



# OBEY

CONVENTION IX

MAY 26-29, 2016 HALIFAX NS



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MAY 26 – 29, 2016 HALIFAX NS

*"There is only noise between us."  
Intersystems, 1966*

Through art and music we can erase the borders of reality. We can give life to utopian ideals and explore the darkness within our species. New universes exist because of artists. And we are grateful.

OBEY Convention IX looks to celebrate the far reaches of imagination. Our program is bold. It's weird—unlike anything else in the country.

Headliners such as experimental Orange County rapper Mykki Blanco, NYC's noise-punk-jazz skronkers Zs, Berlin's doom metal power couple Nadja, Chicago's outer world jammers Joshua Abrams' Natural Information Society, among others, minister their magic for Halifax

at some of the city's most iconic venues. Back-to-back concerts in narrative form.

Beyond the usual ceremony of OBEY Convention proper, we also bring to you Art In Fest, the Khyber's standalone arts festival, and EverySeeker Symposium, a new lecture series presented by the Fountain School of Performing Arts and OBEY Convention.

More than half the festival is free-to-attend. The ticketed events are reasonably priced and one-of-a-kind.

Allow yourself new vision.

Darcy Spidle  
OBEY Convention

## INFORMATION

### PURCHASING PASSES & TICKETS

Our festival pass GUARANTEES admission to all ticketed and pass-only events. Individual tickets for select events are also available. Online purchases can be made at [obeyconvention.com](http://obeyconvention.com). To buy in person, visit **Ticket Halifax** at 2309 Maynard Street or **Lost & Found** at 2383 Agricola Street.

### ALL AGES FREE

If capacity allows, persons under 19 will be admitted free to all our unlicensed events. Bring a **current** school or government photo ID to the door of any event to

take advantage of this offer. There may be a wait. You may be turned away. We make no promises. But we will do our best. To avoid uncertainty, RSVP 24 hrs before the event to [kat@obeyconvention.com](mailto:kat@obeyconvention.com).

### KHYBER FESTIVAL LOUNGE

(1880 Hollis St)  
Our friends at The Khyber will be opening their doors to artists and festival goers alike between noon and 6 PM, May 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>. You'll be able to redeem your festival bracelet, have a drink, use the Wi-Fi, use the bathroom, make some friends. Come down.

## OBEY LOUNGE AT ART BAR (1873 Granville St.)

Hours: 12-6PM 26-28 May, 2016

**Bar - Festival info/merch - Artist pass pick-up**



**SEE OBEY CONVENTION SCHEDULE FOR KHYBER EVENTS**

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## ARTISTS

### MYKKI BLANCO

ORANGE COUNTY, CA

Mykki Blanco is one of the most visceral, invigorating personas to hijack the contemporary rap world in recent memory. The alias of performance artist/poet/activist Michael David Quattlebaum Jr., Mykki Blanco began as a Lil' Kim-inspired YouTube character in 2010. Beginning in 2012, a series of incendiary mixtapes, videos and EPs, coupled with a number of world tours, launched Blanco into the global consciousness, making her not only a major transgender icon, but a full-on cultural event.

The roots of her persona are twisted. A fierce performer with a deep-seated punk ethos and a keen art-school flare, Blanco weaves disparate cultural elements seamlessly into her singular voice. In Mykki's world, there is no distinction between high and low, in and out; she scoops up whatever reference is required, bends it into form, sets it aflame and moves forward. Which is not to say she is reckless. Beautiful mayhem that she is, Blanco is always on point.

In November of last year, she dropped an arresting single, 'Coke White Starlight', and announced big plans for 2016, promising a series of mixtapes to follow as a lead-up to her proper studio debut, *Mommy*, in late Spring. We couldn't be more excited to get up close and per-

sonal with such a wild, progressive artist during what is sure to be a formative period. As Blanco states on her Twitter in mid-February: "i've given u my personality now it's time 4 my legacy".

### ZS

NEW YORK, NY

If you unfolded all the histories, peoples, compartments and conceptual frameworks surrounding the musical entity known as Zs, at its center you'd find a writhing, charged piece of copper, emitting a raw scent, hot to the touch, sending you cross-eyed. Even at its most elemental, Zs would remain heavily synesthetic.

Founded in 2000 in Brooklyn, NY, Zs is currently a trio featuring founder/saxophonist Sam Hillmer, guitarist Patrick Higgins and drummer Greg Fox. Their 2015 album, *Xe*, an immersive, goose-pimpled fever dream clocked in at number three on Rolling Stone's best avant-garde albums of the year and they've been described by the New York Times as 'one of the strongest avant-garde bands in New York'. Each member is a titan in their own right, lending their mortal bodies selflessly to the insatiable mind-link that is Zs. Any attempts to genrefy them would result in a long string of terms including 'no' and 'post', but such attempts would be foolhardy. Instead, consider what the term 'extra-textural fricassee' feels like in your brainhole.

## NADJA

BERLIN, DE

Nadja make enormous sound. A transcendental dreamsludge band of the highest order. The duo, featuring Aidan Baker and Leah Buckareff, recombine the soundscapes of metal, shoegaze, doom and ambient music to create hypnotic, long-form compositions that suspend the listener in a state of existential transience. Formerly based in Toronto, now living in Berlin, Baker and Buckareff maintain a tireless touring schedule and prolific output, with a catalogue boasting more than 20 releases over the last decade on labels such as Alien8, Important, Hydra Head and their own, Broken Spine Records. Summoning a devastating blend of heavy structure and expansive improv, expect Nadja to tear open a blackened, gaping portal in which to slip.

## MARIE DAVIDSON

MONTREAL, QC

A figure drawn from deep within the folds of the Montreal electro community, Marie Davidson (Essaie Pas, DKMD) emerged in 2012 with her striking solo project. Blending icy darkwave synth, analogue italo tones and breathy poetry, Davidson achieves a cinematic pitch with deft precision. A dedicated and accomplished performer, Davidson's ambitions have been expanding along with her international profile. Her most recent release, *Un Autre Voyage*,

is her fantasy road-film soundtrack: drifting in and out of focus, slipping into claustrophobic narrative, and sweeping out into the shapeless vistas, *Un Autre Voyage* is an expansive trip. Moody, magnetic and transfixing, the music of Marie Davidson commands adoration.

