

JUST ADDED: The Pretenders headline MASS MoCA's summer season in their only North American appearance of Summer 2019

Annie Lennox, Laurie Anderson, Maggie Rogers, Tank and the Bangas, Bang on a Can's LOUD Weekend, and the FreshGrass Festival pack a summer bursting with new art, live music, dance, and the return of Wilco's Solid Sound Festival

MASS MoCA's 20th birthday celebration kicks off the summer with a Block Party, New Art, Annie Lennox, and Tank and the Bangas.

Solo exhibitions by Annie Lennox, Cauleen Smith, and ERRE fill the galleries, and Kidspace's *Still I Rise* features nuanced representations of women of color.

NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS — In the band's only North American appearance during Summer 2019, **The Pretenders** will present a benefit concert at MASS MoCA on **July 26**, with proceeds to underwrite new work by emerging and established musicians. But long before **Chrissie Hynde** and **The Pretenders** ignite the stage, a one-of-a-kind birthday bash — with appearances by **Annie Lennox**, **Tank and the Bangas**, and **you** — launches MASS MoCA into a summer season flooded with new art, live music, dance, film, and more. Art, music, and comedy collide for the return of Wilco's sixth **Solid Sound Festival**; the newly crowned queen of indie-pop, **Maggie Rogers**, brings her sold-out world tour to town; **Bang on a Can** reimagines its mid-summer museum takeover as one **LOUD Weekend** (three days and more than 30 concerts); and MASS MoCA's annual **FreshGrass Festival** highlights the best in roots music. New art fills teeming galleries, with solo exhibitions by musician and activist **Annie Lennox**, filmmaker and artist **Cauleen Smith**, and artist and dual citizen **ERRE**, and **Still I Rise**, on view in Kidspace beginning this June features stunning portraits of women of color. Mark your calendars for June

15 when MASS MoCA's new summer hours begin. The museum will be open every day, 10am-6pm, with late hours some nights, through October 14.

MASS MoCA Turns 20

On **May 25**, come for MASS MoCA's birthday blowout that spreads across the museum campus to encompass new exhibitions, art-infused versions of your favorite games, live music by performers from both near and far, great food, and a world of fun. The day's events kick off with **An Afternoon of Conversation & Song with Annie Lennox** at 4pm, a rare solo-acoustic performance to benefit the Annie Lennox Foundation (as well as MASS MoCA's Fund for New Music). A rollicking **Block Party** brings the festivities into our front courtyard from 5:30 to 8:30pm filling it with games, food, and merriment, while an **Opening Reception** from 5:30 to 7pm celebrates four new exhibitions including **Annie Lennox: 'Now I Let You Go...'**, **Cauleen Smith: *We Already Have What We Need, Suffering from Realness***, and **Joe Manning: *Looking at North Adams*** — both events are free for all. One of the finest party bands around, **Tank and the Bangas** cap things off that night with a concert and dance party starting at 8:30pm. "Unpredictable, theatrical and full of funk, soul, hip-hop, jazz and spoken word" (*Okayplayer*), this New Orleans crew is sure to keep things bumping.

In the galleries

In **'Now I Let You Go...'** legendary musician, producer, and artist Annie Lennox releases a collection of some of her most cherished "things" — (name tags, her children's shoes, her mother's spectacles, her piano) into a mound of earth, relating their stories and meaning. Inside an adjacent gallery, a veritable 'Hall of Fame' shines with gold and platinum discs, juxtaposing the glittering prizes of her public persona with more intimate aspects of her most personal self. The exhibition is on view now, with an opening reception to be held **May 25**.

In her ambitious exhibition, ***We Already Have What We Need***, artist **Cauleen Smith** transports us to a realm of speculation and imagination with her colorful, light-infused video installations. Conjuring sci-fi-inspired visions of utopia, with a concern for our planet and its people, Smith suggests, as does her show title, that "we already have what we need" to make the world we want. The exhibition is on view beginning **May 25**, with an opening reception at 4pm.

Still I Rise, on view in MASS MoCA's lively Kidspace gallery and art-making studio beginning **June 15**, features nuanced representations of women of color in all stages of life. Artists Gustave Blache III, E2 (Elizabeth Kleinveld and Epaul Julien), Genevieve Gaignard, Tim Okamura, and Deborah Roberts re-imagine traditional portraiture by inserting gender and race in unexpected ways. An opening reception will be held on June 15 from 3 to 5pm.

