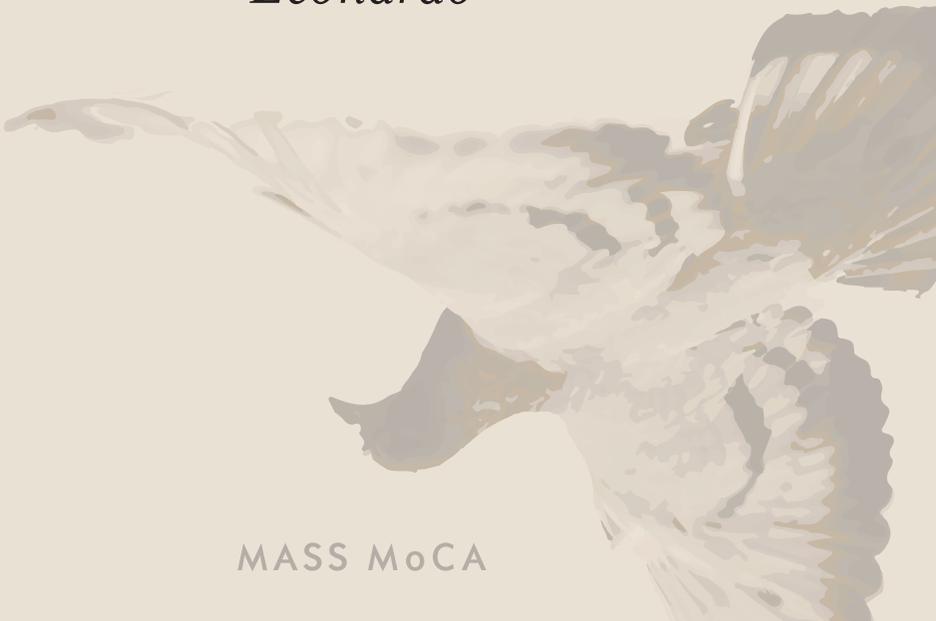




# YOU WALK...

*Shaun  
Leonardo*



MASS MoCA

YOU WALK.

YOU NOTICE.

YOU FIND.

YOU EMBODY.

YOU BECOME.

*You walk...* is an interactive installation by multidisciplinary artist Shaun Leonardo. Translating his performance practice into a participatory installation, Leonardo offers a series of visual and textual prompts — drawing from themes present in exhibitions on view throughout the museum — to invite us to consider how we process and embody space, ideas, and connectivity.

You walk...to experience this active hallway. You notice...a piano being rolled down to the rehearsal hall; a group of students enjoying their lunch at one table; a performer taking a call with their agent at another, or a team of museum workers planning a future project. You find...that artists, community members, staff, and the public all find a place for themselves in this hallway.

You walk... and are curious about the windows, the architecture, and views surrounding you. You embody...your own thoughts and self-perceptions through simple acts and gestures. You become... alert to your own physical presence in the space, and that of others who cohabitate with you, and begin to imagine yourself in the place of another.

**A key to other prompts throughout the museum is provided on the last page of the guide.**



**The Remains  
of Courtyard 8**

Remains of Courtyard 8, a brick building, is visible through the window. The building features several windows and a brick facade. The view is partially obscured by bare tree branches.

YOU WALK...

steadily forward, slowing your steps  
once you realize you will have to avert your gaze.

YOU LOOK...

out the window, wondering how long  
you will have to wait this time.

YOU REACH...

across the table, attempting to console  
but knowing it may be reason enough  
to cause your removal.

YOU LOOK DOWN...

onto the floor, relishing the lingering impression of the first kiss  
but preoccupied with the thought that the second kiss will be your last.

YOU REACH BACK...

