

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Minutes of the Art and Collections Committee Meeting
Tuesday, December 10, 2019, 10:30 – 11:30 am
Theater Level Conference Room #1

There were present:

Meg Gottwald, Chair
Tom Papa, Vice Chair
Karen Abramson
Cindy Conner
Anne Noland Edwards
Janet Geldzahler
Martha Glasser
Denise Keane, Foundation Liaison
Paul Monroe, Foundation Liaison
Suzy Szasz Palmer
Michele Peterson
Deborah Valentine, Foundation Liaison
Jim Klaus, Foundation Co-President, Ex-Officio

By Invitation:

Gil Bland
Jeff Humber

Absent:

Eddie Cabaniss
David Goode
Steven A. Markel
Pamela Reynolds
Monroe Harris, Jr., Ex-Officio
Lilo Ukrop, Foundation Co-President, Ex-Officio

By Invitation:

Alex Nyerges, Director
Caprice Bragg
Sylvain Cordier
Sarah Eckhardt
Jody Green
Tom Gutenberger
Deb Love (representing Cynthia Norwood)
Thomas Lunsford
Michael R. Taylor
Courtney Tkacz

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Meg Gottwald called the meeting to order at 10:32am.

Motion: proposed by Mr. Tom Papa and seconded by Ms. Karen Abramson to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2019 Art and Collections Committee meeting as distributed. Motion approved.

II. INTRODUCING THE NEW PAUL MELLON CURATOR

Dr. Michael Taylor, Chief Curator and Deputy Director for Art and Education, introduced the new Paul Mellon Curator and the Head of the Department of European Art, Dr. Sylvain Cordier. Dr. Cordier presented his vision for the reopening of the Mellon collection galleries in October 2020. His vision includes incorporating decorative arts into the galleries. Additionally, he would like to create a Mellon focus gallery to present conservation research from the Mellon collection. Dr. Cordier also reviewed acquisition priorities for the Mellon collection with the committee, including works by Armand Seguin, Charlotte Besnard, and Jules Desbois, and he noted that he would like to use innovative technology, such as music in the galleries.

III. BUILDING THE DRAPER ARCHIVE PORTAL

Archivist Courtney Tkacz then provided a presentation on the Louis Draper archive project, which is connected to the upcoming exhibition, *Working Together: Louis Draper and the Kamoinge Workshop*. She noted that in 2017, the museum received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to digitize the Louis Draper archives, which the museum acquired in 2016. She reviewed the extensive process used to organize the archives and data in a user friendly manner, including naming conventions. Ms. Tkacz reported that the extensive cataloguing has allowed for reattributions of dates and will be helpful for scholarly research of the collection. Additionally, she provided a review of the website platform that will host the collection online, noting that more than 6,500 records are currently hosted on the page. She thanked the team members who were a part of the endeavor.

Dr. Michael Taylor reported that the museum hopes to acquire more archives of photographers and complete similar work on additional collections.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:08am.

Recorded by: Jody Green
Administrative and Project Coordinator, Director's Office