

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 10, 2013

Spring Art Acquisitions

The following artworks were approved by the VMFA board of trustees in March 2013. VMFA is a state agency and a public/private partnership. All works of art are purchased with private funds from dedicated endowments. After the VMFA Board of Trustees approves proposed acquisitions on a quarterly basis, the art becomes the property of the Commonwealth of Virginia to protect, preserve, and interpret.

1. 115 Works of Chinese calligraphy and painting from the Y. T. Bay Collection, Qing dynasty-Republic periods, 18th-20th century. Hanging scrolls, album leaves, folding fans; ink and color on paper or silk. Margaret and Arthur Glasgow Art Purchase Endowment and partial gift from the Y. T. Bay Collection



VMFA has recently acquired 115 Chinese calligraphic works and paintings from the Y. T Bay Collection. A native of Shanghai, Bay relocated in 1949 to Hong Kong, where he owned a silk factory. After his death in 1987, Bay's son David Pui inherited the collection. Created by court officials, scholars, monks, and modern artists, these works provide a glimpse into the cultural and artistic history of China from the 18th to the 20th century. The sixty-four calligraphic pieces are attributed to the leading Chinese calligraphers, including Weng Fanggang, Yong Xing, Tie Bao, Liang Tongshu, Weng Tonghe, Lu Runxiang, He Shaoji, and Wu Changshuo. The fifty-one paintings are produced by Qing-dynasty and modern artists, such as Zhang Yin, Wu Guxiang, Ni Mogeng, Wang Yiting, Tang Di, Li Kuchan, Wang Xijing, He Haixia, and Chen Dayu.

Joining ten works from the Y. T. Bay Collection that VMFA acquired in September 2012, these additional objects make a tremendous contribution to the museum's East Asian holdings and immediately strengthen our collection of Chinese calligraphy and painting. This acquisition was made possible by VMFA's newly established Margaret and Arthur Glasgow Art Purchase Endowment and a generous gift from the Y. T. Bay Collection.

Li Jian, E. Rhoads and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation Curator of East Asian Art

2. Kara Walker (American, born 1969), *Untitled*, 1996, ink, paper, paint, graphite, 85¼ x 72¼". Purchased with funds donated by Pam and Bill Royall Jr., Mary and Don Shockey Jr., Marion Boulton Stroud, and the Sydney and Frances Lewis Endowment Fund



Walker is known for large-scale installations of black cut-paper silhouettes that explore America's racial and gender tensions. She draws inspiration from Southern romance stories, historical fiction, slave narratives, and contemporary novels. Walker sets her scenes in the antebellum South, although her narratives freely mix fact, fiction, and fantasy. This large ink-wash drawing has the bold simplicity of Walker's cut-paper work. A young woman appears caught in the act of smothering a sleeping man in his four-poster bed. Though the precise nature of the act and the race of the woman are uncertain, the artist says she imagined a mercy killing that is met equally with surprise and tacit approval, simultaneously casting the protagonist (house slave? daughter? both?) as hero and villain. Walker is among the most important contemporary artists today and her work is part of major public collections around the world. The purchase of this drawing fulfills a longstanding goal of the Modern and Contemporary department to represent her in VMFA's collection. This

work will be installed in the Sydney and Frances Lewis Family Gallery of Mid to Late 20th-Century Art in April.

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

3. 17 Vintage Photographs of Interiors Designed by Pierre Legrain for Jacques Doucet, ca. 1928-1929, each: 9 x 6-³/₄". Sydney and Frances Lewis Endowment Fund



