

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts  
Meeting of the Art and Collections Committee  
Thursday, 30 March 2017, 9:00 a.m.  
Theater Level Conference Room #1

There were present:

Susan S. Goode, Chair  
Ivan P. Jecklin, Vice Chair  
Karen C. Abramson  
Cynthia Kerr Fralin  
Margaret N. Gottwald  
Dr. Paul Monroe  
Michele Petersen  
Pamela Reynolds  
Charles H. Seilheimer, Jr.  
Mary Gray Shockey  
Michael J. Schewel, Ex-officio

By invitation:

Alex Nyerges, Director  
Maggi Beckstoffer  
Stephen D. Bonadies  
Dr. Lee Anne Chesterfield  
Jody Green  
Claudia E. Keenan  
Laura Keller  
Cameron O’Brion  
Hossein Sadid  
Dr. Michael R. Taylor  
Courtney Freeman  
Cindy Conner  
Satya Rangarajan

Absent:

Dr. Monroe E. Harris, Jr.  
Steven A. Markel  
James W. McGlothlin  
Dr. Claude G. Perkins

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Susan Goode called the meeting to order at 9:03am and welcomed the group. She thanked Charlie Seilheimer, who is rotating off of the board, for serving as a member of the Art & Education Committee and for supporting the museum for so many years.

II. MINUTES APPROVAL

**Motion:** proposed by Mr. Jecklin and seconded by Mr. Schewel that the minutes of the December 7, 2016 Art and Education Committee meeting be approved as distributed. Motion carried.

### III. COMMITTEE CHARGE & AGENDA ROTATION

Ms. Goode reviewed the committee charge. She explained that Michael Taylor developed an agenda rotation for consideration, encouraging the committee members to reach out with any suggested changes.

### IV. EXHIBITION PORTFOLIO UPDATE

Chief Curator and Deputy Director for Art and Education Michael Taylor updated the committee on changes made to the exhibition portfolio. Barry Shifman has discussed dates with the Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, and they have agreed to postpone *The Crazy Years: Paris Fashion and Art Deco, 1910-1930* until November 2020. An exhibition of Congo masks from a private collection will take its place, opening November 2018. Dr. Taylor reported that there were 47,830 visitors to *Jasper Johns and Edvard Munch: Love, Loss, and the Cycle of Life*. This was below projections, but revenues were closer to the target. The exhibition was also well-received among art critics, drawing scholars from across the country. He announced that attendance to *The Rachel Lambert Mellon Collection of Jean Schlumberger* has been strong, with 31,000 visitors so far. Projected attendance for *Yves Saint Laurent: The Perfection of Style* is 108,800.

### V. EXHIBITION PLANNING AT VMFA

Director of Exhibition Planning Courtney Freeman provided an overview of the exhibitions department. She explained that she and Dr. Taylor have worked to improve communication and organization among the numerous departments who participate in creating exhibitions. She emphasized the importance of transparency, role awareness, and budget consciousness. She listed recent accomplishments including the creation of an exhibition white paper, seven new hires since July, \$55,000 in exhibition design savings for *Jasper Johns and Edvard Munch: Love, Loss, and the Cycle of Life*, transition to using term contracts for cost savings, innovation in the design of *The Rachel Lambert Mellon Collection of Jean Schlumberger*, and improved communication among exhibition departments.

### VI. AFRICAN ART COLLECTION PLAN AND STRATEGY

Curator Richard Woodward outlined the collection plan for African Art at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. He explained that the museum first began collecting art from regions along the Atlantic coast and in sub-Saharan areas. The collection currently includes ancient, historical, and contemporary art from the continent, and Mr. Woodward hopes to expand holdings connecting to other collections, specifically contemporary African painting and sculpture and historical works that inspired Western Modernism and Art Deco. He plans to strengthen the representation of art from eastern Africa, the African Americas, northern Africa, and the Kalahari desert. He hopes to acquire artwork related to Islam and Santeria, as well.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:28am.

Recorded by: Laura Keller  
Assistant to the Secretary of the Foundation