Living between Tijuana and San Diego, the artist known as **ERRE** has been making work about the slippery character of identity and the U.S./Mexico border for two decades. On view beginning **August 3**, with a celebration of the artist this fall, ERRE's first solo exhibition on the East Coast ***Them and Us / Ellos y Nosotros*** looks toward both countries he calls home with a loving but critical eye while emphasizing their interdependence.

This summer also brings two new exhibitions with music as inspiration and subject. ***RnR v1.0*** is the first in a series of exhibitions drawing from one of the most comprehensive private collections of rock 'n' roll

photography. **Allovers** — an installation by musician/sound artist Ryan Olson and producer/sound engineer Seth Rosetter — converts MASS MoCA's lobby and basement into a musical instrument. *RnR v1.0* and *Allovers* are on view beginning **June 28**.

Festivals

Wilco's Solid Sound Festival returns **June 28–30**, featuring Wilco, the band members' side projects, and a lineup curated by the band — including Courtney Barnett, Tortoise, The Feelies, Jonathan Richman, Cate Le Bon, John Hodgman's Comedy Cabaret, the return of Fishing, and more. Expect a record number of visitors for the festival, which takes over the MASS MoCA campus and much of our home city of North Adams for the weekend.

This year **Bang on a Can** reimagines its 18-year mid-summer museum takeover. Join us for **LOUD Weekend** from **August 2-4** — three days of expansive, electrifying music across the museum campus — including more than 30 back-to-back concerts including Sun Ra Arkestra, Ben Frost, Philip Glass' live score to *Dracula*, Brian Eno's *Discreet Music*, the Bang on a Can All-Stars, and much more. And don't miss annual favorites, including Latin night, a lake concert, gallery concerts at 1:30 + 4:30pm most days, and more,

The **FreshGrass Festival**, MASS MoCA's annual festival of bluegrass and roots music, takes place on **September 20-22** with headliners Greensky Bluegrass, Calexico and Iron & Wine, Andrew Bird, Mavis Staples, and more — with big news still to come. Over 50 bands in all.

Concerts

One of the finest party bands on the planet, **Tank and the Bangas**, keeps our 20th birthday celebration going all night on **May 25**. **Bombino's** guitar magic conjures the North African desert blues of the Sahara on **June 15**. In the band's only North American appearance during Summer 2019, **The Pretenders** will present a benefit concert at MASS MoCA on **July 26**, with proceeds to underwrite new work by emerging and established musicians. In association with this special concert, **Chrissie Hynde** will appear for a special event at the museum on **July 27**. On **July 30**, **Maggie Rogers** steers her sold-out world tour to the Berkshires, delivering a night of electrifying indie-pop bliss under the stars. Legendary artist and musician **Laurie Anderson** presents **Lou Reed Drones** with Reed's longtime guitar tech **Stewart Hurwood** on **August 10**, a drone-based sonic experience utilizing guitars from the late musician's collection. Then on **August 31**, the experimental hip-hop and electronic artist, label founder, filmmaker, and all around wizard of the LA underground beat scene **Flying Lotus** soars into town as part of a limited tour, with a video wall, 3-D glasses for all, and a head full of crazy music just waiting to come out.

Residency

On **June 8**, two musicians, five dancers, and four designers join forces for the three-dimensional piece ***The Sun Still Burns Here***. A new collaboration by choreographer **Kate Wallich** and musician/composer **Mike Hadreas** of the band **Perfume Genius**, this work-in-progress performance integrates indie rock with contemporary dance conjuring a spiritual unraveling of romantic decay.

