TIMELINE

SPRING/SUMMER 2016

The Virginia Man: Respect, Responsibility, Rebellion
A variety of charming, hilarious and, at times, unsettling perceptions of the Richmond and Virginia man.

Music in the Garden: A New Series
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Latinos in Richmond
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Research for The Virginia Man: Respect, Responsibility, Rebellion, the second annual exhibition on view in the Nathalie L. Klaus and Reynolds Family Galleries, uncovered a variety of charming, hilarious and, at times, unsettling perceptions of the Richmond and Virginia man. Situated in the north of the South, at the intersection of the industrial and pastoral, the cosmopolitan and the provincial, Virginia – and Virginians – are viewed through a complicated web of competing stereotypes. The history of Virginia is a complex one. So, too, is the character of the Virginia man.

Classical Allure: Richmond Style, the inaugural exhibition held in the same galleries, drew on the museum’s century-spanning Costume and Textiles Collection of women’s fashions to demonstrate how the ideals and traditions on which the city’s culture were founded have evolved to serve the changing face of Richmond. The Virginia Man: Respect, Responsibility, Rebellion delves into the consistencies and contradictions evident in the sartorial lives of Virginia’s other half. The gendered focus of this exhibition will challenge the dated notion that costume exhibitions are primarily “dress shows” designed for a female audience. All Richmonders are affected by the archetypes of masculinity that pervade Virginia’s collective unconscious.

Examples of menswear made, sold and worn in Richmond will be shown alongside a rich selection of material from the Valentine’s Archives and General Collections. The cased pistols owned by 18th-century American ambassador General Lewis Littlepage; a pair of tennis shoes issued by Le Coq Sportif in honor of Arthur Ashe’s accomplishments on the world stage of professional sports; a selection of well-worn t-shirts screen-printed with the logos of local punk rock and hardcore music bands: these are just a few of the treasures that exemplify the complexity of the Virginia man.

Thanks to the support of our sponsors, the Arcadian scenes of Classical Allure have been transformed into sleek backdrops that spin masculine tropes into stylized surfaces, and an army of male mannequins have been designed and created by Costume and Textiles technician Bethany Gingrich, with a talented team of interns. In an engaging and, at times, provocative display, The Virginia Man: Respect, Responsibility, Rebellion aims to further the mission of the Valentine by uncovering stories about the lives of Virginians, both past and present, by creating an open dialogue with the diverse population of Richmond, Virginia, and by inviting as many questions as it proposes to answer.

Special thanks to our lead sponsors: The Klaus Family, Peter Blair, Nordstrom, Schwarzschild Jewelers and Richmond magazine.

“He possessed that quality in his profanity of not offending by it.”
— Owen Wister, The Virginian, 1902

“All Southern women wished of their menfolk was simply to be ‘like Paris handsome and like Hector brave.’”
— Willa Cather, Sapphira and the Slave Girl, 1940

Kristen Stewart joined the Valentine in September 2014 as the Nathalie L. Klaus Curator of Costume and Textiles.
“The Virginia capital, I am glad to say, preserves much of the old southern spirit, even though it is fast becoming a little metropolis of its own. The Richmond men...really looked after us. In New York we are apt to put a man up at a club and then quietly forget about him...”

— "As Seen by Him," Vogue, Feb. 1, 1916

Don’t make us take the coins from the fountain!

Our fiscal year ends on June 30. Now is a great time to support the Valentine. Please use the enclosed envelope or visit us at thevalentine.org.

Your membership and donations support the Valentine’s mission to engage diverse audiences through collecting, preserving and interpreting Richmond’s history.

Please support us and enjoy all of the benefits of membership – exhibition openings, free parking, free museum visits, discounted Sally Bell’s lunch by the fountain and so much more!

Nominate a Richmond History Maker!

Nominations are being accepted for the 2016 Richmond History Makers. Deadline to submit a nomination is June 30. Save the date of October 18 for the 12th annual Richmond History Makers Celebration.

To submit a nomination or more information, visit richmondhistorymakers.com.
Museum Exhibitions

This is Richmond, Virginia
Ongoing in the Main Gallery
Explore Richmond’s complex history and countless stories through five themes: Why the Fall Line? Where do we live? What do we produce? Who has a voice? and What do we value?

Creating History: The Valentine Family and the Creation of a Museum
Ongoing on the 2nd floor of the 1812 John Wickham House
This exhibition illustrates how every person creates, through personal experience, his or her own usable history. Explore the Valentine family’s collecting enterprises, Valentine’s Meat Juice and ways in which the Valentine’s interpretation of Richmond’s history has evolved.

The Virginia Man: Respect, Responsibility, Rebellion
May 6, 2016–January 29, 2017
Do clothes really make the man? Stories of respect, responsibility and rebellion, preserved in the wardrobes of Virginia men, will be on display in galleries dedicated to an exploration of the public and private character of the Virginia man.