## JOSHUA ABRAMS


CHICAGO, IL

Joshua Abrams is one of Chicago's most thoughtful and well-regarded musicians. Over the past two decades he has worked with an incredibly diverse range of forward-thinking musicians including The Roots, Matana Roberts, Rhys Chatham, Loren Connors and Bonnie 'Prince' Billy. At present, Abrams is focused on his own project, The Natural Information Society, whose 2015 album *Magnetoception* received major accolades across the globe for its intrepid, spiritual tone.

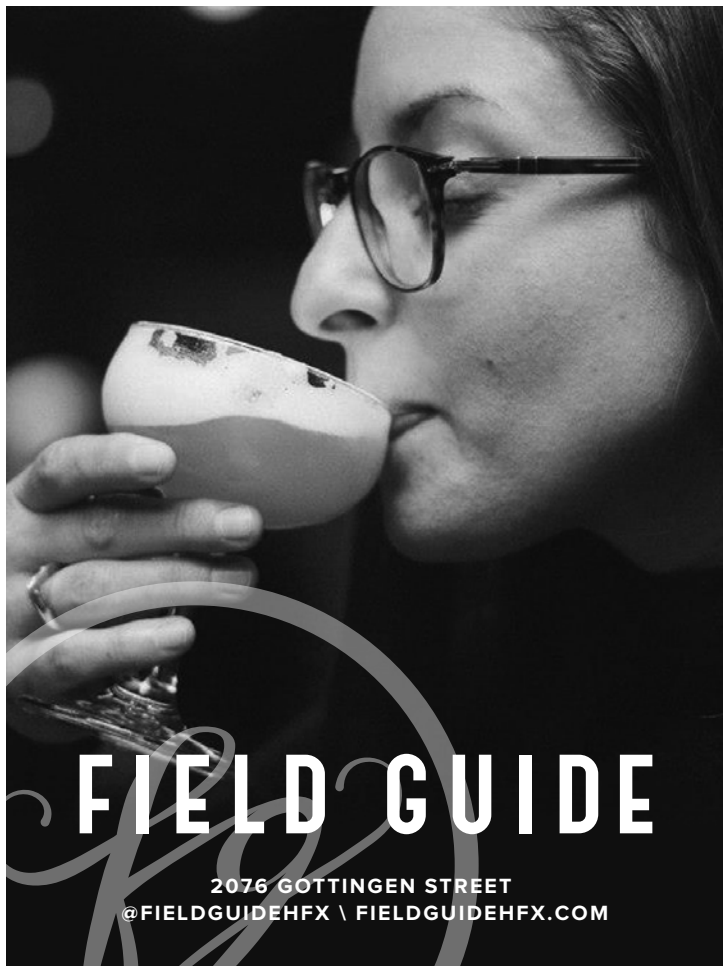
Centred around the guimbri, a Moroccan stringed instrument akin to a bass-banjo, the music on *Magnetoception* is meditative and subtle. Long-form, groove-based and repetitive, the compositions hold a rich, spatial quality. From these structural roots, the music expands slowly, filling itself in. Abrams & Co. develop these mood-rooms and layer them with swathes of harmonium, celeste, clarinet, autoharp and other ornamentation. The rhythmic changes are as slight as sunlight passing through a hidden space. The expansive



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# FIELD GUIDE

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quality of the music recalls forerunners such as Don Cherry and the AACM, and hearkens further still, back to the trance-like healing music of the Gnawa from North Africa. Abrams music is an intricate reminder of how sounding and hearing are foundational modes of human feeling.

## SARAH DAVACHI

VANCOUVER, BC

An explorer and creator of great depths, Sarah Davachi is one of our nation's greatest composers of new music. An accomplished double-threat, Davachi's work approaches sound from both a phenomenological and academic perspective, exploring analog and modular synthesis and psychoacoustic manipulations. With a focus on sonic dwelling and duration, Davachi creates transcendent open-spaces of sound, long swathes of cosmic holding. Her compositions develop simple melodic structures with gradual shifts in texture and overtone, resulting in powerful, sometimes overwhelming, listening experiences.

For the better part of a decade, she's worked on an international level as a researcher, archivist, programmer and presenter of historical and forward-thinking musical instruments and compositions, all of which feeds into her trance-inducing music. Of late, Davachi has been prolific, churning out long-form compositions for synthe-

size, violin, voice and orchestron; 2016 alone will see the release of three LPs on JAZ Records, Students of Decay and Important Records, respectively. With each project Davachi's status and ambitions seem to swell exponentially as she instills new planes of awareness. We're thrilled to have her close out the festival with her inimitable, hypnotic soundwaves.

## RABIT

AUSTIN, TX

Texan producer Eric Burton, aka Rabbit, contorts industrial DNA into a down-right claustrophobic ritual. His music is towered-over by snares that sound like the doors of a gloomy bunker slamming shut. Skittering grime and hip-hop rhythms, punctuated by shattering gun blasts, decay into murky minor-key hauntings. Terrified sound bites flash and turn a dark corner. Like electro-mutational peers Arca and Oneohtrix Point Never, Burton's compositions expand and narrow, creating exhilaration that can be both sickly and euphoric. This is maximal music built with a twisted intention.

A note accompanying the 2015 LP, *Communion*, reports that the music was "inspired by issues relating to sexuality, gender, ownership of our natural bodies, societal and governmental injustices, and media manipulations". The music's specific connection to these contemporary trends can be hard to understand,

but near impossible not to feel. Rather than exploring them through intellectual exposition, Rabbit cuts straight to the guts, leaving the listener to react physically to grim sub-bass frequencies and big-screen menace.

### **KAIE KELLOUGH** MONTREAL, QC

Kaie Kellough is a self-described 'word-sound-systematizer'. Exploding the rich histories of sound poetry and experimental language arts in Canada, Kellough's work deconstructs and re-imagines a given medium, suggesting that the message is infinitely nuanced. A politically-charged performer whose work blends formal experiment with social engagement, Kellough pulls from dub traditions, voco-noise and experimental jazz techniques to create work that defies categorization and insists upon progressive thinking.

Based in Montreal, this engaged, internationally-active artist displays the kind of intensity and rigour more often associated with punk and free jazz musicians than with poets. Equally generous and impassioned, his live performances are notoriously striking. Kellough pulls apart phonemic purpose and scrambles semiotic understandings. With a firm belief that poetry is at the root of artistic practices across disciplines, we at OBEY are elated to be presenting this vital voice of contemporary creativity.

