

# MASS MoCA

## MASS MoCA announces new Winter/Spring 2022 programming

Featuring the exhibition *Choreopolitics*; performances by Lucius and Supaman; and an artists panel, featuring Glenn Kaino, marking the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday

**North Adams, MA, January 12, 2022**—MASS MoCA announces new Winter/Spring programming including the exhibition *Choreopolitics: Brendan Fernandes & nibia pastrana santiago*—on view beginning April 9—which examines the work of multidisciplinary artists Brendan Fernandes and nibia pastrana santiago, who use dance to resist, heal, and connect. **Glenn Kaino**, whose exhibition *In the Light of a Shadow* explores the connections between global protest movements, joins a panel of artists and activists to mark the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday in Northern Ireland and discuss the relationship between artmaking and movements for social change. Artist, musician, and featured panelist **Deon Jones** performs on January 29.

The previously announced exhibitions **Lily Cox-Richard: Weep Holes**, **Marc Swanson: A Memorial to Ice at the Dead Deer Disco**, and **Amy Hauff: 700,000:1 | Terra + Luna + Sol**, are all on view beginning March 12. Additional programming includes **kelli rae adams: Forever in Your Debt, Siren**, an experiential installation that immerses visitors in humpback whale songs; and an array of community programs and celebrations including **Free Day** (January 22), **International Slow Art Day** (April 22), **Teen Invitational** (April 29-May 1), and **Berkshires Teachers & Social Workers Appreciation Day** (April 30). The ethereal pop band **Lucius** returns to MASS MoCA on April 28 to kick off their national tour and the Native American dancer and innovative hip-hop artist **Supaman** delivers an uplifting blend of Native culture, comedy, and music on April 30.

Ticketed events go on sale to MASS MoCA members beginning Thursday, January 13, at 10am. General on sale begins Friday, January 14, at 10am.

MASS MoCA is open Wednesdays–Mondays, 10am–5pm, and closed on Tuesdays. All visitors over the age of 12 must show proof of a full COVID-19 vaccination (accompanied by a photo ID for visitors over 18). Timed entry reservations are encouraged.

### EXHIBITIONS

#### **kelli rae adams: Forever in Your Debt | On view beginning January 8**

Student loan debt in the US today totals over 1.7 trillion dollars and is collectively borne by more than 44 million Americans, including artist kelli rae adams. With her installation *Forever in Your Debt*, adams converts this abstract burden into a tangible volume. The artist has crafted over 900 wheel-thrown vessels, sized to hold the average individual student debt—\$37,000—in the form of coins once all are filled. Each bowl holds approximately a pint of mixed change, worth about \$40; this is also the value she assigns to the labor embodied in each vessel. Adams offers viewers the opportunity to engage directly with the work—and the issue—by inviting them to fill a bowl with their own collected coins. In exchange, the artist will send one of the bowls to each participant at the conclusion of the project.

**Amy Hauff: *700,000:1 | Terra + Luna + Sol* | On view beginning March 12**

Amy Hauff creates installations that reorient our experience of the landscape and of planetary living. *700,000:1 | Terra + Luna + Sol* will make visitors palpably aware of their relationship to the curve of the earth and our distance from the moon. The centerpiece of the exhibition is *700,000:1*, which takes its title from the mathematical odds of a person on Earth being hit by a meteor. Constructed from two enormous spheres on the floor and the ceiling, viewers will be invited to ascend the lower sphere and place their heads in the upper sphere, invoking the feeling of being simultaneously on the ground and in the sky. Accompanying *700,000:1* will be a new installation commissioned by MASS MoCA and created in residency at the museum about the unfathomability and allure of the moon.

*The artist would like to thank Sculpture Space, the University of Texas at Austin, and Washington University in St. Louis.*

**Lily Cox-Richard: *Weep Holes* | On view beginning March 12**

*Weep Holes* addresses ideas of stewardship, beauty and threat, collective action, and building and dismantling. While in residence at the Recycled Artists in Residency Program (RAIR) in Philadelphia, PA, the sculptor became fascinated by a giant bale of tinsel she found, and how the material continually transforms from its use in celebrations to trash. This object becomes the centerpiece of a series of new works in *Weep Holes*, all of which reflect Cox-Richard's ongoing interest in materiality, reuse, and how we value objects. Playing with scale, the works on view will range from tiny to outsized—including a 16-foot-tall Shaker broom, made of recycled material and made in residence at MASS MoCA.

