

MASS MoCA

MASS MoCA Announces Fall 2026 Programming



Audiences enjoy a live performance. Photo by Douglas Mason courtesy of MASS MoCA.

Featuring three new exhibitions — Son Lux and award winning director Alex Cook present the East Coast premiere of video installation *Out Into Us (Slow Down)*, French conceptual artist Laurent Grasso combines his most emblematic films with a new commission, *Cosmic Drive*, and Daniela Rivera introduces an opera-performance in *Hacia Cuando (To When)*

Plus Lucinda Williams, Earl Sweatshirt + MIKE, Devendra Banhart, performances spanning ballet, jazz, and puppetry, conversations with acclaimed writers and artists, family programs, and more

[Press Images](#)

North Adams, MA, August 26, 2026 — MASS MoCA announces new programming through December 2026, including the opening of **Laurent Grasso: *Metaphysical Maze*** (November 7) and an immersive 17-minute video installation by **Son Lux** in collaboration with video director **Alex Cook**, ahead of their performance in MASS MoCA's Hunter Center (September 12).

This season's offerings span experimental opera, ballet, puppetry, and live music, alongside opportunities to engage with artists through conversations, **Open Studios**, **Book Talks** in the **Research & Development Store**, family programming in **Kidspace**, and more.

As the Berkshire hills fade from green into shades of gold and amber, take in the new and ongoing works across MASS MoCA's galleries, stages, and studios. **Daniela Rivera** continues her exploration of memory, migration, and place in ***Hacia Cuando: An Opera*** (October 10), and later in the season, **Laurent Grasso** will transform Building 5 with ***Metaphysical Maze*** (November 7), an immersive exhibition bringing together film, painting, and architectural interventions, while **Machine Dazzle's *Changes*** (December 19) examines American history through the elaborate costumes created for **Taylor Mac's *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music***.

There is also ample opportunity for visitors to experience a variety of performances this fall, from **Ballet Nepantla's *Mística*** (October 30) and **Endea Owens & The Cookout** (November 14) to the puppetry and storytelling of ***Mirrored Pool*** (November 21) and **Kimberly Bartosik's** highly physical and emotionally intense dance piece navigating scenes of desire, care, violence, and tender rescue ***bLUr*** (December 12).

New ticketed events go on sale to MASS MoCA members beginning Wednesday, August 26, at 12pm EST. Tickets to the general public go on sale beginning Friday, August 28 at 10am EST.

MASS MoCA is open six days a week, 10am–5pm, closed only on Tuesdays; timed entry reservations are encouraged for select exhibitions; For more information about upcoming programs, visit massmoca.org.

EXHIBITIONS OPENING

***Son Lux & Alex Cook: Out Into Us (Slow Down)* | On view beginning September 12, 2026**

Commissioned by MASS MoCA, Caviar, and Pioneer Works, and created in collaboration with video director Alex Cook, Son Lux's video installation *Out Into Us (Slow Down)* serves as an abstracted embodiment of the title track from Son Lux's forthcoming ninth studio album, *Out Into* (September 18, 2026).

The 17-minute experience of both the song and the music video creates an expressionistic landscape, allowing visitors to inhabit both pieces simultaneously, as opposed to the current trend of condensing and embedding content in a barrage of social media and algorithmic marketing. The installation recenters creativity and exploration, reclaiming forces of deconstruction and fragmentation to channel them toward discovering a song's essence. The result is a collective, real-world experience rather than scattered and flat moments amidst an individual's doom scroll. It remixes both message and medium.

In the last decade, social media has created a reality in which music is often eclipsed by visuals, served up in an endless buffet of bite-sized and contextless flavors. The product, or medium, is increasingly the ocean of content and its recontextualization, while the album or song itself is but a small island on the horizon.

