

NORTON MUSEUM OF ART

1450 S. Dixie Highway
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

norton.org

NORTON MUSEUM OF ART TO HONOR RASHID JOHNSON AT FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL GALA

**The occasion marks the first time the museum
has honored an artist at the Gala**

Related auction to feature works by Jose Alvarez (D.O.P.A.), Joana Choumali, Awol ErizkuSol LeWitt, Zanele Muholi, Joel Mesler, Claes Oldenburg, Anastasia Samoylova, Dustin Yellin, and Johnson himself, in benefit of the Norton's curatorial, learning, and community engagement programs



Rashid Johnson, 2024. Photography by Joshua Woods.

West Palm Beach, FL (January 13, 2024) – The Norton Museum of Art's forty-ninth annual Gala will honor contemporary artist Rashid Johnson and celebrate the dynamic boxing-focused exhibition *Strike Fast, Dance Lightly: Artists on Boxing*. Taking place [February 1, 2025](#), the evening will feature cocktails, dinner, dancing, and a live auction hosted in partnership with Sotheby's and hosted by EVP | Chairman, Europe Oliver Barker. The auction, now in its sixth year, will showcase more than 40 works of art by pre-eminent artists from some of the world's leading galleries. Online bidding will be available to the public at Sothebys.com beginning on January 24 and will close on February 3. In advance of bidding, works will be available to view in person for the duration of the auction at the Norton Museum of Art and online starting January 17. All auction proceeds benefit the Norton's curatorial, learning, and community engagement programs.

The Norton Museum of Art's decision to honor Rashid Johnson at this year's Gala marks the first time the Museum has honored an artist at the event. Both the Norton's Board of Trustees and curatorial leaders are drawn to Johnson's

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conceptual contemporary work and purposeful creation of a unique visual language through his mixed medium portfolio. Johnson is a powerful generational voice, and the Norton is proud to have two major works by him entering the Museum's Collection next year: *Bruise Painting "There I Go,"* 2022, and *Stacked Heads*, 2020, a large cast bronze sculpture. Johnson's *If It Ain't Ruff*, 2012, is featured in the exhibition *Strike Fast, Dance Lightly: Artists on Boxing*, on loan from the Beth Rudin DeWoody collection.

"Rashid Johnson's visionary work sets a perfect tone for our Gala celebration and makes him the ideal person to be the first artist honored at this event," said **Ghislain d'Humières, Kenneth C. Griffin Director and CEO**. "We are grateful to Gala Co-Chairs Audrey Gruss, Amy Phelan, and Sue Wrigley for their leadership and vision, which has provided the opportunity to recognize Johnson's contributions to the international contemporary art oeuvre. While just one evening, this annual event's proceeds will support the vital work the Norton contributes to the West Palm Beach community annually and beyond."

Several lots will be auctioned live by Sotheby's at the Gala on February 1, including a work by honoree Rashid Johnson. The live and online auctions will also include works by contemporary artists such as Jose Alvarez (D.O.P.A.), Joana Choumali, Awol Erizku, Christiane Feser, Todd Gray, Katharina Grosse, Sol LeWitt, Zanele Muholi, Joel Mesler, Claes Oldenburg, Anastasia Samoylova, Dustin Yellin, and more. Collectors unable to attend the Gala may bid on the live lots absentee or by phone. Absentee and phone bidders must register in advance by emailing auction@norton.org by January 30. All auction proceeds support the Norton in fulfilling its artistic and educational mission.

Palm Beach County has a flourishing art scene that has attracted many notable blue-chip art galleries and top collectors in recent years. The Norton's prior Gala auctions have drawn global interest, with bidders and buyers from Saudi Arabia, France, Israel, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Hong Kong, and beyond. The Norton has worked closely with several international galleries throughout the history of the Gala auction, with this year's roster including Hauser & Wirth, Gagosian, GAVLAK, Marian Goodman Gallery, Lehmann Maupin, Lévy Gorvy Dayan, Pace Gallery, Tina Kim Gallery, and many more.

