

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2, 2014

Posing Beauty in African American Culture
Programs at VMFA

April

April 27

Reframing “Black is Beautiful”

3 p.m.

Leslie Cheek Theater

\$8(VMFA members, \$5)

Posing Beauty curator and author Deborah Willis examines the relationship between beauty and politics and explores how it has shaped a new understanding of black culture, from the antebellum period to the present.

May

May 1

Community Conversations: Up and Down the Boulevard

6-8 p.m.

Claiborne Robertson Room

Free, no registration required. Seating is limited.

Presented by the Valentine Richmond History Center

May 16

Teen Talent: Beauty, Body and Image

6:30-9 p.m.

Free

VMFA is seeking talented teens interested in showcasing their creativity in spoken word, monologue, song, dance, film, and more. Inspired by *Posing Beauty*, teens are invited to respond to the three themes repeated throughout the exhibition: beauty (or the perception there of), body, and image. On May 16, teens present their works at Teen Talent: Beauty, Body, and Image in VMFA’s Leslie Cheek Theater.

June

June 21

Celebrate African and African American Art – Free Style!

1-4 p.m.

Dig dip in the roots of African American culture and identity. Join in the conversation of style while enjoying performances by a barbershop quartets, hip hop dance performances by *IllStyle* and a call and response storytelling by author of *Nappy Hair*, Carolivia Herron; book signing to follow. Artist



Atlantic City, Four Women, c.1960s, John W. Mosley

and stylist demonstrations of braiding, wrapping, head dressing, and hat making will take place for the entirety of the event. Participate in art activities that really make a statement. Don't forget to come creative and dress your best so that you can leave with a special head shot from the VMFA photo booth.

June 22

Conversations: What is Beauty?

3 p.m.

Claiborne Robertson Room

Free, no reservations required

Join us for a conversation with author, educator and founder of Epic Center Stories', Dr. Carolivia Herron, inspired by *Posing Beauty*.

July

July 8

3 in 30: Posing Beauty

11 a.m., free

July 10

3 in 30: Posing Beauty

6:30 p.m., free

July 17

Artist Talk: Sonya Clark & Robert Pruitt

6:30-7:30 p.m.

Leslie Cheek Theater

\$8 (VMFA members \$5)

Join artists Sonya Clark and Robert Pruitt in a discussion about their work, which is included in the exhibition, *Identity Shifts*.

July 25th

Film: *Question Bridge: Black Males* (2013, 75 mins)

6:30-9 p.m.

Reynolds Lecture Hall

\$8 (VMFA members \$5)

This film is a project that critically explores challenging issues within the black male community by instigating a transmedia conversation among black men across the geographic, economic, generational, educational and social strata of American society. *Question Bridge* uses video mediated question and answer exchange to provide a safe setting for necessary, honest expression and healing dialogue on themes that divide, unite and puzzle black males in the United States. During the film, at intervals, a moderator will lead discussions.

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 art – 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 program includes traveling exhibitions, artist and teacher workshops, and lectures across the Commonwealth. VMFA, a certified Virginia Green attraction, 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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