme act of contextualization.
13. Garry Wills, *What the Qur'an Meant*. 4th in Wills' superb expository series on the great religions.
12. David Grann, *Killers of the Flower Moon*. Irresistible title leads into Osage true-crime saga.
11. Karl Ove Knausgaard, *Autumn*. Extended paean to daughter almost as compelling as his *Struggle*.
10. Laura Walls, *Thoreau: A Life*. Superb reconstruction of far more nuanced life than your long-ago reading of *Walden* allows; thanks Tom/Gail! 2nd-best bio: Ron Chernow's exhaustive *Grant*.
9. Artist Project, *What Artists See When They Look At Art*. Testimony from across art world.
8. James Forman Jr., *Locking Up Our Own*. Tragic ironies abound in unflinching look at 1970s roots of our byzantine system of justice and public responses to crime. Also richly repays a read: Barry Friedman, *Unwarranted*. A nuanced treatment of policing in today's America.
7. Sheryl Sandberg, *Option B* and Richard Ford, *Between Them*. Two moving stories of love & loss; happened to read together, like sharpening like. Another pair of terrific memoirs: John LeCarre's poignant *The Pigeon Tunnel* and Sujatha Gidla's stunning *Ants Among Elephants*.
6. Emily Wilson, *The Three Graces of Val-Kill*. Thought I knew Eleanor Roosevelt after Cook bio-trilogy, but through brilliant prism of village-like friendship, whole new vistas await.
5. David Labaree, *A Perfect Mess*. Stirring history of US higher ed: warts, yes, & also real triumphs.
4. John McPhee, *Draft No. 4*. Assigning this great prose stylist's how-to in every class I teach.
3. Michael Eric Dyson, *Tears We Cannot Stop*. Knew Dyson's sterling sociological work; he's also a Baptist minister, as this searing sermon underlines on every page. Coming to WFU soon!
2. Masha Gessen, *The Future is History*. My WFU class's fave visitor of 2017 superbly dissects modern Russia. She saves her fillet knife for Putin (spoiler: he's worse than you thought).
1. Jennifer Doudna, *A Crack in Creation*. Gene-editing miracle innovation, expertly dissected—followed by vital musing on ethical implications. Reads like sci-fi, but this is *happening*.

And other 'best of'...

- Academics Working: Michael Lewis's *The Undoing Project* distills behavioral economics.
- Cookery: Alison Roman's *Dining In* (thanks NAK!) already has half the 125 recipes circled as future-trys; Justin Spring, *The Gourmands' Way*, is an absorbing tale of how Americans got gourmet.
- Early US history: Gordon Wood matchless on Jefferson, Adams, then both in *Friends Divided*. John Boles's Jefferson biography superbly navigates modern fault lines; thanks to Michele's FYS!
- Guide to US politics now: Allen & Parnes's *Shattered* recounts election (spoiler: not Russians). Ganesh Sitaraman's *Crisis of the Middle-Class Constitution* casts present politics in larger context. David Mayhew reminds us again of the legislature's vital balancing role in *The Imprint of Congress*.
- Philosophy: WFU's own Christian Miller's *The Character Gap* is destined to be an ethics classic.
- Poetry: Kevin Coval's *People's History of Chicago* offers one poem for each of the Second City's 77 neighborhoods. And loved *Magdalene*, Marie Howe's contemporary imagining of biblical Mary.
- Sporting Life: Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's *Coach Wooden & Me* is that rare gem: honest sports bio.
- World History: Andrea Pitzer's *One Long Night* exhumes concentration camps, from Cuba to South Africa to North Korea to Nazi Germany, since the 1890s. A cruel, cruel species, ours.

Movies 2017

In roughly ascending order of preference. If you're looking for...

