

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 25, 2019

Free Admission for State Employees, Preschool and K-12 Teachers, and Active Duty Military Personnel to VMFA's *Edward Hopper and the American Hotel*



Western Motel, 1957, Edward Hopper (American, 1882–1967), oil on canvas. Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, Bequest of Stephen C. Clarke, B.A., 1903. © 2019 Heirs of Josephine N. Hopper/Artists Rights Society

Richmond, Virginia—The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts is pleased to announce that Commonwealth of Virginia employees, preschool and K–12 teachers (public and private), as well as active-duty military personnel and their immediate families can receive free admission to *Edward Hopper and the American Hotel*, on view Oct. 26, 2019 through Feb. 23, 2020. Showcasing more than 60 of Hopper's paintings, drawings, watercolors, and illustrations, this exhibition offers a rare opportunity to see many of the acclaimed American artist's most beloved works. The exhibition represents the first investigation of canonical images of hospitality settings by Hopper and expands the terms of alienation and fragmentation in which his art is often discussed. The exhibition is curated by Dr. Leo G. Mazow, Louise B. and J. Harwood Cochrane Curator of American Art.

"We welcome our colleagues from the Commonwealth of Virginia to take advantage of free admission and come see this spectacular exhibition that features the work of one of the most important American artists of the 20th century," said VMFA Director and CEO Alex Nyerges.

Selected diaries written by Hopper's wife, Josephine "Jo" Hopper, which were only recently made available to the public, will be on view. Jo's diaries include descriptions of their numerous extended road trips and the hotels and accommodations they encountered along the way. The exhibition showcases hotel postcards from the 1920s and '30s featuring places that the couple visited together. These documents humanize the artist and his wife, providing detailed accounts of their travels.

Along with the paintings and illustrations by Hopper, the exhibition features the works of other distinguished artists such as John Singer Sargent, Cindy Sherman, Reginald Marsh, Edward Ruscha, Richard Caton Woodville, and Charles Demuth.

The accompanying 200-page, fully illustrated exhibition catalogue is the first publication to show that the artist and select contemporaries found artistic inspiration in the American hotel and other rental lodgings. The catalogue contains critical essays on hotels, motels, and related subject matter in Hopper's body of work. Written by Mazow, with Sarah Powers, the catalogue can be ordered online (vmfa.museum/shop) or by contacting the VMFA shop at 804.340.1525.

Sponsorship Information

Edward Hopper and the American Hotel is organized by the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, in partnership with the Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields. The exhibition program at VMFA is supported by the Julia Louise Reynolds Fund. Sponsors include the Lettie Pate Whitehead Evans Exhibition Endowment, Lilli and William Beyer, the Dr. Donald S. and Beejay Brown Endowment, Birch Douglass, Mrs. Frances Massey Dulaney, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Garner, Jr., Dr. and Mrs. William V. Garner, Hamilton Family Foundation, Mr. R. Keith Kisse, Robert Lehman Foundation, Norfolk Southern Corporation, Northern Trust, Richard S. Reynolds Foundation, The Anne Carter and Walter R. Robins, Jr. Foundation, Don and Mary Shockey, Wyeth Foundation for American Art and YouDecide.

Ticket Information

Tickets for the exhibition are now on sale. In addition to state employees and teachers, the exhibition is free for VMFA members, and children ages 6 and under, as well as active-duty military personnel and their immediate families; \$16 for adults; \$12 for seniors 65+; and \$10 for youth 7-17 and college students with ID.

About the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

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.

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