Son Lux with mmeadows | Saturday, September 12, 2026, 8pm

Across nearly two decades, Son Lux has earned its reputation for splendor and sweep, but the artists' ninth studio album *Out Into* (release date: September 18, 2026) is something different: a punchy suite of tactile, detail-minded songs born from dazzling moments of collective improvisation.

"We're going places we've never gone before in terms of energy, attitude, color," founder Ryan Lott says. "And it all comes from having reverence for those initial sparks, for treating the voice memo version of the idea as the most sacred iteration."

These first-thought-best-thought strategies might come as a surprise to anyone who's followed Son Lux's recent adventures through Hollywood's starrier corridors. Composing the Oscar-nominated soundtrack for *Everything Everywhere All At Once* in 2022 and Marvel's *Thunderbolts** in 2025 has been painstaking work — and while it may have broadened the band's panoramic vision beyond the margins of a cineplex screen, it also made Lott, Bhatia, and Chang yearn to craft a Son Lux album that felt more immediate, more direct. And so *Out Into* finds Son Lux in a paradoxical zone between big and small, spontaneous and refined, experimentally-minded and pop-spirited. "We always

want to walk that line of strangeness and familiarity in a way that's exciting for the listener," says Chang, "because it's exciting for us."

Tickets: \$48 Advance, \$64 Preferred; members receive 10% off.

***Laurent Grasso: Metaphysical Maze* | On view beginning November 7, 2026**

Metaphysical Maze will be the largest exhibition to date in the United States devoted to French conceptual artist Laurent Grasso. Installed in the museum's iconic Building 5, *Metaphysical Maze* will take the form of an immersive installation bringing together, for the first time, the artist's most emblematic films, along with a new commission in progress, *Cosmic Drive*, produced during his research residency at the SETI Institute in Mountain View, California.

In Conversation: Laurent Grasso | Saturday, November 7, 2026, 4pm

In Laurent Grasso's universe, all lines are blurred; Within his exhibition, time appears suspended, with film, paintings, and architectural interventions encroaching upon a visitor's perception of linearity. Together, these presentations will bring past and present into conversation, placing Grasso's work in a dialogue with historical figures of American landscape painting.

Join Laurent Grasso as he discusses *Metaphysical Maze*, his largest exhibition to date in the United States, with MASS MoCA's former Chief Curator, Denise Markonish. Stick around after the conversation for the opening reception of this monumental exhibition.

Tickets: \$10 (Does not include museum admission).

Opening Celebration: *Laurent Grasso: Metaphysical Maze* | Saturday, November 7, 2026, 5:30pm

Join fellow museum members, MASS MoCA curators, friends from the community, and the artist to celebrate the opening of **Laurent Grasso's** immersive Building 5 exhibition *Metaphysical Maze*.

Tickets: \$20 non-members, \$10 day-of member fee; Free for members with pre-registration.

Machine Dazzle: Changes

***The Costume Design for Taylor Mac's A 24-Decade History of Popular Music* | On view beginning December 19, 2026**

Machine Dazzle has been creating extraordinary costumes for over 30 years. As an artist, costume designer, set designer, and performance artist, he has presented his genre-defying work at venues ranging from Broadway to the runway, wowing audiences from Joe's Pub to the Museum of Arts and Design in New York. As the

nation marks 250 years of America's history, MASS MoCA will showcase wearable sculptural looks by the artist that examine the 24 decades since the founding of the United States in 1776.

Machine Dazzle created this collection for Taylor Mac's Pulitzer Prize-nominated *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music* — a singular 24-hour performance art concert that looks at the nation's stories through a queer lens, giving voice to the marginalized communities often left out of mainstream historical narratives. The costumes incorporate images and objects that reference political movements, social histories, and inventions from each time period. Many of the materials in the garments are cast-off that the artist transforms into elaborate and stunning visions that simultaneously speak to material culture. The artist describes his approach as applying "glitter to litter."

