

From the President

Leading up to this year, art aficionados in the state had been enthusiastically anticipating their opportunity to see the new wing and expanded grounds of the Virginia Museum Of Fine Arts. Since the new wing opened last May thousands have visited the museum, including many members of our organization. As VCA members, we will have a select privilege unavailable yet to most other museum guests, in being among the first to enter the new conservation department suite. On November 18, 2010 the VMFA is scheduled to serve as host for the next VCA Members Meeting, offering this occasion to us for tours of the new conservation labs.

Shortly after the November meeting we will gather again for the annual VCA Holiday Season Party. The festivity of food, beverages and fun is scheduled for 4 pm on Sunday December 5th, so mark your calendars now. Hopefully Mother Nature will be in our favor and not grace Virginia with a major snow storm like the one last December, which forced cancellation of the 2009 holiday party. You will receive an invitation in the near future to provide confirmation of the date of the party and the location where it will be held.

In the past the VCA has held a studio tips program, during which presentations were made to describe and explain practical procedures and show various tools for collections care and conservation treatment. Recently there has been discussion of doing another studio tips session, as such presentations usually are quite popular and very helpful. Please think about the conservation procedures that you practice and whether you have any tips to share. A studio tip need not be anything incredibly ingenious, complicated or exotic in nature. Some of the best are quite simple, perhaps demonstrating how a tool made for another purpose can be adapted to conservation, or showing a neat "trick of the trade" that one may have developed. If you have any tips, even one only, I encourage you to contact me soon. If you do have a tip but prefer not to make a presentation yourself, jot down a few notes so that someone can speak on your behalf. Once we have a fair number of tips for

VCA Members' Meeting Thursday, November 18th, 5:30 PM



Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
200 North Boulevard, Richmond



Details on next page

presentation a program will be organized, likely for an upcoming members meeting as has occurred previously.

A major goal of the VCA Board this year is to provide additional service to the general public. The Board and the Outreach Committee persist to deliberate on ways the expertise of the membership can be made more collectively accessible. The Outreach Committee is in the planning stage for two types of public programs that would be offered on a continuing basis. One is to create a conservation clinic so that the public can have their art and artifacts briefly evaluated by a conservator and receive advice regarding preservation. Another idea is to develop a list of various conservation topics that a conservator would be available to speak upon. Many conservators have produced and saved various presentations, some quite general that can be easily adapted to specific audiences. If you have ready-made presentations (of course new talks also can be made) and agree to inclusion on a list of possible presenters, please contact Outreach Committee Chair Dale Wheary.

Likewise, give your name to Dale if you possibly can be part of a future conservation clinic. These programs to inform and aid the public cannot succeed without your participation. Further information about these matters is forthcoming, including a related survey. In the meantime do not hesitate to call upon Dale or myself with any questions about either proposed program.

Upgrade and improvement of the VCA website has continued. The Web Management Committee would like to proceed with plans to add "action" pictures of the membership to the site. Digital images are needed that show VCA members actively involved in various conservation and collections care activities. Please email any such images that you have to the VCA via the contact tab on the website (or if necessary, by direct email to both Patricia Selinger and Valinda Carroll). The plan is to build a bank of images that would be rotated into the website to keep it visually fresh and exciting.

The membership renewal period is well underway at this point. On behalf of the entire Board I ask that each of you hasten to renew membership in the VCA, your organization, if you have not yet done so. Thank you sincerely to those of you that already have rejoined us or have joined for the first time as we move ahead towards exciting future programs.

~ Frederick Wallace, President



Sol Lewitt, Splotch#22, Acrylic on Fiberglass, 2007

November Members' Meeting at the VMFA

Please join your fellow VCA members at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts on Thursday November 18th at 5:30 p.m. to tour the new conservation labs. We will gather in the atrium near the Sol Lewitt's brightly colored sculpture entitled "Splotch #22" where you will be escorted to the new labs.

~ Tom Snyder, Programs

Directions to the VMFA VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

From Interstates 95 and 64

- Take Boulevard Exit 78
- Follow Boulevard (Route 161 South) for 1½ miles.
- Turn right onto Kensington Ave. (Virginia Historical Society is at the corner).
- Turn left on Sheppard St and travel ½ block.
- The entrance to the parking deck is on the left.

From Powhite Parkway and the I-195 Downtown Expressway

- From I-195 take the Floyd-Cary exit.
- Follow Floyd Avenue east to Belmont (five blocks).
- Turn left on Belmont, and proceed 3 blocks to Stuart Ave.
- Turn right on Stuart and travel 1 block; the entrance to the parking deck is straight ahead.
- From the Powhite Parkway take the Cary St exit.
- Follow Cary St. east to Belmont (five blocks).
- Turn left on Belmont, and proceed 5 blocks to Stuart Ave.
- Turn right on Stuart and travel 1 block; the entrance to the parking deck is straight ahead.