1812 Wickham House
Ongoing
A National Historic Landmark, the home allows guests to explore aspects of life in the early 19th century. The home was purchased by Mann S. Valentine II and in 1898 became the first home of the Valentine Museum.

Guided tours offered
10:30 am–4 pm Tuesday–Saturday and 12:30–4 pm on Sunday

Edward V. Valentine Sculpture Studio
Ongoing in the Valentine Garden
A prominent sculptor, Valentine’s works include the Recumbent Lee statue and the statue of Thomas Jefferson at The Jefferson Hotel. A visit to his restored studio offers a glimpse into the mind of the artist and into his times.

Signs of the Times
Ongoing on the Gray Family Terrace
Vintage neon signs from Richmond businesses illustrate commercial growth and advertising trends, as do other artifacts mounted outdoors on the Gray Family Terrace.

Faces of Freedom, Stories of Service
May 12–November 13, 2016
This collaborative project with Richmond photographer Mark Mitchell explores local military veterans’ service through portraiture and oral histories.

It’s All Relative: Richmond Families (1616-2016)
October 2016–July 2017
What defines a Richmond family in 2016? This exhibition explores the changing definition and complexion of what makes a family in our Richmond community over the past four centuries.

A Chicken in Every Plot
January 28–September 5, 2016
Featuring the work of nationally known Richmond photographer Alyssa C. Salomon, this exhibition examines the resurging practice of keeping backyard chickens and how our relationship with food sources continues to evolve.

It’s All Relative: Richmond Families (1616-2016)
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Selected tours below. For complete tour listings, descriptions and starting locations, visit thevalentine.org/tours.

April

Director’s Tour: Highland Park
April 30, 10 am–12 pm

Ironfronts to High Rise: The Sky’s the Limit Tour
May 1, 2–4 pm

Richmond Garden Trail (bus tour)
May 7, 10 am–11:30 am
Reservations required

Hollywood Cemetery
May 8, 2–4 pm

Carytown and the Byrd Theatre
May 15, 2–4 pm

Historic Cemeteries (bus tour)
May 30, 10 am–12 pm
Reservations required and free for all veterans.

May

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Reservations required and free for all veterans.

June

Scott’s Addition
June 4, 10 am–12 pm

Carver and Newtown West
June 5, 2–4 pm

History Hounds Explore Byrd Park
June 11, 10 am–12 pm
Reservations required

Museum District
June 25, 10 am–12 pm

Scott’s Addition
June 4, 10 am–12 pm

Carver and Newtown West
June 5, 2–4 pm

History Hounds Explore Byrd Park
June 11, 10 am–12 pm
Reservations required

Museum District
June 25, 10 am–12 pm

July

I Know Richmond: The Bus Tour
July 4, 1–4 pm
Reservations required

Manchester
July 9, 10 am–12 pm

Canal Boats & Cobblestones
July 31, 2–4 pm

Tours are sponsored by Bon Secours Richmond Health System, Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond Region Tourism, the Richmond Development and Housing Authority, the Jackson Foundation and the Ruth Campbell Foundation.
Music in the Garden: A New Series

Music does bring people together. It allows us to experience the same emotions. People everywhere are the same in heart and spirit. No matter what language we speak, what color we are, the form of our politics or the expression of our love and our faith, music proves: We are the same.

— John Denver

During the first three Thursdays in June, the Valentine will host three live music concerts in the historic garden. This new concert series will pair performances by individuals and ensembles to bring diverse audiences together in one venue.

The intent of the project is to expose audiences not only to new art forms, but also to each other in a way that invites conversations and understanding. Music genres including gospel, classical, bluegrass, punk and more are all being considered for the lineup by the series curator, Chris Bopst.

Thanks to the generous support of the Carpenter Foundation and CultureWorks, each concert is free and open to the public. Parking in area decks and on-street is available. Each event will feature a local food vendor and brewery.

Save the dates of June 2, 9 and 16 and join us for this exciting new music series. Visit thevalentine.org for more information as musical acts, food vendors and breweries are announced.

Please Do Touch! The New Interactive Wickham House

Like Goldilocks discovering the home of the three bears, starting this summer visitors both young and young at heart will be able to experience Dr. McClurg’s bedchamber by sitting on the chairs, lying in the bed, handling the artifacts and peeking in the drawers.

Outfitted in reproductions and a new mantel, McClurg’s bedroom will set the stage for a new summer enrichment program, Under One Roof. In addition to the bedroom, the interactive experience will continue in the Wickham House basement, which will feature trunks filled with touchable artifacts that introduce various features of daily life, like handiwork, candlemaking, laundry, embroidery, sewing and cooking. We look forward to visitors interacting as Wickham House inhabitants while they explore their roles and duties within the household.

