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David Ebony's Top 10 Most Memorable Artworks of 2015
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Ajay Kurian, *Comfort Zone #3 (Heaven is for smokers and non-smokers)*, 2014. Photo: Courtesy MoMA PS1.

5. Ajay Kurian, *Comfort Zone #3 (Heaven is for smokers and non-smokers)* (2014)

The artist's misty and mystical sculptural installations are among the strongest works in "Greater New York," an otherwise uneven show on view at MoMA PS1 through March 7, 2016. Kurian's colorful works literally glow from within, ensconced in a black-painted room, along with works by Peter Saul, Sue Williams, Jamian Juliano-Villani, and William Viallongo; it is easily the most striking gallery in the entire exhibition.

Kurain's *Comfort Zone #3 (Heaven is for smokers and non-smokers)* looks like a vitrine in a natural history museum. I spent a long time with this piece, trying to figure out what exactly it is, how it works, and why it exists. The young, New York artist placed behind a clear glass window clusters of colorful plastic tube-like cylinders on a spot-lit shelf embedded in the wall. A fog machine produces billowing translucent clouds that periodically engulf the cylinders, which prove to be various types of electronic cigarettes. I'm still not sure what Kurian is saying here, or where he is going with this idea, but it is certainly one of the most adventurous pieces in the show, and among the year's most haunting artworks.