For his designs, Machine Dazzle was a co-recipient of the 2017 Bessie Award for Outstanding Visual Design, a Henry Hewes Design Award by The American Theatre Wing, and the TDF/Irene Sharaff Ascending Artist Award (formerly known as the Kitty Leech Ascending Artist Award) in recognition of his success in the field of costume design. The original 24-hour stage production has been adapted into an HBO Original Documentary Film directed by Jeffrey Friedman and Rob Epstein and co-produced by Pomegranate Arts for which Machine Dazzle won a 2024 Emmy Award for Outstanding Costume Design.

Daniela Rivera: Hacia cuando (To When) | On View Now

Daniela Rivera's work focuses on the migration of cultural objects, narratives, practices, and myths by addressing political, art historical, and personal histories. The exhibition unpacks ideas of transit and migration, both of which are key to the artist, who is an immigrant from Chile. Additionally, through the materiality of the exhibition, Rivera uses craft methodologies and materials to investigate the ways in which art history colonizes non-European traditions of making. At the center of *Hacia cuando (To When)* is an installed floor, comprised of tiles fabricated in pre-Hispanic fresco-like traditions, that visitors will be invited to engage.

Daniela Rivera: Hacia Cuando: An Opera | Saturday, October 10, 2026, 1pm & 4pm

Hacia Cuando: An Opera is a cross-geographical experimental opera-performance created in the mode of an exquisite corpse. The work brings together the creative practices of Jenny Olivia Johnson, composer and sound artist based in Los Angeles; Javier Bustos, Argentinian experimental luthier and sound artist; Sebastián Muirhead, Chilean opera singer and stage director; and Chilean-American visual artist Daniela Rivera.

Tickets: \$25 (Does not include museum admission).

In Conversation: Daniela Rivera | Saturday, October 10, 2026, 2pm

Join us in the Research and Development Store for a conversation between Daniela Rivera, Chilean-American visual artist of *Hacia Cuando (To When)*; Evan Garza, Curator; Jenny Olivia Johnson, composer and sound artist based in Los Angeles; Javier Bustos, Argentinian experimental luthier and sound artist; Sebastián Muirhead, Chilean opera singer and stage director. The group will discuss the exhibition and its translation into an opera.

Tickets: \$5 Advance and Day-of; Use your *Hacia Cuando: An Opera* ticket to join the talk.

PERFORMING ARTS

FreshGrass Presents: Lucinda Williams and her band | Friday, October 2, 2026, 8pm

Multiple Grammy-winning singer-songwriter Lucinda Williams and her band take to the Hunter Center stage on tour with their latest record, *World's Gone Wrong*.

Filled with gut-wrenching topical songs, the album's ten tracks were written and recorded in a blast of collaborative creativity as Lucinda and her cowriters – primarily husband/manager/co-producer Tom Overby and guitarist Doug Pettibone – grappled with events transpiring during the spring of 2025. A whole other album had been in the works, but that “urgency” to address our current cataclysmic situation motivated Lucinda and company to cut *World's Gone Wrong* in direct response. “Music is a powerful weapon,” she points out. “I want this record to make people aware, wake them up. I like to push people's buttons.”

Tickets: \$59 General Admission, \$99 Preferred; members receive 10% off

HUG: Devendra Banhart | Friday, October 9, 2026, 8pm

Witness a special musical collaboration in action as the trio behind *Hug* brings their deeply intuitive creative partnership to the stage.

The three musicians who wrote and recorded *Hug* — Devendra Banhart, Gyan Riley and Noah Georgeson — are not related by blood, but they sure act like it. Whatever it is that connects these three, you can hear it in their banter as much as you can in their music. The record is almost like a bait and switch: You read the spine and — especially if you're familiar with the work of Devendra or Gyan or Noah — you think, this is a guitar trio. But *Hug* doesn't particularly sound like any of these artists, and if it's a guitar trio, then it's one without too many guitars. *Hug* is more than the sum of its parts — because these artists know how to play with each other.