### **OLD & WEIRD** HALIFAX, NS

An enduring spirit of freedom, ease and self-awareness bleed into all things Old & Weird. Their MO is an open-ended ride along the edges of post-pop musicality and pop-consciousness-ness. Over the past six years, O'n'W have honed their sound and image slowly, developing both their strengths and shortcomings into a perfectly unrefined blend of pique and swagger. With two full-length releases, a smattering of EPs, a couple of national tours, and a full-blown local controversy (fuelled entirely by sad internet turds) behind them, Old & Weird remain a vital part of Halifax's musical identity. Unlatched melodies and a total sublimation of the mundane make for a sound you might really settle into, if ever it would settle into itself. But that would be so snoozy, wouldn't it?

### **WILLIAM ROBINSON** HALIFAX, NS

Exploring the intersections of sonic expression and mute materiality, the work of media artist William Robinson brings to life cultural and historical narratives by investigating particular sites and built environments. At present, Robinson is researching the transmutations and subsequent functionality of materials associated with church bells. Making a welcomed return to OBEY, Robinson will be presenting a performative lecture exploring his current findings.

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## LINDSAY DOBBIN

HALIFAX, NS

A most serene and visionary power, Lindsay Dobbin is one of Atlantic Canada's most inspiring artists. Their body of work includes degraded analogue hauntings (Broken Deer) and cosmic improvisation (JOURNEYS and Gift From God), as well as an incredible catalogue of sound installations and place-responsive performances. With roots drawing from connective dream space, shamanic drumming and traditional ways of knowing, Dobbin's work is spiritual and reflective. The music they summon under their given name tends toward minimal, long-form meditation: soft melodies repeating in tender folds of sub-bass frequency. As ever, we are humbled to have them contribute to our festival and expect that their recent studies with legendary American composer Pauline Oliveros will bring yet a richer form of sounding and listening to their performance this year.

## NEW FRIES

TORONTO, ON

Easily one of our favourite bands in Canada right now, New Fries conjure frenetic, combustible no-wave energy with a playful sense of Steinese sophistication. Despite using guitar, bass, drums and vocals as their chosen tools, this Toronto four-piece bypass any trappings of being a 'rock band in 2016'. Teetering at the edges of a given composition,

New Fries toss rare grooves into the ether, channel harsh pleasures and blast refreshing mantras in abstract formation.

## BRAVE RADAR

MONTREAL, QC

The way you hum to yourself as you move through familiar rooms. You hear it symphonic and full, but it comes out mumbled; warm and low, a little off-key. This Montreal four-piece provide a warbled comfort. Their vocabulary is subtle and unique: a tone language. Brave Radar recall the practiced naivety of Galaxie 500 and the direct abstractions of Young Marble Giants, albeit with a pop logic all their own. Oddly addictive music that teeters into tunelessness.

## DJ KAZ\_KANDY

MONTREAL, QC

Our beloved art-school party starter returns from the desolate snorefest of Montreal just for OBEY, the ministry of ecstatic truth and wild combination. She. Will. Slay.

## CARMEN

MONTREAL, QC

A reigning queen of the late-night grip, French Pretzel has brought a Cold Sweat upon the city of Halifax. A propulsive mood-maker, FP is known to drop mammoth DJ sets, while her own material strikes somewhere between dour, dub-tinged coldwave and claustrophobic ambience.

## XXVII

HALIFAX, NS

Twenty-seven equals two. And may all our feelings come without prescription. This is the pure stuff, unregulated. Downright gorgeous the way it pours off the ladle, glinting as it goes. Nick Dourado and Andrew MacKelvie, two of our dearest, most dialed-in jazzers, develop spontaneous moods. They come on tender and spark up suddenly. When the show's over and the reeds are bleeding, you'll realize what they've done: freed j'ass.

## LUNGBUTTER

MONTREAL, QC

A tortured, hexing subsection of Montreal's art-punk milieu, Lungbuttre have been on our radar since they totally hollowed out the Menz Rainbow Room with their cavernous sludge a few years back. In turn bombastic and suffocated, Lungbuttre recall the primitivism of early Sonic Youth as they spill out with nihilistic revelations. White-knuckled possession, tumult, lost thoughts and shrieking from the fringe.

## ZONES

TORONTO, ON

ZONES are Torontonal polychrome. A presque-paradise coated with dystopic twang. Derek McKeon and Kat Murie crank out supersaturated pop plateaus rich with melodic microclimates. Driven by levelled psychedelia and a

massively warped guitar, their music seems to float as if weightless despite being loaded to the brim. The first few cuts from their sophomore release, *After Image*, out in April on the mighty Pleasence Records, brought a welcomed glow to OBEY HQ during the dark depths of winter.

