

Date: _____ Approved: _____

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Minutes of the Art Acquisitions Sub-Committee Meeting
Claiborne Robertson Room, 4:00 pm
Tuesday, 2 December 2014

There were present:

Cynthia Kerr Fralin, Co-Chair
Ivan P. Jecklin, Co-Chair
Karen C. Abramson
Louise B. Cochrane
Susan S. Goode
Margaret N. Gottwald
Dr. Claude G. Perkins
Dr. Shantaram K. Talegaonkar
William A. Royall, Jr., Ex-Officio

Also attending:

Alex Nyerges, Director
Bret Ball
Stephen D. Bonadies
Dr. Lee Anne Chesterfield
W. Birch Douglass, III
Dr. Sarah Eckhardt
John Fuller
Dr. Monroe Harris, Jr.
Li Jian
Kenneth Johnson
Laura Keller
Dr. Mitchell Merling
Michele Petersen
Satya Rangarajan
John Ravenal
Dr. Susan Rawles
Pamela Reynolds
Dr. John Henry Rice
Dr. Peter Schertz
Michael J. Schewel
Barry Shifman
Richard B. Woodward

Absent:

Michael M. Connors
Dr. Elizabeth F. Harris
Steven A. Markel
Dr. Lindley Smith

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Cynthia Kerr Fralin, Co-Chair, at 3:06 pm.

II. MINUTES

Motion: proposed by Mr. Jecklin and seconded by Mr. Royall that the minutes of the last meeting of the Art Acquisitions Sub-Committee, held on the 29th of September 2014, be approved as distributed. Motion carried.

III. PURCHASE, GIFT, AND LOAN CONSIDERATIONS

At 3:53 pm the meeting went into closed session.

Motion: proposed by Mr. Jecklin, and seconded by Ms. Fralin that the meeting go into closed session under Section 2.2-3711 (A) (6), (8) and (9) of the Freedom of Information Act

to discuss the **investing of public funds** where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the Museum would be adversely affected, and

to discuss and consider matters relating to specific **gifts, bequests, and fundraising activities, and grants and contracts for services to be performed,** and

to discuss and consider matters relating to specific **gifts, bequests, and grants.** Motion carried.

At 4:40 pm, the meeting resumed in open session.

Motion: proposed by Mr. Jecklin, and seconded by Mr. Royall that the Committee certify that the closed session just held was conducted in compliance with Virginia State law, as set forth in the Certification Resolution distributed. Motion carried.

A roll call vote was taken, the results of which are outlined in the Certification Resolution.

Motion: proposed by Mr. Jecklin, and seconded by Mr. Royall that the Board ratify the recommendation of Art Acquisitions Sub-Committee to accept the following **purchase considerations** as fully described on your motion sheet:

1. Mattia Preti (Italian, 1613 – 1699), *The Visitation*, 17th century, oil on canvas, 46½ x 66-1/8”

Vendor: Robilant + Voena, 38 Dover Street, London, W1S 4NL England

Source: Arthur and Margaret Glasgow Fund

2. Gilbert Stuart (American, 1755-1828), Portrait of Rebecca White Pickering (Mrs. Timothy Pickering), 1817-18, oil on wood, 31¼ x 24½”

Vendor: Michael Altman Fine Art, 38 E. 70th St, New York, NY 10021

Source: J. Harwood and Louise B. Cochrane Fund for American Art

3. Selection of photographs by Rodchenko and other Russian Constructivists

Alexander Rodchenko (Russian, 1891–1956):

with Henri Manuel (Russian, 1874 – 1947), *Alexandr Rodchenko's Worker's Club installation at the 1925 Decorative Arts exhibition in Paris*, 1925, gelatin silver print, 11.8 x 9.25"

House on Novinskii Boulevard - Project architect Moisei Ginzburg, 1929, vintage gelatin silver print, 4³/₄ x 6¹/₄"

The Worker's Faculty Student, 1924, vintage gelatin silver print; 4.8 x 3.4"

Workers' Demonstration, 1932, toned vintage gelatin silver print, 17.4 x 11.10"

Fotomontazh k poeme V. Mayakovskovo 'Pro Eto' (Photomontage for Mayakovsky's poem, 'About This'), 1923, gelatin silver print, 9.4 x 6.8"

Corner, 1925 (Untitled (Building), 1925), gelatin silver print, 5 x 6.10"

Dom Mosselproma. House of Mosselprom, decorated by Rodchenko, 1925, gelatin silver print, 9.8 x 6.4"

Canteen at the Electric Plant, 1929, gelatin silver print, 6.12 x 4.8"