Tickets: \$46 Advance, \$56 Week-of, \$76 Preferred; members receive 10% off

Roz Chast & Jason Adam Katzenstein | Saturday, October 17, 2026, 7pm

Two hilarious, celebrated cartoonists visit MASS MoCA to discuss a highly relatable subject — kitchen anxiety: Roz Chast and Jason Adam Katzenstein are both longtime New Yorker cartoonists with their own unique drawing styles, huge followings, and legions of loyal fans. Chast's *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?* spent over a hundred weeks on the NYT bestseller list and sold more than 150,000 hardcovers; Katzenstein's fan base pulls from his magazine work as well as TV and graphic novels.

In *The Two Saddest Kitchens: A Comics Conversation*, the kitchen is the “heart of the home,” or at least it's supposed to be. When Roz Chast and Jason Adam Katzenstein admitted to having kitchens that were far from shiny beacons of homemaking, they knew they couldn't be the only ones who left the dishes to soak for a little too long. That even when the countertops look tidy, there is often madness lurking at the back of the refrigerator... *The Two Saddest Kitchens* pulls back to the curtain on our hilarious, all-too-relatable kitchen realities. Chast and Katzenstein will bring their kitchen-based, witty neuroses to the Hunter Center in an evening that will include an interview with MASS MoCA Director Kristy Edmunds.

Tickets: \$25 Advance, \$45 Preferred (includes book)

Earl Sweathirt + MIKE | Tuesday, October 20, 2026, 8pm

“Indie rap's favorite friendship” (NPR) takes the Hunter Center stage for one unforgettable night after the release of their collaborative album *Pompeii // Utility* with support from harrison (SURF GANG) and Anysia Kym.

For over a decade, Earl Sweatshirt has captivated fans with his virtuosic storytelling, lyrical depth, and generous vulnerability. Emerging at just 16 from the incendiary Odd Future collective, he quickly distinguished himself through dense introspection, off-kilter cadences, and a brooding intellect that belied his youth. Over the years, MIKE has built a rock-solid catalog that, like the work of our best, has reflected the multidimensional truths of his life.

Tickets: \$51.50 General Admission, \$88.50 Preferred; members receive 10% off

Ballet Nepantla's Mistica | Friday, October 30, 2026, 7pm

Co-presentation with Jacob's Pillow

Mística honors the company's ancestors by celebrating the creative and spiritual energies of their indigenous, Afro, and Hispanic roots. It commemorates traditions of Día

de Muertos and transports the audience into the afterlife through the use of black light and Ballet Nepantla's unique fusion of ballet folklórico and contemporary dance.

Ballet Nepantla originated from a series of pláticas between founders Andrea Guajardo and Martín Rodríguez Vigil, two artists whose early professional identities emerged from distinct genres: Andrea from classical ballet and contemporary dance, and Martín from traditional Mexican folklórico. They envisioned a new form of expression that fused the two modalities — an aesthetic that would speak to the historical, cultural, and social realities of a broader narrative of being Mexican, Mexican American, immigrant, and transcultural.

Drawing inspiration from Gloria Anzaldúa's borderlands theory, Andrea and Martín imagined they could create performances that spoke to the "in-between" qualities of being from both sides of the borderland. They found the idea of Nepantla, a Nahuatl term of the indigenous people of Mexico. Nepantla provides a historical, intellectual, and artistic framework through which to explore the "in-between" spaces of history and culture.

Tickets: \$29 Advance, \$49 Week of, \$69 Preferred, \$20 Student; members receive 10% off

Endea Owens & The Cookout | Saturday, November 14, 2026, 8pm

Known as one of jazz's most vibrant emerging artists, Endea Owens is a Detroit-raised recording artist, bassist, and composer. She has been mentored by jazz icons the likes of Marcus Belgrave, Rodney Whitaker, and Ron Carter. She has toured and performed with Wynton Marsalis, Jennifer Holliday, Diana Ross, Rhonda Ross, Solange, Jon Batiste, Jazzmeia Horn, Dee Dee Bridgewater, and Cyrus Chestnut, to name a few.

