

## Norton's Sunday event puts focus on women in the arts

Linda

Haase Special to The Palm Beach Post 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 15, 2017 [Local News](#)



They just may have saved the best for last. Although all of the Norton Museum of Art's Recognition of Art By Women Exhibition Series programs have been unique, the upcoming one has an unusual twist.

The series, which features art by living women artists, will culminate from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday with ART ACTS OUT, a free program featuring a panel discussion about the present and future of women in the arts and art-infused workshops led by innovative South Florida art organizations.

"As this is the sixth year of a six-year series we saw this program as a culmination of the RAW project – a chance to take stock of the position of women in the arts, to see how far women come and how far women have to go," explains Adelia Gregory, Norton's associate curator of education.

"Through this community day, we hope participants will come to see the museum as a forum of meaningful conversation to provoke thought and action."

The program begins at noon with a “makers fair” featuring area arts organizations A.T.B. Fine Artists & Designers from West Palm Beach; Girls’ Club from Fort Lauderdale; IS Projects from Fort Lauderdale and Miami-based Turn-Based Press.

“In the spirit of ‘art acting out,’ the makers fair will offer a few different opportunities for participants to make their own personal call to action by making post cards, buttons, and folding journals,” notes Gregory. “These workshops will be led by socially engaged local artists and arts organizations. It was important for the museum to collaborate with South Florida arts organizations that have trailblazing female leaders that would empower the message of having an equitable future. While this is not an art exhibition, we hope participants will publicly display their buttons, mail their postcards, and create actionable goals in their folding journals.”

The panel discussion, which runs from 2 to 3:30 p.m., titled Women in Today’s Art World: A Call to Action, will center around questions such as: Where do women stand today and how can women act together to strive for gender parity in our current political, cultural, and economic climate? Where are the opportunities to act? What are the unique responsibilities of galleries, museums, scholars, artists, and arts advocates? What other questions and perspectives are critical in this discourse?

Kimberly Drew (a.k.a. @museummammy), social media manager at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, will serve as moderator and the panel will include Susan Fisher Sterling, director of the National Museum of Women in the Arts; “Frida Kahlo” from The Guerrilla Girls, a collective of anonymous artist-activists promoting gender and racial equality; and Alexander Gray, owner and principal of Alexander Gray Associates, a contemporary art gallery in New York known for advocating for equality in representation and support of artists.

“It was always our goal to facilitate an expansive conversation; therefore, the panelists invited represent diverse backgrounds, generations, and roles within the art world,” says Gregory. “Our goal will be to not dwell on the questions of why, but rather to ask how – how can we make real change in terms of gender equality.”

There will be a Q & A session following the panel discussion.

The ARTS ACT OUT program wraps up with a party. The reception will give attendees a chance to toast the arts, equality, and the power of community.

Admission to ART ACTS OUT is free, but participants who want to attend the post-panel reception should RSVP by visiting [www.norton.org/rsvp](http://www.norton.org/rsvp).

IF YOU GO

What: ART ACTS OUT

Where: Norton Museum of Art, 1451 S. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach

When: noon to 4 p.m. Sunday

For more information: [www.norton.org](http://www.norton.org)

