

Art Acquisitions

February 2012

1. Karl L. H. Müller (American, born Germany, ca. 1820-1887), designer. Union Porcelain Works (active 1863-ca. 1922), manufacturer. *Century Vase*, ca. 1876-77, Greenpoint (now Brooklyn), New York. Porcelain, with bisque and glazed surfaces, partially painted and gilded, 12 ¾ inches high. Marked: “K. MULLER” under portrait; “UPW” on relief panel; “MANUFACTURED BY UNION PORCELAIN WORKS GREENPOINT, NY” and “UPWC” on underside. J. Harwood and Louise B. Cochrane Fund and partial gift of Robert Hunter and Marshall Goodwin, 2012.7



One of the most iconic of American porcelain forms, this vase belongs to a small group of objects produced to the design of German-born sculptor, Karl L. H. Müller, by the Brooklyn-based firm, Union Porcelain Works. First unveiled in monumental form at the 1876 Centennial International Exhibition, the vases were intended as a visual record of America’s progress through its first century of independence. Boasting two portrait medallions of George Washington and handles modeled on North American bison heads, each vase features a series of six biscuit-relief plaques depicting key figures and themes in American history. A benchmark of technical virtuosity and artistic merit, this vase reflects high-style period taste. Adding to the quality of its execution is the rare artist’s mark—only one other such example is known—suggesting it may have been produced by Müller himself.

Dr. Susan Rawles
Assistant Curator of American Decorative Art

2. Kristin Baker (American, b. 1975), *The Prig*, 2008, acrylic on polyvinyl chloride. Gift of Pamela K. and William A. Royall Jr., in celebration of VMFA's 75th anniversary, 2011.501



Baker came to attention in 2003 for her explosive paintings inspired by Formula One car racing and her generalized catastrophic landscapes. *The Prig* moves toward more abstract imagery and makes reference to Cubist collage. Baker builds her works by outlining each mark and shape with torn tape and filling the interior with bright glossy paint using trowels, palette knives, and squeegees. The forms are layered and sometimes scraped away to reveal the colors beneath. The textured, handmade quality emphasizes the materiality of painting, but her images also have a virtual quality, like 3-D digital imaging. This is Baker's first work to enter VMFA's collection—a major painting by an important young artist.

John Ravenal
 Sydney and Frances Lewis Family Curator of Modern
 and Contemporary Art

3. Kuba (Democratic Republic of Congo), *21 textiles* (four long wrap skirts, four overskirts, nine single presentation panels, and four multiple presentation panels), 19th-20th century, raffia palm fiber, various sizes. Gift of Allen and Barbara Davis in memory of Frère Joseph-Aurélien Cornet on the occasion of VMFA's 75th anniversary, 2011.530 – 2011.550

Fig 1
Man's Ceremonial Wrap Skirt (detail)
 Raffia palm fiber, 30 in. x 234 in.



Fig 2
Woman's Ceremonial Overskirt
 Raffia palm fiber, 21 in. x 63 in.
 2011.535

Fig 3
Men's Single Panel Prestige Cloth
 22 3/4 in. x 22 in. 2011.535



VMFA has received an extraordinary gift from Mr. and Mrs. Allen C. Davis consisting of 21 textiles from the Kuba kingdom, in today's Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Kuba are renowned for their elaborate regalia, masks, and other accouterments that promote the ruling order and identify an individual's status or office within an extensive royal court system. Among the vestments required by royals for court events are long wrap skirts (fig. 1) and shorter overskirts (fig. 2). Additionally, smaller textile panels (fig. 3) are used for tribute, as currency, and to demonstrate their owner's wealth. Kuba textiles are created entirely from fibers of the raffia palm and include ornate designs done worked in embroidery, cut-pile, and appliqué. A wide range of designs and types of cloth produced by Kuba weavers are included in this significant donation.