In addition, a video examining the experiences of early African-Americans in Richmond will be on view in the basement.

The multisensory experience will extend into the galleries with touchable objects added to the drawers in the This is Richmond, Virginia exhibition. Animal pelts, aluminum and arrowheads are just a few items that visitors will be able to handle, providing a tangible connection to Richmond history.

The new mantel and the interactive enhancements are generously funded by the Jeanann Gray Dunlap Foundation, the Beirne Carter Foundation and the Windsor Foundation. With so much happening under our roof this season, we are excited to show off our home improvements!
The 1898 Society: New Lunch and Lecture Series

The 1898 Society is the Valentine’s planned giving society. A planned gift is a simple and effective way to ensure that the Valentine is here for future generations. At present, a recent planned gift is enabling the proper care and renovation of our beloved Valentine Garden. Another is providing for the preservation and management of our Costume and Textiles Collection and yet another will help to renovate our collection storage and workspaces housed in the museum’s second and third floors.

The 1898 Society Lunch and Lecture Series is a special way for us to thank those individuals who have included the Valentine in their estate planning and for those who are considering doing so and want to learn more about the museum. We are pleased to announce that our third event in the series will take place in June.

Our featured speaker will be David B. Voelkel, the Elise H. Wright Curator of General Collections. Since joining the Valentine in 2012, David co-curated and continues to evolve our anchor exhibition, This is Richmond, Virginia. He enabled the Valentine to welcome the world to Richmond in September 2015 with In Gear: Richmond Cycles while simultaneously bringing a passion and commitment to the 1812 John Wickham House as it evolves its storytelling for the next generation.

David will discuss the curatorial process during a unique lunchtime conversation that will highlight important but lesser-known items in the Valentine’s expansive collection. He may also provide a sneak peek into It’s All Relative: Richmond Families (1616–2016), the next exhibition slated for the Stettinius Community Galleries, which will open this fall.

Please join us!
Wednesday, June 8, 11:30 am
Lunch provided by Sally Bell’s Kitchen

Reservations required. Invitations will be mailed in May to current 1898 Society members.

RSVP to Sarah Kim, Deputy Director, at skim@thevalentine.org or (804) 649-0711 ext. 302.

Latinos in Richmond

The surge of immigration from Latin America and the Caribbean is shaping 21st-century Richmond. While Richmond has no known history of early Spanish settlement, Latinos, those who can trace their origins to the soils of Latin America and the Caribbean, have called the Richmond metropolitan area home for decades. There are now approximately 100,000 Latinos in the Greater Richmond area.

To lead the effort in collecting Latino stories in our community, the Valentine welcomes Wanda Hernández to our staff as the new Latino Project Curator. Hernández is a Guatemalan-American and passionate about amplifying and preserving the voices of traditionally marginalized communities. The Valentine – in collaboration with Richmond Public Library, Sacred Heart Center and the University of Richmond – seeks to collect and preserve the diverse narratives of the local Latino community through multiple group oral histories, formally titled “Cuentos e Historias” or “Stories and Tales.” The story-collecting portion of the project will take place in May.

"It is vital that as a society we recognize that Latinos are a part of Richmond’s history and American history. We are not temporary visitors. We call Richmond home. The Valentine and our partners are making sure that Latinos’ stories are integrated into the community’s collective memory," says Hernández.

The collecting effort will culminate in an exhibition detailing the Latino presence in Richmond, which is scheduled to open in the spring of 2017.

The project is supported by the Jackson Foundation.

Share your story!

For more information, contact Wanda Hernández, Latino Project Curator, at whernandez@thevalentine.org or (804) 649-0711 ext. 330.
Faces of Freedom, Stories of Service

Mark Mitchell, Richmond photographer and U.S. Navy veteran, has teamed up with the Valentine in our latest exhibition, Faces of Freedom, Stories of Service. This collaborative project explores local military veterans’ service from World War II to today through portraiture and oral histories.

Michell’s images are paired with text panels featuring veterans’ stories of their military service and how this experience has shaped their lives and values. Each veteran has a unique perspective on what it means to serve their country.

The exhibition also explores how local veterans re-acclimate to life on the home front and adapt to post-service life, encountering both struggles and successes. Mitchell says, “What has always interested me most since childhood are people and their environments. What makes them unique? Every veteran has had different experiences, and it makes them who they are today.”

Included in the exhibition is a series of images from Mitchell’s previous project, When We Were Young, in which World War II and Korean War veterans comment on their younger selves and how they have changed during a lifetime of experience.

Faces of Freedom, Stories of Service is on view May 12 through November 13 on the Lower Level and is presented by Dominion Resources.

Photo Credit: Mark Mitchell, 2015

Photo Credit: Mark Mitchell, 2015