

Norton Simon Museum For Immediate Release

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Norton Simon Museum Commemorates 50 Years of Art and Community with Special Anniversary Exhibitions, Public Programs, a Publication and More

Pasadena, CA – The Norton Simon Museum will present a series of exhibitions, a publication and special programming throughout 2025 to commemorate its golden anniversary. Founded in 1975, the Norton Simon Museum has established itself as a cornerstone of art and culture in the Southern California community and beyond. These initiatives offer a reflective view of the past and enthusiasm for the decades to come.

50th-Anniversary Celebration Overview

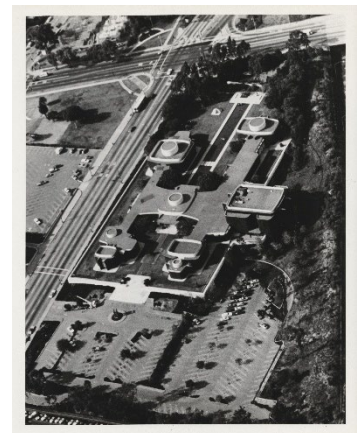
Special Exhibitions

Retrospect: 50 Years at the Norton Simon Museum

February 14, 2025–January 12, 2026

Focus Gallery

Kicking off the anniversary festivities, the exhibition ***Retrospect: 50 Years at the Norton Simon Museum*** features rarely seen archival photographs, documents and works of art, providing a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the Museum's operations and contributions to art, education and community over the past five decades. Organized by Kate Austin, Rights and Reproductions Coordinator, and Dane Reeb, Curatorial Assistant, the exhibition begins with the institution's name change in 1975, shortly after Norton Simon assumed management of the Pasadena Art Museum. Rare archival photos showcasing the installation of Simon's collections and early gallery views, along with a timeline highlighting key acquisitions and exhibitions, will reveal significant and lesser-known aspects of the collections. Additionally, the exhibition documents the evolution of the Museum's campus, detailing renovations from its early years through the late



1990s, a period marked by growth, extended hours, enhanced scholarship and increased community engagement.

In conjunction with **Retrospect**, the Museum is launching **50 Objects**, a gallery-wide initiative highlighting significant research discoveries and inviting visitors to engage with 50 exceptional works of art through special labels and a dedicated microsite available at nortonsimon.org.



Gold: Enduring Power, Sacred Craft

October 24, 2025–February 16, 2026

Lower-level exhibition wing

On October 24, 2025, 50 years to the date of its renaming, the Norton Simon Museum will open **Gold: Enduring Power, Sacred Craft**, organized by Associate Curator Maggie Bell and Assistant Curator Lakshika Senarath Gamage. The exhibition uses the theme of gold, a precious material often associated with 50th anniversaries, to explore the visual cultures of South and Southeast Asia, Europe, North Africa and North America. Visitors will have the opportunity to view a remarkable array of objects from the Museum’s collections, including religious sculptures, paintings, illuminated manuscripts, finely woven tapestries and exquisite jewelry. **Gold** not only highlights the diverse artistic traditions connected to this precious material but also fosters new conversations about the Museum’s collections.

Anniversary Publication

In the summer of 2025, the Museum will debut a new publication, **Recollections: Stories from the Norton Simon Museum**. Written by current and former staff members, the book features 13 essays illuminating the Museum’s history through the lens of selected artworks.



50th-Anniversary Community Festival

Fall 2025

The Museum is organizing an all-day 50th-anniversary celebration for the community that will feature live music, art-making activities for all ages, spotlight talks on the art collections and much more. Details will be made available at nortonsimon.org in late summer.

Exterior Improvement Project

As the Museum celebrates its 50th anniversary, it also embarks on a construction project throughout the exterior areas of its campus. Commencing in early January, the **Exterior Improvement Project** will enhance the beauty of the building and gardens as well as improve the

Museum's appearance along Colorado and Orange Grove Boulevards. Equally important, the project addresses safety, security, accessibility and sustainability issues that will better serve our visitors and protect the Museum and the exceptional Norton Simon art collection in the decades ahead.

About the Norton Simon Museum

The Norton Simon Museum is known around the world as one of the most remarkable private art collections ever assembled. Over a 30-year period, industrialist Norton Simon (1907–1993) amassed an astonishing collection of European art from the Renaissance to the 20th century, and a stellar collection of South and Southeast Asian art spanning 2,000 years. Modern and Contemporary Art from Europe and the United States, acquired by the former Pasadena Art Museum, also occupies an important place in the Museum's collections. The Museum houses more than 12,000 objects, roughly 1,000 of which are on view in the galleries and gardens.

Location: The Norton Simon Museum is located at 411 W. Colorado Blvd. at Orange Grove Boulevard in Pasadena, Calif., at the intersection of the Foothill (210) and Ventura (134) freeways. For general Museum information, please call (626) 449-6840 or visit nortonsimon.org. Hours: The Museum is open Thursday through Monday, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. (Friday and Saturday to 7 p.m.). It is closed on Tuesday and Wednesday. Admission: General admission is \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors. Members, students with I.D., and patrons age 18 and under are admitted free of charge. The first Friday of the month from 4 to 7 p.m. is free to all. The Museum is wheelchair accessible. Parking: Parking is free but limited, and no reservations are necessary. Public Transportation: Pasadena Transit stops directly in front of the Museum. Please visit <http://pasadenatransit.net> for schedules. The MTA bus line #180/181 stops in front of the Museum. The Memorial Park Station on the MTA Gold Line, the closest Metro Rail station to the Museum, is located at 125 E. Holly St. at Arroyo Parkway. Please visit www.metro.net for schedules. Planning Your Visit: For up-to-date information on our guidelines and protocols, please visit nortonsimon.org/visit.