Pryzholok s sbestom (High Jumper), 1937, gelatin silver print, 5.12 x 6.12"

Pine trees. From the Karelia series, 1933, gelatin silver print; 8.8 x 5.8"

Gustav Klutssis (1895 – 1938), *Delo Chesti, Slavy, Doblesti i Gerojstva! (A Matter of Honor, Glory, Valor and Heroism!)*, 1931, vintage gelatin silver photomontage

Max Alpert (1899–1980), *Untitled (Dnepr Dam)*, gelatin silver print; 12.12 x 9"

Piotr Otsup (1883 – 1963), *I.S. Kobozev na sjemke prazdnovanija pervoj godovshchiny Oktriabria. I.S. Kobozev (photographer) photographing the first October Celebration*, 1918, gelatin silver print., 6.8 x 4.10"

Georgi Zelma (Russian, 1906 – 1984):

Tractor Driver, Birobizhan, mid - 1930s, vintage gelatin silver print; 2.3 x 3.1"

Krasnaya Ploschad', Kolonna 'Elektrozavoda'. Red Square, Column of Electro-Factory, 1931 gelatin silver print, 4.1 x 6.5 in

Portrait of the photographer's wife, Vintage gelatin silver print; 3.4 x 6 in

Vendor: Richard Saltoun Gallery, 111 Great Titchfield Street, London W1W 6RY

Source: Adolph D. and Wilkins C. Williams Fund

4. Elisabeth Sunday (American, born 1958), *Emerge (Tuareg Woman, The Sahara Desert, Mali)*, 2007, platinum print on rag paper, ed. 2/10, sheet: 30 x 40"; framed: 35 x 42"

Vendor: The artist, 3246 Ettie Street, Studio 21, Oakland, CA 94608

Source: Adolph D. and Wilkins C. Williams Fund

and the following gift considerations:

1. Hasui Kawase (Japanese, 1883-1957), Eighty-Four Hasui Works
79 prints: woodblock prints; ink and color on paper; 3 watercolors; ink and color on paper
2 books illustrated with woodblock prints; Various sizes
Donor: René and Carolyn Balcer, 12218 Montana Ave. #401, Los Angeles, CA 90049
2. Tibetan, *Temple Hanging*, late 19th– early 20th century, silk, 93½” x 67¼”
Donor: Anne and Larry Heilman, 4620 N. Park Avenue, Apt. 406W, Chevy Chase, MD 20815
3. Jean Lurcat (French, 1892-1966): three Aubusson tapestries from 1965, wool:
Gemini, woven by the Atelier Gisèle Brivet, 41½ x 58¼” (L13.92)
The Awakening, woven by the Atelier Gisèle Brivet, 48 ¾ x 79¼” (L12.92)
Cascade, woven by the Atelier Picaud, 42¾ x 58¼” (L22.98)
Gift of Mary and Lucien Rubenstein, Oakwood Village West, 6209 Mineral Point Road, Apt. 700, Madison, WI 53705-4536
4. Edward Heim (American, before 1880 - after 1937), *Bessie Potter Vonnob*, ca. 1927, photograph, 9½ x 7¼”
Donor: Alexander Reeves, 3801 Dover Road, Richmond, VA 23221

and to approve the deaccession considerations made by the Staff:

1. Three oil portraits by Charles Xavier Harris (American, 1856-1936), ca. 1930s: *Susannah Smith Preston* (60.52.2), *Major William Preston* (60.52.5), *William Campbell Preston* (60.52.6). Gift of Mrs. Preston Davie.

Recommendation: Deaccession and transfer ownership to Smithfield-Preston Foundation, Inc., for permanent display at Historic Smithfield Plantation, Blacksburg, Virginia.
2. French 18th-century paneling, mirror, and over-door paintings from three rooms (Gift of C.I. Planning Corporation, 79.7).

Recommendation: Deaccession and consign to Sotheby’s for private sale.

and to approve the loan recommendations made by the Staff:

Loans from the Collection:

1. Kehinde Wiley, Willem van Heythuysen, 2006, oil and enamel on canvas. Arthur and Margaret Glasgow Fund, 2006.14.

Exhibition: “Kehinde Wiley: A New Republic”

Venues & dates: Brooklyn Museum, February 20 – May 24, 2015; 2nd venue to be determined; The Modern, Fort Worth, Oct. 16, 2015 – Jan. 10, 2016; Seattle Art Museum, Feb. 12 – May 8, 2016; VMFA, June 3 – Sept. 5, 2016; possible additional venues, to be determined.

Recommendation: lend to Brooklyn, The Modern, and Seattle, with courier to initial venue, pending conservation evaluation. Consider lending to additional venues when they are identified.