In 2018, Owens graduated from The Juilliard School, and joined the Late Show with Stephen Colbert as a member of the house band, Stay Human, where she remained through Colbert's final season. Since then, Owens has won an Emmy, Grammy, and George Foster Peabody Award. Owens' work has appeared on Jon Batiste's Grammy Award-winning album *We Are*, Oscar-nominated film *Judas and the Black Messiah*, and H.E.R.'s widely acclaimed Super Bowl LV performance.

In 2022, Owens composed an original piece about the life of Ida B. Wells entitled "Ida's Crusade" for the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra's National Youth Orchestra which was also performed by the NYO Carnegie Hall Orchestra. Owens has written for brands such as Pyer Moss and Glossier. She was the curator for the National Arts Club and also a fellow for "Jazz is: Now!" with the National Jazz Museum in Harlem, where she presented original compositions, curated series, and headlined performances for the 2022–2023 season. Owens released her debut album *Feel Good Music* in 2023.

Tickets: \$36 Advance, \$46 Week of, \$56 Preferred, \$20 Student; members receive 10% off

***Mirrored Pool* | Saturday, November 21, 2026, 7pm**

Where do we fit in this endless universe? Glimpse the precious fragility of our life on Planet Earth as we peer into the Mirrored Pool.

Mirrored Pool is a puppetry and music collaboration between acclaimed puppeteer and La MaMa resident artist Tom Lee and musicians Lisa Kaplan and Matthew Duvall of the Grammy-award winning sextet Eighth Blackbird. The piece explores humanity's place in our vast universe, showcasing the virtuosity of Eighth Blackbird's music against the vital, human power of puppetry. *Mirrored Pool* takes special inspiration from astronomer Carl Sagan, whose work on the Voyager spacecrafts and the Golden Record are now the most distant human-made objects and sounds from our planet — currently 15.7 billion miles away from Earth.

Tickets: \$36 Advance, \$46 Week of, \$56 Preferred, \$20 Student; members receive 10% off

Kimberly Bartosik: *bLUR* | Saturday, December 12, 2026, 7pm

Co-presentation with Jacob's Pillow

bLUR, choreographed by Kimberly Bartosik, is a highly physical and emotionally intense dance piece in which five performers navigate scenes of desire, care, violence, and tender rescue. Exploring the haunting impact of witnessing a loved one's overdose, but moving beyond explicit narratives of the opioid crisis, the work uses visceral movement cycles to embody the violent cravings and internal battles of substance abuse. Built out of Bartosik's own experiences and deeply shaped by the individuality of her performers, *bLUR* is both personal and universal as it warps time and reminds us of our fragility, power, and need for one another.

Tickets: \$36 Advance, \$46 Week of, \$20 Student; members receive 10% off

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

***Uncomputable Thread: A Technologies of Relation* Lecture Performance | Saturday, November 14, 2026, 1pm**

Uncomputable Thread is a lecture performance by artist Taeyoon Choi, created in collaboration with scholar Alexander R. Galloway, dancer Cori Kresge, and artist Roopa Vasudevan. The work examines the history of textile in relation to computing, alongside the artistic and political significance of what cannot be computed.

Choi and Galloway's lecture weaves together their long collaboration and ongoing conversation about the aesthetics and politics of code and textile, followed by a discussion moderated by Vasudevan. Kresge directs a participatory dance performance that extends the conversation toward visceral and communal experience. Together, the project explores uncomputability as a creative framework for thinking about contemporary technologies and social systems, connecting the threads of cotton and fiber-optic cables running through data centers.

