

Norton's Annual Bastille Day Celebration moves to Saturday, adds activities, programs

ENJOY FRENCH MUSIC; TAKE A FRENCH LESSON; EAT FRENCH CRÊPES; TASTE FRENCH WINE; VIEW AND DISCUSS FRENCH ART; MAKE 'FRENCH'-INFLUENCED ART, AND MORE!

WEST PALM BEACH, FL (May 30, 2017) – Bonjour! The Norton Museum of Art is delighted to announce the expansion of one of its most popular events: its annual Bastille Day celebration. For years, the event has been held during the Museum's weekly Art After Dark series on the closest Thursday evening to the July 14 holiday, which marks French independence. The thousands of visitors who have enjoyed the event at Art After Dark over the years illustrate the public's inexhaustible attraction to French art and culture. With such community interest and with world-class French art a prominent part of the Museum Collection, beginning this summer, the celebration is moving to the closest Saturday to July 14 to reach a broader audience, and expanding its hours: This year's celebration will be held from noon to 5 p.m. on July 15, 2017. All the day's activities – music, film, language lessons, food, drink, and, of course art – are presented with a French twist! And admission is FREE!

Once again, the Norton is delighted to have the Multilingual Language & Cultural Society of West Palm Beach as co-host. Natacha Koblova, its founder and director, will host *French 101*, offering the key phrases you need to know to find your way around the streets of Paris! Artist Hope Reis demonstrates the art of *plein-air* painting made famous by the Impressionists. Enjoy a performance of French music and song by Les Nuages (The Clouds), which features Gail Darling singing in French, English, Portuguese, and Spanish; Bob Kendall on guitar and banjo; *Palm Beach Post* columnist Frank Cerabino on accordion and soprano sax; and Kent Demonbreun playing stand-up bass. The group plays a blend of French love songs and gypsy-jazz combined with American songbook swing. You don't have to be fluent in French to dig Les Nuages!

Delicious crêpes and baguette sandwiches, along with drinks, will be on sale beginning at noon. A 12:15 p.m. story-time begins the program for elementary school-age visitors and their parents. Story-time is followed by a visit to the galleries. Between 1 and 2:30 p.m. short films, including the classic *The Red Balloon* will be shown in the Fisher Program Space. During the afternoon, children will have the opportunity to make *Vive la Révolution!* and *Les Miserables* pins, and a mobile phone scavenger hunt will be offered for visitors of all ages.

Art history buffs will have plenty to enjoy as well. J. Rachel Gustafson, Curatorial Assistant, will discuss the installation, *French Connections: Photography*, exploring works by Eugène Atget, Erika Stone, Valérie Belin, and others. Glenn Tomlinson, William Randolph Hearst Curator of Education, offers a 4 p.m. tour of artists outside of France influenced by the Parisian avant-garde. Throughout the

day, docents will lead gallery talks on stunning works by French artists, including Gustave Courbet, Claude Monet, Georges Braque, and others. Docent Renate Gross will offer a French language tour, comparing works by Pablo Picasso and Constantin Brancusi, who both worked in Paris.

Check the Museum website, norton.org, after July 1 for the complete Bastille Day Celebration schedule.

ABOUT THE NORTON MUSEUM OF ART

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**. Free parking and shuttle service is available at 1501 S. Dixie Highway. 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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