

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Minutes of the Art & Collections Committee Meeting
Thursday, 15 June 2017, 9:00am
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. Monroe E. Harris, Jr.
Steven A. Markel
Pamela Reynolds
Mary Gray Shockey
Michael J. Schewel, Ex-officio

Absent:

Dr. Paul Monroe
Michele Petersen

By Invitation

Alex Nyerges, Director
Stephen D. Bonadies
Laura Keller
Dr. Leo Mazow
Hossein Sadid
Dr. Michael R. Taylor
Courtney Tkacz

I. CALL TO ORDER

At 9:03am, Chair Susan Goode called the meeting to order and welcomed the group. Deputy Director for Art and Education Michael Taylor thanked Ms. Goode for serving as chair of the committee, noting that she would be rotating off of the Board of Trustees at the end of the month.

II. MINUTES APPROVAL

Motion: proposed by Dr. Harris and seconded by Ms. Gottwald to approve the minutes of the March 30, 2017 Art and Collections Committee meeting as distributed. Motion approved.

III. EXHIBITION PORTFOLIO UPDATE

Dr. Taylor reviewed changes to the exhibition portfolio, including the addition of the Congo masks exhibition. He updated the committee on attendance to *The Rachel Lambert Mellon Collection of Schlumberger*, which has reached 83,000 visitors. He noted that the museum would like to write a catalogue and travel the show.

In response to a question from Mr. Schewel, Mr. Nyerges explained that museums apply for federal indemnity for exhibitions through the National Endowment for the Arts, which eliminates the cost for insuring exhibitions. For the Picasso exhibition, the total savings was approximately \$1 million. Ms. Goode encouraged each committee member to reach out to members of Congress in support of the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities.

IV. AMERICAN ART COLLECTION PLAN AND STRATEGY

Dr. Mazow presented the museum's acquisition plan for the American art collection noting strengths in the decorative arts, Impressionism, the Gilded Age, and the Ash Can School. He listed key artists he hopes to represent in the collection soon: David Drake, Sargent Johnson, Archibald Motley, and John Biggers. Other acquisition priorities include the 14th Street School, early to mid-18th Century portraiture, female artists, genre paintings, decorative arts from the William and Mary period, and modern realists like Grant Wood or John Stuart Curry.

Dr. Taylor remarked on the importance of cultivating relationships with art collectors, in addition to studying the art market.

V. DRAPER ARCHIVE PROJECT

Archivist Courtney Tkacz reported on the Louis Draper archive digitization project, funded by a \$174,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Draper's sister, Nell Draper Winston, preserved the archive and sold it to the museum in 2016. The archive consists of 50,000 objects like negatives, periodicals, journals, and cameras. Draper recorded the history of Kamoinge, a black photographer collective, and his notes are among the materials in the archive. VMFA hopes to acquire more artists archives in the future, specifically Virginia artists like Draper.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:05am

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