More Live Music

Legendary music producer **John Simon** — responsible for everything from The Band's *Music from Big Pink* to Janis Joplin's *Cheap Thrills* — is in North Adams on **July 6** playing songs and telling stories from

his book *Truth, Lies, and Hearsay: A Memoir of a Musical Life in and out of Rock and Roll*. Multi-instrumentalist, singer-songwriter, and fierce frontwoman **Caroline Rose** turns heads on **July 20** with her darkly funny, post-punk pop. On **July 27** Nashville-based **Adia Victoria** “make[s] the blues dangerous again” (*The New York Times*) with her contemporary take on a classic Southern sound. More dynamic beats come your way on **August 17** courtesy of **Jupiter & Okwess**, which mixes traditional Congolese rhythms with Western rock and pop styles for pure dance-floor bliss. Local favorite and now Grammy-celebrated **Roomful of Teeth** kicks off a second decade’s reimagining of the potentials of the human voice with its performance on **August 23**, presenting new work commissioned as part of the American Composers Forum’s “ACF Connect” program, alongside a retrospective of Teeth’s first ten years. On **August 24** deep funk tunes and bass-heavy sousaphone blasts mix with the gritty warmth of singer J’Wan Boudreaux’s voice to create an irresistible New Orleans brass band-meets-Mardi Gras Indian sound — the Grammy-nominated **Cha Wa** radiates the fiery energy of the best features of Big Easy street culture.

Beer Garden

Beginning **July 4**, **The Chalet**, Dean Baldwin’s deep-woods-sculpture-turned-bar, comes alive with free entertainment and local, craft-brewed drinks. See you there, to take in everything from local live music to strutting drag queens Thursday evenings through October 10.

Film

Together with friends at the Williams College Museum of Art, on **July 13** we screen **Matthew Barney’s** feature-length film **Redoubt**. Set in Idaho’s Sawtooth Mountain range, the film layers classical, cosmological, and American myths about humanity’s place in the natural world, adapting the myth of Diana, goddess of the hunt, and Actaeon, a hunter who trespasses on her and is punished — a story of guns, hunting, and wolves in the wild. Stay for a discussion with the artist and WCMA Director Pam Franks.

Season at a glance, by date:

Date	Time	Event	Type
May 25	4pm	An Afternoon of Conversation & Song With Annie Lennox	Benefit Performance
May 25	5-8:30pm	Block Party	Food, Games, and Fun
May 25	5:30-7pm	Opening Reception	Opening reception
May 25	8:30pm	Tank and the Bangas	Concert + Dance Party
June 8	8pm	Kate Wallich + The YC x Perfume Genius	Work-in-progress: Dance + Music
June 15	3-5pm	Still I Rise	Kidspace opening reception
June 15	8pm	Bombino	Live Music
June 28-30	All weekend	Solid Sound Festival	Music + Arts Festival
July 6	8pm	John Simon	Live Music + Stories
July 13	7pm	Matthew Barney	Film + Artist Talk

July 20	8pm	Caroline Rose	Live Music
July 26	8pm	The Pretenders	Benefit Concert
July 27	8pm	Adia Victoria	Live Music
July 30	8pm	Maggie Rogers	Concert
July 24	7pm	Bang on a Can Concert at the Lake	Live Music
July 26	10pm	Bang on a Can Latin Night	Live music
August 2-4	All weekend	Bang on a Can: LOUD Weekend	Music Festival
August 10	8pm	Laurie Anderson presents Lou Reed Drones with Stewart Hurwood	Electro-bliss
August 17	8pm	Jupiter & Okwess	Live Music
August 23	8pm	Roomful of Teeth	Work-in-progress: Live Music
August 24	8pm	Cha Wa	Live Music
August 31	8pm	Flying Lotus	Music Festival
September 20-22	All weekend	FreshGrass Festival	Music Festival

Images

High-resolution images of MASS MoCA's winter/spring 2019 events are available through this link:

bit.ly/SU19MM

Evergreen images of MASS MoCA's campus and programs: bit.ly/2EAhla2

About MASS MoCA

MASS MoCA is one of the world's liveliest (and largest) centers for making, displaying, and enjoying today's most important art, music, dance, theater, film, and video. MASS MoCA nearly doubled its gallery space in spring 2017, with artist partnerships that include Laurie Anderson, the Louise Bourgeois Trust, Jenny Holzer, the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, and James Turrell.

Gallery admission is \$20 for adults, \$18 for veterans and seniors, \$12 for students, \$8 for children 6 to 16, and free for children 5 and under. Members are admitted free year-round. The Hall Art Foundation's Anselm Kiefer exhibition is seasonal and currently closed for the season. For additional information, call 413.662.2111 x1 or visit massmoca.org.

Hours

MASS MoCA is open from 11am to 5pm, closed Tuesdays, through June 14. From June 15 through October 14, MASS MoCA's galleries will be open seven days a week, from 10am to 6pm, and open late some nights.