

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

JULY 10, 2018

**VMFA's *Napoleon* reigns over Richmond**

Events, programs, and partnerships for *Napoleon: Power and Splendor*



Richmond, Virginia – *Napoleon: Power and Splendor*, on display at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts through Sept. 3, 2018, showcases more than 200 works of art — most of which have never before been shown in the United States — in an innovative display that recreates the spaces inhabited by Napoleon and his family. Through the decorative objects and artworks on display, the exhibition reveals how members of the Imperial Household—a network of 3,500 employees—helped to create Napoleon’s identity as the new self-titled Emperor, fueling the propaganda machine that modernized and legitimized his reign in the wake of the French Revolution.

The exhibition is free for VMFA members, children ages 6 and under, active-duty military personnel and their immediate families, K-12 teachers and Commonwealth of Virginia employees with ID; \$16 for adults, \$12 for seniors 65 and older, and \$10 for youth ages 7-17 and college students with ID. Visitors can reserve tickets [online](#) or by phone at 804.340.1405.

Over the summer, visitors to Richmond will have many opportunities to “experience court life” with Napoleon at the museum and throughout the city. Celebrations kick off on Bastille Day as Napoleon continues his Grand Tour of Richmond.

**Napoleon’s Grand Tour of Richmond**

Celebrate Bastille Day on July 14 with Napoleon himself. Visit Max’s On Broad, the Graduate Hotel, VMFA and Can Can Brasserie for a chance to meet the Emperor and win passes to the special exhibition. The Graduate will feature specialty Napoleon themed cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, and Can Can will offer a specialty cocktail and tasting menu.

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| <b>Noon to 1 p.m.</b>      | <b>Max’s on Broad</b><br>305 Brook Road   |
| <b>2 p.m. to 3 p.m.</b>    | <b>VMFA</b><br>200 N. Boulevard   |
| <b>3:15 p.m. to 4 p.m.</b> | <b>The Byrd House at the Graduate Hotel</b><br>301 West Franklin Street             |
| <b>5 p.m.</b>              | <b>Can Can Brasserie’s Annual Bastille Day Celebration</b><br>3120 West Cary Street |

Arrive early at Can Can to see Napoleon’s Grand Entrance, featuring trumpet fanfare and a horse-drawn carriage.

## At the Museum

### VMFA AFTER HOURS

#### Casino de Paris

Saturday, July 21 | 7–11:30 p.m. | \$45 (VMFA and Black History Museum members \$35)

Join us for a night of casino games, dancing and more hosted by Micah “Bam-Bamm” White and featuring Heavy Hitter DJ Lonnie B. Ticket includes appetizers, one drink ticket, one casino game voucher and parking plus admission to *Napoleon: Power and Splendor*. Cash bar available.

### TALKS

#### Image Makers: Masters of Self-Branding and Their Impact on Culture

Friday, July 20 | 6:30–7:30 p.m. | Leslie Cheek Theater | \$8 (VMFA Members \$5)

Terry Melville, founder, The Betty Creative Awards and former vice president/fashion director for Macy’s New York, and Freddie Leiba, creative director, fashion editor and stylist, explore the concept of self-branding and how famous personalities such as Beyoncé, Oprah Winfrey and Ralph Lauren affect culture — just as Napoleon did during the early 19th century.

#### Napoleon’s Military & Political Rise to Power

Friday, Aug. 17 | 6:30–7:30 p.m. | Leslie Cheek Theater | \$8 (VMFA Members \$5)

From obscure origins, Napoleon Bonaparte rose rapidly through the ranks of the army during the first years of the Revolution, becoming a general by the age of 25. This talk by Dr. Rafe Blaufarb, director and Ben Weider eminent scholar in Napoleonic Studies at Florida State University’s department of history, examines Napoleon’s early military career and challenges the myth that his dramatic rise epitomizes the revolutionary principle of “careers open to talent.”

