

Annual Gala Raises More Than \$1 Million to Support Museum Programs and Exhibitions

TRUSTEE GILBERT MAURER HONORED FOR HIS VISION AND LEADERSHIP IN SPEARHEADING THE NEW NORTON EXPANSION PROJECT AND GIFTS OF ART INITIATIVE

WEST PALM BEACH, FL (Feb. 3, 2018) – Nearly 400 people attended the Norton Museum of Art’s annual Gala, and LUSH, the Gala after-party, on Feb. 3. The event honored Trustee Gilbert Maurer for his vision and leadership in spearheading The New Norton, the transformative expansion project designed by Foster + Partners; celebrated the final year of construction, and thanked donors to the capital campaign and members of the 21st Century Society, the Museum’s gifts of art initiative, which has received more than 60 new works of world-class art. The Gala raised more than \$1 million for Museum education programs and exhibitions.

Among those attending were Michael Wurzel of Foster + Partners, who shared a letter from Norman Foster in honor of Maurer, as well as noted philanthropist Leonard Lauder who introduced Maurer, calling his longtime friend, “my north star.” Also in attendance were Norton supporters and friends Ronnie Heyman, Jane Holzer, and Beth Rudin DeWoody, as well as Lisa Dennison, Chairman of Sotheby’s North and South America; Adam Weinberg, Director of the Whitney Museum of American Art; Salvador Slort-Pons, Director of the Detroit Institute of Arts; Adam Sheffer, Cheim & Read and President of the Art Dealers Association of America; Frank A. Bennack, Jr., Executive Vice Chairman of Hearst; and Steven R. Swartz, President & CEO of Hearst.

The Gala Committee included Randi Bitove, Lori Gendelman, Nicki Harris, Michelle Jacobs, Jane Korman, Amy Phelan, Anne Reyes, Christine Stiller, and Robbi Toll, while DeWoody, Heyman, Lauder, Lord Norman Foster, and Anne Berkley Smith served as Honorary Chairs for the sold-out event. The evening’s Corporate Sponsors were Gilbane Building Company and Sotheby’s.

Gala goers also were treated to the opening of the exhibition, *Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney: Sculpture*, the first survey of the artist’s work in more than 75 years, which is on view through April 29, and features some 50 sculptures and drawings and other items from the artist’s life.

The Norton’s 2017/2018 Young Friends Acquisitions Council hosted the after-party LUSH, which benefitted the Young Friends of the Norton Acquisition Fund. The Millennials band provided the soulful gala and after-party entertainment.

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 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. ###