Stories of Loss and Survival
Meg Hughes, Curator of Archives, highlights some of what visitors will see in the timely exhibition Pandemic: Richmond.

A Landscape of Landmarks
As we continue to engage in meaningful conversations, David Voelkel, Elise H. Wright Curator of General Collections, discusses the relevance of the upcoming exhibition Monumental: Richmond Monuments (1607-2018).

Fashion Agency
Kristen Stewart, Nathalie L. Klaus Curator of Costume and Textiles, explores Pretty Powerful: Fashion and Virginia Women, her new show examining fashion as an instigator of social change.
The Valentine’s new exhibition *Pandemic: Richmond* traces the city’s encounters with seven contagious diseases: smallpox, tuberculosis, cholera, typhoid fever, polio, the 1918–1919 influenza and HIV/AIDS. These diseases shaped Richmond’s history, changing where and how people lived and prompting life-saving advances in health care.

Here is a closer look at Richmond’s experience with cholera, just one of the diseases featured in this timely exhibition:

Cholera first appeared in pandemic form in the early-19th century, with at least seven major global outbreaks between 1817 and the present. This terrifying new disease produced severe vomiting and diarrhea that could lead to coma and death within hours. Scientists first believed cholera was caught through bad air and squalid conditions, but English physician John Snow’s (1815–1858) groundbreaking work in the 1850s proved the disease is in fact transmitted through contaminated water.

The Industrial Revolution brought large groups of people together in cities that lacked sanitation infrastructure, creating the perfect environment for cholera to flourish. Richmond was no different as it urbanized. The city unknowingly created a breeding ground when the Great Basin opened in 1800 in the city center. Designed to serve as a turning place for boats and barges and as a source of water for mills, its standing water and sewage contaminants made it a perfect environment for cholera.

Richmonders waited in fear as cholera broke out in U.S. cities, finally reaching Tidewater by August 1832. In September, the city saw its first case, caught by an 11-year-old enslaved boy, and the disease spread quickly. Terror gripped Richmond as bodies were carted through the streets. The outbreak lasted until October, leaving almost 500 dead, with African Americans suffering the highest number of casualties. Cholera returned to Richmond several times, most notably in outbreaks in 1849, 1854–1855 and 1866.

Desperate for relief, people could try one of the many “patent medicines” that claimed to treat cholera. These unproven products were generally ineffective and could even be harmful. Effective
Members and Donors are the Lifeblood of the Valentine
(along with Richmond Stories, of course!)

Valentine memberships and annual fund donations directly support the ongoing operations, programs and exhibitions of the Valentine, enabling us to collect and tell Richmond stories through the 1.6 million photographs, textiles and objects in our care. The Valentine also shares stories beyond the walls of the museum through education programs and tours of Richmond’s vibrant neighborhoods and landmarks.

Valentine members and annual fund donors receive:
- Free admission to the Valentine and the 1812 Wickham House
- Free parking while visiting
- Discounted walking and bus tours
- Free research appointments in the Archives
- 10% discount at Garnett’s at the Valentine and the Museum Store

Every donation makes a difference. Thank you for supporting Richmond Stories! Use the enclosed envelope to submit a gift by mail, or donate online at thevalentine.org/give.

Have questions? Call Haley McLaren, Director of Development, at (804) 649-0711 ext. 325.

Special thanks to Elizabeth Outka, University of Richmond Associate Professor of English, who co-curated this exhibition.

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prevention and treatment came with sanitation infrastructure, recognition that rehydration was essential for recovery and the development of the first cholera vaccine (1885).

While not the scourge it once was, cholera is still with us today. Each year sees an estimated 3–5 million cases and 100,000 deaths globally, mainly in developing parts of the world.

Besides cholera, visitors will explore six other diseases through 400 years of outbreaks, community responses and medical breakthroughs. Pandemic also features the personal stories of Richmonders affected by the 1918–1919 flu pandemic, polio and HIV/AIDS and explores treatment and prevention methods, emerging diseases and the important role that public health experts play in keeping us healthy.