## SOUND OF THE MOUNTAIN

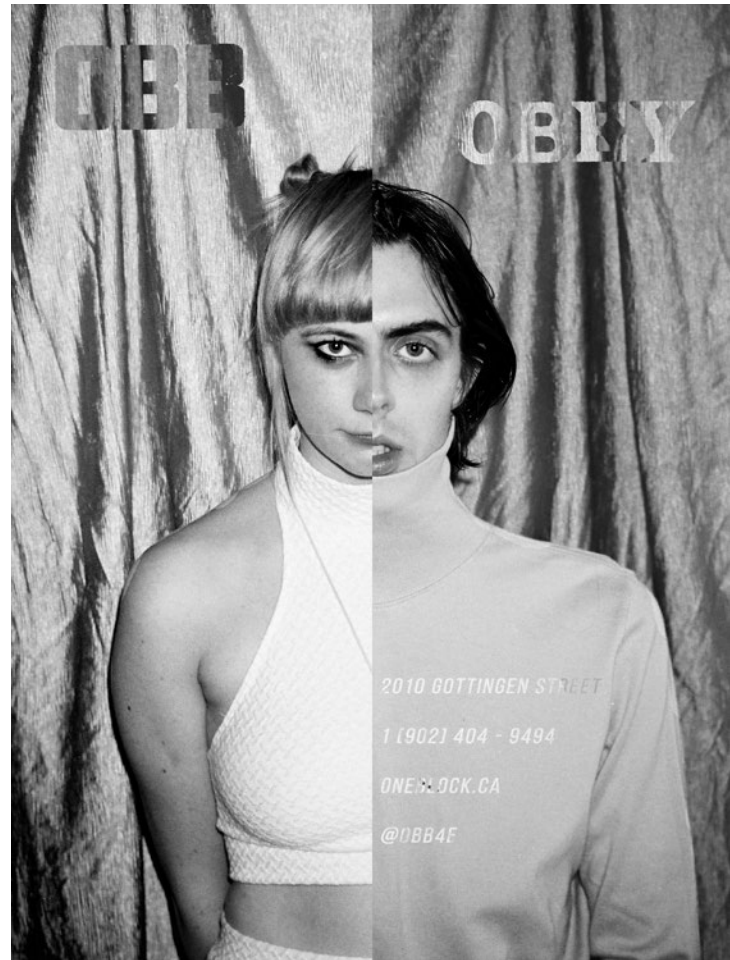
MONTREAL, NS

A duo featuring Craig Pederson and Elizabeth Millar playing amplified trumpet and clarinet respectively. Coming from a strong history of improv and extended performance techniques, Sound Of The Mountain offer their audience long-form deep listening experiences through the sculpting of vitalized breath. The body is a cavity. The instrument is a medium. The room is a capacity. The air is a movement we share. The shared experience is our most primal expression.

## WAYNE WORLD

HALIFAX, NS

When we ran into guitarist Andrew Neville in the aisles of a grocery store in mid-March he expressed how excited he was to have Wayne World perform at this year's Convention. In the next breath he admitted that he didn't remember any of the "garbage egyptian scales" he employed to write their songs and that he was "thinking of building a new cube" for singer Mark Grundy





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to perform in. Rather than eliciting any concern, the exchange swelled our hearts with a sugary pride.

### CENTURY EGG

HALIFAX, NS

A self-described multi-race rainbow band, Century Egg features Shane Keyu Song, Robert Drisdelle, Tri Le and Nick Dourado; a potent cross section of some of Halifax's busiest players. Decidedly peppy and wonderfully refined, Century Egg's music might be used best as the closing credits of an anime about two besties who use their secret powers to grow enormous vegetables for a remote village of elderly mountain dwellers. Which is to say the songs are deeply infectious and intelligent. Fun constructed perfectly.

### ALIENATION

HALIFAX, NS

Blistering hardcore punk from across the bridge. Alienation, who released an excellent debut mini-LP at the tail end of 2015, are a stand-out from amongst our city's thriving punk scene. Their live shows create a kind of wild, preternatural havoc. Genuinely disaffected and merciless. Revisionist d-beat unleashed with a force of conviction.

### HHH

HALIFAX, NS

A duo featuring two institutions of weird Halifax music and culture, cheshire mys-

tic Mitch Wiebe and slim dagger Craig Leonard. HHH choreograph a slow-wave romance dusted with the honeyed ashes of an industrial lounge act.

### CLOAKED FIGURE

HALIFAX, NS

Devotional synth and modular affectations. Cloaked Figure summons dismal incantations from beyond the blackened void. Working through the purities of tone and duration, this homegrown stranger brings forth a hermetical lilt from the world of power electronics.

### EDDY

HALIFAX, NS

Having seen sonic polymaths Nick Dourado (every band) and Nathan Doucet (every other band) play music countless times, it never ceases to be the purest inspiration. We're not ones to go all in for joy, but witnessing these two perform and express so naturally really is a tender joy. Each mind and body seems born to play the part sound. eddy is where the natural movement gathers and breaks from the current flow. Pre-languaged thought whetted by the slopes of a coastal city.

### AARON WEBSTER

HALIFAX, NS

Nova Scotia's wide web curio and schizoid humorist returns to the festival to provide visual accoutrement to our late nite programming.

## DJ FADZWA

HALIFAX, NS

Zimbabwean born and raised, DJ Fadzwa brings an excitable vibe indebted to the African drum and bass that served as the soundtrack to his youth. Based in Halifax, Fadzwa's been spinning at the heart of all the true blue mixers over the past half-decade, providing late-nite freedom to the deep north on the regular.

## FEELS

HALIFAX, NS

As Feels, Halifax's Brant Hunter suspends his listeners in a bubble of laid-back buoyancy. Rather than capital-J

jams, Hunter produces strictly italicized shit. His soft-touch bangers draw equally from cloud rap mysticism, ambient tonescapes and footwork propulsion. A conglomerate of the breeziest, Feels is steady on the pleasure tip.

## DJ I-RAD

OTTAWA, ON

This soup-kitchen casanova is hauling wax all the way from our nation's Capital. Ottawa's handsomest scavenger spent a small personal inheritance on an epic collection of prime-era reggae, dub and dancehall 45s straight from Jamaica. S'gonna get juicy in the club.


## NEW MUSIC FROM THE ACADEMY


HALIFAX, NS

Through an exciting new partnership with The Fountain School Of Performing Arts, we've put together the inaugural Everyseeker Symposium. Further to that, we've invited some of their finest players to program a new music overture as a means of introducing the weekend's journey. A formidable beginning to the mind-bending onslaught.


## NOISECAD

HALIFAX, NS

Under the guidance of NSCAD prof/no-wave art guru Craig Leonard, a choice selection of sound art students will be bringing their sonic discoveries to life in the Rainbow Room of Menz Bar. Expect dimensionless white noise, glitched drama and untempered paranoia. 



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# ART//FEST

**ART IN FEST**  
MAY 26-29, 2016

ART IN FEST is an annual festival of contemporary art in Halifax NS, suffused with the spirit of OBEY Convention and produced through The Khyber Centre for the Arts.

**DALTRY ROSE C.-L**  
HALIFAX, NS

### **MeMenManyMANIPULATE**

MeMenManyManipulate is a stress-inducing meditation workshop on clearing mental pain-related stress and unusually noisy mind space, through use of props, humour and actions set forth by the practitioner. Relaxation will serve as both the fee and product for the event attendees. Relaxation will be summoned and prescribed verbally as well as sculpturally by the practitioner. Momentary enlightenment or release into natural states of relaxation is a promise made and kept by the practitioner through completion of the workshop in a scheduled timeframe. Attendees may experience internal or psychic travel into other realms as a group. There will be no assigned seats or mandatory standing positions to be taken. The practitioner will see that no

attendee is denied access, mentally or otherwise, from contrasting levels of relaxation and anguish. There is no guarantee of permanent relief.

