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Black Sun, 2014 by
Teresita Fernández.
Photo by David Dashiell,
courtesy the artist and
Lehmann Maupin, New
York and Hong Kong .

Mass MoCA Is It Home to two major new shows, the Massachusetts museum is a must-visit for summer.

July 17, 2014 9:00 AM | by [David A. Ross](#)

One of the great joys of summer is a simple day-trip to North Adams, Massachusetts, where you'll find [Mass MoCA](#), one of the most unusual contemporary art museums in the world. Not only is it the site for the spectacular quasi-permanent exhibitions of [Sol LeWitt](#) and [Anselm Kiefer](#), but this former industrial factory complex is also that rare museum that provides major artists with the time and space necessary for truly ground-breaking exhibitions.

This summer, Mass MoCA is home to two such shows. In the massive central exhibition hall, you will find [Izhar Patkin](#)'s long-overdue survey, and it alone would be worth the trip. But in the light-filled triple-height galleries on the first floor there is another exquisite exhibition, this one of of new site-specific works by New York artist [Teresita Fernández](#).

Fernández, whose work is distinguished by her poetic exploration of materials, has produced a series of installations exploring her continuing interest in the relative notions of scale. The Vedic concept

"as above so below"—which serves as the exhibition's evocative title—led Fernández to create room-scaled sculptural environments that compel the viewer to experience a particularly grand idea of beauty.

Patkin is an Israeli-born artist who has worked in New York since the early 1980s and whose art marries formal complexity, extraordinary craftsmanship and a highly original engagement with challenging notions of narrative and metaphor. Patkin works in a wide range of media, including porcelain, glass and a remarkable form of painting on layers of tulle that the artist invented. These tulle works are the star of the show, and experienced via a suite of five room-sized installations based on collaborations with the late Kashmiri-American poet [Agha Shahid Ali](#).

On view through Labor Day, the Patkin and Fernández exhibitions have intelligence and soulful beauty in equal measure, and in an art world often defined by empty spectacle, a trip to Mass MoCA may be just the summer tonic you need.

The Wandering Veil: [Izhar Patkin at Mass MOCA in North Adams, MA through Labor Day](#). [Teresita Fernández: As Above So Below is on view through April of 2015](#).