Tickets: \$20; \$15 Student (Does not include museum admission)

Textile Salon: Weave, Repair, Connect | Friday, December 18, 2026, 5:30pm

Dip your toes into the world of textiles during MASS MoCA's Textile Repair Salon! Join regional practitioners Jena Duncan and Elsa Cousins from Swanson's Fabrics Stash House and MASS MoCA museum educators for a casual evening of textile repair, embroidery, and small-scale weaving.

Participants are welcome to bring textile objects or clothing in need of repair and learn the skills to mend them with support from the Swanson's Fabric teaching staff. Mending is for everyone; no sewing experience is required! This project aspires to build an exciting culture of clothing reuse and repair by empowering and inspiring our local community to learn how to make, mend, and maintain their clothing and textiles. This workshop is also for community members concerned about the sustainability and environmental impact of textiles who may not see themselves as able to sew.

If you don't have a repair, don't worry! MASS MoCA Museum Educators will give instruction on small-scale weaving and invite participants to contribute to our community weaving project currently on view.

Bring your friends, bring a date. Refreshments are available to purchase from MASS MoCA's bar. No experience required; all materials included, although participants are welcome to bring their own and share with others.

Tickets: \$30 (Does not include museum admission)

Open Studios | September 17 & December 10, 2026

Get to know the current artists-in-residence over snacks and conversation at this season's Open Studios at MASS MoCA. Each event will take place in Building 13 and Building 34.

Free and open to all

FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES

Kidspace is a creative laboratory at MASS MoCA centering experiential learning and inspiring curiosity in the arts for all. Our staff uses MASS MoCA's rich array of exhibitions, performances, and artist residencies as a starting point to foster your own self expression. **Kidspace is open during museum hours. Admission to Kidspace and the ArtBar is always free.**

Family Storytime | September 19, October 17, November 21 & December 19, 10:30am

Families with children up to 6 years old are invited to join MASS MoCA Museum Educators for a storytime and related exploration in the galleries. Each storytime will feature a different children's book about contemporary art, creativity, and/or the themes of the exhibitions on display. Meet in Kidspace at the designated time; a brief gallery walk-through and discussion of the art will follow the storytime. This program is in partnership with the North Adams Public Library.

Free; RSVP to reserve your spot. Please note that caregivers should stay with their children at all times. Older siblings are welcome to attend.

Free; suggested \$5 donation

Family Night | Thursday, November 12, 2026, 5:30pm

Families with children of all ages are invited to Family Night at MASS MoCA on Thursday, November 12, from 5:30 to 7:30pm. This free event will feature after-hours access to select exhibitions in the museum, live performances, art-making, face-painting, a museum of mysteries quest, food, giveaways, and fun!

Activities include art-making, live music, dance performances, participatory poetry activation and face-painting. Plus participate in a Museum of Mysteries Quest: Explore, discover clues, and uncover the mysteries in MASS MoCA's galleries. Work together as a family to solve the mysteries and receive your own artist kit!

Free; RSVPs encouraged but not required

BOOK TALKS IN MASS MoCA'S RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT STORE

Maggie O'Brien: *Two Birds One Stone* | Saturday, October 3, 2026, 5pm

A conversation with Maggie O'Brien and Bernie Rhie to celebrate and discuss the launch of *Two Birds One Stone*, O'Brien's debut memoir that breaks industry convention and questions the fabric of reality.

Carrying on a 19th-century tradition of serializing literature, *Two Birds One Stone* will be published as twelve slim volumes over the course of one year. As both book artist and author, O'Brien designed and hand-bound a cover to hold all twelve sections, each of which will be released monthly from September 2026 to August 2027 by Planetarium Press.

This memoir, written in lyric essay, documents a series of possessions: a brain tumor, the killing of a namesake bird, Lyme disease, environmental sensitivities, ruminations, obsessions, concussions, dreams, visions, queer love, quantum physics, Virginia Woolf, and a violent visitation by a very real ghost. Together these vignettes coalesce a reality where there is no division between the body and mind, the spiritual and material — it is only perception that insists on separateness. Whether the ghosts are in our house or in our heads — in *Two Birds One Stone*, O'Brien asks us to consider: what if art is an experiment to study the divine?