*The artist would like to thank CultureWorks Richmond, Nomaco, RAIR Philly, VCUarts, and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.*

**Marc Swanson: *A Memorial to Ice at the Dead Deer Disco* | On view beginning March 12**

Marc Swanson works across diverse media, creating sculptures and environments that explore the relationships between humans, culture, and the natural world. His most ambitious installation to date, *A Memorial to Ice at the Dead Deer Disco* is inspired by the dioramas found in natural history museums as well as Hudson River School painter Thomas Cole's (1801–1848) writings on the negative effects of development in the Catskills region. Additionally, Swanson references the disco, which he explores in relation to freedom and mourning during the AIDS crisis. Taken together, these references create an installation that confronts loss and our inability to control human nature and the world around us. A companion exhibition will go on view July 13—November 13, 2022, at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in Catskill, NY.

*Support for A Memorial to Ice at the Dead Deer Disco is provided by the Artist's Resource Trust (A.R.T.) Fund, a fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. The artist would also like to thank Bridge Street Theatre, the Catskill Center, and Foreland Catskill.*

***Choreopolitics*: Brendan Fernandes & nibia pastrana santiago | On view beginning April 9**

*Choreopolitics* juxtaposes the work of multidisciplinary artists Brendan Fernandes and nibia pastrana santiago, who use dance to resist, heal, and connect. Both previously trained in ballet, yet now they invert the style's demands for spectacle, grace, and the illusion of ease. Fernandes reshapes and expands ballet through classical technique and experimental movement that challenge social and political spaces of hegemony. pastrana santiago, on the other hand, harnesses slowness, laziness, and exhaustion as a means of critiquing labor practices and training structures in ballet and the dance field more broadly. Together, their works exemplify what performance studies scholar André Lepecki calls "choreopolitics," or planned and persistent movements of freedom. They confront dance's histories of

colonialism and marginalization while pointing to dance's potential for resistance. In *Choreopolitics*, Fernandes and pastrana santiago oppose conformity; refuse erasure; and strive towards freedom.

## **PROGRAMMING**

### **Free Day | January 22**

The annual community celebration offers free museum admission for all and features live music, pop-up performances, photo booths, and take-home art projects.

Pre-registration is required.

*Free Day 2022 is sponsored by Avangrid Foundation/Berkshire Gas and MountainOne.*

### **Siren: Composers of the Sea | January 22**

*Siren* immerses listeners in detailed recordings of humpback whale songs made at the Hawaii Marine Mammal Consortium in 2019. The otherworldly sounds find visual expression in a captivating and machine learning-driven lighting design vividly projected onto an elaborate sculpture made from marine debris recovered from the ocean around Cape Cod. The result is both a call to beauty and a call to action to protect marine mammals from entanglement.

*Siren: Listening to Another Species on Earth* (2021, 40 minutes)

By sound artist Annie Lewandowski, and artist and coder Kyle McDonald

Scenic design by Amy Rubin

Commissioned and produced by Media Art Xploration; Kay Matschullat, Founding Producer

Scientific advisory by Katy Payne

*Recordings made in partnership with the Hawaii Marine Mammal Consortium. This work was supported by the Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability. Technical support provided by the Center For Coastal Studies.*

*MASS MoCA's Artist-in-Residence program is supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.*

*Additional support is provided by the Arthur F. & Alice E. Adams Charitable Foundation and the New England Foundation for the Arts through the New England Arts Resilience Fund, part of the United States Regional Arts Resilience Fund, an initiative of the U.S. Regional Arts Organizations and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with major funding from the federal CARES Act from the National Endowment for the Arts.*

### **In Session: Artists on the Anniversary of Bloody Sunday | January 28**

Marking the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday—when British Army paratroopers opened fire on citizens protesting the imprisonment without trial of suspected Irish nationalists—this In Session panel discussion will look at the entwined histories of the U.S. and Northern Irish Civil Rights Movements and the relationship between artmaking and movements for social change. The discussion will be moderated by MASS MoCA senior curator Denise Markonish and feature artist Glenn Kaino, whose *In the Light of a Shadow* is on view in MASS MoCA's Building 5; Brian Dooley, writer of *The Black and the Green* and contributor to Kaino's exhibition catalogue; Tony Doherty, chairperson of the Bloody Sunday Trust; musician Deon Jones; and more.

