

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VMFA Celebrates the First Anniversary of *VMFA on the Road: An Artmobile for the 21st Century*
Reaching Virginians from Accomac on the Eastern Shore to Bristol, and from Arlington to Martinsville

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts celebrated the first anniversary of *VMFA on the Road: An Artmobile for the 21st Century* this week. The original Artmobile traveled the commonwealth from 1953 to the early 1990s, bringing art exhibitions and educational programs to schools, colleges and community organizations across Virginia, reaching 2.5 million people. In 2015, the museum board voted to bring the iconic truck back as part of its 2020 strategic plan to expand the museum's Statewide Program. *VMFA on the Road: An Artmobile for the 21st Century* launched in October 2018, embarking on a 16-month tour that included communities in Southwest, Southern and Central Virginia. As of October 30, 2019, *VMFA on the Road* has completed 40 residencies, reaching a remarkable 150,000 Virginians across the state.



Photo by David Stover © Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. The VMFA Artmobile, October 2018.

“We are thrilled to be celebrating the first anniversary of *VMFA on the Road: An Artmobile for the 21st Century*,” says VMFA Paul Mellon Educator and Statewide Manager Jeffrey Allison. “*VMFA on the Road* has brought works from the VMFA permanent collection and educational opportunities to communities across Virginia. We are looking forward to continuing this great program and to visiting many more locations around the state in the coming year.”

Visitors include many people who had never been to VMFA and have never visited an art museum before. The current exhibition, *How Far Can Creativity Take You: VMFA Fellowship Artists*, celebrates the role VMFA's Visual Arts Fellowship Program has played in the lives of fellowship recipients. It includes works by acclaimed artists who all have some connection to Virginia: Julien Binford, Ann Chenoweth, Esther Worden Day, Steven Fishman, Emmet Gowin, Sally Mann, Arthur Sawyers, Charles Sibley, Cy Twombly, Benjamin Wigfall and Dennis Winston. In addition to art, the new Artmobile features digital and interactive components that connect visitors with VMFA's vast array of online resources.

“Our mission is to reach people throughout the state, and we have done just that through the success of *VMFA on the Road*,” says VMFA Director and CEO Alex Nyerges. “We look forward to introducing this innovative art experience to more people around Virginia for years to come.”

The next *VMFA on the Road* exhibition will premiere in March 2020. *A View of Home: Landscapes of Virginia* will feature paintings, photographs and prints of Virginia landscapes made between the mid-1800s and 2017.

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, 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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