

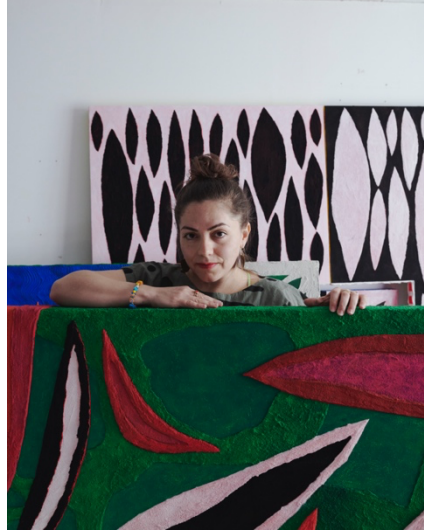
NORTON MUSEUM OF ART

1450 S. Dixie Highway
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

norton.org

Norton Museum of Art to Host Solo Museum Exhibition of Artist Nora Maité Nieves

Nieves has been selected to be the Mary Lucille Dauray Artist-in-Residence



© 2023 Nora Maité Nieves, Photo by Mara Corsino, courtesy of Jason Haam

WEST PALM BEACH, FL (November 16, 2023)— The Norton Museum of Art will host mixed media artist Nora Maité Nieves’ (b. 1980, Puerto Rico) first solo museum exhibition, *Clouds in the Expanded Field*, on view December 23, 2023 – July 7, 2024. The exhibition features her first exploration of video in *Eyes of the Sea*, a stop-motion animation that transforms the symbols, materials, patterns, and textures present in her painting and sculptural practice. In addition to the video work, this exhibition also features nearly 20 two-dimensional works, including 9 works produced specifically for presentation at the Norton. Nieves, an interdisciplinary artist, creates richly textured abstracted visual motifs of architectural elements through painting, sculpture, and now, video. The exhibition runs concurrently with her Mary Lucille Dauray Artist-in-Residence period at the Norton, from December 2023 through January 2024. During her time as the Artist-in-Residence, Nieves is encouraged to focus on her artistic practice and engage with the Norton community through lectures, workshops, teen programming, and more.

“We are privileged to host Nora Maité Nieves’ first solo museum exhibition and to welcome her concurrently as the Museum’s 2023 – 24 Mary Lucille Dauray Artist-in-Residence. Her work is a dynamic reflection of the cultural influences that are so prevalent in South Florida, and *Clouds in the Expanded Field* gives us an opportunity to bring this internationally recognized artist to the Norton,” said Ghislain d’Humières, Kenneth C. Griffin Director and CEO. “This is a fantastic moment for members of the West Palm Beach and surrounding communities to connect more deeply with a contemporary artist and her process.”

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Nieves' work contains textured and tactile surfaces on brightly colored canvases and often includes various media, including acrylic and modeling paste. There is an inherent and immediate physicality when viewing her work, which draws inspiration from the natural and built environments encountered in both Puerto Rico and New York City. A central work to the exhibition, *Eyes of The Sea*, begins with one of her most common motifs: a concrete ornamentation block, colloquially known as a "Breeze Block." When constructed as a wall, the blocks allow the wind to pass through and simultaneously provide visibility through to the other side – a symbolic nod to Nieves' shift from the Caribbean. "The blocks become eyes looking through a portal to the Caribbean Sea," Nieves explains, "a way for me to look back at my home, Puerto Rico, and for home to look back at me."

Nieves acts as a connector between worlds, combining fragments of decorative architectural elements from her Caribbean heritage—a ubiquitous modernist concrete breeze block design, or tile floor patterning from a past residence—with those from the urban landscape she encounters daily. Exploring these themes of identity and belonging—as well as the histories of places—Nieves comments on the sacredness of a single place within a complicated and evolving environment.

"I am deeply honored to present *Clouds in the Expanded Field* at the Norton Museum of Art, marking my first solo exhibition in a major museum in the US. I hope the exhibition will bring joy and captivate the visitors with a sense of belonging and freedom. Clouds are ephemeral and not bound by anything, they move freely without borders in the landscape."

Nora Maité Nieves: Clouds in the Expanded Field is organized by the Norton Museum of Art. Support for this exhibition was provided by the Milton and Sheila Fine Endowment for Contemporary art and the Dr. Henry and Lois Foster Endowment for the exhibition of Contemporary Art. The exhibition is curated by Arden Sherman, Glenn W. and Cornelia T. Bailey Senior Curator of Contemporary Art, with support from Tiera Ndlovu, Curatorial Research Associate.