These rare and important vintage photographs document the Art Deco interiors of French fashion designer Jacques Doucet's Studio Saint-James in Neuilly (on the outskirts of Paris), designed in the late 1920s by Pierre Legrain. Doucet's studio was attached to the townhouse of his wife on the Rue Saint-James. Most of the distinguished interiors at the Studio Saint-James showcased Doucet's impressive collection of contemporary art, including paintings by Henri Rousseau, Georges Braque, and Pablo Picasso (namely, the iconic *Les Femmes d'Alger*). Magnificent furniture commissioned by Doucet from celebrated designers such as Eileen Gray, Pierre Legrain, Marcel Coard, and Rose Adler also appear in these images. Today, the combined furniture and interior decoration of Doucet's studio are universally recognized as the best example of the Art Deco style. VMFA's Lewis collection of decorative art includes nine objects featured in these photographs—a birdcage, leather chair, and two stools by Legrain; a carpet by Louis Marcoussis; a sofa by Coard; two tables by Adler and Gray; a sculpture by Gustave Miklos; and a cabinet by Jean Dunand.

Barry Shifman, Sydney and Frances Lewis Family Curator of Decorative Arts 1890 to the Present

Additional Purchases

European

- Eugène Grasset (French, 1845-1917), *Design for a Brooch*, 1900, gouache and watercolor over pencil on buff paper, image: 4 x 5¹/₂". Maria and John Shugars Fund
- Pierre Legrain (French, 1888-1929), *Design for a Birdcage*, about 1922-23, pencil, ink, and gouache on paper, 17-⁷/₈ x 11-⁷/₈". Maria and John Shugars Fund
- Wenceslaus Hollar (Bohemian, 1607-1677), *Elephant and Flowers (from the Animalium)*, 1662, etching w/thread margins, 6³/₄ x 10⁵/₈". Funds provided by Frank Raysor

Modern & Contemporary

- Derrick Adams (American, born 1970), *Head #2 (Floor Plan)* from the *Deconstruction Worker series*, 2011, mixed media collage, 36 x 35-7/8". Pamela K. and William A. Royall Jr. Fund for 21st-Century Art
- Nine gelatin silver prints by Louis Draper (American, 1935-2002). NEA Fund for American Art (four additional gelatin silver prints by Draper donated by the Louis Draper Estate)
- Trenton Doyle Hancock (American, born 1974), *The Former and the Ladder or Ascension and a Cinchin'*, 2012, acrylic and mixed media on canvas, 84 x 132 x 3". Pamela K. and William A. Royall Jr. Fund for 21st-Century Art
- Andre Kertesz (Hungarian, 1894-1985): *Chairs, Paris*, 1926, 10x 8"; and *Williamsburg, VA*, 1948, 10x 8". Aldine S. Hartman Endowment Fund
- Balthasar Korab (Hungarian, 1926-2013), *TWA Study 1*, 1957, 14 x 11". Aldine S. Hartman Endowment Fund
- Richard Roth (American, born 1946), *Untitled (Yellow Corner)*, 1971, enamel paint, glass, 72 x 72". Sydney and Frances Lewis Endowment Fund

Gifts

African

- Bruce Onobrakpeya (Nigerian, b. 1932), *Fura de Nono* relief printing plate, 1971, metal and cast resin (plastocast relief). Gift of Sandra W. Ferebee and Erik van Strien, Norfolk

European

- Vanessa Bell (British, 1879-1961), *Beddingham*, oil on canvas, 24 x 20". Gift of Alice and James Heard-Williams, Lynchburg
- Roger Fry (British, 1866-1934), *La Cardiaigre*, oil on panel, 13 x 16". Gift of Alice and James Heard-Williams, Lynchburg
- Duncan Grant (British, 1885-1978), *A Street in Lewes, Sussex*, ca. 1939, oil on canvas; *Tilton from the Lane to Charleston*, 1921, oil on canvas; *Still Life after Chardin*, 1967, black chalk and watercolor; *Portrait of Amaryllis*, Late 1950s, oil on canvas, 24 x 20". Gift of Alice and James Heard-Williams, Lynchburg
- Edward Le Bas (British, 1904-1966), *A Lady Reading*, oil on canvas, 21 x 25 1/2". Gift of Alice and James Heard-Williams, Lynchburg
- Edwin Henry Landseer, RA (British, 1802-1873), *Untitled (Study of a Recumbant Stag)*, 1819, chalk and pencil on laid paper, 7 x 9 1/2". Gift of Calder Loth, Richmond

