

VMFA ON THE ROAD Exhibition

How Far Can Creativity Take You: VMFA Fellowship Artists

FAMILY VISIT GUIDE

This guide offers families some helpful tips for visiting the On the Road Artmobile

WHAT TO EXPECT FOR YOUR VISIT

Since 1940, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts has awarded over 1,300 fellowships



to artists across Virginia. The exhibition *How Far Can Creativity Take You*, asks this question by focusing on works made by 12 fellows who have achieved acclaim in the art world and are represented in the museum's permanent collection. The artist's journeys have not only been fueled by passion and hard work, but they have also each been made possible by the VMFA Fellowship Program. *How Far Can Creativity Take You*, illustrates the rich fusion between inspiration, creativity, and accessibility that the VMFA brings you.

ARTISTS REPRESENTED

*Dennis Winston *Arthur Sawyers *Julien Binford *Ann Chenoweth
*Nell Blaine *Benjamin Wigfall *Charles K. Sibley *Esther Worden Day
*Emmet Gowin *Sally Mann *Cy Twombly *Steven Fishman
*Vince Gilligan *Dale Chihuly

REPRESENTATION OF DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS

The range of artwork chosen is representative of the diverse backgrounds of the artists and how their creativity is different, each artist has emphasized a unique sense of place felt in Virginia. A strong sense of place is evident in each of the artist's works; as are concepts of family, friendship, and home. With the VMFA mission to serve the Commonwealth, it seems fitting that the inaugural VMFA on the Road exhibition seeks to show the variety of experiences shared by Virginians, from the Atlantic Coast to the Appalachian Mountains and the D.C. Metro area to rural South Side.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE ARTISTS

- All of the artists are from Virginia.
- Arthur Sawyer captured the second oldest tavern in the U.S., the Red Fox Inn began in 1728.
- Esther Worden Day received a VMFA travel fellowship in 1938, which allowed her to study printmaking in New York with Stanley William Hayter at Atelier 17.
- In 1942, Julien Binford was commissioned to create a mural for a post office in Richmond, but it was installed 75 years later.
- Emmet Gowin, Cy Twombly, and Benjamin Wigfall each won VMFA fellowships twice.
- In 1951 Benjamin Wigfall was the 1st African American artist to have work shown and purchased by the VMFA and at the time, was the youngest artist to be represented in the collection.
- In the 1950s Benjamin Wigfall used his fellowship to attend Hampton Institute, home of the oldest and first African American museum in the U.S.

- In the 1950s Nell Blaine studied painting in Paris, France; and it completely changed her style.
- Cy Twombly used his VMFA fellowship to attend Black Mountain College (1951-52) in North Carolina.
- Sally Mann has published over 10 books about her photography, in 2001 she was named *America's Best Photographer* by Time Magazine.
- Charles K. Sibley was 15 years old when he attended Ohio State University, and while he was in the Navy he traveled around the world twice.
- Ann Chenoweth, Dennis Winston, and Steven Fishman as Richmond artists were members of a group called *One/Off Printmakers*. Ann was a founding member in 1983.

WHAT IS CREATIVITY?

Creativity is the act of turning new and imaginative ideas into reality. Creativity is characterized by the ability to perceive the world in new ways, to find hidden patterns, to make connections between seemingly unrelated things, and to generate solutions. Creativity involves a two-step process: thinking and then producing.



Benjamin Wigfall, "Chimneys," oil on canvas, 1951.

MATERIALS & TERMS

The medium used to create the artwork in this exhibition varies.

Drawing: an art discipline that requires hand eye coordination when creating an image or marks onto a surface.

Wash- a material (like ink or paint) that is diluted with water to create various shades of gray tones. Then layered on a surface with a brush.

Painting: an art discipline that requires applying wet or oily pigment to a surface with a brush.

Oil-the pigment is mixed with drying oils like linseed oil.

Photography: an art discipline that captures images with a process of chemical action of light and other radiation.



Gelatin Silver Print-a black and white photographic process that coats silver salts and gelatin onto glass (light sensitive) and is exposed after capturing an image.

Sally Mann, "Remembered Light, Untitled (Open Book)," gelatin silver print-tea toned, 2012.

Printmaking: an art discipline that uses physical or chemical reactions to create an image on a surface for the purpose of printing multiples (editions of that image) using a press or hand pressure.



Aquatint- this is an etching technique that creates tones. After the dot pattern of rosin powder (acid resistant) is put onto the plate the plate is then placed into an acid bath.

Dennis Winston, "Young Girl," woodcut on handmade paper, 2017.

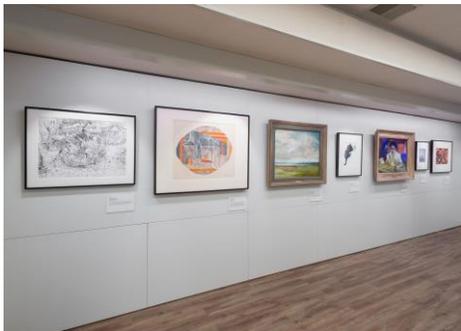
Etching- this technique requires having a dry layer of ground (acid resistant) on the plate, incising an image into the ground, and placing the plate into an acid bath. The acid will only chew within the incised image.

Linoleum cut- a form of relief, a linoleum block is carved into and then hand printed.

Woodcut- a form of relief, a block of wood is carved into and then hand printed.

LAYOUT OF EXHIBITION

As a gallery on wheels, the artmobile represents a portion of the VMFA's permanent collection. It has three sections that includes touch screen computers, touch screen tablets, 12 two-dimensional works of art, and an area for distance learning.



TIPS FOR VISITING

Explore the art. When you visit the exhibition, take time to look carefully at a few works of art rather than walking quickly through the space.

Look together. Explore artworks in the galleries as a family and discuss what you see, think, and wonder.

Try an activity. Try some of the activities that follow to enjoy a more meaningful experience of the works of art. Additional activities are also available on the VMFA Learn website

www.vmfa.museum/learn.

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



Cy Twombly, "The Song of the Border Guard," linoleum cut on colored paper, 1952.

I See, I Think, I Wonder

Walk up to any piece and record your; I See, I Think, I Wonder responses to objects and then compare your answers (use a pencil to write on paper) with the artwork's label. What surprised you? Were some of your ideas the same as what you read? Have some of your "I wonder" statements been addressed?

Strike a Pose

Artists often have specific reasons for the poses of the people in their artwork. Sometimes just by mimicking the poses, you can understand more about the art even before getting any additional information. Do the following with a chosen work of figural art (a work of art that has a person in it).

Without looking at the label, study the gestures and body language of a figure you see. Carefully move your body and adjust your facial expression to match that of the figure. What does doing this tell you about what the figure may be thinking or feeling?

Before and After

Sometimes artists create multiple works of art to tell a whole story. Sometimes they only show us part of a story, leaving the rest up to us and our imaginations.

Chose an artwork that seems to have a story. Examine the scene and then sketch what you imagine might have occurred before or after the moment the artist chose to represent.

WHEN YOU ARE DONE VISITING *VMFA On the Road*

We value your feedback. Please take time to answer a few survey questions. It will take a couple minutes. Your answers will help us know how effective we are in sharing the VMFA collection with you.

Reflect on what creativity is to you. Where has it taken you, or where can it take you? Was it a physical or mental journey? What did you produce or make from it?

Share what you experienced with others. Let others know about the various artworks that were created by artists from Virginia. What was your favorite? What did you already know? What did you learn? What will you never forget?

See traveling schedule at <https://vmfa.museum/exhibitions/exhibitions/vmfa-on-the-road>

