

# Norton Museum of Art

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Grammy-nominee Melvin Gibbs and *Jazz of Physics* author Stephon Alexander to perform original music based on art in *Earth Works*

**BASSIST GIBBS AND ALEXANDER, A SAXOPHONE-PLAYING PHYSICS PROFESSOR, WERE INSPIRED BY JUSTIN GUARIGLIA'S CLIMATE-CHANGE-THEMED ART**

**WEST PALM BEACH, FL (Nov. 9, 2017)** – Earlier this year, musicians Melvin Gibbs and Stephon Alexander walked into a pop-up gallery in the Chelsea section of New York City to see a show by the artist Justin Brice Guariglia. The duo were dazzled by the photo-based artwork depicting swirling, barren, arctic landscapes and moved by its theme of climate change. They also were inspired to compose music for the show. The result was part jazz, part aural soundscape – thought-provoking mood music by which to contemplate not only the art, but the future of the planet.

For the Norton exhibition, *Earth Works: Mapping the Anthropocene*, on view through Jan. 7, 2018, Guariglia created new works, many of them on a much larger scale – but also based on photos taken while accompanying NASA scientists in 2015 and 2016 on flights over Greenland to study how melting glaciers affect sea level rise.

New York-based, Grammy-nominated bassist Gibbs and saxophonist Alexander, who is also a Brown University physicist and author of *The Jazz of Physics*, will perform *After Nature: Auralizations of the Anthropocene* – the music inspired by Guariglia's work – at the Norton at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 7 during the Museum's Art After Dark program. Museum admission and the concert are free. Tours of the *Earth Works* exhibition will be offered before the concert at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Gibbs has performed just about every genre of music and has been in bands with a wide-array of musicians including hardcore/art-metal icon Henry Rollins (Rollins Band), Living Colour's guitarist and drummer Vernon Reid and Will Calhoun (Zig-Zag Power Trio) Funkadelic's Bernie Worrell, (SocialLybrium) and roots-jazz master Bill Frisell (Power Tools, along with mentor Ronald Shannon Jackson) to name a few. He also has collaborated with jazz vocal icon Cassandra Wilson. Gibbs has leadership roles in the band Elevated Entity, which surveys music from the "African diaspora"; and the group Harriet Tubman, named after the escaped slave, abolitionist, and Civil War spy.

Alexander's musical training includes tutelage from Ornette Coleman; he holds degrees in physics and electrical engineering from Brown University, and was a research physicist at Imperial College in London. He is one of the few musician-scientists (or scientist-musicians) to collaborate on a critically

acclaimed album, *Here Comes Now*, released in 2014, and also author a scholarly science tome, *The Jazz of Physics*, which examines the relationship between music and the structure of the cosmos.

### **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](http://www.norton.org).

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