

Norton Museum of Art

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Open and free during construction, Norton offers exciting programs, exhibitions

ANNUAL RAW SERIES FEATURES AUSTRIAN SVENJA DEININGER, BIENNIAL RUDIN PRIZE RETURNS; WEEKLY ART AFTER DARK PRESENTS RELATED TOURS, CURATOR TALKS

WEST PALM BEACH, FL (Aug. 30, 2016) – The Norton Museum of Art will remain open with free admission to all through December 2018 while it undergoes a Foster + Partners-designed transformation that will add gallery space, classrooms, a state-of-the-art auditorium, dining pavilion, and sculpture garden, and reorient the entrance to the main thoroughfare of Dixie Highway on the west side of the building. Throughout construction, the Museum will present exhibitions, programs, and exhibit masterpieces from its world-class collection in galleries on the building's east side.

This season includes the Norton's annual Recognition of Art by Women (RAW) exhibition, this year featuring Austrian artist Svenja Deininger as well as the biennial Rudin Prize for Emerging Photographers. A series of Spotlight installations is also on the schedule, featuring a look at new acquisitions and masterpieces on loan from private collections. An array of related programming, especially during the Museum's weekly Art After Dark (Thursdays 5 to 9 p.m.) – Where Culture and Entertainment Meet – will accompany exhibitions and installations.

Details about the 2016 – 2017 Season are below:

Exhibitions

Giverny: Journal of an Unseen Garden
On view through Oct. 30, 2016



Mark Fox spent three months as an artist-in-residence on the grounds of the Monet Foundation at Giverny and searched for a way to capture Claude Monet's iconic garden from a fresh perspective. A recent gift to the Norton through the generosity of Beth Rudin DeWoody and of Joanne Leonhardt Cassullo (through the Dorothea Leonhardt Fund at the Communities Foundation of Texas), *Giverny: Journal of an Unseen Garden* is a five-channel, high-definition underwater video that pays homage to Monet's practice of studying the effects of shifting light on a single

subject and captures the hourly and seasonal changes in different locations of the waterscape. The multiple screens resemble the long, horizontal orientation of the large *Nymphéas* (Water Lilies) series paintings Monet created for the Musée de l'Orangerie in Paris. Organized by Tim B. Wride, William & Sarah Ross Soter Curator of Photography.

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Question Bridge: Black Males
On view Oct. 18 – Dec. 18, 2016

The *Question Bridge: Black Males* project originated in 2012 to provide a platform for an authentic exchange about life in America for black men, revealing the rarely seen diversity of thought, character, and identity in the black male population too often described by the media in reductive ways. *Question Bridge* evolved from artist Chris Johnson's 1996 video engagement of different generations of African-American men in San Diego to the expanded version exhibited as an art installation with the participation of Hank Willis Thomas. Further collaboration with artists Kamal Sinclair and Bayete Ross Smith expanded the project, which includes more than 1,600 questions and answers recorded on video from more than 160 men in nine American cities. As an art installation that changes with each venue, it provides a critical ground for community engagement that is never more crucial than today.

The Rudin Prize for Emerging Photographers
On view Nov. 10, 2016 – Jan. 15, 2017



For this biennial exhibition, the Norton invites a panel of world-renowned artists to nominate emerging photographers whose work is on the leading edge of contemporary art and photography. The nominees are featured in a group exhibition, and a panel of judges, comprising museum leadership and members of the museum's Photography Committee, awards one photographer the \$20,000 Rudin Prize, named in honor of the late New York City real estate developer Lewis Rudin. The 2016 nominators and their nominees will be announced this fall. This exhibition is made possible in part through the generosity of Ms. Beth Rudin DeWoody and the Photography Committee of the Norton Museum of Art. Curated by Tim B. Wride, William & Sarah Ross Soter Curator of Photography.

