

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Minutes of the Art and Collections Committee Meeting
Tuesday, September 12, 2023, 11:15am
Reynolds Lecture Hall

There were present:

Anne Edwards, Chair
Melinda Hardy, Vice Chair
Cindy Conner
Janet Geldzahler
Martha Glasser
Marianne Littel
Pam Reynolds
Anne Smith *videoconference (personal)*
Ashlin Wilbanks
Sara O'Keefe
Tom Papa
Michele Petersen
Lynette Allston, ex-officio
Jay Olander, ex-officio

Absent:

Matt Cooper
Suzy Szasz Palmer

By Invitation:

Alex Nyerges, Director and Chief Executive Officer
Candy Banks
Caprice Bragg
Stephanie Cooperstein
Courtney Freeman
Tom Gutenberger
Andrew Harris
Jan Hatchette
Li Jian
Michael Taylor

I. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Anne Edwards called the meeting to order at 11:17am.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Proposed by Ms. Anne Noland Edwards and seconded to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2023 Art and Collections Committee meeting as distributed. Motion carried.

III. COLLECTION MANAGEMENT POLICY

Ms. Courtney Freeman, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) Interim Deputy Director for Conservation and Collections, presented an overview of the draft Conservation and Collection Policy, which was circulated prior to the meeting. Ms. Edwards noted various revisions made to the draft based on the suggestions of committee members.

Motion: Proposed by Ms. Edwards and seconded that the committee recommend the policy, with adjustments, pass and move on for approval. Motion carried.

IV. EXHIBITIONS PORTFOLIO UPDATE

Dr. Michael Taylor, VMFA Chief Curator and Deputy Director for Art and Education, presented an overview of the Exhibitions Portfolio. While *Whitfield Lovell: Passages* was being deinstalled, *Benjamin Wigfall and Communications Village* remained open for an additional week to accommodate additional Virginia school group tours. Dr. Taylor summarized the trajectory of the exhibitions program in recent years, noting VMFA pivoted to exhibitions developed by in-house curators in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, and that the program will begin to reincorporate major exhibitions moving forward. Dr. Taylor concluded his update with an overview of current and upcoming exhibitions through 2028, which include *Cy Twombly, Morocco, 1952/1953*; *Willie Anne Wright: Artist and Alchemist*; *Dawoud Bey: Elegy*; *American, born Hungary*; and *Samurai: Armor from the Collection of Ann and Gabriel Barbier Mueller*.

V. SAMURAI EXHIBITION

Ms. Li Jian, VMFA E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Curator of East Asian Art, presented an overview of *Samurai: Armor from the Collection of Ann and Gabriel Barbier Mueller*, an exhibition of 1000 elements of Samurai culture. The exhibition is currently on display at the Hyde Museum in Atlanta, Georgia and will open at VMFA in April 2024. Ms. Jian described the timeline of Japanese Samurai history and noted the specialized installation that will be required for large elements such as Samurai suits of armor displayed on simulated Samurai on horseback.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion made by Ms. Edwards to adjourn the meeting was seconded and approved by the committee at 12:03pm.

Recorded by: Colleen Milewski
Administrative and Project Coordinator to the Director's Office