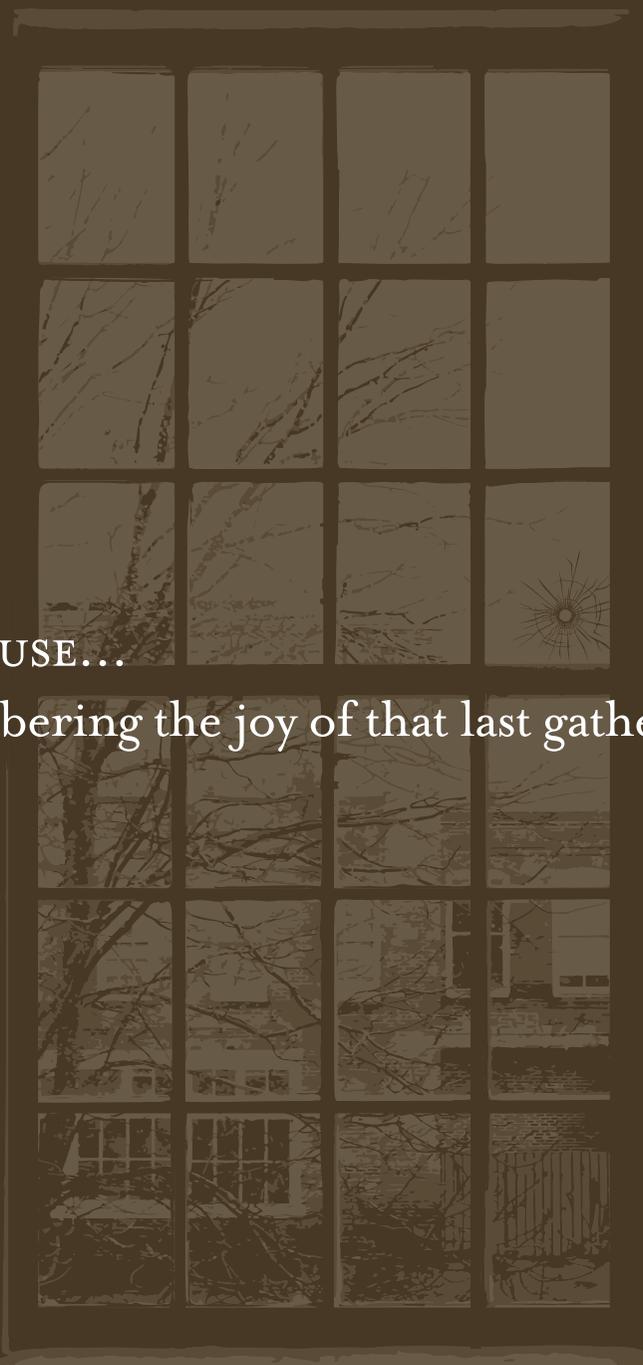
toward the table, checking for your belongings  
yet aware you arrived with nothing of value.

YOU WALK...

more closely, unsure of a response  
yet acknowledging that the weight of your breath  
might be enough to cause harm.

YOU PAUSE...

intently listening to the unfamiliar sounds  
coming through the open window.



YOU PAUSE...

remembering the joy of that last gathering...

**Write or draw your reflection in the box below in connection to the prompt  
YOU PAUSE...remembering the joy of that last gathering...**

**Scan the QR code if you would like to submit a fuller narrative and  
have it posted as a response in the exhibition.**



Look throughout the museum for *You walk...* QR codes that provide more prompts for reflection.



Kidspace



Building 4, 2nd floor



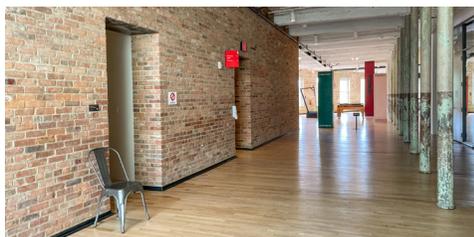
Building 6, 2nd floor



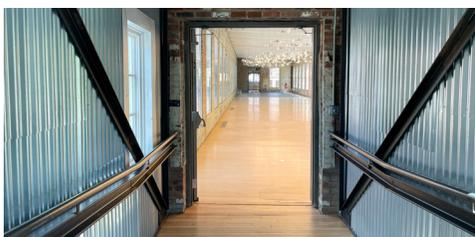
Building 6, 2nd floor



Building 6, 2nd floor



Building 6, 3rd floor



Building 8, 2nd floor



Café

**Shaun Leonardo's** multidisciplinary work negotiates societal expectations of manhood, namely definitions surrounding black and brown masculinities, along with its notions of achievement, collective identity, and experience of failure. His performance practice, anchored by his work in Assembly — a diversion program for system-impacted youth at the arts nonprofit, Recess, where he is Co-Director — is participatory and invested in a process of embodiment.

Leonardo is a Brooklyn-based artist from Queens, New York City. He received his MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute, is a recipient of support from Creative Capital, Guggenheim Social Practice, Art for Justice, and A Blade of Grass, and was recently profiled in *The New York Times* and on CNN. His work has been featured at the Guggenheim Museum, the High Line, and New Museum, with a solo exhibition, *The Breath of Empty Space*, recently presented at MICA, MASS MoCA, and The Bronx Museum.

[elcleonardo.com](http://elcleonardo.com)

**On view beginning May 29, 2021**  
**Curated by Laura Dickstein Thompson, EdD.**

Major support for *You Walk...* is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts. Related programming is made possible in part by the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation's Arts Build Community initiative.

Prompts were designed in collaboration with community advisors and artists Jason Lucas, Clemente Sajqui, and William Yehle.

Cover: Shaun Leonardo, detail of *You walk...*, 2021. Vinyl wallpaper.

**MASS MoCA**

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