Second Chances

First Impressions

On view Feb. 4 – April 16, 2017

This year's Recognition of Art by Women (RAW) exhibition showcases Svenja Deininger



The Norton's sixth RAW (Recognition of Art by Women) exhibition, titled *Second Chances First Impressions*, features Austrian artist Svenja Deininger in her first solo museum exhibition in the United States. She is one of a new generation of abstract painters creating complex canvases originating from her sophisticated, knowledgeable, and intuitive response to process, imagery, and materials while aware of the abstract tradition. She was a student at the illustrious Kunstakademie Düsseldorf and studied with Albert Oehlen. This exhibition of approximately 25 canvases explores themes of the last five years. A publication will document the exhibition. The Norton's annual RAW exhibition was founded in 2011 through generous funding from the Leonard and Sophie Davis Fund/MLDauray Arts Initiative to promote living women artists. Organized by Cheryl Brutvan, Director of Curatorial Affairs and Curator of Contemporary Art.

(MORE)

Pen to Paper – Artists’ Handwritten Letters from the Smithsonian’s Archives of American Art
On view April 18 – early July 2017



Just as putting pen to paper to create a line in a drawing is an artistic act, so is writing a letter. *Pen to Paper*, a selection from the Smithsonian’s Archives of American Art, reveals the beauty and intimacy of the craft of letter writing. From casually jotted notes to elaborately decorated epistles, *Pen to Paper* explores the handwriting of celebrated artists such as Mary Cassatt, Frederic Edwin Church, Howard Finster, Winslow Homer, Ray Johnson, Georgia O’Keeffe, Claes Oldenburg, Robert Motherwell, Isamu Noguchi, Maxfield Parrish, Edward Weston, and many others.

Spotlight Installations

These focused exhibitions explore special themes and feature intimate installations of artworks on loan or from the Museum’s collections, as well as new acquisitions.

Ming Dynasty Dragon Panels
On view Sept. 1 – Oct. 2, 2016



This Spotlight exhibition will closely examine four boldly executed Ming dynasty panels, which just entered the Norton’s permanent collection. Most likely made to adorn the roof ridge of a temple, these four panels exemplify a Chinese tradition of embellishing architectural elements with dragon motifs. According to Chinese beliefs, rooftops served as platforms for intermediary communication between the heavenly and earthly realms, so roof tiles were decorated with imagery to ward off evil and attract good fortune. These tiles are believed to have been made during the 15th or 16th century in Shanxi province.

William Merritt Chase’s Shinnecock Hills, Autumn
On view Dec. 22, 2016–Jan. 29, 2017

Beginning in 1891, American Impressionist William Merritt Chase summered in the Shinnecock Hills on Long Island and the area’s stunning scenery inspired him to create some of his most famous compositions. Thanks to the generosity of a private lender, this season the Norton will showcase one of the masterpieces of this landscape series. Although a number of these paintings feature Chase’s family members at leisure, they contain little sense of personal drama. Instead, the focus is on how changing atmospheric conditions transform the land, sea, and sky. Chase’s free paint handling suggests his subject without describing it literally. His painterly surfaces coupled with the relative emptiness of these compositions remind his viewer of their reality as paint on flat canvas. As a result, despite their timeless subjects, these are some of Chase’s most modern works.

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Recent Acquisitions

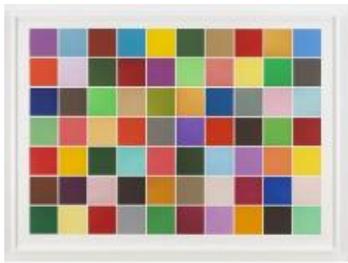
On view Feb. 2 – March 5, 2017

This spotlight will feature works recently acquired by the Norton, including *Super Blue Omo* (2016) by Nigerian-born artist Njideka Akunyili Crosby. *Super Blue Omo* exemplifies Crosby's signature patterning style, subtly subversive compositions of her family and native Nigerian popular culture, and unique perspective of living in America. Crosby was the latest artist to be featured in the Norton's RAW exhibition series.



