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*[plazm.com/20years](http://plazm.com/20years)*

*Plazm art director and editors available for interview*

**Plazm Magazine Celebrates its 20-Year Milestone with New Issue and Anniversary Bash**

PORTLAND, ORE. -- In 1991 a group of Portland artists came together to build new avenues of expression. The result was Plazm magazine, which became an award winning, internationally distributed magazine of art, design, and culture that helped spark a creative explosion. Now Plazm celebrates its 20th anniversary with its biggest issue yet and a party on August 20 at the Disjecta art space in North Portland. The new issue features David Lynch, Bruce Sterling, Corin Tucker, and an investigation into digital culture and the death of print media.

Plazm publishes work by artists and writers around the globe, from Tokyo to Tehran, alongside local and regional talent. *The Oregonian* has written that Plazm doesn't just publish art; it *is* art. As Wieden + Kennedy Global Executive Creative Director John C. Jay notes, without Plazm, the city would lack "a voice from inside the culture to honestly and authentically portray Portland's unique experiences. Portland and its creative communities need Plazm more than ever." The complete collection of Plazm magazine resides in the permanent collections of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Denver Art Museum.

A wave of independent media and design experimentation in the late 80s and early 90s kicked off a graphic design revolution disseminated by magazines like Plazm, Emigre, Ray Gun, and Mondo 2000—out of which only Plazm has survived. In the mid 1990s, it spawned a design company with clients from MTV to Nike; the magazine is now published by the nonprofit organization New Oregon Arts and Letters.

"Plazm's unique. We've stayed true to our vision, publishing only what we feel passionate about," says Joshua Berger, a founding member of the collective and the magazine's art director since the beginning. Unafraid to publish work that's aesthetically or politically challenging, Plazm focuses on artists representing artists, and designers interpreting the work of other artists and writers.

World renowned artists like Yoko Ono, Milton Glaser (famed designer of the I <heart> New York logo), and Raymond Pettibon have been published alongside emerging artists like Storm Tharp, Kristan Kennedy, and Michael Brophy, many of whom have gone on to become well-known. The magazine also features unusual takes on what artists do: oil paintings by film directors Todd Haynes and David Lynch, writing from musicians Iggy Pop and Dave Thomas (Pere Ubu), and of course McDonald's employment applications filled out by members of The Cramps.

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## **Plazm is “Born Again” with David Lynch, Bruce Sterling, and Wangetchi Mutu**

Plazm will release its 30th issue in July with the theme “Born Again,” which delves into concepts surrounding rebirth and renewal. At 188 oversized pages, it’s the magazine’s largest issue to date.

This issue marks Plazm’s 20th anniversary and publishes visual art by David Lynch, Daniel Heyman, and Dan Attoe along with stories and poetry by Portland writers Kevin Sampsell, Lisa Wells, Arthur Bradford, and Emily Chenoweth. Former Sleater-Kinney singer Corin Tucker and photographer Christina Seely make appearances, along with many others.

The issue was created by Jon Raymond, editor of Plazm since 1999; Tiffany Lee Brown, co-editor since 2006; and Joshua Berger, art director since 1991. It was made possible in part by an Opportunity Grant from RACC, the Regional Arts and Culture Council, together with donors and supporters around the world who responded to the magazine’s Kickstarter fundraising campaign. The magazine is available at bookstores worldwide, including Powell’s and Reading Frenzy in Portland. Online, [www.plazm.com/store](http://www.plazm.com/store) offers it along with back issues, limited edition posters, and signed books.

## **THE DEATH OF PRINT?**

Plazm itself represents a departure from the current trope that print media is dead. The magazine presents art and design in a sumptuous, tactile form that gives the work the respect and high value of representation it deserves, unlike presenting art on a tiny screen or glowing monitor (though Plazm also publishes on the web, Facebook, Twitter, etcetera).

Twenty years ago, back when Plazm was first born as a collective of artists and designers in Portland, Oregon, there was a lot of talk going around about a revolution in media. The digital age was dawning, and the tools of communication---of art, journalism, personal expression in every form---were at last entering the hands of the masses. “Soon, everyone would have the power to publish their own magazines,” notes editor Jon Raymond in the new Plazm. “Everyone could make a movie. No one talked much about the distraction and stupidity the new era would bring.”