- Revisiting, with a twist, the gripping-terrifying *Alien & Aliens* universe: *Alien: Covenant*.
- The complexities of modern Istanbul, via seven adorable street LOLCatz (OK, cats): *Kedi*.
- Edgy lunacy of *The Lobster*, in different setting: *The Killing of a Sacred Deer*.
- Clever, nails-biting thriller about making of a British WWII propaganda film: *Their Finest*.
- Stylish bank-holdup drama in British tradition, with southern-fried accents: *Baby Driver*.
- Just plain goofy fun: *Guardians of the Galaxy 2*. With a special delight for all us ELO fans.
- More fun, heist genre (a redneck *Ocean's Eleven*), in inimitable Soderbergh style: *Logan Lucky*.
- Trip into cyber-human future: *Ghost in the Shell*. Blends ScarJo of *Avengers* & *Under the Skin*.
- *Mean Streets* NYC, 2017 version, with Robert Pattinson (!) as disheveled anti-hero: *Good Time*.
- Implausible but stirring DC drama: Ms. Chastain Goes to Washington, aka *Miss Sloane*.
- Ayahuasca-fuelled trip through bewitching/bedeviled Peruvian Amazon: *Icaros: A Vision*.
- Tortured superhero, something of a throwback in witty/ironic *Deadpool* age: *Logan*.
- Neither witty nor ironic, but best superhero, period: *Wonder Woman*.
- Even badder-ass heroine, sans magic lasso/shield/slo-mo Matrix leaps: *Atomic Blonde*.
- Could take *Atomic Blonde* *and* *Wonder Woman* in a showdown: Yeon-Soo in *The Villainess*.
- Deeply moving affirmation of life's fragility, in French, naturally: *Heal the Living*.
- Finest documentary about an ostensibly dull subject (NY Public Library; trust me): *Ex Libris*.
- Bong Joon Ho's latest Dada-esque creation, starring—yes—a GMO super-pig: *Okja*.
- Sweeping recap—& reckoning with—generation-scarring conflict: Ken Burns/*Vietnam War*.
- Third in a trilogy that was, uncommonly, best of the bunch: *War For the Planet of the Apes*.
- Poignant family drama, Japanese-style (nothing is as it seems on the surface): *Harmonium*.
- Understanding (a slice of) the millennial generation, in *Kids* tradition: doc *All This Panic*.
- Utterly captivating odd couple (young street artist; nonagerian photographer): *Faces Places*.
- *Big Short*-worthy HBO Films retracing of Madoff's breathtaking fraudulence: *Wizard of Lies*.
- Another side of Charlottesville, via stirring doc shot on local Election Day: *Tonsler Park*.
- Reminder that admission to US colleges isn't SO bad, compared to (say) Romania: *Graduation*.
- Heroic MSM during last (70s) fake-news era, in full cinematic effect: *The Post*.
- Human spirit, flattened—& then, while not exactly triumphant, endures: *The Florida Project*.
- Brilliant allegory of US's endlessly complex racial layers, via horror-suspense tale: *Get Out*.
- Stunning doc trip through ISIS's nominal capital, Raqqa, & impossibly noble citizen-journalists who oppose Islamic State: *City of Ghosts*. Not for faint of heart. Thanks for screening, RiverRun.
- History(ish) lesson that keeps you at seat's edge throughout: *Dunkirk*.
- Jewel-box of American experience, with career performances from McDormand/ Rockwell/ Harrelson alike. My fave film in some time: *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*.

Don't waste your time on...

- *Downsizing*. So wanted this concept to work, but (star-filled) cast seemed as confused as I was.
- *John Wick 2*. Quite liked original; this pale imitation was boring well before body count hit 20.
- *Murder/Orient Express*. Another terrific ('70s-era) original; Branagh's mustache alone appalls.
- *Unforgettable*. As if. Made even worse by shameless use of domestic assault as narrative hook.

Longreads 2017. A wealth of great magazine/journal writing this year; 22 I'll return to again...

