Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

Minutes of the Art and Collections Committee Meeting

Thursday, 14 June 2018, 9:00am

Theater Level Conference Center 1

There were present:

Ivan P. Jecklin, Chair

Tom Papa, Vice Chair

Karen C. Abramson

Cynthia Kerr Fralin

David Goode

Margaret N. Gottwald

Dr. Monroe E. Harris, Jr.

Dr. Paul Monroe

Michele Petersen

Pamela Reynolds

Mary Gray Shockey

Michael J. Schewel, Ex-officio

By Invitation:

Alex Nyerges, Director

Stephen D. Bonadies

Dr. Lee Anne Chesterfield

Cindy Conner

Li Jian

Laura Keller

Cameron O'Brion

Sara O’Keefe

Sheila Payaqui

Satya Rangarajan

William A. Royall, Jr.

Jayne Shaw

Dr. Michael R. Taylor

Absent:

Janet Geldzahler

Steven A. Markel

1. CALL TO ORDER

At 9:03am, Chair Ivan Jecklin called the meeting to order and welcomed the group.

**Motion:** proposed by Mr. Jecklin and seconded by Dr. Harristo approve the minutes of the Thursday, March 15, 2018 Art and Collections Committee meeting as distributed. Motion approved.

Mr. Jecklin noted that Mike Schewel and Cynthia Fralin would be rotating off of the board at the end of the month and thanked them for their service on the committee.

1. EAST ASIAN ART COLLECTION PLAN

Li Jian, the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation Curator of East Asian Art, provided an overview of the museum’s holdings in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean art. The collection totals 2,538 objects. She indicated that the museum would benefit from additional holdings within Chinese art including portrait and landscape paintings, Buddhist art, decorative arts, textiles and costumes, and modern and contemporary works. She plans to pursue Japanese paintings from after 1700, Buddhist art, Samurai-related objects, tea ceremony objects, decorative arts, and modern and contemporary works. She also plans to expand the Korean collection by finding Buddhist paintings, celadon and white ceramics, laquerware and furniture, costumes and accessories, and modern and contemporary art.

She reviewed the current market for Asian art, noting that the museum has been priced out of certain types of art. She emphasized the importance of building relationships with collectors in order to cultivate future art donations. She explained that the main challenge is the extremely high demand in the Chinese art market. She is working with the Chinese government and the Association of Art Museum Directors to ask the Chinese government to consider opening its market so that U.S. museums can purchase works directly from China, avoiding an additional premium from an American dealer.

1. ANDREW MELLON AFRICAN PROJECT UPDATE

The committee toured the David and Susan Goode Center for Conservation. Sheila Payaqui showed objections from the African collection that are being studied as a part of the Mellon grant project. Casey Mallinckrodt, Ainslie Harrison, Kathryn Gabrielli, and Ashley Duhrkoop reported that they have worked on researching and understanding Zulu beaded ensembles through oral histories, identifying the specific natural materials used in sculptures, analyzing the physical properties of fired clay to narrow the date range of terracotta sculptures, and examining the composition of Ethiopian crosses to determine where the materials may have originated.

1. OTHER BUSINESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:31am.

Recorded by: Laura Keller

Assistant to the Secretary

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Foundation