In the new issue, seven experts discuss humanity, culture, and the death of print with Plazm editor Tiffany Lee Brown. Participants include author and futurist Bruce Sterling, cultural critic Douglas Rushkoff, “What Technology Wants” author Kevin Kelly, “The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains” author Nicholas Carr, and Sherry Turkle, MIT’s Technology Director for the Initiative on Technology and Self.



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### **Plazm Births a 20th Anniversary Party and V.I.P. Event in Portland**

In the tradition of Plazm's infamous launch parties, the 20th Anniversary bash will feature a slew of bands and artists. Illustrator Carson Ellis and Colin Meloy of The Decemberists do a special reading at the VIP event preceding the party. The night unfolds at the Disjecta art space in North Portland on Saturday, August 20; details and calendar listing on reverse.

Performers are Strength, Atole, Purple and Green, Woolly Mammoth Comes to Dinner, Dr. Amazon featuring former members of Smegma, DJ Yeti, and DJ Miracles Club. Video and film is by Vanessa Renwick, E\*Rock, Hooliganship, Lena Munday, Adrian Freeman, Shana Moulton, Duncan Malashock, Nic Chancellor, Bruce Bickford, Andrew Benson, Andrew Jeffrey Wright & Clare Rojas. Artist Laura Fritz creates a light and space installation, and Jason Kinney brings an elaborate and unusual photo booth.

A silent auction offering a Facebook post by Mayor Sam Adams, artwork from Michael Brophy and Storm Tharp, a gift certificate for eco sushi at Bamboo, and many other items happens 6:30 to 9 pm. The VIP event featuring music by Eric Hausmann, a reading by Colin Meloy of the Decemberists and illustrator Carson Ellis, beer and wine, and a light supper by Tastebud is from 6:30 to 8 (\$50 advance, \$75 at the door). The main party is from 8 pm to 2:30 am, with a sliding entry fee of \$5-15.

Disjecta is located at 8371 N Interstate in Portland just behind the giant Paul Bunyan statue, and is easily accessible via the MAX Yellow line to Kenton. Advance tickets for the VIP supper can be purchased at [plazm.com/20years](http://plazm.com/20years). Generous event sponsors and donors include Organics to You, Tastebud, and Fort George Brewery.

Posters for the party list Smegma, a legendary Portland experimental band that started 38 years ago, as performers. In fact, former members of the group who left a few years ago will be playing under the name of their new band, Dr. Amazon. The band includes founding Smegma member Mike Lastra---also known for producing bands like Poison Idea, Hazel, Daniel Menche, and Jackie O Mother\*\*\*ker---and former members of Smegma going back to 1992.

“We wish we could be there for this special occasion,” said Eric Stewart (a.k.a. Ju Suk Reet Meate), music director of the current Smegma, which includes several members from the band's earliest days, “but due to previous commitments, we'll be in our studio recording our 38-year anniversary LP.”



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CALENDAR LISTING + ARTIST DETAILS:

**Plazm 20th Anniversary Party**

Saturday, August 20

Main event 8:00 pm-2:30 am / \$5–15 sliding scale

VIP event 6:30-8 pm / \$50 advance, \$75 at door

Silent auction 6:30-9 pm

Music & Performance:

Strength

Atole

Purple and Green

Dr. Amazon (featuring former members of Smegma)

Woolly Mammoth Comes to Dinner

DJ Yeti

DJ Miracles Club

Video & film by Vanessa Renwick, Hooliganship, E\*Rock, others + light installation by Laura Fritz + custom photo booth + more.

+ Plazm #30 Magazine release

Disjecta ~ 8371 N Interstate, Portland ~ MAX Yellow line to Kenton

Details at [www.plazm.com/20years](http://www.plazm.com/20years)

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**VIP Event**

6:30–8:00

\$50 advance before Aug 15, \$75 after

Purchase at [www.plazm.com/20years](http://www.plazm.com/20years)

**Featuring Colin Meloy of the Decemberists & illustrator Carson Ellis reading from their new children's book and music by Eric Hausmann.**

Ellis's sketch for the book's cover available in our silent auction, along with art by Storm Tharp, Michael Brophy, Cynthia Lahti, Midori Hirose, Melody Owen, more; and items ranging from dinner at Bamboo to a Facebook post by Mayor Sam Adams.

Includes light supper by Tastebud, beer and wine

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