



July 16, 2014

Forbidden City Programs and Statewide Offerings

Designed to inspire and inform audiences of all ages, VMFA's educational programs for *Forbidden City: Treasures from the Imperial Palace, Beijing* will tell the story of these rarely seen objects. These programs are generously sponsored by the MeadWestvaco Foundation. To complement the exhibition, *Beyond the Walls*, an interactive hands-on exhibition, will provide a glimpse into the home of a merchant-class family who lived outside the walls of the Forbidden City. In addition to creating an interactive technology experience for the exhibition, programming will bring to life the rich history of China through standards-based docent-guided tours for students in grades K-12. To prepare teachers for the special exhibition, VMFA will host a statewide teacher open house on August 29, 2014, which will explore the educational opportunities developed to complement the exhibition. For children and families, VMFA will offer studio classes and activities and also will celebrate the New Year with ChinaFest – a free, public, family event.

For adults, the museum will offer a number of lectures, talks, and a film program around the exhibition including nationally recognized speakers. These programs will support the exhibition with scholarly insights into the objects from the Palace Museum while making ties to VMFA's own collection.

Beyond the Walls

Public Opening: September 7, noon – 4 p.m.

Everyone is invited to celebrate the opening of a hands-on exhibition that looks beyond the Palace Walls. Visit the new gallery and enjoy a “make-it, take it” art activity during Open Studio Sunday.

The Memorial Foundation for Children Teaching Gallery, located in the MWV Art Education Center, will be transformed into an interactive exhibition where visitors can explore daily life in imperial China. In contrast to the world of the emperor on display in *Forbidden City*, this hands-on exhibition will provide a glimpse into the home of a merchant-class family who lived in the 17th-18th centuries. Visitors will be able to interact through activities that include writing Chinese characters on a touch screen and designing personal, virtual seals. There will also be opportunities to unroll and view reproduction scrolls, like those featured in *Forbidden City* and in VMFA's East Asian collection, or play traditional musical instruments and games. Whether visiting as part of a school group, or a multigenerational family, the Teaching Gallery exhibition will offer visitors of all ages a new perspective on China's imperial past.

Adult Art History Class: The Arts of China

With Dr. Kerry Lucinda Brown, Department of Art History, Virginia Commonwealth University
8 sessions: September 16–November 4, Tuesdays, 1-2:30 p.m.

Discover the rich artistic heritage of China – from ancient tomb sculptures to masterpieces of the imperial court. This 8-session course explores the history of art in China as a prelude to the upcoming exhibition *Forbidden City*, which features nearly 200 artworks and artifacts from the Emperor's palace.

More

Saturdays in the Studio: Chinese Prints & Plants

October 25, 1–4 p.m., enrollment limit: 16

\$25 per workshop (VMFA members \$22)

Each of these innovative workshops focuses on a unique art movement, culture, and medium associated with the VMFA collection. Teenagers will benefit from using a variety of tools and materials, while learning new techniques. Learn how to design a lino block inspired by stunning Chinese plant symbols and characters and create a series of prints.

Opening Lecture

With Dr. Nancy Berliner, Wu Tung Curator of Chinese Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

October 30, 6:30 p.m.

Kids Discover . . . : Inspired by China

Ages 6–9, enrollment limit: 16

November 1, 1–4 p.m.,

\$25 (VMFA members \$22) per class

After exploring hidden treasures from China, paint your own unique designs on silk, patterns on ceramics, and scenes on scrolls.

Virginia Art Education Association Annual Conference

The Virginia Art Education Association's 2014 Annual Conference will take place Nov. 6 – 8. The conference's Friday evening event will be held on Nov. 7 at VMFA and will include visits for participants to *Forbidden City* as well as a reception in the Marble Hall.

Teen Stylin' *Forbidden* Fashion Runway Exhibitions

Designed for students with a passion for clothing design, studio arts, installation art, and/or sculpture, Teen Stylin' provides aspiring designers with the guidance and assistance to create their own one-of-a-kind, wearable works of art. In celebration of *Forbidden City: Imperial Treasures from Palace Museum, Beijing*, this year's Teen Stylin' theme is *Forbidden*. During orientation, each student designer will have the opportunity to choose an inspiration piece from selected works of art in the VMFA permanent collection. Student designers will be challenged to use creative construction and alternative material to reveal perceived or known truths in a wearable work of art. These creations will be featured during the Teen Stylin' Fashion Runway Exhibitions.

November 15, 6-9 p.m. Metro Richmond Area Students, Event I

November 22, 6-9 p.m. Metro Richmond Area Students, Event II

November 22, 2-4 p.m. Statewide and Satellite Students Event

Teen Stylin' is generously supported in part by RBC Wealth Management and Diane Cox Basheer and B. William Basheer.