Richard Woodward
Curator of African Art

4. Félix Bracquemond (French, 1833-1914), 91 prints, including *L'Arc-en-ciel* (2011.369); Emil Courtin, a portrait of Félix Bracquemond, vintage photograph. Gift of Frank Raysor



Although today less well-known than his more famous friends and colleagues among the French avant-garde, Félix Bracquemond was one of the most influential artists in France in the second half of the nineteenth century. These 91 prints from the Frank Raysor Collection represent a significant body of his work for which VMFA is poised to become a major repository. Not only a major artist, Bracquemond was also a major figure in the network of literary and artistic friendships that flourished in late-19th-century Paris. He taught Manet, Degas, Pissarro and Renoir printmaking and

was highly influential in the development of Japonisme—the taste for Japanese style and motifs—in France. But it is as an etcher that Bracquemond excelled, and he produced some of the most technically and artistically important examples of what must be called Impressionist etching. Indeed, the present group of 91 prints contains some of Bracquemond's most iconic images that join VMFA's important and growing collection of European works on paper.

Mitchell Merling
Paul Mellon Curator and Head of the Department of European Art

5. Edward Weston (American, 1886-1958), *Ruth St. Denis*, 1916, platinum print, 6³/₈ x 4¹/₂". Signed on recto and inscribed on verso by Edward Weston: "Merry Christmas Lillian from Flora and Edward". Floyd D. and Anne C. Gottwald Fund, 2012.1



This rare Edward Weston portrait of the celebrated modern dance pioneer Ruth St. Denis augments VMFA's representation of early 20th-century urban realism. Weston—along with painters like Robert Henri—was captivated by Denis's innovative style, and documented her various personas in many photographs. This apparently unique image of Denis performing evokes her earlier experience in vaudeville and musical comedy, popular entertainments that attracted the attention of many visual artists at the time. Weston photographed Denis at his California studio while she was on a performance tour of the West Coast. This richly tonal platinum print (inscribed by Weston to his sister-in-law) is representative of the photographer's painterly, or "pictorialist," style in which he worked at the beginning of his career. It is the earliest work by Weston to enter the museum's collection, which holds three other, very different silver prints from the 1930s.

Dr. Sylvia Yount
Chief Curator and Louise B. and J. Harwood Cochrane
Curator of American Art

Additional Purchases and Gifts:

African Art

- Fali culture (Cameroon), *Doll*, mid-20th century, wood, glass beads, cowries, coins, fiber, 8⁷/₈ x 4 x 2³/₄". Gift of Lindley and Judy Smith in celebration of VMFA's 75th anniversary.
- Senufo or Lobi culture (Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso), *Slingshot in the Form of a Man*, 19th-20th century, wood, 9¹/₈ x 4 x 1¹/₂". Gift of Lindley and Judy Smith in celebration of VMFA's 75th anniversary.

American Art

- George Platt Lynes (American, 1907-1955), *W.H. Auden*, 1947, vintage gelatin silver print. Gift of Mitchell Merling in celebration of VMFA's 75th Anniversary.
- Louis C. Tiffany (1848-1933), designer, Tiffany & Company (1837–present), manufacturer, *Brooch-Pendant*, ca. 1910–1914, New York, New York, gold, plique-à-jour enameling, with inset cushion-cut yellow sapphire (approx. 12.5 carats), 1¹/₂ x 1³/₈". Gift of Frances Massey Dulaney in celebration of VMFA's 75th anniversary.

- Tiffany and Company (1837-present), retailer, *Ornamental Hair Comb*, ca. 1880, sterling, 7”h. Gift of Marie Elizabeth Mason.
- Marion Post Wolcott (American, 1910-1990), *Baptism in Triplett Creek, Rowan County, Kentucky*, 1940, gelatin silver print, 8 -7/16 x 11½”. Floyd D. and Anne C. Gottwald Fund.
- Unknown artisan, *“Hitchcock” Chair*, 19th century, painted wood, 33¼ x 14¾ x 13”. Gift of Joy S. Weber.

Native American Art

- Navajo *Rug* (Chinle, Arizona), ca. 1920, wool, 74 x 56”. Gift of Mareke Meiborg Schiller.

East Asian Art

- Chinese, three Rubbings from Wu Family Shrine, ink on paper mounted on board, late 19th-early 20th century. Gift of Muriel B. Christison.
- Kawase Hasui (Japanese 1883-1957), *Sixty-three woodblock*, late 19th-mid 20th century. René and Carolyn Balcer Collection.
- Japanese, *Bowl with Landscape Design*, early 20th century, Arita-Imari ware, porcelain with overglaze enamels and gold, about 6” diameter. Gift of Dr. and Mrs. William Jackson Frable.

