

Norton Museum of Art

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World Premiere of *Earth Works: Mapping the Anthropocene* kicks off Norton's new season

EXHIBITION TACKLES CLIMATE CHANGE, SEA LEVEL RISE; ANOTHER SEASON HIGHLIGHT: THE FIRST EXHIBITION OF GERTRUDE VANDERBILT WHITNEY'S SCULPTURE IN 75 YEARS

WEST PALM BEACH, FL (Aug. 3, 2017) – The Norton Museum of Art's 2017-2018 exhibition season opens on Sept. 5, 2017 with the world premiere of a timely exhibition that depicts how humans are directly and indirectly impacting the planet. *Earth Works: Mapping the Anthropocene* features 22 works by Justin Brice Guariglia, a transdisciplinary artist, who in 2015 and 2016, flew seven times with NASA during Operation IceBridge, a survey mission of Greenland to study how melting glaciers are affecting sea level rise. Guariglia will discuss his work at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 7, 2017 at the Museum during Art After Dark.

Another highlight of the season, is the first exhibition in more than 75 years of the sculpture of Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney. Best known as a patron of the arts and the founder of the Whitney Museum of American Art, she also was considered a significant sculptor in her era, exhibiting throughout the United States and Europe, and receiving major commissions and prizes. Unfortunately, her work has been discounted because of both her gender and her wealth. This show will survey Whitney's art, from her earliest classical sculptures to her more symbolic public monuments, from her grimly Realist depictions of World War I to her late art deco work.

The 2017-2018 Norton exhibition season also includes a number of more intimate exhibitions that are shorter in duration, and feature special loans of art and works from the Norton collection examining specific themes. These exhibitions explore recent acquisitions, large-scale works, and the expressive element of color from a diverse group of artists.

The season's exhibitions and dates are:

*Earth Works: Mapping the Anthropocene**

Premiering Sept. 5, 2017 - Jan. 7, 2018

Organized by Tim B. Wride, William and Sarah Ross Soter Curator of Photography

In 2015 and 2016, the "trans-disciplinary" artist and photographer Justin Brice Guariglia flew with NASA scientists over Greenland to study how melting glaciers affect sea level rise. Guariglia's photographs from this experience have been used to create works of art that spark an emotional connection to the science and inspire curiosity in the public. The images he took during these flights, paired with the creative and ground-breaking manner in which he presents them, serve to map with visual evidence, and through metaphor, the complexity of human impact on the planet. Ranging in scale to as large as 12 x 16 feet, these images illustrate Greenland's melting and deteriorating glacial ice sheets and sea ice in stunning detail and on a monumental scale. Other images reflect the impact of agriculture and mining on the Earth's surface.

*The **Anthropocene** defines Earth's most recent geologic time period as being human-influenced, or anthropogenic, based on overwhelming global evidence that atmospheric, geologic, hydrologic, biospheric, and other earth system processes are now altered by humans.

Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney: Sculpture

Jan. 25 - April 29, 2018

Organized by Ellen E. Roberts, Harold and Anne Berkley Smith Curator of American Art

Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney is best known as an art patron and founder of New York's Whitney Museum of American Art. Yet she also had a significant career as a sculptor. Featuring approximately 40 sculptures and drawings, this will be the first exhibition of Whitney's art since her death in 1942.

Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney: Sculpture will showcase rarely seen works from private collections, examining her creation of some of the most popular public sculpture of her era. Unlike most other American artists, Whitney portrayed the grim realities of World War I, reflecting the fact that she had served as a nurse in France and experienced the war firsthand. Her sensitive portraits of working-class people, including African Americans and the unemployed are also exceptional, while her deco monuments represent remarkable explorations of modernism.

Julie Mehretu: Epigraph, Damascus

Sept. 5 – Oct. 22, 2017

Organized by the Norton Museum of Art

Julie Mehretu (born 1970, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia), incorporated a series of deconstructed architectural renderings of Damascus, Syria, as the basis for this remarkable, six-panel print. This Spotlight exhibition features this newly acquired 2016 work by an artist known for gestural abstract compositions that can be interpreted as a poignant and a deeply expressive commentary on current events.

BRILLIANT: Recent Acquisitions

Oct. 26 – Dec. 10, 2017

Organized by the Norton Museum of Art

BRILLIANT highlights new acquisitions that emphasize a bold and dramatic use of color. Vivid and intense colors saturate the compositions of the works on paper, glass and photography featured in this exhibition. *BRILLIANT* includes artworks by Dale Chihuly (American, born 1941) and Michael Craig-Martin (Irish, born 1941), among other contemporary artists.

Miss Lucy's 3Day Dollhouse Party

Dec. 14, 2017 – Feb. 4, 2018

During one of his frequent visits to Jupiter, Florida, to see his friend Douglas Andrews, notable contemporary artist Cy Twombly was taken with Andrews' mother's (Miss Lucy) dollhouses and offered to create miniature artworks for their empty walls. He also asked artist friends such as Donald Baechler, Julian Schnabel, and Philip Taaffe to furnish the walls with original art. In March of 1993, Twombly organized an "opening" to celebrate the completion of the project, calling it *Miss Lucy's 3 Day Dollhouse Party*. This exhibition features art in 12 rooms spread through three "dollhouses," and is the public premiere of these works.

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Jean-Michel Basquiat: Drawing into Painting

Feb. 8 – March 18, 2018

Organized by the Norton Museum of Art

On loan from private collections, the Norton showcases the celebrated art of Jean-Michel Basquiat featuring *Dogman*, a classic painting from 1986, along with four revealing drawings. Together they provide insight into the artist's stylistic development and his integration of symbolic, cultural, and historical references to create his powerful art.

Channeling Immortality: Chinese Scholars' Rocks

March 22 – May 6, 2018

For centuries, Chinese scholars have believed that cosmic energy coalesces into fantastic-looking rocks, and that longevity and quietude are achieved through the love of such rocks. Large enough to be displayed in gardens or small enough to be set on a desk, this exhibition features striking examples of these rocks as well as paintings and other related works of art.

***William Henry Fox Talbot
and the Birth of Photography***

May 17 – July 15, 2018

In 1839, William Henry Fox Talbot presented a new technological advance to the Royal Society in London. Talbot had been experimenting with methods of “fixing” an image created by light on paper. His work would result in the formulation of using negatives to print images – a process that we still use to this day. *William Henry Fox Talbot and the Birth of Photography* highlights a recent acquisition of a very early “photogenic drawing” Talbot made of a piece of lace sometime before 1845.

Also, on view through April 2018

A special installation in the Norton's Chinese Gallery features a teapot designed by the prominent, early-19th-century Chinese scholar and artist Chen Hongshou (1768-1822). Chen was actively engaged in reviving the flagging Yixing “purple sand” teapot industry and this installation features one of his 18 iconic teapot forms.

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.

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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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