The 2025 Gala Co-Chairs are Audrey Gruss, Amy Phelan, and Sue Wrigley. The 2025 Gala Vice Chairs include Lori Gendelman, Lorna James, Josephine Kalisman, Nicola Marcus, George Frederick Mead Merck, Beth Rudin DeWoody, Lisa Tananbaum, and Silvia Zoullas.

The 2025 Gala Auction was made possible by the generosity of Sotheby's.

Additional support was provided by Gander & White and Valentine Designs. This year's unique black and white evening will be designed and curated by internationally renowned event producer David Monn.

ABOUT RASHID JOHNSON

Born in Chicago in 1977, Rashid Johnson is among an influential cadre of contemporary American artists whose work employs a wide range of media to explore themes of art history, individual and shared cultural identities, personal

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narratives, literature, philosophy, materiality, and critical history. Johnson received a BA in Photography from Columbia College in Chicago and studied for his master's at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Johnson's practice quickly expanded to embrace a wide range of media — including sculpture, painting, drawing, filmmaking, and installation — yielding a complex multidisciplinary practice that incorporates diverse materials rich with symbolism and personal history. Johnson's work is known for its narrative embedding of a pointed range of everyday materials and objects, often associated with his childhood and frequently referencing aspects of history and cultural identity. Many of Johnson's more recent works delve into existential themes such as personal and collective anxiety, interiority, and liminal space.

Recent solo exhibitions include: *Rashid Johnson. Anima*, Hauser & Wirth, Paris, 2024; *Seven Rooms and a Garden. Rashid Johnson + Moderna Museet*, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, 2023; *Rashid Johnson. Nudiustertian*, Hauser & Wirth, Hong Kong, 2023; *The Chorus*, The Metropolitan Opera, New York, 2021; *Summer Projects. Rashid Johnson*, Creative Time, New York, 2021; *Rashid Johnson. Capsule*, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Canada, 2021; *The Crisis*, Storm King Art Center, New Windsor, New York; *Rashid Johnson. Waves*, Hauser & Wirth, London, 2020; the touring exhibition *Rashid Johnson. The Hikers* at the Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, Colorado, the Museo Tamayo, Mexico City, and at Hauser & Wirth, New York, 2019; *Provocations. Rashid Johnson*, Institute for Contemporary Art, Richmond, Virginia, 2018; *Rashid Johnson. No More Water* at Lismore Castle Arts, Lismore, Ireland, 2018 and *Rashid Johnson. Hail We Now Sing Joy* at The Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, Missouri, which traveled to the Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 2017.

ABOUT SOTHEBY'S

Established in 1744, Sotheby's is the world's premier destination for art and luxury. Sotheby's promotes access to and ownership of exceptional art and luxury objects through auctions and buy-now channels including private sales, e-commerce, and retail. Our trusted global marketplace is supported by an industry-leading technology platform and a network of specialists spanning 40 countries and 70 categories which include Contemporary Art, Modern and Impressionist Art, Old Masters, Chinese Works of Art, Jewelry, Watches, Wine and Spirits, and Design, as well as collectible cars and real estate. Sotheby's believes in the transformative power of art and culture and is committed to making our industries more inclusive, sustainable, and collaborative.

ABOUT THE NORTON MUSEUM OF ART

The Norton Museum of Art, Florida's largest art museum, is home to a distinguished collection of art, with holdings in American, European, Contemporary and Chinese Art and Photography.

Founded in 1941 by Ralph Hubbard Norton and his wife, Elizabeth Calhoun Norton, the Museum collects, preserves, and exhibits art, and engages visitors through exhibitions, events, and live entertainment featuring local musicians and performance artists. Public programming is year-round and designed to inspire

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conversations and build community through the power of art. The Museum is accessible to all.

The Museum's expansion and renovation was led by London-based architecture firm Foster + Partners, adding a building and more than 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 campus is home to renovated, Museum-owned, 1920s-era cottages that house artists-in-residence.

Visit the Museum's website at Norton.org or connect on Instagram and Facebook.

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