# a year in review



virginia museum of contemporary art annual report fiscal year 2017-2018









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# mission & history

### Mission

The Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) is a nonprofit institution which exists to foster awareness, exploration, and understanding of the significant art of our time. Through excellence and diversity in our changing exhibitions and educational programming, MOCA stimulates critical thinking and dialogue throughout the Hampton Roads community.



### **History**

MOCA evolved from a 1952 art sale organized to benefit a local artist who had become ill. Inspired by this successful event, the organizing artists founded the Virginia Beach Art Association (VBAA). Having no permanent building, VBAA held summer art classes, lectures, and exhibitions in libraries and schools. In 1956, the organization produced its first outdoor art show along the oceanfront, the Boardwalk Art Show.

In 1971, VBAA and the Virginia Beach Museum of Art merged to create the Virginia Beach Center for the Arts, and in 1989, the construction of a permanent home for the Center was completed. In 1996, the Center's name was changed to the Contemporary Art Center of Virginia (CAC), and a building expansion took place in 2003, increasing the building's total square footage to 38,500. The structure houses galleries, classrooms, studios, a 268-seat auditorium, special event spaces, a museum shop, and administrative offices. The surrounding grounds feature several large sculptures, and the museum's sculpture garden functions as an additional gallery space, outdoor classroom, and event venue.

In 2010, CAC was awarded full accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), the culmination of a rigorous four-year process that involved all museum staff. Having achieved such prestigious recognition, the Board of Trustees voted to make a final name change for the museum and in September 2011, the Contemporary Art Center of Virginia became the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA).

1



# a message from Debi

In August 2017, MOCA closed *Muse: Mickalene Thomas Photographs and tete-a-tete* and *Southern Routes*, a salute to the art of contemporary southern photography. In September we welcomed back Wayne White for a 3-week residency. MOCA was able to offer several local artists the opportunity to work alongside the artist. They took a break from their full-time jobs to help

transform MOCA's gallery into a visual retelling of the story of the Union Navy's USS Monitor. *Monitorium* provided a non-traditional glimpse into the human side of history. The installation team covered the gallery with black from floor-to-ceiling as the perfect backdrop for this multi-media art installation. The sculptures, a crew of larger than life puppets, played the roles of the fireman (who shoveled coal), William F. Keeler (Montior's pay-master), and Gideon Welles (Secretary of the Navy), to name a few.

In juxtaposition to the large-scale characters of Wayne White's *Monitorium*, Heather Hakimzadeh, MOCA's Curator, created *Small Works Tall Tales*. Celebrating regional artists, *Small Works*, *Tall Tales*, explored narrative sculpture presented on an intimate scale.

In the fall, MOCA launched the Legacy Society. Barbara Fine, Honorary Trustee and longtime supporter, kick-started this program with a generous donation of \$50,000. At the first of the year, we celebrated a new major sponsor with the naming of MOCA's main galleries, now titled the TowneBank Galleries.

The whimsical, mythological paintings of Inka Essenhigh brightened our winter. Nature is a common thread in many of Inka's paintings. Her landscapes tell stories; plants morph into characters and buildings show us their voluptuous personalities. The exhibition opened in March and was commemorated by MOCA's inaugural Leadership Giving Society dinner.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> New Waves, MOCA's annual juried exhibition opened along with Inka Essenhigh. MOCA was pleased to host Cay-Sophie Rabinowitz as the exhibition's juror this year. She was the former director of Art Basel, a previous faculty member at Columbia and PRATT School of Design, and more recently the creator of OSMOS magazine. She selected 30 artists from an applicant pool of 378 Virginia artists.

In April, MOCA was honored to receive a Humanitarian Award from the Virginia Beach Human Rights Commission for two exhibitions featured in 2017. The Museum was recognized for its commitment to diversity and education with *Muse: Mickalene Thomas Photographs and tete-a-tete*, an exhibition about beauty, race, and gender; and *Mindful: Exploring Mental Health Through Art*, which featured 30 works by 14 contemporary artists exploring mental health through art.

