

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Upcoming Exhibitions at VMFA



Truthful Witnessing: The Black Photographers Annual, Volume 3

May 12–Oct. 14, 2018

Truthful Witnessing is the third installation in a series of exhibitions exploring the four volumes of the *Black Photographers Annual*, published between 1973 and 1980, featuring a range of artists, including Anthony Barboza, Adger Cowans, Roy DeCarava, Beauford Smith and Ming Smith. This series of exhibitions is sponsored by Dr. Ronald A. Crutcher and Dr. Betty Neal Crutcher and is curated by Dr. Sarah Eckhardt, associate curator of modern and contemporary art at VMFA. Photography Gallery; free.



Contemporary Art from Portugal

May 19–July 22, 2018

To commemorate the state visit of Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, the President of Portugal, in June 2018, this exhibition presents the work of six Portuguese artists, whose paintings, photographs and other works on paper were chosen to reflect the range and vitality of contemporary art in Portugal. The 20 featured works of art are coming on loan from the Fundação Luso-Americana (Luso-American Development Foundation), a private foundation created in 1986 with the mission of strengthening cultural and economic ties between Portugal and the United States. Curated by Dr. Michael Taylor, VMFA's chief curator and deputy director for art and education. Works on Paper Gallery; free.



Napoleon: Power and Splendor

June 9–Sept. 3, 2018

More than 200 works of art—many of which have never before been exhibited in the United States—reveal the intricacies of Napoleon’s household and the role it played in crafting the Emperor’s image. Works from the Château de Fontainebleau, the Louvre, the Musée de l’Armée in Paris, and other collections are included in this international loan exhibition. Organized by the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, with the participation of the Château de Fontainebleau and the exceptional support of Mobilier national de France. Curated by Sylvain Cordier, curator of early decorative arts at Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. The curator for the VMFA venue of this exhibition is Dr. Mitchell Merling, Paul Mellon curator and head of the department of European art. The exhibition program at VMFA is supported by the Julia Louise Reynolds Fund. Lower Level Exhibition Galleries; free for VMFA members, children ages 6 and under, active-duty military personnel and their immediate families, and Commonwealth of Virginia employees and K-12 teachers with ID; \$16 for adults, \$12 for seniors 65 and older, and \$10 for youth ages 7-17 and college students with ID.



The Precisionist Impulse

July 28–Nov. 12, 2018

Precisionism typically characterizes American paintings and works on paper produced between the two World Wars that employ a linear aesthetic, pronounced contours and localized colors to depict architectural, infrastructural, mechanical and often urban imagery. This exhibition of 18 watercolors, prints, drawings, photographs and paintings from VMFA’s collection demonstrates that this term may also describe work produced before 1915 and after 1945, and that the “impulse” also plays out in rural and non-architectural imagery. *The Precisionist Impulse* shows that, much as the camera crops, distills angles and exaggerates planes, so the 20th-century landscape provokes awe in some unlikely places. Curated by Dr. Leo Mazow, Louise B. and J. Harwood Cochrane curator of American art at VMFA. Works on Paper Gallery; free.



Howardena Pindell: What Remains To Be Seen

Aug. 25–Nov. 25, 2018

For nearly five decades, Howardena Pindell has explored the intersection of art and activism. This groundbreaking exhibition looks at the arc of this African American artist's career through the presentation of paintings, video art and works on paper that celebrate her singular vision and its imprint upon abstract painting and conceptual art since the 1960s. This exhibition was organized by the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago and co-curated by MCA Curator Naomi Beckwith and Valerie Cassel Oliver, Sydney and Frances Lewis curator of modern and contemporary art at VMFA. Evans Court Exhibition Gallery and 21st Century Gallery; free.



Congo Masks: Masterpieces from Central Africa

Nov. 10, 2018–Feb. 18, 2019

This innovative and visually compelling exhibition presents more than 130 masks from the vast Congo region of Africa (known today as the Democratic Republic of the Congo). Drawn from the finest and most comprehensive collection in private hands, these masks from the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries are combined with film footage, field photographs, maps and musical instruments to highlight the performative aspect of these extraordinary works of art. Organized by the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and the Congo Basin Art History Research Center, Brussels, Belgium. The exhibition program at VMFA is supported by the Julia Louise Reynolds Fund. Lower Level Exhibiton Galleries; Free for VMFA members, children ages 6 and under, active-duty military personnel and their immediate families; \$16 for adults, \$12 for seniors 65 and older, and \$10 for youth ages 7-17 and college students with ID.

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The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, Virginia, is one of the largest comprehensive art museums in the United States. VMFA, which opened in 1936, is a state agency and privately endowed educational institution. Its purpose is to collect, preserve, exhibit, and interpret art, and to encourage the study of the arts. Through the Office of Statewide Partnerships program, the museum offers curated exhibitions, arts-related audiovisual programs, symposia, lectures, conferences, and workshops by visual and performing artists. In addition to presenting a wide array of special exhibitions, the museum provides visitors with the opportunity to experience a global collection of art that spans more than 6,000 years. VMFA's permanent holdings encompass nearly 40,000 artworks, including the largest public collection of Fabergé outside of Russia, the finest collection of Art Nouveau outside of Paris, and one of the nation's finest collections of American art. VMFA is also home to important collections of Chinese art, English silver, and French Impressionist, Post-Impressionist, British sporting, and modern and 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 history.

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts is the only art museum in the United States open 365 days a year with free general admission. For additional information, telephone 804-340-1400 or visit www.vmfa.museum.

Image Credits: *James Baldwin—Author*, 1975, Anthony Barboza (1944–), gelatin silver print. © Anthony Barboza; *Tragic Maritime History* (História Trágico Marítima), 1983, Álvaro Lapa, (Portuguese 1939-2006) tempera, gouache and pencil on paper. Fundação Luso-Americana; *Napoleon in His Study Wearing the Uniform of a Grenadier of the Guard*, ca. 1813–30, Imperial School of Mosaics of Francesco Belloni, pietra dura mosaic, cut glass. Musée national des châteaux de Malmaison et Bois-Préau, Rueil-Malmaison, France. © Photo Hervé Lewandowski; *Roof and Steeple*, 1921, Charles Demuth (American, 1883-1935), pencil and watercolor on paper. Virginia Museum of Fine Arts; Adolph D. and Wilkins C. Williams Fund.; *Untitled*, 1972–73, Howardena Pindell (American, born 1943), acrylic and cut and punched papers on canvas. VMFA Arthur and Margaret Glasgow Endowment. ©Howardena Pindell; *Face Mask*, second quarter 20th Century, Nyindu culture (Democratic Republic of Congo), wood, pigment, feathers, rattan. Photo © Paul Louis.