Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

Minutes of the Art and Collections Committee Meeting

 Wednesday, December 12, 2018, 8:30am

Theater Level Conference Room #1

There were present:

Ivan P. Jecklin, Chair

Tom Papa, Vice Chair

Karen C. Abramson

Cindy Conner

Janet Geldzahler

David Goode

Margaret N. Gottwald

Michele Petersen

Pamela Reynolds

Absent:

Dr. Monroe E. Harris, Jr.

Steven A. Markel

Dr. Paul Monroe

Mary Gray Shockey

By Invitation

Alex Nyerges, Director

Stephen D. Bonadies

Caprice Bragg

Courtney Freeman

Tom Gutenberger

Laura Keller

Johanna Minich

Cynthia Norwood

William A. Royall, Jr.

Dr. Michael R. Taylor

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ivan Jecklin called the meeting to order and welcomed the committee. He introduced Caprice Bragg, the new Vice President for Board Relations and Strategic Planning.

**Motion:** proposed by Mr. Jecklin and seconded by Ms. Geldzahler to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, September 26, 2018 Art and Collections Committee meeting as distributed. Motion approved.

1. NATIVE AMERICAN ART COLLECTION PLAN

Assistant Curator of Native American Art Johanna Minich provided an overview of the Native American art collection, her collection strategy, and her collecting priorities. She noted that the collection is modest in size with strengths in Pueblo pottery and one-of-a-kind pieces. She explained that she is careful to research provenance and background on every object. Some Native American objects are protected by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, which requires museums to return funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony to Native American tribes.

Dr. Minich said part of her collection strategy is to steward relationships with collectors for potential donations. For purchases, she plans to monitor auctions and private collections. Her overall goal is to have a collection that works well for teaching the breadth of Native American history. She aims to increase the collection’s regional diversity and to increase the range of mediums represented. She gave examples of artwork she is actively looking for in three broad time periods:

Pre- and Historic (through 19th century)

* Beadwork, clothing items, fiber, and basketry from Eastern Woodlands (Cherokee, Mohawk, Seneca, Chippewa-Ojibwe, Penobscot, Seminole and Sauk
* Clothing items and sculpture from the Aleut, Inupiaq, Inuit, and Cree
* Basketry from Salish, Makah, and Nuu-chah-nulth
* Beadwork and ceramics from Creek, Choctaw, Yakama, Umatilla, Comanche and Caddo
* Painted hide, ledger drawing, and effigy pipe from Lakota Sioux, Pawnee, or Crow

Modern (1900-1950):

* Edmonia Lewis sculpture
* Early documentary painters like Ernest Spybuck and Carl Sweezy
* Kiowa Siz and Bacone College artists
* Modernists like Allan House and Fritz Scholder
* Woodland school painters like Norval Morrisseau and Daphne Odjig

Contemporary (1950-present)

* Sculpture (Beau Dick, Susan Point, Roxanne Swentzell)
* Mixed media (Rick Bartow, Shan Goshorn, Rose Simpson)
* Painting (Gerald Cournoyer, Thomas Poolaw, Emmie Whitehourse)
* Ceramics (Nathan Youngblood, Jeraldine Redcorn)
* Glasswork (Preston Singletary, Susan Point)
* Large scale installations (Brian Jungen, Luzene Hill)
* Photography (Matika Wilbur, Meryl McMaster, Wil Wilson, Shelly Niro)
* Prints (Jeffrey Veregge, James Lavadour)
1. EXHIBITION PORTFOLIO UPDATE

Chief Curator and Deputy Director for Art and Education Michael Taylor reported that the committee has now reviewed all nine collection areas, so he plans to have the curators present plans for upcoming exhibitions. He updated the committee on the current exhibition portfolio, giving brief overviews of:

Cosmologies from the
Tree of Life: Art from the African American South

Edward Hopper and the American Hotel

Working Together: Louis Draper and the Kamoinge Workshop

Ansel Adams: Masterworks

Virginia Arcadia: The Natural Bridge in American Art

The Dirty South: The Southern Impulse in Art, Material Culture, and Hip-Hop

Man Ray: The Paris Years

The Art of the American Guitar

American, Born Hungary

(left out Sunken Cities presentation and Frida Kahlo for contract reasons)

1. OTHER BUSINESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:35am.

Recorded by: Laura Keller

 Assistant to the Secretary of the Foundation