

STORM KING ART CENTER

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STORM KING ART CENTER ANNOUNCES 2025 LEADERSHIP TRANSITION AND CAPITAL PROJECT UNVEILING



Nora Lawrence portrait by Erin Baiano. John P. Stern portrait by Eva Deitch

*Artistic Director and Chief Curator Nora Lawrence appointed as
Executive Director ahead of May 2025 unveiling of Storm King's Capital Project*

*President John P. Stern to transition to advisory role
of President and Senior Advisor to the Board*

*Storm King's opening exhibition program will include new temporary commissions
by Kevin Beasley, Sonia Gomes, and Dionne Lee as well as acquisitions by
Arlene Shechet and Lee Ufan*

NEW WINDSOR, N.Y., December 10, 2024 - The Board of Trustees of Storm King Art Center today announced the appointment of Nora Lawrence as its first Executive Director. Lawrence, who brings more than 20 years of experience in the arts, will assume leadership of the institution in January 2025. Inaugural exhibitions timed to the institution's reopening will feature multidisciplinary artist Kevin Beasley's largest artwork to date, Brazilian artist Sonia Gomes' debut solo museum exhibition in the U.S., and photographer Dionne Lee's first-ever outdoor sculpture. These works will be further complemented by new permanent acquisitions by Arlene Shechet and Lee Ufan. All the works will open in May, together with the unveiling of

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Storm King’s \$53M capital project. The visionary project will enhance the way visitors, staff, and artists experience the Art Center and comprises five additional acres of landscape for art; a new visitor arrival area with streamlined parking and accessible amenities; a purpose-built conservation, fabrication, and maintenance building; and a holistic approach to landscape stewardship and environmental sustainability.

Lawrence most recently served as the Art Center’s Artistic Director and Chief Curator, and her leadership of the artistic program has been transformative. She has championed exhibitions that engage with timely topics like climate, landscape, and democracy; developed innovative programs that invite a broad public to experience art under an open sky; and expanded the Art Center’s collection through permanent commissions and acquisitions that expand the canon and expectations for who can make large-scale sculpture. Through her stewardship of the museum’s collection and exhibitions, Lawrence has helped establish Storm King as one of the art world’s most prestigious sculpture commissions, working with artists such as Rashid Johnson, Wangechi Mutu, and Sarah Sze to realize site-specific and ambitious projects. She has also created enduring opportunities for emerging and midcareer artists via Storm King’s Outlooks commission, which has awarded exhibitions to artists such as Jean Shin, Martha Tuttle, and Brandon Ndife; as well as the Shandaken: Storm King’s residency program in collaboration with Shandaken Projects.

As Executive Director, Lawrence will hold primary responsibility for developing, executing, and promoting Storm King’s strategic vision in collaboration with and as approved by the Board.

President John P. Stern—the grandson of Ralph E. Ogden and son of H. Peter Stern, who jointly founded Storm King—will transition to the role of President and Senior Advisor to the Board following sixteen years at the institution’s helm. During that time, he has grown Storm King into an international cultural destination. Stern has expanded the collection, increased fundraising, bolstered public programming, and overseen an exponential rise in visitorship. He initiated the institution’s capital project and provided leadership throughout the decade-long planning, fundraising, and construction phases.

“We are thrilled to appoint Nora as Executive Director, whose innovation and creative thinking have been indispensable to the Art Center for more than a decade. As Artistic Director and Chief Curator, Nora has brought dozens of visionary projects to life, helping to shape the careers of a new generation of artists while supporting established artists in achieving their most ambitious projects to date,” said **Roberta Denning, Chair of the Board of Trustees**. “It is an understatement to say that Storm King would not be what it is without John. We are grateful for his innumerable contributions over the years and look forward to his continued guidance in this new role.”

Nora Lawrence said, “Storm King is a special place, and it is an indescribable honor to steward this institution into the future. Over the past several years, we have seen first-hand what Storm King means to people both near and far, and I look forward to advancing this in the years ahead. There’s never been a more exciting time to be part of this institution, and with the opening of the 2025 season next spring, Storm King’s staff, artists, and community will begin a vibrant new chapter together.”

“Storm King has been a central part of my life for as long as I can remember, and when I look back at the proudest moments of my career, they were here,” said **John P. Stern**. “As we enter a new era for the organization, I am delighted that Nora will take on the role of Executive Director. She is a proven leader and

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astute curator, and there is no one else who better understands the institution and its direction in this moment.”

Prior to joining Storm King, Ms. Lawrence worked in the Department of Painting and Sculpture at The Museum of Modern Art, where she contributed to a number of exhibitions and publications, including *Donald Judd* (2020); *Ernesto Neto: Navedenga* (2010), which she co-curated; *Claude Monet: Water Lilies* (2009); *Color Chart: Reinventing Color, 1950 to Today* (2008); *Focus: Picasso Sculpture* (2008); and *Armando Reverón* (2007). She has also worked at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, and at MoMA PS1.

Lawrence has also authored and co-authored several publications, including a 2022 monograph on Lynda Benglis published by Phaidon. A 2024 Fellow of the Center for Curatorial Leadership, she has received grants and fellowships for her work from the Luce Foundation, the Center for Advanced Studies in Visual Arts (CASVA), Latitude Brazil, and the Office of Contemporary Art, Norway, among others. Lawrence holds a BA from Pomona College, an MA from the University of Southern California, and an M.Phil. from the Graduate Center, City University of New York.

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About Storm King Art Center

Storm King Art Center is a 500-acre outdoor museum located in New York’s Hudson Valley, where visitors experience large-scale sculpture and site-specific commissions under open sky. Since 1960, Storm King has been dedicated to stewarding the hills, meadows, and forests of its site and surrounding landscape. Building on the visionary thinking of its founders, Storm King supports artists and some of their most ambitious works. Changing exhibitions, programming, and seasons offer discoveries with every visit.

stormking.org

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