South Asian

- Indian, North India, probably Kashmir, *Fragment of a Sash (Patka) or Scarf (Dupatta) with Paisley Motif*, 18th century, Shawl-cloth: loom-woven fine wool threads, 13½ x 27”; Indian, North India, *Fragment of a Striped Textile*, 18th century, loom-woven silk and gold wrapped silk threads, 21½ x 17”. Gift of Muriel B. Christison.

Modern & Contemporary Art

- Berenice Abbott (American, 1898-1991), *City Arabesque*, 1938, gelatin silver print, 13¼ x 9¾”. Floyd D. and Anne C. Gottwald Fund.
- Francis Bacon (Irish, 1909-1992), *L’etude pour tauromachie numero 1, deuxieme version*, 1990, color lithograph, 187/8 x 14¼”. Gift of Pamela K. and William A. Royall, Jr.
- Sonia Delauney (French, 1885-1979), *Projet de decoration*, 1932, gouache on paper, 10 3/16 x 23 5/8”. Gift of Pamela K. and William A. Royall, Jr.
- Peter Henry Emerson (British, 1856–1936), *The Old and the New*, 1886, platinum print, 4¾ x 9”. Aldine S. Hartman Endowment Fund.
- Michelle Erickson (American, born 1961), *Fossil Teapot*, 2008, thrown hand-mottled and hand-built porcelain with slip cast elements, porcelain slip glaze and jasper glaze, 11 x 22 x 8”. Gift of Pamela K. and William A. Royall, Jr.

- Mark Fox (American, born 1963), *Untitled (Tower)*, 2011, painted paper on wood table, crayons in straw basket, 132 x 36 x 24". Gift of Elizabeth F. and William P. Harris in celebration of VMFA's 75th anniversary.
- Robert Frank (born 1924 in Switzerland), *Allen Ginsberg*, 1959, gelatin silver print, 12³/₄ x 7³/₄". Aldine S. Hartman Endowment Fund.
- Sidney Goodman (American, born 1936): *Head of a Man*, 1964, oil on canvas, 13³/₄ x 11¹/₄"; *Tunnel*, 1964, pencil on paper, 24 x 30". Gift of Pamela K. and William A. Royall, Jr.
- Rockwell Kent (American, 1882-1971), *Climbing the Bars*, 1928, lithograph, 11 x 8". Gift of Pamela K. and William A. Royall, Jr.
- André Lhote (French, 1885-1962): *Au bord de la riviere*, 1912, oil on canvas, 22 1/16 x 31⁷/₈" (2011.508); *Vue du Luberon*, ca. 1950, oil on canvas, 14 15/16 x 21⁵/₈" (2011.509); *Portrait d'Anne à la robe rouge*, ca. 1925, oil on canvas, 13³/₄ x 8 ⁵/₈" (2011.511); *Ledah et le cygnet*, ca. 1930, gouache on paper, 11³/₈ x 15³/₈". Gift of Pamela K. and William A. Royall, Jr.
- Ryan McGinness (American, born 1970), *Untitled* (VMFA cyanotypes #1-#12), 2010, twelve unique cyanotypes on Saunders Waterford paper, ea: 30 x 22". Gift of an anonymous donor in celebration of VMFA's 75th anniversary.
- Ryan McGinness, two prints published by Pace Editions, Inc., 2011, 42 x 32 in. each: *VMFA Process Sketches*, etching (2011.492); *VMFA Drawings (Blind)*, relief print. Gift of Pace Editions, Inc. in celebration of VMFA's 75th anniversary.
- Reginald Marsh (American, 1898-1954), *New York Harbor & Skyline*, 1932, watercolor on paper, 19³/₈ x 13¹/₂". Gift of Pamela K. and William A. Royall, Jr.
- Bernard Martin (American, born 1935), *Jackson Pollock/Life Magazine*, 1996-1997, oil on acrylic on three canvases, 74¹/₄ x 55" each. Gift of Pamela K. and William A. Royall, Jr.
- Henri Matisse (French, 1869-1954), *Femme au Collier*, 1925, lithograph on jargon paper, 22 x 17³/₄". Gift of Pamela K. and William A. Royall, Jr.
- Sascha Pflaeging (German, born 1967), three photographs from the series "When Janey Comes Marching Home," 2010, digital c-prints, each image: 31 x 26". Gift of the artist.
- James Prosek (American, born 1975), *Peacock & Cobra*, 2008, five etchings with drypoint, 2¹/₄ x 15 x 10". Gift of Pamela K. and William A. Royall, Jr.
- Arnaldo Roche-Rabell (Puerto Rican, 1955), *How Much You Want*, 2007, oil on paper, 63³/₄ x 51¹/₄". Gift of Jean Crutchfield and Robert Hobbs in celebration of VMFA's 75th anniversary.