22. Derek Thompson, "Google X & Science of Radical Creativity," *Atlantic*. Fun peek into our future—and sad reminder that governments also once innovated boldly. <http://theatlantic.com/2gqMi8s>
 21. Gary Shteyngart, "Seoul/Future of Robots," *Smithsonian*. Genius (& tech-obsessed/horrified) novelist explores rising wave of robots/AI in Seoul. What could go wrong? <http://bit.ly/2C5yEnr>
 20. Rahawa Haile, "Going It Alone," *Outside*. Appalachian Trail, reimagined: "As a queer black woman, I'm among the last people anyone expects...on a through-hike." <http://bit.ly/2onlk4a>
 19. S.L. Price, "The Fairytale & the Nightmare," *Sports Illustrated*. Wept over this unmawkishly told account of Brazilian soccer squad's plane crash & aftermath. <http://on.si.com/2v8HBIX>
 18. James Morone, "How To Think About 'Medicare For All,'" *New England J. Medicine*. Our byzantine health system, compellingly reframed. <http://bit.ly/2iDrSwZ>
 17. Steve Kolovich, "Who Defends Tommy Curry?" *Chronicle/Higher Ed*. Spark searching conversations on race/violence? That's what colleges do well—or not. <http://bit.ly/2BGTXMH>
 16. Andrew Weiss, "What Was Trump's Russia Plan?" *Wall Street Journal*. What indeed? Incisive analysis of foreign-policy side of Russian kaleidoscope. <http://ceip.org/2E2pAxN>
 15. Margaret Scott, "Uncovering Indonesia's Act of Killing," *NYRB*. Continuing a must-read journey through modern Indonesia's reckoning with its past—and future. <http://bit.ly/2BYhxBo>
 14. Eric Wilson, "Godzilla," *Portland Review*. Movingly sustains metaphor(s) at highest level—Japan's rubbery '50s filmic monster only the bottom layer. <http://bit.ly/2lq6c5l>
 13. Jerry Saltz, "My Life As A Failed Artist," *Vulture*. Sans self-deprecation or humblebrag; he wasn't good at making art, became a critic, & now looks wistfully back. <http://bit.ly/2ojRyfO>
 12. Hilary Mantel, "The Princess Myth," *Guardian*. UK's greatest living novelist elegantly eulogizes Diana, on the 20th anniversary of her death. <http://bit.ly/2vgos8E>
 11. Andrew Nathan, "The Chinese World Order," *NYRB*. Succinct take on our Sino-dominated global future. Non-alarmist, non-sentimental: *realpolitik* of first order. <http://bit.ly/2hlj0vd>
 10. Elisabeth Lasch-Quinn, "The New Old Ways of Self-Help," *Hedgehog Review*. Trenchant cultural critic (& pal from SU days) contextualizes 'mindful' movement. <http://bit.ly/2C1RI6N>
 9. Raffi Khatchadourian, "Julian Assange: Man Without a Country," *New Yorker*. Exclusive extended-interview profile is fascinating/disturbing by turns. <http://bit.ly/2w6SKKZ>
 8. Christopher Goffard, "Dirty John," *LA Times*. In year of #MeToo, a harrowing seven-part account of predatory sociopath. <http://lat.ms/2BsReC8>
 7. Jean Twenge, "Have Smartphones Destroyed A Generation?" *Atlantic*. Didn't love her book-length millennial take; this piece deservedly attracted national angst. <http://theatlantic.com/2u3JDX6>
 6. Rachel Ghansah, "A Most American Terrorist," *GQ*. Chilling extended exploration of the regional/cultural influences shaping the demented tragedy of Dylann Roof. <http://bit.ly/2xCyizp>
 5. Michael Walzer, "Does Betrayal Still Matter?" *NYRB*. One towering philosophical mind on another's (Avishai Margalit), exploring theme whose time has come again. <http://bit.ly/2pw29t5>
 4. Lizzie Presser, "Losing Gloria," *California Sunday Magazine*. Human face of twin tragedies: our byzantine immigrant-deportation policies, & broken foster-care systems. <http://bit.ly/2rsw7vI>
 3. Michael Lewis, "Inside Trump's Cruel Campaign Against USDA Scientists," *Vanity Fair*. Unflinchingly dissects how policymaking is at serious risk in Washington. <http://bit.ly/2iTweA3>
 2. Various, "Faroe Islands," *Boat*. Next best to visiting hauntingly beautiful Faroe Islands: this special issue (my fave piece: early-morning women's ocean swim club). <http://bit.ly/2D7sJuB>
 1. Elizabeth Kolbert, "Why Facts Don't Change Our Minds," *New Yorker*. An epitaph for our age—politically, culturally, behavioral-economically. <http://bit.ly/2wNpdX2>
- *Bonus: Al Hunt's "Good Things Happened in 2017," a must-read! <https://bloom.bg/2E30n6c>

Music 2017: shades of Kasey Kasem (look him up, millennials), a Top 40 (+1) for 2017.