### FIRST FRIDAY

#### *Secretly Y’all: Power and Splendor*

Friday, Aug. 3 | 6–8 p.m. | Marble Hall | Free, no tickets required

VMFA joins with local storytelling organization Secretly Y’all for an evening of stories inspired by *Napoleon: Power and Splendor*.

### GALLERY PROGRAMS

#### 3:30: Napoleon: Casting a Long Shadow

Tuesday, July 10 | 11–11:30 a.m. *or* Thursday, July 12 | 6:30–7 p.m. | Meet at Visitor Services | Free

While Napoleon was in power, and even after his downfall, he proved to be a valuable source of commissions and subject matter for artists. Although the connections between Napoleon and these artists are not always apparent, on this short tour, you’ll discover how he affected the output of three artists in VMFA’s permanent collection.

#### 3 in 30: Six Degrees of Napoleon: The Power of Splendor

Tuesday, Aug. 7 | 11–11:30 a.m. *or* Thursday, Aug. 9 | 6:30–7 p.m. | Meet at Visitor Services | Free

Napoleon’s careful construction of his imperial image invites comparisons with the visual symbols and images used by other rulers in different times and places. Join this gallery tour to discover what happens when visual symbols clash with real-world events.

## FILM

### Désirée (1954)

Sunday, Aug. 12 | 1:30 – 4 p.m. | Leslie Cheek Theater | \$8 (VMFA Members \$5)

With richly designed sets and costumes, this highly speculative historical tableau posits that the rise and fall of Napoleon Bonaparte rested on his unrequited love for an alluring millinery clerk, Désirée Clary. Starring Marlon Brando, Jean Simmons and Merle Oberon as Josephine.

## MEMBER MONDAYS

Monday, Aug. 6 and Monday, Sept. 3 | 5-9 p.m.

Members have the opportunity to view *Napoleon: Power and Splendor* on a night the museum is closed to the general public. Members are encouraged to bring up to two guests (per membership) to explore the special exhibition and the permanent collection. Timed tickets to the exhibition are required. Advance reservations recommended.

### *Napoleon in the Community*

#### **The Graduate Hotel | VMFA Package**

Includes one night stay, two tickets to *Napoleon: Power and Splendor*, hotel and museum parking and \$20 meal credit at the hotel. [More information.](#)

#### **Linden Row Inn | VMFA Napoleon Package**

Includes one night stay, two tickets to *Napoleon: Power and Splendor*, free parking at VMFA, \$50 gift certificate to VMFA's Amuse restaurant, \$25 gift certificate to the Urban Farmhouse Market and Café (located at Linden Row Inn), and free overnight valet parking at the Linden Row Inn. [More information.](#)

#### **Quirk Hotel | Stay Like Napoleon**

Includes two tickets to *Napoleon: Power and Splendor*; free parking at VMFA; Napoleon/French inspired 3 course dinner menu at Quirk's Maple & Pine; Parking at Quirk Hotel; 10 percent discount at Quirk Gallery (excludes art work). [More information.](#)

**Plus: Look for #NapoleonVMFA selfie stations** at The Graduate Hotel, Mon Chou, The Byrd Theater, the Richmond Wine Station, Lemaire Restaurant, the Linden Row Inn, The Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria, and Barnes and Noble at the New Town Shops in Williamsburg.

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## Sponsorship information

*Napoleon: Power and Splendor* is organized and circulated by the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts with the participation of the Château de Fontainebleau and the exceptional support of Mobilier national de France. Sponsors include The Lettie Pate Whitehead Evans Exhibition Endowment, The Julia Louise Reynolds Fund, Mrs. Frances Massey Dulaney, Mr. and Mrs. Fred T. Tattersall, Mr. and Mrs. Achille Murat Guest, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph T. Knox, Peachtree House Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. James H. Price III. The exhibition program at VMFA is supported by the Julia Louise Reynolds Fund.

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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](http://www.vmfa.museum).**