Friday Family Art Night: Silk Painting

Recommended for children ages 5–12, must be accompanied by an adult, enrollment limit: 16 families

November 21, 5–7 p.m.

\$20 (VMFA members \$18) per child/adult pair

You and your child will enjoy quality time together learning new art techniques and collaborating on creative projects using specialized materials. Classes begin promptly at 5 p.m. in the MWV Art Education Center. Explore traditional and modern approaches to the ancient Chinese art of silk painting.

Public Lecture: *How to Read Chinese Paintings*

With Maxwell K. Hearn, Douglas Dillon Chairman, Department of Asian Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art

December 4, 6:30 p.m.

The Chinese way of appreciating a painting is often expressed by the words *du hua*, “to read a painting.” How does one do that? Because art is a visual language, words alone cannot adequately convey its expressive dimension. Spanning 1,000 years of Chinese art from the 8th-17th century, the lecture will examine multiple layers of meaning—style, technique, symbolism, past traditions, and the artist’s personal circumstances—in the treatment of landscapes, flowers, birds, figures, religious subjects, and calligraphies in order to illuminate the main goal of every Chinese artist: to capture not only the outer appearance of a subject but also its inner essence.

Young @ Art: The Emperor’s Palace

Ages 2 ½–5, accompanied by an adult, enrollment limit: 12 children

Tuesdays, December 2, 9, 16

Wednesdays, December 3, 10, 17

11 a.m. – noon

\$10 (VMFA members \$8) per child/adult pair

Innovative art lessons inspire your child’s imagination and creativity. Join “Ms. Lori” for hands-on activities—with new art projects introduced weekly—along with exciting gallery tours, entertaining stories, exploratory puzzles, and movement games. Diverse objects from imperial China will inspire your own decadent creations.

Foundations in Art: Chinese Arts

Ages 9–12, enrollment limit: 12

Thursdays, December 4, 11, 18

4:15–6 p.m.

\$65 (VMFA members \$59) per class

Imagine, create, and grow as an emerging young artist while making original artworks inspired by gallery observations and innovative materials. Through technical guidance and encouragement, students build their confidence, talents, and love of art. After discovering ancient Chinese traditions such as shadow puppetry and woodblock printing, explore the culture and ways of thinking that influence these art forms.

After School Art Club: Imperial Treasures

Ages 5 – 8, enrollment limit: 18

December 11, 4:15 – 6 p.m.

\$20 (VMFA members \$18) per class

Let your imagination soar in the studio as you make original works of art inspired by objects in the museum. Sign up for one or more of these fun and creative workshops led by Lori Valente Coffey. Investigate the art and culture of China in *Forbidden City: Imperial Treasures from the Palace Museum, Beijing* to inspire your own artistic creations.

ChinaFest! Year of the Wood Sheep

Saturday, January 3, 2015, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Celebrate the longevity, the New Year, and treasures from the Forbidden City while exploring Chinese culture to the ninth degree. Explore the significance of the number nine while participating in and enjoying: a 9-dragon Lego reproduction screen in honor of the 9,999 dragons said to be found in the Forbidden City, nine imperial treasure-making activities; nine Chinese children's animated films; martial arts demonstrations; four hours of yoga workshops; nine traditional Chinese dances; and nine artist demonstrations. Have your face painted as your favorite zodiac animal and pop on over to the photo booth.

Ongoing programs

Docent-guided group tours for K-12, college, and adults

October 28, 2014 – January 9, 2015

Cost: \$10 per student/ \$16 per adult chaperone (1 free for every 10 students). Self-directed tours are also available. Reservations are required and space is limited. Visit

<http://vmfa.museum/tours/students/> to fill out a tour request form starting August 18, 2014.

Guided tours for adults are available for groups of 10 or more and are offered during afternoon hours only. For more information, contact GroupSales@vmfa.museum or call (804)340-1575.

Statewide: A variety of talks and workshops will be offered to VMFA Statewide Partners (details to follow)

Sponsors

Forbidden City is presented by Altria Group and the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation. Educational programming for the exhibition is sponsored by the MeadWestvaco Foundation. The Banner Exhibition Program at VMFA is supported by the Julia Louise Reynolds Fund.

Additional institutional sponsors include: the National Endowment for the Arts, The Richard S. Reynolds Foundation, The Anne Carter and Walter R. Robins, Jr. Foundation, the Ellen Bayard Weedon Foundation, The Community Foundation *Serving Richmond & Central Virginia*, Evergreen Enterprises, Leapfrog 3D Printers, the Memorial Foundation for Children, Norfolk Southern Corporation, and The Jeanann Gray Dunlap Foundation.

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 Partnership 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.

#

Press Contact:

Suzanne Hall, suzanne.hall@vmfa.museum, 804.204.2704

Pryor Green, pryor.green@vmfa.museum, 804.204.2701

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 200 N. Boulevard, Richmond VA 23220-4007