41. Bombadil, *Long Life*. Captivating from very first line (see ‘found poem,’ next page).
40. Wolf Alice, *Space & Time*. That about covers it, thanks to North London’s alt-rock geniuses.
39. Gizmo Varillas, *Freedom For a Change*. Brazilian Tropicalia meets Jack Johnson.
38. Waxahatchee, *Silver*. Katie Crutchfield’s ‘Out in the Storm’ album is without a false note.
37. Miner, *Morning Song*. Listen to this upon waking & try not to smile. <http://bit.ly/2pJUDv2>
36. Sigrid, *Don’t Kill My Vibe*. Sweden’s latest young phenom has staying power.
35. alt-J/Age of L.U.N.A, *Pleaser*. Another alt-J masterful mashup. <http://bit.ly/2CfIVep>
34. Imagine Dragons, *Whatever It Takes*. I’m such a sucker for that big tuneful hook.
33. Melody Gardot & Ibrahim Maalouf, *J’Attendrai*. Light, jazzy remake of Rina Ketty classic.
32. Tigran Hamasyan, *Cave of Rebirth*. Taps into layers you didn’t know you possessed.
31. Fenne Lily, *Three Oh Nine*. Newcomer of 2017: ethereal voice recalls young Hope Sandoval.
30. The National, *Carin At the Liquor Store*. Best male lead singer in indieland growls on.
29. Rae Sremmurd, *Perplexing Pegasus*. Debuted at Wake Forest (!); no less mystifying for that.
28. Head & Heart, *Bluebird*. Best live show in years (thx K-Don!) included this sweet lament.
27. Sampha, *Blood On Me*. Sierra Leone’s greatest rapper (via South London) debuts bigtime.
26. Kamasi Washington, *Truth*. Fifteen minutes of early-morning jazz that reads as, yes, true.
25. Freedom Fry, *Strange Attraction*. Jangly beat masks a world of pain: millennial anthem?
24. Hurray for the Riff-Raff, *Pa’lante*. Puerto Rican anthem of defiant hope, in cataclysmic year.
23. Natalie Merchant, *Frozen Charlotte*. Too long since her last original; well worth wait.
22. Laura Marling, *Next Time*. Album title of year: her “Semper Femina.” <http://bit.ly/2sMSGeg>
21. Fleet Foxes, *If You Need To, Keep Time On Me*. Every bit as moving as title suggests.
20. Anna Tivel, *Illinois*. I’d never heard of her either, but dang. Loved every *Small Believer* cut.
19. Camila Cabello, *Havana*. Sonic poem to that complex city; blistering Young Thug guest turn.
18. Son Little, *O Me O My*. His ‘New Magic’ album aptly titled; spare tracks evoke 60’s analog.
17. Ella Vos, *00000 Million*. Soaring-voiced Vos cover outdoes Bon Iver’s original last year.
16. Decemberists, *Ben Franklin*. For all of us who never tire of *Hamilton*, a new Miranda joint.
15. London Grammar, *Big Picture*. My fave new band of ’13 skips past sophomore jinx.
14. Courtney Barrett, *How to Boil An Egg*. I’d hear her sing about anything—egg-boiling, like.
13. Bomba Esteréo, *Internacionales*. Strong beat, strong message—& *Gold Digger* sax homage.
12. Future, *Mask Off*. Backing flute sample just right for surprisingly personal rap meditation.
11. Lorde, *Liability*. Impossible that she’s 20 & already has two oldest-soul platinum records.
10. Hundred Waters, *Blanket Me*. Nicole Miglis’ repetition of title phrase mesmerizes.
9. Lana Del Rey, *Love*. Best on ‘Lust For Life,’ another languidly haunting Lana set.
8. Mipso, *Coming Down the Mountain*. New Folk 1st family delivers bigly. <http://bit.ly/2ljwOVb>
7. Vagabon, *Mal á L’aise*. ‘Infinite Worlds’ album worth every hour I drifted through listening.
6. Benjamin Booker, *Witness*. Powerful in own right; with Mavis Staples chorus, transcendent.
5. Father John Misty, *Pure Comedy*. Unlimited capacity for quirkily profound listenables.
4. Sylvan Esso, *Song*. NC Triangle’s finest (sorry, Connells!) deliver the year’s catchiest tune.
3. St. Vincent, *New York*. Yeah, that’s my city. <http://bit.ly/2glxoPS>
2. Kendrick Lamar, *DNA*. Testifies, in 3 minutes, to the human condition: all that we share.
1. Strumbellas, *Spirits*. From shocker opening line, spinworthiest of ’17. <http://bit.ly/1TAX3Hg>

Found Poem: Song Lyrics 2017

What are the millennials on about? Have a look: lines from a few of my '17 musical faves
(#s match songs above).

