

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Minutes of the Art and Collections Committee Meeting
Friday, March 26, 2021, 8:30am
Electronic Meeting

There were present:

Meg Gottwald, Chair
Tom Papa, Vice Chair
Edie Cabaniss
Cindy Conner
Anne Edwards
Janet Geldzahler
Martha Glasser
David Goode
Pamela Reynolds
Suzy Szasz Palmer
Monroe Harris, Trustee President, Ex-officio

Absent:

Steve Markel
Michele Peterson

By Invitation:

Alex Nyerges, Director and Chief Executive Officer
Kay Baker
Stephen Bonadies
Caprice Bragg
Matt Cooper
Stephanie Cooperstein
Birch Douglass
Denise Keane, Foundation Liaison
Jim Klaus, Foundation Co-President
Debbie Linn
Cindy Norwood, Office of the Attorney General
Hubert Phipps
John Henry Rice
Hossein Sadid
Michael Taylor
Deborah Valentine, Foundation Liaison

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Meg Gottwald called the meeting to order at 8:31am.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Ms. Gottwald reported there were no requests for public comment.

III. MINUTES APPROVAL

Motion: Proposed by Ms. Janet Geldzahler and seconded by Ms. Suzy Szasz Palmer to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2021 Art and Collections Committee meeting as distributed. Motion carried.

IV. *MAN RAY: THE PARIS YEARS*

Dr. Michael Taylor, Chief Curator and Deputy Director for Art and Education, presented an in-depth overview of the upcoming photography exhibition, *Man Ray: The Paris Years*, which he is curating. The exhibition is scheduled to open at the VMFA on October 30, 2021 and run through February 21, 2022. Dr. Taylor noted that his hope is to not only highlight the great work of this notable photographer but to also bring awareness about some of his sitters, such as singer Ruby Richards and actress Miriam Hopkins.

V. CONSERVATION INSIGHTS ON AN 18TH CENTURY SOUTH ASIAN SCROLL

Mr. Stephen Bonadies, Chief Conservator and Senior Deputy Director for Conservation and Collections, introduced Ms. Debbie Linn, Assistant Chief Conservator, who joined the VMFA in September 2019 from the Field Museum in Chicago. Ms. Linn provided the Committee with a look at the process of conserving a 300 year-old scroll painting. *Picture Scroll Depicting Events from the Legendary History of the Gauda Caste* is nearly 50 feet long and provides conservators with a variety of projects in its conservation. While discussing the scroll, Ms. Linn explained the various tools used to analyze it, including the Bruker CRONO X-Ray Fluorescence Scanning Spectrometer which has the ability to identify different elements within paint. She noted that this information not only helps her team identify the materials used, but also see what may have been painted over in the process. She also shared preliminary plans on how to display the large scroll in the galleries while protecting it from light-based degradation.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:27am.

Recorded by: Stephanie Cooperstein
Executive Administrator to the Chief Strategy Officer and
Deputy Director for Strategic Planning, Government & Board Relations