2. Salomon van Ruysdael, A River Landscape, 1645, oil on canvas. Adolph D. and Wilkins C. Williams Fund, 72.30.

Rembrandt Harmensz van Rijn, The Angel appearing to the Shepherds, 17th century, etching, drypoint, and burin on paper. Alice and Lewis Nelson Fund, Frank Raysor Fund, and Kathleen Boone Samuels Memorial Fund, 2013.202.

Paulus Potter, The Cowherd, 17th century, etching on paper. Promised Gift of Frank Raysor, L.139.2010.90

Magdalena de Passe, after Adam Elsheimer, Apollo and Coronis, 17th century, engraving on paper. Promised Gift of Frank Raysor, L.139.2010.4

Exhibition: “Seventeenth-Century Dutch Landscapes: Museum Studies Seminar Exhibition,” Joel and Lila Harnett Museum of Art, University of Richmond Museums, March 31 – May 15, 2015.

Recommendation: lend the Ruysdael and the Rembrandt and facilitate the loan of the Potter and the Passe on behalf of Frank Raysor, pending acceptable climate conditions at the Harnett.

3. Edna Andrade, Updraft, 1976, acrylic on canvas. Gift of Leslie R. Smolan, 2002.611.

Exhibition: “Edna Andrade”

Venues & dates: Newcomb Art Gallery, Tulane University, June 25 – Sept. 20, 2015; Joel and Lila Harnett Museum of Art, University of Richmond Museums, Oct. 23 – Dec. 11, 2015; 3rd venue to be determined; Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, June 24 – Oct. 2, 2016.

Recommendation: lend to the Newcomb Art Gallery and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts; lend to the Harnett pending acceptable climate conditions there; consider lending to the 3rd venue when it is identified.

4. Gustave Miklos, Sculpture (Obelisk) for Jacques Doucet’s Residence, ca. 1926, rock crystal, silver, enamel, gilding. Gift of Sydney and Frances Lewis, 85.329.

Exhibition: “Jacques Doucet – Yves Saint Laurent: Living for Art”

Venues & dates: The Fondation Pierre Bergé – Yves Saint Laurent, Paris, Oct. 2015 – Jan. 2016.

Recommendation: lend with courier.

5. Childe Hassam, Descending the Steps, Central Park, 1895, oil on canvas. Gift of the Estate of Hildegard G. van Roijen, 93.112

Daniel Putnam Brinley, The Peony Garden, ca. 1912, oil on canvas. Adolph D. and Wilkins C. Williams Fund, 78.149

Exhibition: “The American Impressionist Garden”

Venues & dates: New York Botanical Garden, May 13 – Oct. 30, 2016.

Recommendation: lend

Change to Loans Previously Approved:

1. Camille Pissarro, Landscape, St. Thomas, 1856, oil on canvas. collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon, 83.46.

Exhibition: “Pissarro. Between Danish Golden Age Painting and French Impressionism,”

Venues & dates: Ordrupgaard Museum for Fransk Impressionisme, Copenhagen, February 27 – May 31, 2015.

Loan approved September 29, 2014. Exhibition has been postponed until March 9 – July 22, 2017.

Loans Denied:

1. Helen Frankenthaler, Mother Goose Melody, 1959, oil on canvas. Gift of Sydney and Frances Lewis, 85.387.

Exhibition: “Pretty Raw: After and Around Helen Frankenthaler”

Venues & dates: Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University, Feb. 11 – June 7, 2015

Reason for denial: the facility is unable to maintain an acceptable level of relative humidity.

2. Jean-Antoine Watteau, The Gazer (Le Lorgneur), ca. 1716, oil on panel. Adolph D. and Wilkins C. Williams Fund, 55.22.

Exhibition: “Reveries italiennes”

Venues & dates: Valenciennes Musee des Beaux-Arts, France, Sept. 25, 2014 – Jan. 17, 2016.

Reason for denial: the wood panel support of this painting is very thin and cannot withstand the rigors of lending.

3. Claude Monet, Irises by the Pond, 1914-1917, oil on canvas. Adolph D. and Wilkins C. Williams Fund, 71.8.

Exhibition: “Monet and the French Impressionists”

Venues & dates: ARoS Art Museum, Aarhus, Denmark, Oct. 9, 2015 – Jan. 10, 2016

Reason for denial: the painting is committed to another exhibition during this period.