This event will be pre-recorded and posted on MASS MoCA's YouTube channel on January 28.

*In Session is made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.*

*Generous support for In the Light of a Shadow is provided by Nicole Deller and Matthew Bliwise, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Director's Advisory Council of MASS MoCA. Additional support is provided by Parsons Audio LLC and Genelec INC and by Crystalle Lacouture and Scott Stedman.*

### **Deon Jones | January 29 at 8pm**

Deon Jones is a musician and artist with one of the most important voices of his generation. Jones created his first recording project—a powerful rendition of "Sunday Bloody Sunday" featuring Academy Award-winning composer Jon Batiste—after being shot by police in the face with a rubber bullet during the 2020 summer protests. The recording, which is included in Glenn Kaino's *In the Light of a Shadow*, has been hailed by *Rolling Stone* & U2's Bono as "transformative" and by *The Boston Globe* as "a performance with clarifying power." Jones brings his transformative energy to the Hunter Center.

Prior to the performance, from 7-7:45pm, Glenn Kaino will be signing copies of his exhibition catalogue *The Book is a Promise* in the museum shop.

### **Members' Opening Reception: Exhibitions by Lily Cox-Richard, Amy Hautt, and Marc Swanson | March 12, 5:30-7:30pm**

MASS MoCA members are invited to gather to celebrate the opening of the new exhibitions Lily Cox-Richard: *Weep Holes*, Amy Hautt: *700,000:1 | Terra + Luna + Sol*, and Marc Swanson: *A Memorial to Ice at the Dead Deer Disco*.

Tickets \$20, free for MASS MoCA members.

### **International Slow Art Day | April 2**

The average viewer spends only 10 seconds in front of a work of art. International Slow Art Day encourages visitors to slow down and create the space for contemplation and discovery. Enjoy slow-looking tours, music and meditation in the galleries, and activities for all ages.

Free with museum admission.

### **Lucius | April 28 at 8pm**

Lucius, the ethereal indie pop band fronted by singers Jess Wolfe and Holly Laessig, returns to MASS MoCA to kick off a national tour with an ambitious new stage show built, rehearsed, and first performed in the Hunter Center.

### **Teen Invitational Reception | April 29, 6-8:30pm**

The annual Teen Invitational is a collaboration with local high school art teachers to celebrate the creativity of students and their mentors. A pop-up exhibition of over 250 works of art from 11 high schools will be on view in Building 6 from April 29 through May 1. The opening reception will feature an awards ceremony and live music.

*The 2022 MASS MoCA Teen Invitational is supported by an anonymous donor; Lee Bank Foundation; and the SEE Fund, a fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.*

### **Berkshires Teachers & Social Workers Appreciation Day | April 30**

MASS MoCA invites Berkshires teachers and social workers to a free day of activities and community with their families, including a performance with Supaman, a Crow Nation hip-hop artist. Tickets for the performance are first-come-first-serve and each teacher/social worker may request up to three tickets.

Museum tickets are free for Berkshire County social workers, teachers, and their families. Advance registration is requested.

### **Supaman | April 30 at 8pm**

Supaman aka Christian Takes Gun Parrish, is a Crow Nation dancer and innovative hip-hop artist who has dedicated his life to empowering and spreading a message of hope, pride and resilience through his original art form. Supaman's one-of-a-kind performances combine Native culture, comedy, and urban hip hop which dazzles audiences and captivates listeners. Join him in celebrating the final weeks of Wendy Red Star's exhibition *Apsáalooke: Children of the Large-Beaked Bird*.

*Programming at MASS MoCA is made possible in part by the Barr Foundation, Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, Mass Cultural Council, and the Joe Thompson "Yes" Fund.*

### **About MASS MoCA**

MASS MoCA is one of the world's liveliest centers for making and enjoying today's most evocative art. With vast galleries and a stunning collection of indoor and outdoor performing arts venues, MASS MoCA is able to embrace all forms of art: music, sculpture, dance, film, painting, photography, theater, and new, boundary-crossing works of art that defy easy classification. Much of the work we show in our light-filled spaces, on our technically sophisticated stages, and within our lovely network of late 19th-century courtyards is made here during extended fabrication and rehearsal residencies that bring hundreds of the world's most brilliant and innovative artists to North Adams all year round. For more information about MASS MoCA, visit [www.massmoca.org](http://www.massmoca.org).

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