I was born on a Wednesday/Don't yet know when I'll die... (41)

Every morning I feel more useless than before
Trying hard to see the point in anything at all (14)

I'm an apostrophe
I'm just a symbol to remind you that there's more to see (34)

Feels like everywhere you go around the globe another terror awaits
And no matter what you change, all the pain and everything stays the same (18)

I stare at myself
The whole world keeps turnin' (38)

And I accelerate, and I accelerate
But my gears got stuck; I'm on this road now...so alone now (27)

Percocets/Molly, Percocets (12)

I throw myself/From heights that used to scare me (36)

Le temps passe et court/En battant tristement (33)

And nothing hurts like crying/On a long drive home (20)

I wasn't a catch, I wasn't a keeper
I was walking around like I was the one who found dead John Cheever (30)

I get ready, I get all dressed up/To go nowhere in particular
It doesn't matter if I'm not enough/For the future or the things to come
'Cause I'm young and in love (9)

How's this for irony: their idea of being free is a prison of beliefs
That they never ever have to leave (5)

Mezclados, somos mezclados/La misma historia con otro sabor (13)

And you'll go walking through the rhododendron flowers
Looking for white robes but the prophet won't be found (8)

I don't want a never-ending life/I just wanna be alive while I'm here (1)

You're all gonna watch me/Disappear into the sun (11)

Restaurants 2017

Not in NYC much this year, but there's great restaurants everywhere...23 new faves to report:

- **Swoon**, Hudson NY. Not quite up to name, but linchpin in Valley's continuing renaissance.
- **Supra**. Long loved Georgian cuisine at Oda House on Ave. B; this DC startup blows it away.
- **Shelley's**, Miami. Coral Gables dining took a big leap upwards this year; seafood supreme.
- **Merritt's**, Chapel Hill NC. Best BLT in the southeast, maybe US...how they get tomatoes this field-fresh in February is the gustatory mystery of 2017. Thanks to Kelly!
- **Ruckus**, Boston. Little walk-up Chinatown joint serves homemade noodles & black-garlic mazemen so good I can taste it still. Year's best restaurant soundtrack as well.
- **Italienne**, NYC. Superb, occasionally quirky blend of Italian & French (hence name).
- **Sweet Potatoes**, Winston-Salem. Oprah's fave local joint reopens in larger space, with a kitchen that provides Chef Stephanie (Tyson) space to expand her southern/soul repertoire.
- **China Chilcano**, DC. Not Andrés's best (still Zaytinya), but flavor abounds in Peru-China mashup.
- **Cortez**, Durham. Oscar Diaz's pan-Latin American seafood magic; NC's best '17 opening.
- **Trestle**, San Francisco. Minimal choice, simple preparations: *satori*.
- **CUT Palazzo**, Vegas. Here's to Jen & Leigh: (re)married by Elvis, & sensibly celebrated here.
- **Mexicue**, NYC. Followed their food truck on Twitter for years, the better to score cured-duck tacos & tuna ceviche regularly; now they're open on 8th Ave., adding ambience to gastronomy.
- **Relae**, Copenhagen. Two Noma acolytes just about outdo the master. Reserve now for 2019....
- **Lucio**, London. Chelsea Italian charmer; best *strozzapreti* this side of Roma. Thanks Burstons!
- **The Campbell**, NYC: not about food, tho' noshes surely tasty. Instead: sublime cocktails & irresistibly sophisticated yet friendly space. Were Mr. Campbell resurrected, he'd move back in.
- **Cultivar**, Boston. Superb New American downtown. Thanks BK for (briefly) accompanying.
- **Bass Oslo**. Noma-inspired (see below) Scandacuisine done to genuine perfection.
- **Bad Hunter**, Chicago. Semi-vegetarian addition to hipster-dining-heaven Fulton Market.
- **Estela**, NYC. Our CC crew still lip-smacking at memory of *arroz negro* & Iberico pork.
- **Barcino**, San Francisco. Our OUP crew got in opening week; instant-perfection tapas & paella.
- **Chicha**, Cusco. Heard for years abt Gaston Arcurio's *Cocina Novoandina*; now I'm a devotee.
- **Aulis**, London. World's smallest setting for unforgettable dining...& chef's named Rogan.
- **Barr**, Copenhagen. Consensus world-best Noma closed in Feb.; chef-genius René Redzepi & a partner opened Barr on that sacred site July 5. 1st customer in the door: me, below w/chefs.