The parking deck is open until 9 pm on Thursdays. Parking is free to VMFA members with membership card, \$3 per day for nonmembers. The parking deck can be accessed from the main museum entrance on Boulevard, or from the intersection of Sheppard St. and Stuart Ave.



VCA Board

October Meeting

Attendees:

Fred Wallace
Dale Wheary
Chris Wilkins
Tracy Bernabo
Heather Logue
Caitlin O'Grady
Kathy Garrett-Cox
Bienvenida Ochs
Larry Ochs

The first order of business discussed was the digital recording of the current and possible future VCA Board Meetings. The decision was made by those in attendance that this would be a trial run and that the recordings would be sent to Stacy Rusch at the Virginia Historical Society, where the VCA archives are held.

VCA President, Fred Wallace, welcomed everyone to the October VCA board meeting. Those Board members in attendance gave their name and their position on the board as an introduction.

Fred discussed plans by the Virginia Association of Museums (VAM) to again solicit the IMLS "Connecting to Collections" program for funds in support of statewide collections care initiatives. VAM has requested collaboration from other institutions including the VCA in applying for another grant award. The grant funding would facilitate partnership between the VCA and VAM in offering various programs and educational materials for collecting institutions and the general public. Several new initiatives are proposed, such as the establishment of a bureau of speakers on various conservation topics and the production of webinars. A continuation of existing programs, such as the Circuit Riders, also is planned. The Circuit Rider program, created by VAM with IMLS funding, has provided a visiting archivist and collections manager to various site in the state for consultation on collections care. Future plans are to include a conservator in the Circuit Rider team, coming from the VCA membership.

VCA Treasurer, Caitlin O'Grady, notified the Board that Wachovia has changed services and has automatically added a two dollar per month charge to access digital copies of written checks. Caitlin proposed that the VCA cancel this service. All Board members agreed to the proposal. Caitlin also proposed that the VCA utilize online services of the bank at no charge. All Board members agreed to the proposal.

In regards to ongoing discussions about new membership, Fred reiterated that we should make note

of persons who have joined the VCA for the first time and if possible identify if they joined as the result of a specific VCA event or promotion. This is needed to gauge the effectiveness of outreach activities. It also would allow us to give a formal welcome to new members. It was decided that new members would be tracked on a list kept by the Membership Committee. Within a week or so of joining, the new members will receive a welcome message, likely via email. Announcement of the new members will be made at the following members meeting. New members who are present may be asked to stand and be recognized.

Membership co-Chair, Larry Ochs, commented on the problem of non-renewing members. The decision was made to create a new database of non-renewing members. A strategy to get them to renew with the VCA will be developed at a later date. Bienvenida Ochs, Membership co-Chair, suggested a gentle email to those who are delinquent with their membership renewals.

Fred announced on behalf of the Education Chair, Sheila Payaqui, that she is looking into the possibility of having the Chris Stavroudis course on the cleaning of art as a workshop for sometime later in the year.

Fred announced on behalf of the Programs Chairs, Tom Snyder and Colleen Callahan, that future members meetings are in the process of forming. Already scheduled is the meeting in November to tour the conservation laboratories at the VMFA. In January, Carey Howlett is tentatively scheduled to present on his work for the VMFA. Venue has yet to be decided.

Andrew Baxter may present in March on his stone conservation work for the VMFA. Venue has yet to be decided. We are in the early phases of determining the feasibility of a late April field trip to the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh to see their new wing. Members' Meeting for May has yet to be filled.

Fred announced on behalf of the Web Management Committee that good progress has been made in improving the VCA website in recent weeks. Our recently approved statement of purpose has already been added. Links on the website have been fixed or redirected. Vice President Heather Logue will be responsible for answering, forwarding or redirecting queries sent to the VCA through the 'Contact VCA' button. Conservation action photos may soon be placed on the website. Membership will be asked to submit potential photographs at the November members meeting.

Outreach Chair, Dale Wheary, commented on two public outreach programs, the Conservation Clinic and the Speakers Bureau. The Conservation Clinic is a program expected to be popular. Antiques Roadshow style, the public would be invited to bring objects for evaluation and treatment recommendations. A venue will need to be acquired for each session. This will help us to make contact with other professionals and get the VCA name out into the public. We need to solicit members that have prepared talks and find appropriate venues for the speakers bureau presentations. A form will be sent to members asking what they can offer to the program. The program has no official name as of yet. An outreach sub-committee may also have to be formed.