Spencer Finch, Back to Kansas

On view March 9 – April 9, 2017



Working with “the issues of subjectivity of vision and viewing,” Spencer Finch (American, born 1962) created *Back to Kansas*, a large print comprising 70 blocks of brilliant and subtle color gleaned from the artist's own repeated viewing of *The Wizard of Oz*. Acquired by the Young Friends of the Norton for the Museum, its presentation will be augmented by related artwork in which Finch explores time-based experiences. Finch is well known for his ethereal pieces and installations for Museums including The Morgan Library and Museum and 9/11 Memorial Museum.

ARTWORK CAPTIONS, in order of appearance:

Mark Fox (American, born 1963). *Giverny: Journal of an Unseen Garden*, 2010-2015. Five channel video installation, edition 1 of 6. Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, Florida. Purchase, acquired through the generosity of Beth Rudin DeWoody and of Joanne Leonhardt Cassullo through the Dorothea Leonhardt Fund at the Communities Foundation of Texas, 2016.41. Image courtesy Hiram Butler Gallery.

Svenja Deininger (Austrian, born 1974). *Untitled*, 2014. Oil on canvas. 19 ¾ x 15 ¾ in. (50 x 40 cm). Courtesy Marianne Boesky Gallery. © Svenja Deininger

Artist Unknown. *Ming dynasty temple main roof ridge fascia panels with molded and applied decoration of dragons among peonies*, 16th century style, possibly made for a later temple restoration, China, Shanxi province. Liuli earthenware with amber, green and white lead sancai glaze. Purchase, acquired through the generosity of Cornelia Bailey and other Friends of Chinese Art of the Norton Museum of Art, 2016.46.1-4.

Njideka Akunyili Crosby (Nigerian, born 1983), *Super Blue Omo*, 2016. Acrylic, transfers, colored pencils, and collage on paper. 84 x 108 in. (213.4 x 274.3 cm). Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, Florida. Purchase, acquired through the generosity of Jim and Irene Karp, 2016.178. Image courtesy the Artist and Victoria Miro, London. © Njideka Akunyili Crosby

Spencer Finch (American, born 1962). *Back to Kansas*, 2015. Color aquatint and chine collé on paper, edition 6 of 35. Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, Florida. Purchase, through the generosity of Young Friends of the Norton Museum of Art, 2016.179

ABOUT THE NORTON MUSEUM

Founded in 1941, the Norton Museum of Art is recognized for its distinguished holdings in American, European, and Chinese art, and a continually expanding presence for Photography and Contemporary art. Its masterpieces of 19th century and 20th century European painting and sculpture include works by

Brancusi, Gauguin, Matisse, and Picasso, and American works by Stuart Davis, Hopper, O'Keeffe, Pollock, and Sheeler.

The Norton presents special exhibitions, lectures, tours, and programs for adults and children throughout the year. In 2011, the Norton launched RAW (Recognition of Art by Women), featuring the work of a living female painter or sculptor and funded by the Leonard and Sophie Davis Fund/MLDauray Arts Initiative. In 2012, the Norton established the biennial, international Rudin Prize for Emerging Photographers in partnership with Beth Rudin DeWoody, named in honor of her late father, Lewis Rudin.

In 2016, the Norton broke ground for a visionary expansion designed by architecture firm Foster + Partners, under the direction of Pritzker Prize-winning architect Lord Norman Foster. The project reorients the Norton's entrance to the main thoroughfare of South Dixie Highway, restoring the symmetry of the museum's original 1941 design, and includes a new 42,000-square-foot West Wing that doubles education space, and increases gallery space for the Norton's renowned collection. The transformation of the Museum's 6.3-acre campus will create a museum in a garden, featuring new, verdant spaces and a sculpture garden.

The Norton is located at 1451 S. Olive Ave. in West Palm Beach, FL., and during construction through December 2018 is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. and Thursday, noon to 9 p.m., and is **free to the public**. The Museum is closed on Mondays and major holidays. For additional information, please call (561) 832-5196, or visit www.norton.org.

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