

# Golden Palm Awards

HONORS LEADERSHIP AND CONTRIBUTION TO ANSG

**M**embers and supporters of the **Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens** (ANSG) recently gathered in the newly unveiled historic *Orchid House and Plaza* for a member appreciation reception and enjoyed an end of season celebration hosted by the Board of Trustees providing the opportunity to explore the many recent enhancements throughout the Gardens. Fashion icon, visionary female artist and ANSG Board Trustee member **Iris Apfel**; famed photographer and Artist in Residence **Harry Benson CBE**; and philanthropist and Board of Trustees Vice Chairwoman **Sally Soter** were presented with the *Golden Palm Award* in honor of their leadership and contributions to ANSG throughout the 2022-2023 season. The presentation took place in the newly restored Wyeth Gallery of the *Norton House*.

“Today I am honored to thank our members for an extraordinary season and spotlight three remarkable individuals who have been incredibly instrumental in the growth and vitality of ANSG,” said **Frances Fisher**. “Iris Apfel, Harry Benson and Sally Soter have each transformed this historic treasure and tropical oasis in many ways. We are delighted by our *2022-23 Season of Culture, Deep Refreshing and Preservation* and our many generous donors and members who made it all happen.”

Apfel is one of the most dynamic personalities in the world of fashion, textiles and interior design. Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens had the opportunity to recognize her 97th birthday, and her 100th birthday, where she graced the Gardens with a magnificent legacy gift at that celebration. Now going on 102, she recently presented a second major gift to ANSG to name the Wyeth Gallery, in the historic *Norton House*.

Soter’s involvement with ANSG began in 2014 to help form the *Gardens Conservancy* which led to a revitalization of the Board including exhibitions, programs, special events and restoration efforts. She and her husband **Bill** have been very generous with ANSG including the named gift for the *Wyeth Terrace* and the *Main Lawn* last year. They recently gifted ANSG a second transformational gift to name the historic *Orchid House and Plaza* which serves as a centerpiece for cultural, horticultural and educational programming.

Benson was the Gardens’ third Artist in Residence and presented some of his most legendary photographs during *Harry Benson*



Harry Benson CBE, Iris Apfel and Sally Soter presented with the *Golden Palm Awards* in honor of their leadership and contributions to ANSG throughout the 2022-2023 season

*Picturing History*, in partnership with **Holden Luntz Gallery, JI Modern Gallery** and **Palm Beach Modern + Contemporary**. Benson began his career in London in the early 60s. After arriving in New York with The Beatles in 1964, he never looked back. Benson began working for *LIFE* magazine and became one of its most published photographers for 30 years. His photographs have also appeared in *Time*, *Fortune*, *New York Magazine*, *Quest*, *Newsweek*, *Vanity Fair*, *French Vogue*, *Forbes*, *Town & Country*, *Architectural Digest* and *The New York Times* to name a few. He was even made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for service to photography in 2009.

“Iris is inspiring as a vivacious businesswoman and visionary female artist whose leadership and generosity has profoundly impacted ANSG,” continued Fisher. “Harry has delighted the hearts and minds of many thousands at ANSG and he has been a distinguished and charismatic presence through his book signings, educational programs and moments we will always remember. He has the ability

to inspire our visitors and create such dynamic visibility for this organization. And, Sally always lends her encouragement, inspiration and leadership skills to envision the very best outcomes for ANSG as an important cultural and historic site. It is an honor to present all three with the *Golden Palm Award* in recognition of their devotion.”

The Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens is a nonprofit foundation established in 1977 by resident sculptor Ann Weaver Norton (1905-1982). A two-acre urban sanctuary and internationally recognized arboretum, the compound comprises the historic *Norton House and Artist Studio*, exhibition galleries, monumental sculptures, *Pollinator Garden*, historic *Orchid House*, and tropical gardens of more than 250 species of rare palms and cycads. The Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens’ mission is to enrich lives with nature, art and history.

Located at 253 Barcelona Road in the historic El Cid neighborhood of West Palm Beach, the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens is open Wednesday through Sunday, 10am-4pm and closed on major holidays. ANSG will close on June 12th for the summer and will reopen in the fall. For more information visit [ansg.org](http://ansg.org) or call 561.832.5328. PHOTO: CAPEHART