**BIO:** Daltry Rose C.-L.'s intermedia-based practice is fueled by the urgency of "the friction point". Her performance work combines stand-up, intervention and dance, pivoting around the demand to confront her physicality; acting as both a tool and a limitation to her inquiries, the body is reevaluated as subject, object, site of trauma and body as situation. Her interest lies in redefining precepts of gender and of the self through reenactment and improvisation of vulnerability and fury.

**ANNI ARAUJO SPADAFORA**  
TORONTO, ON

**FELT IN THE BELLY, KNOWN TO BE REAL**  
Many documented ghost sightings or witnessing of the supernatural have been measured as unknowing consumption of 19 Hz sound. Most humans can hear sound through the ear organ at 20 Hz; only some can detect sounds at even lower frequencies through vibrations felt in other parts of the body. 17 Hz is known as "the edge of hearing", while at a slightly higher frequency,

19 Hz is nicknamed “the sound of fear” for often unknowingly producing feelings of dread and uneasiness in the body, despite any audible sound.

*Some Infrasound Low Frequency (>20 Hz) sources:*

Earthquakes - Sonic Boom - An Ass Farting - Calving Icebergs - Diesel Engines - Tsunamis - The Call Of Whales - Wind Turbines - Tornadoses - Lightning - Meteors - Aurorae - Ocean Waves - Chemical Explosions

Some animals can detect the vibrations of infrasound and warn their herd of the coming disaster.

My maternal Grandfather was a Medium. Practicing out of Lilydale, the biggest Spiritualist town in North America, he worked to communicate between the living and spirit worlds. I was not passed down the genetic ability to sense ghosts or paranormal activity. I am, however, prone to déjà vu (though I’ve heard that is a brain-thing)

Felt in the belly, known to be real is a collective hallucination, a ghost story, an experimental sound performance and a low frequency YouTube sound test. Earplugs will be provided.

**BIO:** Anni Araujo Spadafora is a Toronto-based artist working across media including sound, performance, textiles/

fibre art, and installation. She plays in the band New Fries. Informally trained in every method she uses, she aligns herself with cultures of self-initiation and collaboration. Recent project and performance sites include Art Gallery of Ontario, XPACE Gallery and Mercer Union.

## **ERIKA ELLSWORTH**

MONCTON, NB

### **SATIN KNIGHTS**

In Anthony Van Dyck’s 1638 painting of Lord John Stuart and his brother Lord Bernard Stuart, one of them is dangling a glove by their side. Gloves of that time were often perfumed by young men and given as love gifts to women. Satin Knights is a modern take on this theatrical fashion statement. A small motley group of reserved, cultivated erratic individuals will be styled and mingling about, trying to win their love’s affection. It will be a love scene amongst the crowd, the costumes will be contemporary romance, and the perfumes will be created by the young men themselves as all-natural, non-synthetic, or harmful scents.

**BIO:** This multimedia Fashionista-Artist claims to be a Romantic Popper fighting the Slick Snots. She uses narrative and satire in her fashion and art to resolve social tension by exposing problems. Though she doesn’t feel obliged to solve them, she enjoys bringing them



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to the surface as material to manipulate into beauty.

## RIDWAN RAU RAU

JAKARTA, ID

### *BERSATU KITA TEGUH BERCERAI KITA RUNTUH*

Bersatu Kita Teguh Bercerai Kita Runtuh (translated, United We Stand Divorce We Crumbling) is jargon that is embedded in my heart deeply and one that must continue to be shared. There is a theory of sticks in Indonesian philosophy; they are a symbol of togetherness and unity that together form a strong force. A single rod amongst scattered sticks is easily broken and is not able to work effectively to clean a messy surface. However if sticks are united in a bond to create a broom, then they have the strength to push dirt into a pile.

I was born and live in a country where once people helped each other, helped others regardless of their background, religion, race, and social strata, rich and poor together felt warmth, love and affection, a peaceful life, peaceful and comfortable, everything felt positive. Now I feel there is something missing. The Indonesian people are familiar with a term “Gotong Royong”, which means working together to achieve an outcome that is coveted, “Gotong” = “Work”, “Royong” = “Together”.

**BIO:** Ridwan rau rau is a multidisciplinary artist, born and raised in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia.

## BECK GILMER-OSBORNE

TORONTO, ON

### *PREREQUISITES*

PREREQUISITES is a performance based on medical gate-keeping in relation to transitioning and white masculine privilege within the medical industrial complex. There are certain physical attributes one must have in order to obtain access to hormones (to medically transition). To obtain synthetic testosterone, an individual will benefit from being tall and lean with minimal curves, having small breasts and/or binding, a mid-range voice, wearing “masculine clothing” and having masculine body language and mannerisms. Essentially, the prerequisite for gaining access to the medical industrial complex as a trans person is to possess the potential to “pass” as the opposite sex that one was assigned at birth. Doctors need to see, in the present, that one’s future transgender embodiment will be undetectable in public. Many non-binary individuals must fabricate their transgender narratives in order to move forward with medically transitioning.

The idea of passing as a fixation among the transgender community is highly problematic. To pass connotes having to conceal one’s true identity and exist publicly as something else that one

is not; passing becomes a theatrical disguise. Passing leaves no room for non-binary transgender desire to exist beyond the categorical limitations of male and female/man and woman. The idea of passing leaves trans people behind when they cannot do it successfully, and swallows trans people whole when they pass reluctantly.

I am at a moment in my transition where I am more often than not gendered as male.

I am passing.

I am disappearing.

**BIO:** Beck Gilmer-Osborne is a queer identified and award-winning visual artist currently working in Toronto. Their work focuses on tensions, absences, and power in relation to fluctuating gender identities; they explore and interrogate the potential of gender embodiment to serve as both a tool for gender deconstruction and revision.

After receiving a Governor General’s Silver Academic Award in 2015, Beck continues to make meaningful connections between their artistic and academic interests. They are a volunteer at the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives where they are pursuing interests in learning transgender histories, self-archiving through art making, and meet-

ing ghosts. Beck’s current (ongoing) body of work is attempting to unpack their experiences with transness, mental illness and familial bonds.

