

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts  
Minutes of the Art & Collections Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, 13 September 2017, 9:00am  
The Olde Farm, Bristol, VA

Additional posted locations:

17 77th St  
Brooklyn, NY 11209

**There were present:**

Tom Papa, Vice Chair  
Karen C. Abramson  
Steven A. Markel  
Michele Petersen  
**Mary Gray Shockey (via conference)**  
Michael J. Schewel, Ex-officio

**Absent:**

Ivan P. Jecklin, Chair  
Cynthia Kerr Fralin  
Margaret N. Gottwald  
Dr. Monroe E. Harris, Jr.  
Dr. Paul Monroe  
Pamela Reynolds

**By Invitation:**

**Board**

Lynette Allston  
Kenneth Dye  
Anne Noland Edwards  
Martha Glasser  
Sara O'Keefe  
Satya Rangarajan  
William A. Royall, Jr.

**Staff**

Alex Nyerges, Director  
Stephen D. Bonadies  
Dr. Lee Anne Chesterfield  
Jody Green  
Jan Hatchette  
Laura Keller  
Hossein Sadid

Jayne Shaw  
Dr. Peter Moon Schertz, via conference  
Dr. Michael R. Taylor  
Kimberly Wilson

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

At 9:05am, Vice Chair Thomas Papa called the meeting to order and welcomed the group.

#### II. MINUTES APPROVAL

**Motion:** proposed by Mr. William Royall and seconded by Mr. Satya Rangarajan to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2017 Art and Collections Committee meeting as distributed. Motion approved.

#### III. BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Dr. Michael Taylor reviewed necessary budget amendments for major exhibitions projects, including the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts' participation in the 2018 Winter Antiques Show (January 18 – 28, 2018), the traveling of the Rachel Lambert Mellon Collection of Jean Schlumberger exhibition (beginning late summer early autumn 2018), and the upcoming Masks of Congo exhibition (November 17, 2018 – February 24, 2019). He noted that he wanted to make the Art and Collections committee aware that these budget amendments would be presented to the Fiscal Oversight committee for their review and approval prior to its presentation at the Full Board meeting. These budget amendments would allocate funds to these endeavors pending approval from the Full Board. Discussion of VMFA's presentation at Winter Antiques ensued with questions regarding whether or not booklets or memberships would be passed out to those in attendance. Dr. Michael Taylor noted that memberships would be discussed with Kristine Craig, VMFA's Director of Membership.

#### IV. COLLECTION PLAN: ANCIENT ART

Dr. Michael Taylor then introduced Dr. Peter Schertz, the Jack and Mary Ann Frable Curator of Ancient Art, who gave an overview of VMFA's history of collecting Ancient Art. Dr. Schertz underscored that he is interested in collecting certain types of works to strengthen the collection rather than collecting specific works. He detailed that VMFA has strong holdings in Egyptian, Near Eastern, Pre-Greek, Etruscan, Roman, and Byzantine objects, but the collection could be strengthened and bolstered by prioritizing certain types. The collection could be enhanced through acquiring the following types of object: Egyptian funerary and ritualistic art; Egyptian jewelry; Nubian works; Greek, Etruscan, and Roman portraiture; Roman and Etruscan metalwork; and Byzantine stoneware and Judaica—to name a few. Dr. Schertz also stated the importance of provenance, and Director Alex Nyerges suggested that museum leadership further discuss provenance at an upcoming meeting of the Trustees.

## V. CONSERVATION CENTER: FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Vice Chair Tom Papa then introduced Stephen Bonadies, Senior Deputy Director for Conservation and Collections, to give a report on the Susan and David Goode Center for Advanced Study in Art Conservation and its ongoing activities. Mr. Bonadies noted recent work completed by paper conservator, Sam Sheeshley, on the work of Sari Dienes as she presented her findings at a nation conference, elevating VMFA's reputation and profile in the conservation field. Next, Mr. Bonadies noted the use of new imaging technologies (radiographic imaging) on a Dutch landscape painting in VMFA's collection; this work is being completed in partnership with faculty from Washington and Lee University. He then reported that the Conservation team is introducing middle schools to science in Education, and they have received a grant for an endowed position in addition to the \$1.5 million Mellon grant. Mr. Bonadies then distributed portfolios and documents for "A Case for Support" of Conservation. He noted that this document is to be used for prospects and tours for the Conservation studio. Director Alex Nyerges thanked Mr. Bonadies for his hard work and dedication to the Susan and David Goode Center for Advanced Study in Art Conservation and expressed that this program would elevate VMFA's profile and further heighten the museum's ranking against other museums in America.

## VI. OTHER BUSINESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:16AM.

Recorded by: Jody Green  
Administrative Assistant, Director's Office