

NORTON MUSEUM OF ART

1450 S. Dixie Highway
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

norton.org

Norton Museum of Art to Exhibit *EST (Eastern Standard Time)* by Laddie John Dill

*The museum has acquired the immersive, expansive work
by the legendary Light and Space artist*

The exhibition is on view
from May 10, 2025, through October 19, 2025



Laddie John Dill (American, born 1943), *EST (Eastern Standard Time)*, 2022, from the series *Silica Lightscape*, Argon, mercury gas, sand, electrodes, transformer, and neon wiring, Dimensions variable, Purchase, through the generosity of George Frederick Mead Merck, 2024.104

WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA (February 6, 2025) — The Norton Museum of Art will display one of its newest acquisitions, *EST (Eastern Standard Time)*, by Laddie John Dill, an immersive argon and neon installation. The titular work in the exhibition is from Dill’s *Silica Landscape* series, a subset of the artist’s “Light Sentence” works. This monumental work, featuring hand-blown light tubes placed throughout a bed of sand, will nearly fill one of the Norton’s largest gallery spaces, the Gioconda and Joseph King Gallery. The acquisition was made possible by a generous donation from Trustee George Frederick Mead Merck and will be on view from May 10, 2025, to October 19, 2025.

Dill has produced his “Light Sentence” works for more than five decades. Created from custom blown-glass forms lined with fluorescent emulsion and infused with

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electrified gases. The hand-blown glass tubes of varying lengths emit sequences of colored and clear light. Dill considers the “Light Sentence” series an ongoing investigation into the interaction of light, color, gas, and electric charges, and viewers have often described the works as ethereal or otherworldly. The accompanying drawings offer insights into the process of creating the work, from conception to edits to the final piece.

“The presentation of *EST (Eastern Standard Time)* at the Norton is a unique opportunity for South Florida audiences to experience work by a pioneer of the Light and Space movement, something that has been historically celebrated predominantly on the West Coast,” said Ghislain d’Humières, Kenneth C. Griffin Director and CEO. “This immersive experience will make viewers feel as though they are being transported to another world. The visually captivating nature of Laddie John Dill’s use of light will draw visitors of all ages to *EST (Eastern Standard Time)*, introducing new audiences to the beauty of the Light and Space movement, works of art that go beyond 2- and 3-D works.”

The Light and Space movement is the formal title assigned to the minimalist art that emerged from the West Coast in the 1960s and 1970s by artists concerned with how varying uses of light and geometric shapes could inform and alter a viewer’s perception and environment. Dill’s contemporaries include artists Bob Irwin and James Turrell, both fascinated with the relationship between light and observation.

Dill first exhibited works from his “Light Sentences” series in California in 1971, and *EST (Eastern Standard Time)*, though formally created in 2022, was first conceptualized in 1970. He was one of the first Los Angeles artists to exhibit Light and Space work in New York. The work evokes oceanic imagery, creating an abstract sense of natural movement with the work’s argon, mercury, and neon-enforced geometry, reminding the viewer of the fluidity of nature. The artist himself noted that his work exists as a manifestation of the construction of a symbiotic relationship between natural materials and cutting-edge technology.

“Laddie John Dill is a pioneer in the Light and Space movement but has not yet received the due acknowledgment for his work that artists such as James Turrell and Larry Bell have enjoyed,” said Arden Sherman, Glenn W. & Cornelia T. Bailey Senior Curator of Contemporary Art at the Norton and curator of *EST (Eastern Standard Time)*. “The Norton is pleased to have a long history of providing a platform for under-recognized artists, and we are excited to give Dill his moment”

EST (Eastern Standard Time) is curated by Arden Sherman, Glenn W. and Cornelia T. Bailey Senior Curator of Contemporary Art and organized by the Norton Museum of Art.

ABOUT LADDIE JOHN DILL

Born in California in 1943, Laddie John Dill emerged as one of the original artists of the Light and Space movement during the late 1960s. Dill had his first solo exhibition in New York City with Ileana Sonnabend Gallery in 1971.

In addition to the Norton Museum of Art, his work is in the following museum collections: Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, California; High Museum of Art,

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Atlanta, Georgia; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, California; Louisiana Museum, Humlebaek, Denmark; Museo Jumex, Mexico City, Mexico; Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, California; Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.; and the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C., among others.

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 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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