Free with RSVP

Eden Robins (Birdie Horne) & Andrea Hairston | Sunday, October 4, 2026, 12pm

A reading and conversation celebrating the release of two unrelated works of fiction that combine mystery and humor (and dogs!) in unexpected and refreshing ways.

In Birdie Horne's laugh-out-loud mystery *Don't Cross Mo Ellery* (William Morrow), the titular character manages to get fired, dumped, and kicked out of their overpriced Chicago apartment, all on her 29th birthday. Luckily, a sign appears to guide her: "Looking for flexible part-time work? Become a school crossing guard!" It's everything Mo has been looking for: health insurance! How hard can it be? Mo's greatest nemesis on the streets is Poodle Dude, a guy with an SUV full of poodles who speeds through her intersection each morning... until the day he accidentally speeds into a sinkhole and dies. And now some of the neighbors are convinced that he was murdered. When a second local dies under mysterious circumstances, it's going to take all of Mo's broadly applicable and transferable skills to find the killer.

Andrea Hairston's *The Redemption Center Is Closed On Sundays* is an extra-dimensional murder mystery with romance, adventure, alien tricksters, and a dog detective who just doesn't know the meaning of "stay." Oona, a St. Berdoodle, can slip

in and out of dimensions and has friends all over the map. Some of them are turning up dead. Oona finds a celebrity-musician friend in a recycling bin, murdered. Oona knows who the killer is. She's after him and he's after her. Cleaning lady Paula and her client, podcaster An'qwenique, might be falling in love, but they have to help Oona catch the killer first. And even the killer would like to know: What the heck is going on at the spooky Redemption Center? Black Ops? Witch and Ghost Jamboree? Alien Invasion?

Can't make the event? Order *Don't Cross Mo Ellery* and *The Redemption Center Is Closed on Sundays*, and we'll get them signed for you.

Free with RSVP

Melissa Auf der Maur: My '90s Rock Photographs | Friday, October 9, 2026, 6pm

An intimate conversation with alt-rock bassist Melissa Auf der Maur — of Hole and Smashing Pumpkins fame — as she walks us through *Even the Good Girls Will Cry: A '90s Rock Memoir* (Da Capo) and shares images from *Melissa Auf der Maur: My '90s Rock Photographs* (DelMonico Books), the catalog to her exhibition at Art Gallery of Ontario that doubles as a photographic love letter to the last analog decade.

As the bass player for the iconic '90s alternative rock bands Hole and Smashing Pumpkins, Melissa Auf der Maur toured the world, documenting life backstage, onstage, and in the crowd. She instinctively turned the camera on herself as the most intimately available subject, as informed by her studies at Concordia University and the self-portraits of Francesca Woodman. By the time she joined Hole's *Live Through This* world tour, a roll of 35mm film was on the rider at every venue. Her daily practice, continually documenting herself and her surroundings, expanded to include self-timers and cable releases for mid-performance snapshots.

This dedication resulted in an archive of over 10,000 photographs that go behind the scenes of rock-and-roll stardom — playing with Courtney Love's daughter, Frances Bean Cobain; hanging out with Pavement, Sonic Youth, and Beck; riding in a limousine with Drew Barrymore; and idling time on the set of the music video for “Celebrity Skin.” *Spin Magazine* hired Auf der Maur to document Lollapalooza 1995 and the Tibetan Freedom Concert of 1996. Gritty and edgy, playful yet deeply personal, Auf der Maur's intimate photographs celebrate the independent spirit of the '90s and offer an insider's view of the decade before smartphones and digital recording software. Through an extensive curatorial selection of more than 200 photographs, her memories create a moving self-portrait of a young artist living through the '90s alternative music scene, and a time capsule for Generation X.

