Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

Minutes of the Art and Collections Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 18, 2019, 9:00am

Theater Level Conference Room #1

There were present:

Meg Gottwald, Chair, *via teleconference*

Tom Papa, Vice Chair

Edie Cabaniss

Cindy Conner, *via teleconference*

Janet Geldzahler, *via teleconference*

David Goode, *via teleconference*

Paul Monroe, Foundation Liaison

Suzy Szasz Palmer

Michele Peterson

Pamela Reynolds

Deborah Valentine, Foundation Liaison

Monroe Harris, Jr., Ex-Officio

Jim Klaus, Foundation Co-President, Ex-Officio

Lilo Ukrop, Foundation Co-President, Ex-Officio

Absent:

Karen Abramson

Anne Noland Edwards

Martha Glasser

Steven A. Markel

By Invitation:

Alex Nyerges, Director

Kay Baker

Stephen D. Bonadies

Caprice Bragg

Jody Green

Tom Gutenberger

Deb Love (representing Cynthia Norwood)

Leo Mazow

Tamar Petersen

Sarah Powers

Carol Sawyer

Michael R. Taylor

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Tom Papa called the meeting to order at 9:04am.

**Motion:** proposed by Mr. Papa and seconded by Dr. Monroe Harris to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, June 19, 2019 Art and Collections Committee meeting as distributed. Motion approved.

1. CURATORIAL/EXHIBITION UPDATES

Deputy Director for Art and Education Dr. Michael Taylor noted that Manager of Statewide Programs and Exhibitions Jeffrey Allison is included in the *Richmond Times Dispatch* Person of the Year ceremony. He noted that this honor was bestowed on Board of Trustees President Dr. Monroe Harris, Jr. last year.

Dr. Taylor also reported that Sylvain Cordier has been appointed as Paul Mellon Curator and Head of the VMFA Department of European Art. Additionally, he noted that the *Awaken* exhibition’s final attendance of 46,563 visitors surpassed a goal of 45,000 visitors.

1. EDWARD HOPPER EXHIBITION

Dr. Leo Mazow, Louise B. and J. Harwood Cochrane Curator of American Art, presented an overview of the *Edward Hopper and the American Hotel* exhibition that will be on view from October 26, 2019 through February 23, 2020. In addition to Hopper’s paintings, the exhibition includes diary entries by Hopper’s wife, Josephine “Jo” Hopper, and postcards from their travels. The exhibition will have three inter-active, online educational programs and a full-scale re-creation of Hopper’s painting, *Western Motel*, where visitors may stay in overnight at the museum. Dr. Mazow introduced and thanked Dr. Sarah Powers, Curatorial Research Specialist, for her assistance with the exhibition. Dr. Powers then led a discussion of the exhibition’s layout and light models that were on display in the meeting room.

1. REVEALING THE HIDDEN: NEW ADVANCES IN CONSERVATION IMAGING TECHNOLOGIES

Carol Sawyer, Margaret H. and William E. Massey Sr. Conservator of Paintings, discussed VMFA’s conservation advancements in imaging technologies utilizing reflectance imaging systems and material analysis equipment. She shared information from the article, *A John White Alexander Painting: A Comparison of Imaging Technologies for Resolving a Painting under Another Painting* (Journal of American Institute for Conservation, February-May 2019), to demonstrate an applicable use of this technology. The museum will continue to work with scientists in the field to advance ongoing imaging collaborations and curatorial research projects. Mr. Papa recommended that the museum pursue obtaining the intellectual property rights of this work.

1. OTHER BUSINESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:02am.

Recorded by: Kay Baker

Receptionist and Administrative Assistant, Office of the Director