

# NORTON MUSEUM OF ART

1450 S. Dixie Highway  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

norton.org

## Lauren Richman Named William and Sarah Ross Soter Curator of Photography at Norton Museum

**WEST PALM BEACH, FL** (March 9, 2023) – Today, the Norton Museum of Art announced the appointment of **Lauren Richman** to the role of **William and Sarah Ross Soter Curator of Photography**. Richman will be responsible for overseeing the Museum’s Department of Photography, including the organization of temporary exhibition programming as well as the ongoing management, research, and expansion of the permanent collection through new acquisitions. She will also lead the Norton’s Photography Committee, whose members provide critical support for the Museum’s efforts to build and maintain a world-class photography collection, as well as a full slate of related programs and activities. Richman assumes her position on April 10, 2023. She currently serves as Assistant Curator of Photography at the Sidney and Lois Eskenazi Museum of Art at Indiana University, Bloomington.

“We are thrilled to welcome Lauren Richman to the Norton and look forward to her shaping and expanding our Department of Photography, a key component of the Museum’s permanent collection,” said **Ghislain d’Humières, Kenneth C. Griffin Director and CEO of the Norton Museum of Art**. “She brings to the Norton an expansive knowledge of the medium and a curatorial commitment to showcasing diverse artists and promoting progressive collecting practices.”

Richman specializes in the histories of photography and film, as well as modern and contemporary art. During her tenure at the Sidney and Lois Eskenazi Museum of Art, she oversaw a three-year research, cataloguing, and digitization project on the Henry Holmes Smith Archive supported by the Henry Luce Foundation, and organized *Direct Contact: Cameraless Photography Now* (2023), the first contemporary survey exhibition of cameraless photography to focus on intergenerational, global artists.

Previously, Richman has held curatorial and research roles at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Amon Carter Museum of American Art, and the Art Institute of Chicago. She earned her PhD and MA in Art History from Southern Methodist University, and holds a BA in Art History from Vanderbilt University.

“I am delighted to be joining the Norton, an institution that consistently produces innovative and accessible art programming, and whose significant and growing photography holdings overlap with my own past and present areas of expertise,” said Richman. “I am particularly excited to further the Norton’s ongoing work to foster a sense of community through its exhibitions and programming and look forward to spotlighting the vibrancy and rich diversity of the Museum’s photography collection.”

The Norton’s Curator of Photography position was endowed by a generous gift from William and Sarah Ross Soter in 2000. The Soters have been instrumental in the development and growth of the Museum’s Department of Photography since its beginning, supporting the Museum’s first photography purchases, playing a leading

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role in the creation of the Museum's Photography Committee, and establishing a second endowed fund in 2007 supporting photography programs and acquisitions.

The Norton's Department of Photography was established in 1998 through a transformative gift by Baroness Jeane von Oppenheim. The collection, which today encompasses more than 4,500 photographs, includes significant holdings of works by European masters including Alexander Rodchenko, August Sander and Albert Renger-Patzch, and Bauhaus artists László Moholy-Nagy and György Kepes. Additional collection strengths include examples of mid-century American photography by artists such as Danny Lyon, Larry Clark, Bruce Davidson, William Eggleston, Dave Heath and Ralph Gibson, and contemporary photography by Sophie Calle, Tacita Dean, Thomas Demand, Gilbert and George, Candida Höfer, Alfredo Jaar, Hiroshi Sugimoto, Jeff Wall, among others.

In 2012, the Museum inaugurated The Rudin Prize for Emerging Photographers through the collaboration of collector and Norton supporter Beth Rudin DeWoody, which will resume in upcoming years. A panel of internationally renowned artists nominate emerging photographers whose work is on the leading edge of contemporary photo-based art. The Norton showcases their work in an exhibition at the Museum and awards one artist the Rudin Prize, which includes an honorarium of \$20,000 sponsored by the May and Samuel Rudin Family Foundation.

In 2021, the Norton's photography program was further transformed by a comprehensive commitment from Ellen Graham and The Ellen and Ian Graham Foundation, with a gift that included works of art by Ellen Graham and established a named endowment to benefit the acquisition, exhibition, and conservation of photography at the Norton.

The Norton also features a robust program of special exhibitions focused on photography. Current and recent highlights include *Form Forward: Brett Weston and Photographers of Things Unseen* (through March 19); *A Personal View on High Fashion & Street Style: 1930s to Now* (October 2022 – February 2023) and *Going Public: Florida Collectors Celebrate the Norton* (February – June 2019).

## **About the Norton Museum of Art**

The Norton Museum of Art is home to the leading and most far-ranging collection of art in Florida and the region, with distinguished holdings in American, European, Contemporary, and Chinese art and Photography. In 2019, the Norton unveiled an expansion by Foster + Partners, featuring the new 59,000-square-foot Kenneth C. Griffin Building, which greatly enhanced the Museum's facilities and was accompanied by the complete reinstallation of the museum's renowned collections in state-of-the-art galleries.

The Norton is also recognized for advancing the practice and appreciation of emerging and under-recognized artists. In 2011, the Norton launched RAW (Recognition of Art by Women). Since its inception, the series has presented the work of Jenny Saville, Sylvia Plimack Mangold, Phyllida Barlow, Klara Kristalova, Nina Chanel Abney, Njideka Akunyili Crosby, Svenja Deininger, and María Berrío. In January 2019, the Museum launched an artist-in-residence program, which hosts four artists annually who are in residence on-site in restored homes that border the Museum's campus. Artists who have participated in the residency program include María Berrío and Jessica Ingram.

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The expansion of the Norton also provided new and enhanced facilities for its educational programs, special exhibitions, lectures, tours, and other activities that serve the Museum's diverse audiences. It transformed the Norton's 6.3-acre campus into a "museum in a garden" which celebrates the beautiful year-round weather in West Palm Beach and features new, verdant public spaces and a 37,000-square-foot sculpture garden.

For more information on museum hours, please visit [Norton.org](http://Norton.org).

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