

NORTON MUSEUM OF ART

1450 S. Dixie Highway
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norton.org

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Norton Installs Large-Scale Tapestry by Artist Pae White in its New Building Designed by Foster + Partners

**OTHER COMMISSIONED WORK, AND ALL GALLERIES, OLD AND
NEW, ARE BEING REINSTALLED FOR FEBRUARY 9 GRAND OPENING**



WEST PALM BEACH, FL (December 12, 2018) – The Norton Museum of Art announced today that a 40-foot-long, 15-foot-tall tapestry by American artist Pae White, woven at a workshop in Belgium, is ready for installation in the museum’s striking, Foster + Partners-designed expansion. Reinstallation of all exhibition galleries and the integration of a commissioned work by artist Rob Wynne are also well underway as the museum prepares for its grand opening on February 9, 2019.

The long-awaited completion of the project after five years of planning and construction will see the Norton transformed into a larger and more engaging “museum in a garden.” The expanded Norton will have 35 percent more gallery space for the exhibition of art, major new facilities for education and public programs, a welcoming new entrance with a dramatic 43-foot-high canopy, and a public garden—the first ever designed for a museum by Lord Norman Foster—featuring thematic installations of sculptures by major artists. Integrated into the new wing are site-specific artworks commissioned from White and Wynne, which will be installed as the grand opening draws near.

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White's tapestry, titled *Eikón*, will be the inaugural centerpiece of the new Norton's architectural heart, the Ruth and Carl Shapiro Great Hall. The 3,600-square-foot, skylit gathering space features a 300-square-foot, rectangular window that looks out directly onto one of the marvels of the museum's landscape—an 80-year-old, 65-foot-tall banyan tree. Like Norman Foster, who was inspired by the banyan tree and incorporated it as a crucial part of the expansion's design, White was also enthralled by the tree and designed the work to play with ideas of reflection and illusion. The work weaves in hints of green to reference the magical presence of the tree.

Hope Alswang, Executive Director of the Norton Museum of Art, said: "Our excitement is building as we prepare for Pae White to install her magnificent tapestry. She has created a work of art that is as dynamic and entrancing as the new Great Hall created by Lord Foster. With the installation of *Eikón*, we'll know the final countdown has truly begun for the February grand opening of the transformed Norton."

Wrapping around the three-story Muriel and Ralph Saltzman Stairway, which leads to additional galleries and the education center, is the site-specific work by Rob Wynne comprised of nearly 6,000 pieces of hand-poured glass. The shimmering installation is inspired by the sun, surf, and marine life that define the museum's West Palm Beach location, while also playfully recalling fishbowl ornaments. This commissioned work incorporates and expands upon an earlier piece by the artist, *I Remember Ceramic Castles, Mermaids & Japanese Bridges*, which the Norton commissioned as a temporary installation in 2012.

To prepare for the grand opening, the Norton is in the process of reinstalling its collection galleries, as well as readying eight special exhibitions that will open simultaneously on February 9. Each of the Norton's collecting areas will have expanded interpretative space, and for the first time in its 77-year history, the Norton will have permanent galleries for the display of its comprehensive Photography Collection. In five newly expanded galleries devoted to the Chinese Collection, more than 430 objects spanning a period of 5,000 years will be on view. The Niblack Gallery, a new space on the first floor, will be a particular highlight, encompassing significant ceramics, paintings, and lacquer and metalwork. Approximately 150 works from the American Collection, which numbers more than 1,000 works, spanning nearly three centuries, will fill a majority of the original Museum building, which opened in 1941. Masterpieces by Paul Gauguin, Claude Monet, Pablo Picasso, and other early Modernists will occupy two, new, sizable galleries on the first floor. Earlier European paintings, sculptures, and works on paper will be installed in a sweep of renovated galleries on the third floor. A dedicated gallery in the original Museum building will also display highlights from the promised gift of Judie and Howard Ganek's exemplary contemporary art collection.

