

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Draft Minutes of the Art and Collections Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 10:00am
Claiborne Robertson Room

There were present:

Melinda Hardy, Chair
Cindy Conner
Matt Cooper
Anne Noland Edwards
Emily Franklin
Janet Geldzahler
Marianne Little, *virtual (Personal - residence)*
Sara O'Keefe
Tom Papa
Anne Smith
Michel Zajur
Lynette Allston, Trustee President, Ex-officio

Absent:

None

By Invitation:

Alex Nyerges, Director and Chief Executive Officer
Kay Baker
Dayal Baxani
Caprice Bragg
Loran Brueggen
David Cary
Stephanie Cooperstein
Courtney Freeman
Andrew Harris
Jan Hatchette
Siera HYTE
Sally Marvin
John Henry Rice
Marie Royce
Michael Taylor

I. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Melinda Hardy called the meeting to order at 10:02am.

II. MINUTES APPROVAL

Motion: Proposed by Hardy and seconded by Cindy Conner to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2024 Art and Collections Committee meeting as distributed. Motion carried.

III. ART AND COLLECTIONS UPDATES

Dr. Michael Taylor, Artistic Director and Chief Curator, reported that Karen Daly has been appointed as VMFA's Senior Manager of Provenance Research. He also provided an update on the closure of the Lewis Galleries in May in preparation for expansion construction. The works will travel in two exhibitions, *Splendor and Luxury: French Art Nouveau and Art Deco from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts* and *Pop to Present: American Art from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts*. Both will be accompanied by fully illustrated catalogues.

IV. INDIGENOUS AMERICAN ART COLLECTION PLAN

Siera HYTE, Schiller Family Curator of Indigenous American Art, presented a collection plan to the committee, providing an overview of the current collection and priorities for acquisitions. She plans to center Virginia and the Eastern Woodlands in the collection. HYTE would also like the collection to represent influential artists and practices that have shaped the last 150 years of Indigenous American art, such as Nellie Two Bears Gates, B.A. Haldane, and Jeffrey Gibson.

V. GREAT MUGHALS EXHIBITION

Dr. John Henry Rice, E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Curator of South Asian and Islamic Art, provided an overview of the upcoming exhibition, *The Great Mughals: Art, Architecture, and Opulence*, organized by the Victoria and Albert Museum. He noted that the exhibition celebrates the creative output and cosmopolitan culture of the Golden Age of the Mughal Court during the reigns of emperors Akbar, Jahangir, and Shah Jahan. The exhibition is slated to open at VMFA in May 2026.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and approved by the committee at 11:10am.

Recorded by: Stephanie Cooperstein
Executive Administrator