## GONZAGO & FRIENDS

HALIFAX, NS

### *OBABY WORKSHOP*

This is a free drop-in art and music workshop for children ages 0-10 and their guardians. Organized by Art In Fest, all workshop stations are led by Halifax-based artists and recent graduates of a tuition-free certificate program called The Gonzago Institute. Attendees are invited to experiment with various provided materials. Each Gonzago booth will get you one step closer to receiving your very own OBABY undergraduate certificate! Instruction will be provided at some stations.

**BIO:** The Gonzago Institute is a tuition-free certificate program hosted by The Khyber Centre for the Arts. The program aims to support emerging artists and to foster a strong artistic community. It is offered annually to a select group of artists, between the ages of 19 and 35 not currently enrolled in a school program, who are dedicated to living and making work in the HRM. The curriculum is focused on three key components: PRACTICE, THEORY and COMMUNITY. This children’s workshop will be led by some of the program’s recent graduates: Merle Harley, Alex

van Helvoort, Nick Dourado, Stephanie Yee and Jesse Mitchell.

## DAVID CLARK

HALIFAX, NS

### **THE SMILE WITHOUT THE CAT: A LECTURE ABOUT AESTHETICS**

The Smile without the Cat: A Lecture about Aesthetics is a performance examining the smile and an array of cultural, scientific, and historical ideas that surround our understanding of this innate human gesture. I am particularly interested in how the smile has become embodied in our language, our culture, and our technology. The script for this work touches on subjects such as: Real Smiles and False Smiles, The Mona Lisa Smile, Duchamp's L.H.O.O.Q., The Smiley Face icon and the slogans "Have a nice day" and "Don't Worry, Be Happy", the development of Emoticons, the phrase "Say Cheese", the Cheshire Cat, the Brian Wilson album 'SMiLE' and the Beach Boys' record 'Smiley Smile', Dazed & Confused, Forrest Gump, Double Negative, Double Positive, the Ouija Board and the Photographer Weegee, Laugh Tracks, Picture Spots, Samuel Smiles invention of Self-Help, the Tanganyika Laughter Epidemic, and Timothy Leary's pre-transhumanist project: "SM<sup>2</sup>LE" SM (Space Migration) + I<sup>2</sup> (intelligence increase) + LE (Life extension).

**BIO:** David Clark is a media artist interested in experimental narrative form, the cinematic use of the internet, and media art in the public sphere. He teaches Media Arts at NSCAD University in Halifax.

## LIFE OF A CRAPHEAD

TORONTO, ON

### **Bugs**

Bugs — the first feature film by Life of a Craphead — is a satire about a bug society and its most powerful family. Featuring situations like a university lecture gone wrong and a failed SNL episode, Bugs (74 min., HD video) presents the absurdity of life within a patriarchal society obsessed with success. The DIY film sets the Bug universe right in the middle of the real world, creating multiple layers of reality that interact with each other. The film was produced over 2011-2015 with a large cast and crew of artists and comedians. The screening will include an intro with live Bugs and will be followed by a Q & A with Life of a Craphead.

**BIO:** Life of a Craphead is the collaboration of Amy Lam and Jon McCurley since 2006. Their work spans performance art, film, and curation. Their first feature-length film Bugs, a satire about a bug society and its most powerful family, is touring throughout 2016,

including premiering in the U.S. at Night Gallery, Los Angeles, in June. Projects include The Life of a Craphead Fifty Year Retrospective, 2006-2056 (Art Gallery of Ontario, 2013), an exhibition of all the work they will ever make; Double Double Land Land (Gallery TPW, 2009), a play about a second-rate city; and Free Lunch (2007), a public, anonymously-ly-advertised free lunch serving every-

thing on the menu of a restaurant (100+ items). Life of a Craphead also run and host the popular monthly performance art show Doored, which recently toured to New York (Flux Factory) and Rotterdam (Showroom MAMA). Their work has been featured in Canadian Art, C Magazine, and Art in America. They live and work in Toronto, Canada. 

# EVERYSEEKER

## EVERYSEEKER SYMPOSIUM MAY 28-29, 2016

Presented in conjunction with Atlantic Canada's premier festival of new music and art, the OBEY Convention, and the Fountain School of Performing Arts at Dalhousie University, EverySeeker Symposium offers free-to-attend lectures on the intersection of music and other disciplines such as storytelling, psychotherapy, science and technology, dance, craft, film and more.

## STEVEN BAUR

HALIFAX, NS

### **SEX, GOD, AND HARD LABOUR: TOWARD A CULTURAL HISTORY OF THE BACKBEAT**

The backbeat is arguably the single most prevalent element in popular music since the 1950s, yet we have little understanding of when, where, how, or why it came to be. Commercial and field recordings from the 1920s, 30s, and 40s establish the centrality of backbeat to several African American musical traditions — including prison songs, sacred music, and brothel house blues — each borne out of particular contexts of

oppression and survival. Exploring these recordings and the social and historical circumstances that conditioned them illuminates how the backbeat has been a powerful means by which marginalized groups have beat back against histories of violent oppression.

**BIO:** Steven Baur is an Associate Professor of Musicology in the Fountain School of Performing Arts at Dalhousie University. He has published widely on 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-century Western music from both popular and classical traditions, and he is an accomplished drummer with dozens of recordings and live performances to his credit. Talk to you soon.

### **RAJEE PAÑA JEJI SHERGILL** MILL VILLAGE, NS

#### **MOM AND HER MUSIC**

Rajee Paña Jeji Shergill will present mom and her music, an experimental video that brings to light the singing and songwriting of Rose Paña Jeshergill. Confessions about her music making are interwoven with original songs, home movie footage, and images of personal and familial iconography. The screening will be followed by a short talk on the relationship between the songs and outsider music, vulnerability and singing's therapeutic potential. This presentation also features the release of a cassette compilation of Rose's original music.

**BIO:** Rajee Paña Jeji Shergill is an Indo-Filipino-Canadian artist based in Mill Village, Nova Scotia. She received her BFA (Interdisciplinary) and BA (Art History) from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design University and her MA in Art History from Concordia University. Through textiles, sound and video, Rajee's work explores memory, autoethnography and diaspora. Her creation of a family archive that investigates intergenerational inheritance and diasporic subjectivity emphasizes the importance of revisiting familial skills and stories.