As construction nears completion, the Norton will also install sculptures in a series of "outdoor galleries," which Lord Norman Foster has designed to evoke the Art Deco pavilions of the original building. Each of those outdoor "galleries" is defined by native trees and plantings, and works installed within are by artists who include: Antony Gormley, Jenny Holzer, Ugo Rondinone, Tom Otterness, Fernand Léger, Keith Haring,

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George Rickey, and Franz West, signaling the Norton's increased commitment to the display and interpretation of contemporary sculpture.

About the New Norton

The Museum, which opened in 1941, was initially conceived by architect Marion Sims Wyeth as an elegant series of Art Deco-inspired pavilions organized around a central courtyard. Visitors entered from the east, and from its front door enjoyed a direct view to the Intracoastal Waterway. As the Museum outgrew its original footprint, it added new multi-story spaces and moved its main entrance to face south. The Foster + Partners plan relocates the entry to the west, giving the Norton a distinctive, welcoming presence on the major thoroughfare of South Dixie Highway while reestablishing the symmetry of the original Wyeth design.

The Heyman Plaza, the new entry forecourt, will feature the serene Michelle and Joseph Jacobs Reflecting Pool and Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen's *Typewriter Eraser, Scale X* (1999)—a gift from Trustee Ronnie Heyman—which will be sheltered under a monumental, 43-foot-high, semi-reflective metal canopy that “floats” 45 feet beyond the face of the building. A scalloped-shaped cutout in the canopy protects and embraces a majestic 80-year-old, 65-foot-tall banyan tree.

The new spaces adjacent to the forecourt include the 210-seat, state-of-the-art Stiller Family Foundation Auditorium for films, lectures, and concerts; the Jane and Leonard Korman Special Event Room; and The Restaurant at the Norton, which will offer outdoor dining on the John and Marjorie McGraw Terrace. At the center of these spaces is the Ruth and Carl Shapiro Great Hall, a magnificent 3,600-square-foot, 43-foot-tall space, which will serve as the Museum's living room with lounge seating, a coffee bar, piano, and book carts. The walls of the Great Hall will be used as canvases for commissioned, temporary art installations; the first of which is Pae White's *Eikón*. The west-facing wall features a 10-foot-wide by 30-foot-tall window, which will admit dappled light, filtered by the leaves and branches of the banyan tree. These distinct spaces can be used independently for a variety of programs during or after operating hours.

The expansion also includes 12,000 square feet of new gallery space for the Norton's robust exhibition schedule, where shows by groundbreaking women artists and emerging photographers will be highlighted, as well as the Museum's distinguished photography holdings and its collections of American, Chinese, European, and Contemporary art. The J. Ira and Nicki Harris Family Gallery will feature a 150-foot-long exhibition space characterized by a colonnade with floor-to-ceiling windows facing the Museum's gardens. The new William Randolph Hearst Education Center increases the previous education space. It comprises two classrooms and a student gallery that will allow for expanded workshops, exhibitions, and classes for youth, adults, and families.

South of the garden, six Museum-owned, 1920s-era, historic houses are being restored. Two of these have been connected and named Karp House, which serves as the director's residence. Three homes will serve as houses and studios for the

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Museum's new artist-in-residence program, details of which will be announced in the coming months.

About the Norton Museum of Art

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 and 20th century European painting and sculpture include works by Brancusi, Gauguin, Matisse, Miro, Monet, Soutine, and Picasso, and American works by Stuart Davis, Edward Hopper, Georgia O'Keeffe, Jackson Pollock, and Charles 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 / ML Dauray 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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Image Caption: The Norton Museum of Art's new Heyman Plaza designed by Foster + Partners, as seen from South Dixie Highway. Art rendered in image: *Eikón* by Pae White and *Typewriter Eraser, Scale X* by Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen. Image courtesy of Foster + Partners.