4. Andy Warhol, Triple Elvis, 1963, silkscreen ink, silver paint, and spray paint on linen. Gift of Sydney and Frances Lewis, 85.453

Exhibition: Western Heroes of Pulp Fiction: Dime Novel to Pop Culture”

Venues & dates: Tucson Museum of Art, Oct. 23, 2015 – Feb. 14, 2016

Reason for denial: the request does not make a convincing case for our painting from among the many other examples, and the painting has been lent frequently in recent years.

5. Japanese, unknown artist, Monju (Bodhisattva Manjusri) on a Lion, Kamakura period (1185-1333), 14th century, wood with polychrome, lacquer, copper, crystal, glass. Adolph D. and Wilkins C. Williams Fund, 66.73.1a-e.

Japanese, unknown artist, Fugen (Bodhisattva Samantabhadra) on an Elephant, Kamakura period (1185-1333), 14th century, wood with polychrome, lacquer, copper, crystal, glass. Adolph D. and Wilkins C. Williams Fund, 66.73.2a-e

Exhibition: “Kamakura: Realism and Spirituality in the Sculpture of Japan”

Venues & dates: Asia Society, New York, Feb. 9 – May 8, 2016

Reason for denial: these complex and fragile sculptures are too delicate to travel outside the museum.

Dr. Chesterfield mentioned the **Director’s Discretionary Purchases**:

1. Twelve Photographs Purchased from the Estate of George Cruger:

Mary Ellen Mark (American, b. 1941), *India*, 1989, gelatin silver print, 10-5/16" x 10-5/16"

Alvin Langdon Coburn, (British, 1882–1966), *Greyfriars Church*, photogravure, 7½" x 6-3/16"; framed: 12" x 10½"

Unknown photographer, [Point Lobos], ca. 1930, silver gelatin print, 7½" x 9¾"

Unknown photographer, *Louvre Gallery nearly Empty*, 1939, Series of five silver-gelatin prints

Claudio Cambon (American, b. 1967), *'Papa' John Wallace, Bosun*, from the series *Shipbreak: A Biology of Steel*, 1998, gelatin-silver print, 16" x 20", framed: 19¾" x 23¾"

Unknown photographer (perhaps from *New York Herald-Tribune*), two gelatin-silver prints depicting *José Ramón Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez*, 1927, gelatin-silver print, 4-9/16" x 6¾", framed: 8¾" x 10¾"

Underwood & Underwood, Cecile Beaton, Some Men Climb ‘Some Heights’ To Get Some Women, ca. 1930, image: 7¾" x 9⅝"; print, 7-7/8" x 6-1/16"

Source: Kathleen Boone Samuels Memorial Fund

Vendor: Quinn and Farmer Auction, Charlottesville, Sale # 41, 9/16/2014

2. Gyorgy Kepes, (American/Hungarian, 1906-2001), four untitled abstractions, gelatin silver prints, ea: 9 ¾ x 7¾" (image); 10 x 8" (sheet)

Vendor: Freeman's Auction, 1808 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia PA 19103
 Source: Adolph D. and Wilkins C. Williams Fund

3. Arnold Newman (American, 1918-2006), four silver gelatin prints:
Man Ray, Los Angeles, 1948, 8½ x 5¼"; Moses & Raphael Soyer, NYC, 1942, 10 x 8"
Grandma Moses, Eage Bridge, NY, 1949, 9¾ x 8¼" & Danny Kaye 14¼ x 11¼"

Source: Kathleen Boone Samuels Memorial Fund

Vendor: Clarke NY Auctioneers, Auction #156 (9/9/14), 2372 Boston Post Rd, Larchmont, NY 10538

Motion: proposed by Ms. Goode and seconded by Mr. Douglass that the Art Acquisitions Sub-Committee recommend to the Full Board of Trustees that the Director, and in his absence Dr. Chesterfield, be authorized to accept gifts of art offered to the Museum between December 13, 2014 and December 31, 2014. Motion carried.

No additional business was brought before the Committee and the meeting was adjourned by Cynthia Kerr Fralin, Co-Chair, at 4:45 pm.

MOTION: Mr. Jecklin
 SECOND: Mr. Royall

MEETING: Art Acquisitions Sub-Committee
 DATE: 2 December 2014

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Art Acquisitions Sub-Committee has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this Committee that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Art Acquisitions Sub-Committee hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Art Acquisitions Sub-Committee.

VOTE

AYES: Fralin/Jecklin/Abramson/Goode/Gottwald/Perkins/
 Talegaonkar/Royall

NAYS: None

ABSENT DURING VOTE: Cochrane

ABSENT DURING MEETING: Connors/Harris/Markel/McGlothlin/Smith

Recorded by: Rebecca L. Morrison
 Assistant for Trustee Board Relations and Museum Planning