### **DANIELLE JAKUBIAK** MONTREAL, QC

#### **MUSIC HIVE: COLLABORATIVE DISCUSSION ON CREATIVITY, COMMUNITY, AND WELL-BEING**

There has been a shift in recent years to move learning and personal development out of the traditional academic sphere and into the community. International art and music therapists have been busily creating art hives — community spaces in which individual mastery is examined and skillshare is the means to collective advancement. Our project, Montreal's first Music Hive, desegregates personal and public therapeutic spaces, makes music and technology accessible to all, and demystifies music as therapy. In this collaborative discussion, we will together examine the ways



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in which music, technology, and community can come together to promote the health and well being of society.

**BIO:** Danielle Jakubiak completed a Masters of Music in Ethnomusicology in 2004. Following her degree, Jakubiak attended the National Theatre School in Montreal and spent several years as a sound engineer and sound designer for local theatre companies and venues. Her fascination with culture, sound environments, music, and people led her to complete her Masters in Music Therapy in 2012. During her studies, she began to focus on mental health

work, and community music therapy. She began a private practice in 2013. She took a course at a local Art Hive, La Ruche D'Art, which was highly inspiring, and so began developing the Montreal Music Hive in 2015.

## DAVID EWENSON

ST. JOHN'S, NL

### *THE MACHELE DRUMS OF TAMALE*

Dave Ewenson's Masters research focuses on a family of blacksmiths from Tamale, Ghana who have been re-working scrap metal into four piece trap drum sets and congas since the late 1950s. Recognizable by their

ultramarine blue and silver colours, the machele drums ("blacksmith drums") have become staple instruments in local gospel churches, primary school marching bands, and simpa dance and drum ensembles. In this presentation for the Everyseeker Symposium Dave Ewenson will be examining how, through the creation and dissemination of the machele drums, the blacksmiths have become a unique focal point, where countrywide movements of scrap metal become intertwined with the sounds of Tamale's diverse music makers; a connection which speaks to the relationship between ecology, economy, tradition, trade, and musical instruments.

**BIO:** David Ewenson is currently completing his masters in ethnomusicology at Memorial University, focusing on instrument construction and dissemination in Northern Ghana. David's work in academia often crosses over with his professional work as a recording engineer, videographer and musician. His goal is to not just produce research but to actively engage in the musical worlds he observes through making albums, music videos and documentaries. Most recently David has been living and working in Tamale, which is Northern Ghana's political and economic capital and one of West Africa's fastest growing cities. His work in Tamale focuses on the social life of blacksmith-made

metal drums and the way their life cycles represent cosmopolitan cultural life in Tamale. This research (which is fully funded through SSHRC and will be presented at the Society for Ethnomusicology conference in Dec 2015) includes the production of a 30min narrative film which interlaces intimate looks at instrument construction and musical performance.

## LINDSAY DOBBIN

HALIFAX, NS

### *DRUM AS ENVIRONMENT*

Lindsay Dobbin has been researching the connection between traditional drumming and landscape, placing listening at the centre of understanding. Explorations of silence, communication, movement, rhythm, dreaming and healing have all found their place orbiting the drum. For EverySeeker, Dobbin will speak about their work and guide a listening walk—sharing activities inspired by their research that will place participants in deeper relationship with tangible and intangible landscapes.

**BIO:** Lindsay Dobbin is a multi/interdisciplinary Métis artist, musician, curator and educator who lives and works on unceded Mi'kmaq territory in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Born and raised in southern New Brunswick near the



**exclaim.ca**

**TOMORROW'S  
MUSIC AND  
POP CULTURE. Daily.**

Illustration: Dennis Oba // www.dennisoba.com



Bay of Fundy, Dobbin has also lived rurally in Cape Breton, northeastern British Columbia and Yukon. Their place-responsive practice includes drumming, music, sound art, experimental recording, social practices, improvisation, sculpture, performance, radio and writing. Beyond their solo creative practice, they are also an active artistic collaborator, and have worked on projects with musicians, sound artists, dancers, visual artists and filmmakers. Dobbin's work has been presented and reviewed nationally and internationally, and they have received both provincial and federal grants. In addition to their art practice, Dobbin is also a passionate educator—employing music, sound, play and improvisation as tools for self-awareness.

## ROBERT DRISDELLE

HALIFAX, NS  
MULTI-CITY DRONE DAY INSTALLATION AND PUBLIC BROADCAST

On Saturday, May 28th, we observe Weird Canada's Drone Day. Locked away at The Khyber Centre for the Arts from noon until 2am, composer Robert Drisdelle will be drone traffic controller for a series of ambient, long-form performances streaming live from every province and territory in the country. We'll broadcast his sonic concoction online and from various public locations

throughout Halifax. Listen as sounds from across Canada bend and weep together. Play the Drone Day offering at [www.droneday.org](http://www.droneday.org). Use #droneday to follow broadcast locations or announce your own.

**BIO:** Robert Drisdelle is a composer and instrumentalist based in Halifax. He's worn many different hats in the local music and arts scene for many years, working in opera, orchestral and chamber music, experimental and electronic music, as well as vocal and instrumental pop alike. He has collaborated with many artists including Lido Pimienta and Tanya Tagaq, and currently performs in the band Century Egg.


## WILLIAM ROBINSON

HALIFAX, NS

### *THE BRONZE VOICE*

Robinson will present research investigating the material, cultural, and sonic transmutation of certain metal objects and their related manufacturing processes. Robinson's presentation will touch upon the history and influence of the European church bell on the auditory landscape, the imagined narratives surrounding the Selmer Mark VI's genealogy, and the music and sounds related to WWII's metallurgical history. A bell walk through downtown will follow the presentation.

**BIO:** William Robinson lives and works in Halifax NS. His practice includes a variety of media such as site-specific installation, performance, video, musical composition, sculpture and printed matter. Robinson's ongoing research explores how sound and music can extricate social and historical narratives

resting dormant within particular sites and built environments. Robinson is a recipient of a Canada Council for the Arts Audio Research Grant (2016) and will be presenting a solo exhibition *Brutalist Songs* at Galerie Sans Nom in May 2016. 