The following **2012 year-end gifts** were also reported to the full board at the March meeting:

African

- Culture undetermined (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Anthropomorphic Hook, 19th-20th century, wood. Donor: Mona Gavigan, Washington, DC
- Eleven Pieces of South African Beadwork, 20th century. Donor: Deborah Stokes, Rockville, MD

- Dida culture (Cote d'Ivoire), Tie-dyed raffia cloth, early 20th century. Donor: Drs. James and Gladys Strain, Riverdale, NY

American

- Nine prints by Eldzier Cortor (American, born 1916), 1960s-1970s: *Composition Study III*, aquatint; *Dual Form III*, color aquatint; *Dual Form III*, sepia aquatint; *Environment No. V*, mezzotint; *L'Abbattoire I*, red entaglio woodcut; *L'Abbattoire III*, woodcut; *L'Abbattoire VI*, woodcut, artist's print; *Torso*, etching; *Trilogy No. II*, sanguine color. Gift of the artist, Mr. Eldzier Cortor, NY
- Paul Revere (American, 1735-1818), Set of six demitasse spoons, 18th-19th century, silver. Gift of Lilburn Trigg Talley, Jr., William St. Clair Talley, Edmund Myers Talley II, and Robert Armstrong Crockett Talley in memory of Lilburn Trigg Talley and Nancy Dalton St. Clair Talley, Richmond, VA
- Elizabeth Nottingham [Day] (American, 1907-1956), *Sea Sculpture*, 1955, watercolor on paper; Horace Day (American, 1909-1984), *Driftwood*, *Botany Bay*, *Edisto Is., S.C.*, 1955, watercolor on paper. Donor: Estate of the Artists, c/o son, Talmage Day, Alexandria, VA

East Asian

- Sixteen Japanese woodblock prints, Hiroshi Yoshida (1881 -1950): *A Little Restaurant*, 1933; *Farm House*, *Noka*, 1946; *Night in Kyota*, 1933; *Hirosaki Castle*, 1925; *A Spa in Spring*, 1940; *Hayase Kansai District*, 1933; Toshi Yoshida (1911-1995): *White Plum in Farmyard*, 1951; Pagoda in Kyota, 1942; *Silver Pavilion*, Katsuyuki Nishijima (born 1945), *First Day of Coldest Season*, early print created in mid 1970's; Haku Maki 1924-2000): *Tea Bowl*, 1962; *Tea Bowl*, 1963; *Tea Bowl*, 1965; Kiyoshi Saito (1907-1997): *Bunraku*, 1960, embossed details on mica background; *Cat* (untitled); *Small Cat*, 1954. Donor: Marjorie and Jerome Silber, Winston Salem, NC
- Kano Naonobu (Japanese, 1607-1650) 藤原尚信, *Dragon in the Clouds*, 17th century, Edo period (1615-1868), six-panel-folding screen, ink on paper. Donor: Linwood Vincent, Miami FL

Modern & Contemporary

- Will Berry (American, born 1954), *Untitled*, 2011, oxidation of aluminum leaf on gessoed linen over cedar panel, 47 x 23". Donor: Judith and Christopher Cabot, Beverly Farms, MA

About the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

VMFA's permanent collection encompasses more than 33,000 works of art spanning 5,000 years of world history. Its collections of Art Nouveau and Art Deco, English silver, Fabergé, and the art of South Asia are among the finest in the nation. With acclaimed holdings in American, British Sporting, Impressionist and Post-Impressionist, and Modern and Contemporary—and additional strengths in African, Ancient, East Asian, and European—VMFA ranks as one of the top comprehensive art museums in the United States. Programs include educational activities and studio classes for all ages, plus lively after-hours events. VMFA's Statewide Partnership program features traveling exhibitions, artist and teacher workshops, and lectures across the Commonwealth. VMFA is open 365 days a year and general admission is always free. For additional information, telephone 804-340-1400 or visit www.vmfa.museum.

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