

MASS MoCA

IN HER LARGEST EXHIBITION TO DATE, SCULPTOR AMY HAUFT EXPLORES THE SHAPES, SCALES, AND STRUCTURES OF OUR PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE

***700,000:1 | Terra + Luna + Sol* on view at MASS MoCA from March 12, 2022 through
December 2022**

North Adams, Massachusetts – February 2, 2022 – The Massachusetts Museum of Art (MASS MoCA) has announced an exhibition of large-scale architectural installations by sculptor Amy Haft. By playing with scale and perception, Haft proposes ways of experiencing the vastness and mystery of our universe while complicating our understanding of our physical circumstance on Earth. Experienced together, the three sculptural works that comprise the exhibition invite viewers to consider what senior curator and director of exhibitions, Denise Markonish, describes as “an exhibition that ultimately reminds us of the otherwise abstract knowledge that we stand atop a twirling ball hurtling through the solar system, that we live in the blink of an eye, and are subject to endless variables in life, in the universe.” Haft’s installations will be on view from March 12, 2022 through December 2022.

The trio of projects take their numerical title, *700,000:1*, from the mathematical odds of a person on Earth being struck by a meteor. *Terra*, the first work in the exhibition, is constructed from two enormous sphere-caps, one facing the other, placed on the floor and ceiling. The viewer will be invited to ascend the lower sphere-cap of artificial turf. This ascent will cause their head to intersect with the bottom of the upper sphere-cap made of thick blue chenille yarn, invoking a feeling of simultaneously being on the ground and in the sky. Fascinated that the odds of being hit by a meteor are so much higher than she expected, Haft created a work that allows viewers to feel the proximity between earth and sky, while inviting them to consider that being hit by a meteor is entirely within the realm of possibility. Other gallery visitors will see a headless body obstructed by the top of the installation, further imbuing the space with a sense of wonder, worry, and awe.

Accompanying *Terra* will be a new installation commissioned by MASS MoCA about the unfathomability and allure of the moon, *Luna*. Created when Haft was in residence at MASS MoCA during the summer of 2021, and again in December 2021, this installation will make viewers palpably aware of their relationship to the curve of the earth and our distance from the moon. For this work, Haft created an enormous model of the moon in a walled-off gallery. Viewers’ only access to the structure is through a hole in the wall, into which they can insert their head to see the inside-out moon, with the familiar crater-pocked surface on the inside of the sphere. This reversal produces an optical illusion that confuses the eye about the surface texture, while creating the awareness that we can never fully see the complete installation, just like the moon itself.

Finally, in the third gallery Haft will hang a large hand-blown glass Venetian chandelier, *Sol*, made in the Rococò style from crystal clear glass flecked with gold leaf and fitted with outrageously brilliant bulbs.

Amy Haft has exhibited her large-scale architectural installations in museums and galleries worldwide including the Brooklyn Museum (NYC), the New Museum (NYC), the International Artists Museum (Poland), The American Academy in Rome (Italy) and PS1 Museum (NYC) among many others. She

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has been the recipient of significant grants including the New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship, PEW Foundation Philadelphia Exhibitions Initiative, the Howard Foundation Fellowship and a NYC Public Art Fund Grant, among others. She has been awarded residencies to work abroad including the Civitella Ranieri Foundation Fellowship in Umbria, Italy and the International Artists Residency Fellowship in Łódź, Poland. She has taught at the Tyler School of Art, Virginia Commonwealth University, the University of Texas at Austin and is currently based in St. Louis, Missouri directing the College of Art in the Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts at Washington University.

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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.

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