~ Chris Wilkins, Secretary

September 2010

Members' Meeting



On September 23rd, more than 40 VCA members gathered in The Bruton School for refreshments and the scheduled fall business meeting. The Bruton School, a segregated school built to educate African-Americans and operating from 1940 to 1966, now serves Colonial Williamsburg as office space for their Research Division including Architectural and Archeological departments and also as classroom spaces. From there it was a short drive to the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum to tour the exhibit "Conservation: Where Art and Science Meet." More than 10 years in development, the exhibit was designed to educate visitors about what art conservation is, the ethics and concepts behind it, the many agents of degradation and how conservators try to mitigate them as well as how modern science can be incorporated into treatments. Examples represented in the exhibit included a wide range of materials from all of the decorative arts disciplines as well as modern materials.

- Tom Snyder, Programs



Don't Forget Renew your VCA Membership by November 15th

A Membership Form is included in this newsletter and also available online at:
www.virginiaconservationassociation.org



CONSERVATION STUDIO

BOLSTERS: Durable fabric cover, non-skid bottom. Two standard lengths 10" pair (\$35) and 22" pair (\$50). Custom sizes and heights available by order. Contact Susan Brucker 757-784-3277.

■ Conservation Studio Bolsters ■



The Virginia Conservation Association

2010/11 Membership Application & Dues Payment

Name (as you would like it to appear in the Directory): _____

Address: _____

Title/Institutional Affiliation: _____

Work Telephone: () _____ Home Telephone: () _____

Fax: () _____ Email: _____

Are you a Conservator? ____ Conservation Technician? ____ Conservation Student? ____

Museum Professional? ____ Other (Specify)? _____

Areas of Conservation Expertise:

<input type="checkbox"/> Archaeological Objects	<input type="checkbox"/> Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Objects	<input type="checkbox"/> Textiles
<input type="checkbox"/> Books & Paper	<input type="checkbox"/> Paintings	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify below)
<input type="checkbox"/> Ethnographic Objects	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Materials	_____

Are you willing to be a Disaster Response Volunteer in the event of an emergency? ____

Would you like your contact information included in our website conservation services directory? ____

The Virginia Conservation Association is open to all interested individuals. To become a member, complete this form and return it with your dues payment of \$25.00 (Regular) or \$15.00 (Student; Enclose copy of valid I.D.) Application and dues payment must be received by November 15, 2010 for inclusion in the 2010/11 VCA Directory. A \$5.00 late fee may apply to applications from renewing members received after this deadline. If you require an invoice or receipt for your records, please photocopy this form before sending.

Note: If you are a renewing member mailing this form after the November 15th, 2010 deadline please apply the \$5.00 late fee to your payment. Thank you.

Mail your completed application and check made payable to the Virginia Conservation Association to the address below before November 15, 2010:

Treasurer
The Virginia Conservation Association
P.O. Box 4314
Richmond, VA 23220

VCA Board of Directors
2010-2011

Board Officers

President, Frederick Wallace
fwallacedjo@hotmail.com

Vice President, Heather Logue
heather.logue@vmfa.museum

Secretary, James Christopher Wilkins
chriswilki@gmail.com

Treasurer, Caitlin R. O'Grady
Caitlin.O'Grady@dbr.virginia.gov

Committee Chairs

Bylaws, James Robertson
catfishjrobertson@gmail.com

Disaster Response, Kathy Garrett-Cox
kgarrett@maymont.org

Education, Sheila Payaqui
sheila.payaqui@vmfa.museum

Membership,
Bienvenida Och, bochs@vcu.org
Alfred Lawrence Ochs, Ph.D. ALBAsystems@vcu.org

Outreach, Dale Wheary
dvwheary@maymont.org

Programs,
Thomas A. Snyder, thomassnyder2@cox.net
Colleen Callahan, jette_2@msn.com

Publications,
Tracy Bernabo, tracybernabo@comcast.net
Russell Bernabo, russell@russellbernabo.com

Refreshments,
Mary Scott Andrews andrewsmmm@mac.com
Sandy Jensen, 804.537.5041

Web Management, Patricia Selinger
patricia.selinger@vcu.edu

Virginia Conservation Association
P.O. Box 4314
Richmond, VA 23220

www.VirginiaConservationAssociation.org



Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

Next VCA Members' Meeting:
Thursday, November 18th, 2010, 5:30 p.m.
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts ~ Conservation Labs
200 North Boulevard, Richmond, VA 23220