Tickets: \$10–\$75 (General Admission tickets \$10, optional add-on of up to three books)

Lizzie Whitman on *On the Calculation of Volume (Book I)* | Wednesday, November 18, 2026, 5pm

Lizzie Whitman convenes this casual book club around Solvej Balle's utterly riveting *On the Calculation of Volume (Book I)* — the grand opening of her speculative fiction septology, winner of the 2022 Nordic Council Literature Prize (Scandinavia's most important literary award) for being "a masterpiece of its time." Balle was also nominated for the International Booker Prize and a National Book Award for this book.

Tara Selter, the heroine of *On the Calculation of Volume*, has involuntarily stepped off the train of time: in her world, November 18 repeats itself endlessly. We meet Tara on her 122nd November 18: she no longer experiences the changes of days, weeks, months, or seasons. She finds herself in a lonely new reality without being able to explain why: how is it that she wakes every morning on the same exact day, knowing to the exact second when the blackbird will burst into song and when the rain will begin? Will she ever be able to share her new life with her beloved and now chronically befuddled husband? And on top of her profound isolation and confusion, Tara takes with pain how slight a difference she makes in the world. And as she puts it: "That's how little the activities of one person matter on the eighteenth of November."

Balle is hypnotic and masterful in her remixing of the endless recursive day, creating curious little folds of time and foreshadowings: her flashbacks light up inside the text like old flash bulbs.

Free with RSVP

A.S. Hamrah: *Last Week in End Times Cinema* | Saturday, November 21, 2026, 5pm

"A. S. Hamrah's writing on film is a delight. . . . Like all the best criticism, his writing makes art and life feel less lonely." — Elif Batuman

A. S. Hamrah is single-handedly re-inventing film criticism with a unique archive of unfortunate movie bulletins published in the best indie print journals and magazines, and compiled for his beloved weekly newsletter. His two most recent books, *Last Week in End Times Cinema* (Semiotext(e)) and *Algorithm of the Night* (n+1) are R&D Store best-sellers. Join Hamrah for a conversation about film, filmmakers, critical writing, and the state of movies in 2026.

Tickets: \$5 Advance and Day-of; Free for members

MEMBER PERKS

Not yet a member? [Join today](#) to attend these events and enjoy free museum admission, ticketing discounts, invitations, and more year-round. Prices listed for all ticketed events include all fees, which are waived for MASS MoCA members.

Member Sip & Shop | Saturday, November 21, 2026, 5pm

MASS MoCA Members are invited to a Sip and Shop at the Research & Development Store and the MASS MoCA Gift Shop on November 21, 5–7pm! We'll pair refreshments with an extra 10% discount and complimentary gift-wrapping to kick-start the holiday season.

Members will receive their “double discount” of 20% on all items in the R&D Store and the Gift Shop (and online), November 16–22.

Free for members

Curator Tour: *Daniela Rivera: Hacia Cuando (To When)* | Saturday, November 21, 2026, 10am

MASS MoCA members are invited to join curator Evan Garza for a members-only tour of Daniela Rivera's exhibition *Hacia Cuando (To When)*. Space is limited, and RSVP is required.

Free for members

About MASS MoCA

MASS MoCA is a contemporary art museum that emphasizes bold creative exploration and fosters surprising connections between people every single day. It upholds artistic freedom and is an indispensable home for artists who stretch toward what has yet to be created. From its beginnings as the major textile mill Arnold Print Works in the mid-19th century, to its days as the Sprague Electric Company in the mid-20th century, to its current iteration as a globally renowned contemporary art museum and fabrication center, the 24-acre MASS MoCA campus has a rich history of serving as an economic engine of the city of North Adams and the surrounding region. With vast galleries, artist studios and a variety of indoor and outdoor stages, MASS MoCA is able to embrace art in all forms. For more information visit massmoca.org or follow on Instagram at [@massmoca](https://www.instagram.com/massmoca).

For more information, please contact:

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