

# Early Photography and Contemporary Video Are the Focus of Norton Summer Exhibitions

**RARE 19TH-CENTURY WORK BY WILLIAM HENRY FOX TALBOT, WHO SOME CONSIDER THE FATHER OF PHOTOGRAPHY, AND WORKS BY 21ST-CENTURY VIDEO ARTISTS WILL BE ON VIEW IN DIFFERENT GALLERIES AT THE SAME TIME**

**WEST PALM BEACH, FL (April 30, 2018)** – The Norton Museum of Art winds down its 2017-2018 season with a pair of exhibitions that illustrate the birth and evolution of still and moving pictures as an art form. *Unexpected Narratives: Videos by Chris Doyle and Muntean/Rosenblum* is on view May 10 through July 15, 2018, and *William Henry Fox Talbot and the Birth of Photography* opens May 17 and is also on view through July 15, 2018.

*Unexpected Narratives* showcases three videos from the early 2000s, featuring works by American Chris Doyle and the artist collaborative of Muntean/Rosenblum (Austrian Markus Muntean and Israeli Adi Rosenblum). Doyle's *Hotel Bernini I* and *Hotel Bernini II* from 2004 are part of a larger series of stop-animation films that bring vacant hotel bedrooms to life. The 2005 video, *Disco*, by Muntean/Rosenblum is a modern-day *tableau vivant* that opens in a deserted discotheque that transforms into a reinterpretation of the Romantic masterpiece painting, *The Raft of the Medusa*, 1818-1819, by French artist Théodore Géricault. Together, the three works use video to create compelling narratives in unexpected places.

William Henry Fox Talbot was a scientist, inventor, and, if your definition of "photography" is the process whereby an image is formed in its negative (tonalities are reversed: Whites are black and blacks are white) from which unlimited positive prints could be made, he was also the father of photography. But even in 1839 (at age 39), when Talbot presented his discovery to the British Royal Society there were many for whom the invention was not only of dubious provenance, but of questionable use. The exhibition *William Henry Fox Talbot and the Birth of Photography* celebrates the Norton's recent acquisition of one of Talbot's "photogenic drawing negatives" made sometime before 1845. The exhibition examines Talbot's process, his rivalry with Parisian Jacques-Louis Mandé Daguerre whose own "invention" of photography was celebrated by the French, and Talbot's concerted effort to explain to a Victorian public why the invention mattered.

A variety of free programs relating to both exhibitions are scheduled.

***Unexpected Narratives* programs include:**

### **Curator's Conversation**

Thursday, May 10 / 6:30 p.m. at Art After Dark

J. Rachel Gustafson, Assistant Curator discusses the video works by Chris Doyle and the collaborative Muntean/Rosenblum in *Unexpected Narratives: Videos by Chris Doyle and Muntean/Rosenblum*.

### **Stop Motion Animation Workshop**

Thursday, May 10 / 6-8 p.m. (drop-in) at Art After Dark

Create your own "unexpected narratives" using stop motion animation. The workshop will be led by filmmaker Jean Carlo Ramirez.

### **Performance by Ballet Florida**

Thursday, May 24 / 6:30 p.m. at Art After Dark

The Company of Ballet Florida performs a site-specific dance inspired by *Unexpected Narratives: Videos by Chris Doyle and Muntean/Rosenblum*.

### **Artist Talk: Chris Doyle**

Thursday, June 14 / 6:30 p.m. at Art After Dark

Brooklyn-based multidisciplinary artist Chris Doyle, whose mesmerizing and playful video works are featured in the exhibition, *Unexpected Narratives*, discusses his animation-based practice. His work has been exhibited at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, MASS MoCA, the Tang Museum, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and the Taubman Museum of Art, among others. In 2014, Doyle's film, *Bright Canyon*, transformed Times Square's electronic billboards into a canyon of waterfalls and creatures.

### **Screening Lounge: Chris Doyle's SWELL**

Thursday, June 28 / 5-9 PM

Don't miss this one-night only screening of new animation work by Chris Doyle whose work is on view in the exhibition *Unexpected Narratives: Videos by Chris Doyle and Muntean/Rosenblum*.

### **Curator's Conversation**

Thursday, June 28 / 6:30 PM

Glenn Tomlinson, William Randolph Hearst Curator of Education, relates the story of Gericault's masterpiece, *The Raft of the Medusa*, which appears as a *tableau vivant* in the Muntean/Rosenblum video.

### ***Birth of Photography* related programs:**

Curator's Conversation

**Thursday, May 17 / 6:30 p.m. at Art After Dark**

Join Tim B. Wride, William and Sarah Ross Soter Curator of Photography, for a discussion of the ground-breaking work of William Henry Fox Talbot.

Art Workshop: *What's a Photogram?*

**Thursdays, May 17 and June 7/ 6-8 p.m. at Art After Dark**

Make your own photograms by overlaying objects on photosensitive paper and exposing them to light.

**(MORE)**

Exhibition Lecture: *Unfixing the Image: Photography's Perpetual Invention*

**Thursday, July 5 / 6:30 p.m. at Art After Dark**

Heather Diack, Assistant Professor of Contemporary Art and History of Photography and Theory, University of Miami, examines the genesis of photography as a medium in relation to recent works of contemporary art.

### **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 through July 15, 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, and will be closed July 16, 2018 through Feb. 8, 2019 to complete construction and re-install art. For additional information, call (561) 832-5196, or visit [www.norton.org](http://www.norton.org).

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