## SCHEDULE

### THURSDAY, MAY 26

**New music from the academy** (HALIFAX)  
**Kaie Kellough** (MONTREAL)

**Paul O'Regan Hall**  
**Halifax Central Library**  
6:30 - 7:30pm | free

**Nadja** (BERLIN, DE)  
**Sound of the Mountain** (MONTREAL)  
**Cloaked Figure** (HALIFAX)

**Fort Massey United**  
7:30 - 10:00pm | 17a / 20d

*Art In Fest Presents—*  
**Daltry Rose C.-L.** (HALIFAX)

**Anni Araujo Spadafora** (TORONTO)  
**Erika Ellsworth** (MONTREAL)

**The Khyber**  
10pm - 2am | pass | 19+

*The Khyber Presents—*  
**Belave** (MONTREAL)  
**Eddy** (HALIFAX)  
**Guests**

**Art Bar & Cabaret**  
**Voltaire—Atlantique**  
10pm - 2am | pass | 19+

### FRIDAY, MAY 27

**Lungbutter** (MONTREAL)  
**Alienation** (HALIFAX)

**Memorial North Library**  
6:00 - 8:00pm | free

*Art In Fest Presents—*  
**Ridwan rau rau** (JAKARTA, ID)  
**Beck Gilmer-Osborne** (TORONTO)  
**Baby Morocco** (LONDON, UK)

**The Khyber**  
6 - 8pm | free

*Proudly Supported by Halifax Jazz Festival—*  
**Zs** (NEW YORK, US)  
**Shining Wizard** (MONTREAL)

**Deep Water Church**  
8:00 - 10:30pm | 20

*CKDU Presents—*  
**Marie Davidson** (MONTREAL)  
**Carmen** (MONTREAL)  
**HHH** (HALIFAX)  
**Feels** (HALIFAX)  
**NoiSeCAD** (HALIFAX)

**Menz Bar**  
10:30pm - 2:30am | 15 | 19+

### SATURDAY, MAY 28

*Art In Fest Presents—*  
**OBABY Workshop: Gonzago & Friends** (HALIFAX)

**The Khyber**  
noon - 2pm | free

*Weird Canada Drone Day Performances—*  
**Piper Curtis & guests**

**Art Bar & Cabaret**  
**Voltaire—Atlantique**  
noon - 2pm | free

*EverySeeker Symposium Presents—*  
**Steven Baur** (HALIFAX)  
**Rajee Paña Jeji Shergill** (MILL VILLAGE)

**Windsor Foundation**  
**Lecture Hall, AGNS**  
12:30 - 2:00pm | coffee & pastries provided | free

*EverySeeker Symposium Presents—*  
**Multi-City Drone Day**  
**Installation and Public Broadcast:**  
**Robert Drisdelle** (HALIFAX)  
**The Khyber, various locations around Halifax, droneday.org**  
2pm - 2am | free

*EverySeeker Symposium Presents—*  
**Danielle Jakubiak** (MONTREAL)  
**Dave Enwenson** (ST. JOHN'S)

**Windsor Foundation**  
**Lecture Hall, AGNS**  
2 - 3:30pm | free

*EverySeeker Symposium Presents—*  
**Lindsay Dobbin** (HALIFAX)  
**AGNS—meet outside**  
3:40 - 4:40pm | free

*Art In Fest Presents—*  
**Dave Clark** (HALIFAX)  
**Art Bar & Cabaret**  
**Voltaire—Atlantique**  
5 - 6pm | free

*Proudly Supported by Halifax Jazz Festival—*  
**Joshua Abrams** (CHICAGO, US)  
**xxvii** (HALIFAX)  
**Deep Water Church**  
7 - 9:30pm | 20

**Mykki Blanco** (ORANGE COUNTY, US)  
**Rabit** (AUSTIN, US)  
**DJ Kaz Kandy** (MONTREAL)  
**DJ Fadzwa** (HALIFAX)  
**Marquee Ballroom**  
9:30pm - 12:30am | 22a / 25d | 19+

*Mykki After Party—*  
**New Fries** (TORONTO)  
**Zones** (TORONTO)  
**Wayne World** (HALIFAX)  
**DJ I-Rad** (OTTAWA)  
**Aaron Webster** (HALIFAX)

**Menz Bar**  
Doors 10:30pm | bands  
12:30 - 2:30am | 10d | 19+

### SUNDAY, MAY 29

*Pigeon Row Presents—*  
**Old and Weird** (HALIFAX)  
**Brave Radar** (MONTREAL)  
**Century Egg** (HALIFAX)  
**7 Bays Bouldering**  
noon - 3pm | pass

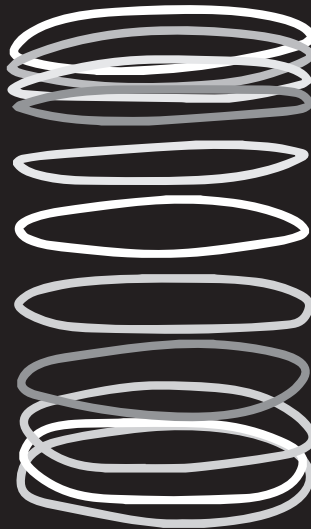
*Art In Fest Presents—*  
**Performative Film Screening:**  
**Life of a Craphead—Bugs**  
**Art Bar & Cabaret**  
**Voltaire—Atlantique**  
3 - 5pm | free

*EverySeeker Symposium Presents—*  
**Bronze Voice—**  
**Lecture and Bell Walk: William Robinson**  
**Fort Massey United**  
5:30 - 6:30pm | free

*Weird Canada Presents—*  
**Sarah Davachi** (VANCOUVER)  
**Lindsay Dobbin** (HALIFAX)  
**Fort Massey United**  
7 - 9pm | 17a / 20d

# TD HALIFAX JAZZ FESTIVAL

## THUNDERCAT - JULIA HOLTER COLIN STETSON & SARAH NEUFELD



JULY 12-17, 2016

TICKETS: HALIFAXJAZZFESTIVAL.CA

**VENUES** 7 Bays Bouldering 2019 Gottingen St. • AGNS (Bedford Row Entrance) 1723 Hollis St. • Art Bar & Cabaret Voltaire—Atlantique 1873 Granville St. • Deep Water Church (North Street Church) 5657 North St. • Fort Massey United Church 5303 Tobin St. • Halifax Central Library 5440 Spring Garden Rd. • Halifax North Memorial Library 2285 Gottingen St. • The Khyber Centre for the Arts 1880 Hollis St. • Marquee Ballroom 2037 Gottingen St. • Menz and Mollyz Bar 2182 Gottingen St.





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