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(A) Ruins of Richmond, Virginia (showing Canal Turning Basin), 1865, Andrew J. Russell, Library of Congress
(B) Advertisement for Dr. J. S. Rose’s Pain Curer and Carminative Balsam, 18 July 1854, The Daily Dispatch
(C) The appearance after death of a victim to the Indian cholera who died at Sunderland, ca. 1832, O. Hodgson, Wellcome Library no. 5395i
(D) Monster soup commonly called Thames water, being a correct representation of that precious stuff doled out to us!!! 1828, W. Heath, Wellcome Library no. 12079i
(E) Fourth annual Downtown Donor Days blood drive sponsored by Richmond Metropolitan Blood Service, June 22, 1976, V65.37.2243, Richmond Times-Dispatch Collection, photo: Don Rypka
EXHIBITIONS

Pandemic: Richmond
May 10, 2018–Feb. 24, 2019

Pandemic: Richmond explores the repeated storms of disease that have swept through the city. From influenza to cholera to polio to AIDS/HIV, this exhibition investigates how Richmonders have fought silent, invisible enemies and tells their stories of both loss and survival.

Monumental: Richmond Monuments (1607–2018)
July 4, 2018–Jan. 2, 2019

Since Christopher Newport’s expedition planted a cross on the banks of the James River in 1607, Richmonders have marked the landscape to reflect their collective values. From our colonial past to our diverse present, Monumental: Richmond Monuments (1607–2018) examines Richmond’s role as a place where many of our state and national stories are commemorated.

Pretty Powerful: Fashion and Virginia Women
April 27, 2018–Jan. 27, 2019

In a superb display of high fashion and low from the 19th century to the present day, Pretty Powerful: Fashion and Virginia Women will examine the role of fashion in the professional, creative and social advancement of women in Richmond, Virginia.

Edward V. Valentine Sculpture Studio
Ongoing in the Valentine Garden

A prominent sculptor, Valentine created works that 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.

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?

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–Sunday

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 Valentine First Freedom Center

S. 14th and E. Cary Streets
Open Tuesday–Sunday
10 am–5 pm

Located in historic Shockoe Slip, the Center explores America’s experience of religious liberty from its European antecedents to today. Outside, a monument etched with an excerpt from the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom welcomes visitors to this important space. Free and open to the public.

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For tickets and the full schedule of tours, including bus tours and special holiday experiences, visit thevalentine.org/events. We also offer private tours throughout the year. Contact the Valentine for more details and to set up your private tour today.
**Monumental: Richmond Monuments (1607–2018)**

Did you know that the first public monument erected in what would become Richmond was a cross placed on the banks of the James? Did you know that Richmond is currently working on the creation of new monuments to celebrate Virginia Women, American Indians on the Capitol grounds and an Emancipation Monument on Brown’s Island? It is clear that an active dialogue is underway in the Richmond community about what we have chosen to commemorate and what we have chosen to forget.

But what makes a monument? Accepted forms in our culture include statues, obelisks, landmark objects or artworks such as sculptures or fountains. From our colonial past to our diverse present, Richmond is a place where many of our state and national experiences and personal stories are remembered and recorded in the form of monuments. In fact, of all the debates that have flared about Lost Cause monuments and memorials nationwide, perhaps no state has a bigger discussion on its hands than Virginia, with more than 220 documented examples according to published research.

**Monumental** will be the first of a series of two planned exhibitions for 2018–2019 that will look at the historical context and future of public monuments in Richmond, and the Valentine is excited to build on its role as a space to engage in meaningful, sometimes uncomfortable discussions about these issues.

Planned for the Stettinius Community Galleries, this first exhibition will explore the history of our city monuments through the use of special-loan pieces coupled with objects from the Valentine Collection, with an emphasis on archival imagery. Supporting consulting curator-created historical and contemporary media experiences will collect the stories from our landscape and bring them into the museum.