ABOUT NORA MAITÉ NIEVES

Nora Maité Nieves (b. 1980 San Juan, Puerto Rico) lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. She received her MFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2010, and her BFA from La Escuela de Artes Plásticas y Diseño de Puerto Rico, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in 2004. Recent solo exhibitions include: *Temples of the Sea*, Jason Haam, Seoul, Korea (2022); *Deep Blue Day, Pink Bright Night*, Embajada Foyer, Brooklyn, NY (2021); *Full Room in the Sun Room*, Fresh Window Gallery, Brooklyn, NY (2019); *Paisaje Lunar*, Flyweight Projects, Brooklyn, NY (2019); and *Tangible at Hidrante*, San Juan, PR (2018). Recent Two Person exhibitions: *Cuerpo, Espacio y Todo lo que Rodea*, Nora Maité Nieves and Yoan Sorin, Embajada, San Juan, PR (2021); *Electric Hue*, Nora Maité Nieves and Livia Ortiz, Proxyco Gallery, New York, NY (2021). Recent group exhibitions include: *Entre Horizontes: Art and Activism Between Chicago and Puerto Rico*, curated by Carla Acevedo-Yates, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago, IL (2023); *Interplay*, Hollis Taggart Gallery, New York, NY (2023); *Unspoken Identities*, curated by Abdiel Segarra-Ríos, Ana Mas Projects, Barcelona, Spain (2023); *Reimagined Landscapes*, Calderón Gallery, New York, NY (2022); *Intertwined*, curated by Alex Allenchey, 1969 Gallery, New York, NY (2021); *Surfacing* at Ruiz-Healy Art, New York, NY

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curated by Carlos Rosales-Silva (2021); Contact Light at Survey Survey, New York, NY (2021); [...]JENTREFORMAS, at El Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico, San Juan, PR, curated by Abdiel Segarra (2021); Rubus Armeniacus (Himalayan Blackberry) at Jessica's Apartment Gallery, New York, NY, curated by Jessica Kwok (2019); Nada Tropical, Miscelanea Gallery, Barcelona, Spain, curated by Ricardo Cabret and Maximilian Juliá (2019); Repatriation at El Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico, San Juan, PR, curated by Bianca Ortiz (2019); and EDDYS Room at Galleri Thomassen, Gothenburg, Sweden, curated by Austin Eddy (2018).

ABOUT THE NORTON'S ARTIST IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM

As part of the Norton's campus masterplan, three residences on Cranesnest Way, running alongside the Museum's sculpture garden on the south side of campus, were renovated and transformed into housing and a shared studio for up to two artists at a time. Each artist (and their family) receives their own house during the residency. Another house features two open, flexible studio spaces for the artists to work in. Past artists in residence at the Norton include María Berrío (2021), Addoley Dzegede (2020), Jessica Ingram (2021), Lavar Munroe (2020), and Jaye Rhee (2020).

The program began in January 2019 and demonstrates the Norton's deep commitment to fostering creative and intellectual growth for mid- to late-career artists whose work warrants greater attention, and emphasizes the promotion of gender, racial, and ethnic parity in the arts through dedication of two residencies annually for women artists. The Mary Lucille Dauray Artist-in-Residence, made possible through the support of the Leonard and Sophie Davis Fund/MLDauray Arts Initiative, is exclusively for an African American or Latina woman.

ABOUT THE NORTON MUSEUM OF ART

Founded in 1941 by Ralph Hubbard Norton and his wife Elizabeth Calhoun Norton, The Norton Museum of Art collects, preserves, and exhibits art, and engages the public through diverse special exhibitions, publications, and events. Programs, lectures, and workshops are held year-round, with an emphasis on activating works on view and inspiring the public through the power of art. The Museum is internationally known for its collection of more than 8,400 works of art in American Art, Chinese Art, Contemporary Art, European Art, and Photography.

In 2019, The Museum underwent a comprehensive expansion and renovation, designed by London-based architecture firm Foster + Partners, adding a building which includes over 12,000 square feet of new gallery space, an educational center, a store and restaurant, a sculpture garden, and a Great Hall, serving as the Museum's "living room." The new campus also features renovated, Museum-owned, 1920s-era cottages that house artists-in-residence.

Visit the Museum's website www.norton.org or see them on [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#).

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