- Marco Sanges (Italian, b. 1970), Portrait series *12 n' 3*, gelatin silver print, ed. 1/15, 16 x 12". Gift of the artist.
- Sean Scully (American, b. Ireland, 1945), *Cut Ground Red Blue*, 2009, oil on linen, 110 x 161¼". Gift of Pamela K. and William A. Royall, Jr. in celebration of VMFA's 75th anniversary (fractional gift).
- Sean Scully, *Santo Domingo for Nene Suite*, 1999-2000, twelve type-C color photographs, 20 x 24" each. Gift of Pamela K. and William A. Royall, Jr.
- Jon-Phillip Sheridan (American, born 1977), *Direct Object 14*, 2010, chromogenic print, ed. 2/5, unframed: 47½ x 59". Un/Common Ground Fund, Kathleen Boone Samuels Memorial Fund, and funds contributed by Irma Goldstein.
- Gordon Stettinius (American, born 1966), *Self Portrait Series, 2008–2011*, 22 digital C-prints, 10 x 8" each. Gift of Pamela K. and William A. Royall, Jr.
- Donald Sultan (American, born 1951), *Trumpet Series*, 2007, Conte crayon and India ink on paper, 40 x 35¾". Gift of Pamela K. and William A. Royall, Jr.
- Leo Villareal (American, born 1967), *Skj*, 2009, light emitting diodes, Mac mini, circuitry, plexiglass and wood, 36 x 96 x 5½". Gift of Pamela K. and William A. Royall, Jr.
- Maurice de Vlaminck (French, 1876-1958), *Maison dans les arbres*, ca.1930, gouache and watercolor on paper, 18¾ x 24½". Gift of Pamela K. and William A. Royall, Jr.
- John Walker (English, born 1939), *The First Rainbow*, 2006/2009, oil on canvas, 84 x 66" Gift of Pamela K. and William A. Royall, Jr. in celebration of VMFA's 75th anniversary.
- John Walker, *North Branch II*, 2009, oil and mud on canvas, three panels: 84 x 66"; 84 x 84"; 84 x 66", ca. 84 x 228" overall (includes gaps); *Bonfire I, North Branch*, 2009, oil on canvas, 60 x 48"; *Bonfire II, North Branch*, 2009, oil on canvas, 60 x 48". Gift of Pamela K. and William A. Royall, Jr.

About the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts is a state agency and a model public/private partnership. All works of art are purchased with private funds from dedicated endowments. After the board of trustees accepts the acquisitions, the art becomes the property of the Commonwealth of Virginia to protect, preserve and interpret. The acquisitions committee meets quarterly.

With a collection of art that spans the globe and more than 5,000 years, plus a wide array of special exhibitions, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) is recognized as one of the top comprehensive art museums in the United States. The museum's permanent collection encompasses more than 23,000 works of art, including the largest public collection of Fabergé outside Russia and one of the nation's finest collections of American art, Art Nouveau and Art Deco. VMFA is home to acclaimed collections of English Silver and Impressionist, Post-Impressionist, British Sporting

and Modern & Contemporary art, as well as renowned South Asian, Himalayan and African art. In May 2010, VMFA opened its doors to the public after a transformative expansion, the largest in its 75-year history. Programs include educational activities and studio classes for all ages, plus fun after-hours events. VMFA's Statewide Partnership program includes traveling exhibitions, artist and teacher workshops, and lectures across the Commonwealth. General admission is always free. For additional information, telephone 804-340-1400 or visit www.vmfa.museum.

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