David Voelkel, Elise H. Wright Curator of General Collections

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**Seasonal Gifts at the Valentine Store!**

The Valentine Museum Store continues to offer carefully curated items from local artisans and businesses, acquired specifically to connect to our upcoming exhibitions and programming. New specialty items include locally sourced chocolates, coffee and Virginia nuts! Featuring unique and relevant books, jewelry, crafts, clothing and other items from the Richmond Stories Collection, the Valentine Shop is the best place to find that perfect gift for any special occasion. Members receive 10% off in the Museum Store! Members also receive 10% off the Museum Store at the Valentine First Freedom Center, located at the corner of S. 14th and E. Cary Streets.

**Garnett’s at the Valentine**

The weather is getting perfect for a Garnett’s lunch in the Valentine Garden!

Garnett’s at the Valentine is a sweet lunch spot providing generous sandwiches, fresh salads, delicious soups, good coffee, cake and pie – and the best banana pudding in Richmond.

Their unique indoor/outdoor spot has 22 seats in the café and more than 50 outside in the 200-plus-year-old garden oasis in the heart of MCV/downtown. Come have lunch under a magnolia tree planted in 1808. There is truly nowhere else like this in the city!

Garnett’s is open for lunch Monday–Friday, 11 am to 3 pm and for a number of special events in the garden. Valentine members receive a 10% discount.
Attorney and businessman John Wickham (1763–1839) was one of the very few Loyalists to achieve any sort of national prominence in the United States after the American Revolution and is best remembered for his role in the treason trial of former Vice President Aaron Burr in 1807.

These pistols were purchased by John Wickham circa 1795 and made by Henry Nock. Nock opened his business in London in 1772, appearing in the rate books as a gunlock smith located in Mount Pleasant, London. In the late 1700s, Nock became known as one of the best and most fashionable gunmakers.

These cased flintlock pistols survive with their original fitted wooden case and several accessories, including a brass, copper and steel powder flask, steel bullet mold and tamping rods.

In the early 1800s, a Scotsman named Forsyth patented the percussion lock, doing away with the flash pan and flint. With the advent of the percussion cap, guns with revolving chambers became the preferred weapon.

The Valentine purchased these pistols from Dr. and Mrs. Charles W. Porter of Henrico County. Mrs. Porter was a direct descendant of John Wickham.

You can learn more about the life and career of John Wickham by visiting the 1812 Wickham House at the Valentine.

David Voelkel, Elise H. Wright Curator of General Collections

Pretty Powerful: Fashion and Virginia Women will examine the role of fashion in the professional, creative and social advancement of women in Richmond, Virginia.

In a superb display of style from the 19th century to the present day, Pretty Powerful: Fashion and Virginia Women will highlight Richmond’s BUSINESS OF FASHION and the pioneering DRESSMAKERS and MILLINERS who charted an entrepreneurial path for Richmond women.

During the 20th century, fashion design developed a reputation as a high-profile and glamorous career in which men and women work together – and compete – as equals. Richmond women have excelled in the field of fashion in New York, Paris and Virginia. An installation of hidden gems from the Valentine’s collection and strategically sought loans will celebrate Richmond’s many DESIGNING WOMEN who have used their talents to fulfill their professional aspirations and support their communities.

The consumer plays a critical role in Richmond’s fashion business, operating both as marketing team and muse. At the same time, a well-crafted wardrobe serves the wearer as a highly visible performance of identity. A chic selection of ensembles from the wardrobes of Richmond’s WOMEN OF STYLE is organized to highlight the ways in which Richmond women’s wardrobes reflect their changing values and their world.

Objects from the Valentine’s Archives, Costume and Textiles and General Collections are exhibited in a conversation that contextualizes the challenges, aspirations and opportunities experienced by the diverse community of women living and working in Richmond’s past and present.

Kristen E. Stewart, Nathalie L. Klaus Curator of Costume & Textiles
2018 Richmond History Makers Celebration & Community Update

Nearly 400 people attended the Richmond History Makers Celebration & Community Update on March 13 at Virginia Union University. We would like to thank our partners, sponsors, supporters, friends and the honorees for making this event such a success!