

Date: _____ Approved: _____

THE VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS
Minutes of the Artistic Committee Meeting
Held, pursuant to due notice, in The Pauley Center 2nd Floor Meeting Room
Wednesday, 18 February 2009, 1:15 pm

Presiding: Mrs. Whitt W. Clement, Chairman
Secretary: Ms. Aiesha Halstead

There were present:

Mrs. Whitt W. Clement, Chairman
John B. Adams, Jr.
Mrs. Robert W. Cabaniss, Jr.
Mrs. Louise B. Cochrane
Ivan P. Jecklin
Ms. Frances A. Lewis
Mrs. Stanley F. Pauley
Mrs. Patricia R. St. Clair
Dr. Shantaram K. Talegaonkar
Pamela Reynolds, Ex-Officio
Mrs. Suzanne T. Mastracco, Ex-Officio

By Invitation:

Alex Nyerges, Director
Ms. Suzanne Broyles
Ms. Suzanne Hall
Ms. Aiesha Halstead
Dr. Lee Anne Hurt
Ms. Joan W. Murphy
Robin Nicholson
John Ravenal
Ms. Sandra Rusak
Ms. Emily Smith
Ms. Alexis Vaughn

Absent:

Mrs. Joel T. Broyhill
Dr. Herbert A. Claiborne, Jr.
John R. Curtis, Jr.
Cynthia Kerr Fralin
Mrs. Lawrence I. Gray
Dr. Elizabeth F. Harris
Ms. Carolyn Hsu-Balcer
Mrs. Jane Joel Knox
Charlotte M. Minor
Mrs. Barbara-lyn B. Morris
Benjamin W. Rawles III
Michael J. Schewel
Thurston R. Moore, Ex-Officio

Richard G. Tilghman, Ex-Officio

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman, Mrs. Whitt W. Clement, called the meeting to order at 1:22 pm and introduced and welcomed new committee member Ivan P. Jecklin. Director, Alex Nyerges, briefed the Committee on the recent changes to committee structures. He said that this committee will now focus on exhibitions, publications, conservation, new technologies and media, and those issues related to the display of the permanent collection.

II. MINUTES

Motion: proposed by Mrs. Clement and seconded by Mr. Adams that the minutes of the last meeting of the Artistic Oversight Committee held on the 16th of September 2008 be approved as distributed on the 9th of December 2008. Motion carried.

III. UPDATES

Chief Conservator and Deputy Director for Collections Management

Alex Nyerges talked briefly about the appointment of new Chief Conservator and Deputy Director for Collections Management, Stephen Bonadies, who will start working with us on March 1. He told the group that Stephen has served in the museum field for 27 years now in such capacities as paintings conservator, chief conservator, deputy director, and interim co-director and is coming to us from the Cincinnati Art Museum. During his tenure at Cincinnati, Stephen was involved in two equally important reinstallations and expansions, experience that will prove invaluable as we prepare for the opening of the McGlothlin Wing in 2010. The Director noted that Stephen will bring the four parts of his division together, Conservation, Registration, Photography and Photo Resources.

New Technologies and the Art Museum

Robin Nicholson offered a presentation on new technology and social media showing how the public interacts with and to art with virtual museums and galleries, social networks, and how artists use the web. He summarized the findings of the recent Smithsonian 2.0 conference in Washington, DC. He explained that millions of people are sharing art experiences through, blogging, YouTube, Facebook, MySpace, Flickr and virtual worlds. He said some sites are open to visitor participation by allowing people to curate the on-line exhibitions. Virtual museums are also on-line which means you don't have to physically travel to the museum to visit. He highlighted the example of the Dresden Art Museum on Second Life and the Prado on Google Earth. Mr. Nicholson said this overview gives the board just a sample of the interesting developments available with today's technology.

Emily Smith, Curatorial Fellow, showed the Committee what artists are doing with some of this new technology. She said the newest generation of artists has new ways of creating and sharing art. Web based art and web based portfolios are their norm. Collectors are viewing art exhibitions on-line. It was noted that a virtual VMFA is within our ability through the digital photography of our collection. We would just need funding and management of the large database needed. The Committee discussed ways the Virginia Museum could use the new technologies.

Exhibition Update – Sculpture Garden

John Ravenal gave an overview of the plans for temporary exhibitions for the new sculpture garden. He has been working on Phase One, the north half of the garden, which will open in the spring of 2010, the same time as the grand opening for the new wing. Mr. Ravenal said most of the permanent collection will be displayed on the garden's Terraced Slope and the top of the Belvedere. Temporary exhibitions would be installed on the garden Great Lawn and would serve to bring visitors back to see what's new. In this way we are extending our high level of programming from indoors to outdoors. For the first exhibition Mr. Ravenal proposes artist Jun Kaneko, an internationally renowned Japanese-American artist who creates 10 ½' tall ceramic heads which are the largest free standing fired ceramic sculptures anywhere. Mr. Kaneko was most recently recognized for his display of oversized heads in New York City along Park Avenue. Mr. Ravenal's reason for choosing Jun Kaneko is that his work is accessible to a broad general public who will appreciate it immediately without explanation, while at the same time the work addresses other levels of cultural and art historical connection. Mr. Ravenal showed works of other artists for possible temporary exhibitions and the Committee discussed the ideas.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS/ADJOURNMENT

No further business was brought before the Committee, and the meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm.

Suzanne Broyles
Secretary of the Museum

Date: _____ Approved: _____

THE VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS
Minutes of the Artistic Committee Meeting
Held, pursuant to due notice, in The Marble Hall
Wednesday, 20 May 2009, 2:15 pm

Presiding: Mrs. Whitt W. Clement, Chair
Secretary: Ms. Suzanne Broyles

There were present:

Mrs. Whitt W. Clement, Chairman
Ms. Carolyn Hsu-Balcer
Mrs. Barbara-lyn B. Morris
Benjamin W. Rawles III
Mrs. Suzanne T. Mastracco, Ex-Officio

By Invitation:

Alex Nyerges, Director
Ms. Suzanne Hall
Robin Nicholson
Richard Woodward

Absent:

John B. Adams, Jr.
Mrs. Joel T. Broyhill
Mrs. Robert W. Cabaniss, Jr.
Dr. Herbert A. Claiborne, Jr.
Mrs. Louise B. Cochrane
John R. Curtis, Jr.
Cynthia Kerr Fralin
Mrs. Lawrence I. Gray
Dr. Elizabeth F. Harris
Ivan P. Jecklin
Mrs. Jane Joel Knox
Ms. Frances A. Lewis
Charlotte M. Minor
Mrs. Stanley F. Pauley
Michael J. Schewel
Mrs. Patricia R. St. Clair
Dr. Shantaram K. Talegaonkar
Pamela Reynolds, Ex-Officio
Thurston R. Moore, Ex-Officio
Richard G. Tilghman, Ex-Officio

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman, Mrs. Whitt W. Clement, called the meeting to order at 2:15 pm and turned the meeting over to Richard Woodward, Senior Deputy Director of Architecture and Design, who led the group on a tour of the Exhibition Galleries in the new wing.

II. OTHER BUSINESS/ADJOURNMENT

No further business was brought before the Committee, and the meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Suzanne Broyles
Secretary of the Museum