

Date: _____ Approved: _____

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Minutes of the Art and Education Committee Meeting
Theater Level Conference Room #1
3 December 2014, 10:30am

There were present:

Susan S. Goode, Chair
Karen C. Abramson
Mary Anne Carlson
Margaret Irby Clement
Cynthia Kerr Fralin
Margaret N. Gottwald
Ivan P. Jecklin
Dr. Claude G. Perkins
Michele Petersen
Pam Reynolds
Charles H. Seilheimer, Jr.
Dr. Shantaram Talegaonkar
William A. Royall, Ex-officio

By Invitation:

Kelsey Beckwith
Dr. Lee Anne Chesterfield
John Ravenal
Lee Viverette

Absent:

Tyler Bishop
John R. Curtis, Jr.
Richard B. Gilliam
Frederica P. Gray
Terrell Luck Harrigan
Dr. Elizabeth F. Harris
Keith R. Kissee
Paul Monroe
Mary Gray Shockey
Cameron O'Brion
Dr. Lindley T. Smith
Jane H. Spilman

I. CALL TO ORDER

Susan Goode, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:37 am and welcomed the group.

II. MINUTES

Motion: proposed by Mr. Seilheimer and seconded by Ms. Abramson that the minutes of the last meeting of the Art and Education Committee held on the 30th of September be approved as distributed. Motion carried.

III. CURATORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. Lee Anne Chesterfield, Interim Deputy Director of Art & Education, shared details of her recent trip to Nanjing, China. The conference focused on building relationships between Chinese and American museums. Due to the successful exchange of work with the Palace Museum, VMFA has emerged as a leader for partnering with Chinese museums. Currently, Chinese museums are interested in exhibiting Impressionist works, and Dr. Chesterfield proposed exhibits of VMFA's Mellon collection. She then opened the discussion to questions regarding the exhibition schedule.

In response to Ms. Fralin, Dr. Chesterfield informed the group that the *Making America* exhibit has been postponed due to a continued search for partner institutions and changing logistics surrounding the departure of Dr. Sylvia Yount, former Chief Curator. She confirmed that Dr. Yount's responsibilities in her new role as Lawrence A. Fleischman Curator in Charge of The American Wing at the Metropolitan Museum of Art will not allow her to continue to contribute to this exhibition. Ms. Fralin and Ms. Reynolds expressed appreciation for Dr. Yount's work at VMFA and pointed to the need for the museum to emphasize American Art as an educational tool for both children and adults. Ms. Gottwald suggested that VMFA partner with a Chinese museum for *Making America*. Mr. Royall offered feedback as to how VMFA can maximize the exhibition's partnership appeal.

Ms. Goode congratulated John Ravenal, Sydney and Frances Lewis Family Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, as he accepts a new position as Executive Director of deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum in Lincoln, MA.

Mr. Ravenal explained that the *Johns/Munch* exhibit will appear at the Munch Museum in Oslo, Norway from June until September 2016, and at VMFA from November 2016 to February 2017. Based on Johns' painting *Between the Clock and the Bed* in VMFA's permanent collection, the exhibition will contain approximately 130 works, evenly divided between the artists. Mr. Ravenal detailed the thematic and visual connections between Johns' and Munch's work. He explained that the goals of the exhibit are to describe precisely when Munch entered into Johns' artistic process and show how Munch influenced and changed Johns' work.

Stating his intention to be involved in the exhibit until its completion, Mr. Ravenal indicated that he plans to contribute to all aspects, from fundraising to installation and beyond. He estimated the budget at \$1 million. Ms. Reynolds inquired about plans for education links or digital content, and Mr. Ravenal said that details would be available at the next meeting. Ms. Goode commended Mr. Ravenal for his dedication to this project and suggested that the exhibition team consider an in-depth audio guide.

IV. LIBRARY TOUR

Ms. Goode introduced Lee Viverette, Head Librarian, who led a tour of the library space and showcased rare books from the museum's collection. In response to an inquiry from Ms. Reynolds, Ms. Viverette replied that the library, on average, receives approximately ten visitors daily. These visitors come to perform research and browse the collection. Ms. Viverette discussed how the library's collection has enhanced VMFA exhibitions and collections.

V. OTHER BUSINESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ms. Goode adjourned the meeting at 12:07 pm.

Recorded by: Kelsey Beckwith
Education Assistant