(TELEVISION)

TV WORTH TWEETING

Forget ratings – for the most talked-about television of the year, we logged onto Twitter.

@LAURENLAVERNE

Watching my first *Game Of Thrones*. SO many t*ts.
With power play, politics and *lots* of nudity, epic medieval fantasy show *Game Of Thrones* had us hooked to our screens every week. (30 May)

@GRACEDENT

agagagahghghgh ghghghghghhghggh THEY'RE JUST BOATS. JUST. BOATS. just fking boats.**
Coverage of the Queen's Jubilee rain-soaked boat procession was almost as underwhelming as Trevor Nelson's Olympics Opening Ceremony coverage. (3 June)

@BAKINGJAMES

Wait a minute, is it like *X Factor*? Can I go back next year??? #GBBO
John Whaite's surprise win in *The Great British Bake-Off* had fellow contestant Brendan Lynch in tears and James Morton musing whether he could try again. (16 October)

@IAMRASHIDAJONES

When is Carrie gonna learn that only bad things happen when she listens to jazz?! #Homeland
Is Brody a terrorist or isn't he? Will Carrie stop Abu Nazir? As the tension mounted, *Homeland* got better with every episode. (3 December)

(EXHIBITIONS)

ARTWORK THAT HIT THE HEADLINES

From a Damien Hirst retrospective and never-before-seen nudes to stunning hi-tech installations and vandalised paintings, gallery goers had plenty to talk about in 2012

THE BARBICAN'S RAIN ROOM

If there was one 'Have you seen it yet?' moment in art this year, it was this. Using digital technology and motion-capture sensors, the installation (a room where 2,500 litres of water rained down from the ceiling) allowed visitors to walk through the downpour while remaining bone dry. When it opened on 4 October, *huge* queues soon formed to dodge the raindrops. Catch it until March 2013.

PICK OF THE YEAR 2012

HOCKNEY DOWNS HIS PAINTBRUSHES

It came as a shock to many when master of painting David Hockney announced he was creating works for his new exhibition at the Royal Academy on his iPad. The show was met with mixed reviews (one critic called it "irksome and trite") but it sparked furious debate about the future of art.

SEE IT ***David Hockney: A Bigger Picture*; until 3 February 2013; Museum Ludwig, Cologne; museen koeln.de/museum-ludwig**

HIRST'S BUTTERFLY ROOM

In April, Tate Modern gathered together 70 of Damien Hirst's most iconic works from the last two decades, including a bathtub-sized ashtray, his infamous shark-suspended-in-formaldehyde, and a rotting cow's head (complete with feasting bluebottles). The real talking point of the exhibition, however, was the installation *In And Out Of Love*: a stark, white windowless room where thousands of butterflies emerged from their pupae and subsequently died, in full view of the paying public, much to the anger of animal rights groups.

THE FINAL FREUD PORTRAIT

Lucian Freud died in 2011, leaving his last painting, *Portrait Of The Hound*, unfinished. More than 175,000 visitors flocked to see the picture, a nude of his close friend David Dawson, when it went on display in February at the National Portrait Gallery.

SEE IT ***Lucian Freud: Portraits*; 8 October 2013-6 January 2014; Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna; khm.at/en**

THE RUINED ROTHKO

The world gasped in October as an iconic Mark Rothko painting with an estimated value of £50million was defaced in the worst security breach ever to hit the Tate Modern. Polish artist Vladimir Umanets calmly walked up to *Black On Maroon* (1958) and scrawled "Vladimir Umanets, a potential piece of yellowism" in black ink. He claims to have added value to the painting, comparing himself to French surrealist Marcel Duchamp, but he got a *bashing* from thousands on Twitter for his deed. Umanets later pleaded guilty to a single charge of criminal damage.