As always MOCA's fiscal year wrapped up with the Boardwalk Art Show (BWAS) in June. As MOCA celebrated the 63rd year of BWAS, we hosted 288 artists, 25% of which were Virginia artists and 34% were new to the show.

2017 -2018 was an outstanding year as you will see in the pages that follow. A year that would not have happened without the hard work and dedication of MOCA's Board of Trustees and staff, our generous contributors, and unwavering volunteers. Thank you for helping us introduce the "art of now" to the community.

Artfully yours,



Back Row: Todd Walker, Kenick El, Christina Pullen, Roark Corson, Kathleen Wakefield, and Laura Beth Lawver. Front Row: Mary Culver, Jennifer Vaughan, Heidi Kulberg, Carolyn Weems, Barbara Unkle, Alison Byrne, and Debi Gray.



The Virginia Beach Human Rights Commission held its 24th Annual Human Rights Awards Ceremony on Thursday, April 5. The Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art was among 10 honorees selected whose efforts promoted cultural diversity, social awareness, equal opportunity, and human rights in our community. These honorees exemplified the theme Diverse Community, One Humanity.

Two exhibits recently demonstrated the museum's commitment to diversity and education – *Muse: Mickalene Thomas Photographs and tete-a-tete* about beauty, race and gender; and *Mindful*, which featured 30 works by 14 contemporary artists exploring mental health through art.



# Wayne White: Monitorium Nov 2017-Feb 2018

In 1862, the Battle of Hampton Roads took place and the first ironclad ships met in combat on the James River.

One of those ships, the Union Navy's USS Monitor sets the stage for White's dynamic exhibition. Here, the focus is on the intimate, human side of this story. White created a multi-media installation including monumental-sized puppets, featuring the special individuals who helped to shape the Monitor's history.



### Hampton Roads Historium Nov 2017-Feb 2018

Taking a cue from our exhibition *Wayne White: Monitorium*, MOCA staff worked with area art teachers to create *Hampton Roads Historium*. This exhibition featured puppets designed and created by local students, inspired by local history.



# Small Works, Tall Tales Sep 2017-Feb 2018

Virginia MOCA celebrated regional artists with *Small Works*, *Tall Tales*—an exhibition of narrative sculpture presented on an intimate scale. Each featured artist is an able storyteller. They infuse their work with sharp wit and a complex interpretation of our world.



# Inka Essenhigh: A Fine Line Mar 2018-Aug 2018

Through her painting, Inka Essenhigh provides an authentic voice. Since her emergence into the art world during the late 1990's, she has created a path for herself that consistently questions and redefines her relationship with her media.



### The Art of the ViBe

Mar 2018-Sep 2018
MOCA Satellite Gallery

This exhibition highlights several of the artists who share their artwork with us in the ViBe Creative District. Each artist plays a significant role in improving, engaging, and innovating within our community. *The Art of the ViBe* is a wonderful way for all of us to connect, collaborate, and celebrate creativity.

### Maser: Artist Residency

Jul 2017-ongoing

MOCA and the ViBe Creative District, in partnership with the City of Virginia Beach Office of Cultural Affairs, welcomed internationally renowned artist, Maser, for an artist residency in July 2017.





### Toobz Muir: Misshapen Demise Sep 2017-Feb 2018

Artist Toobz Muir is known best for his murals, surreal paintings, and detailed graphite drawings. His colorful work references his early fascination with graffiti and street art as well as his challenges from being color blind.



# Jason Stick: Night Shift Oct 2017-Mar 2018 MOCA Satellite Gallery

Photographer Jason Stick recognizes the allure held by the cover of night. In the evening, he prowls his own neighborhood, discovering the magical in the mundane.



### Melissa Schappell: EnvironMENTAL Factors

Mar 2018-Aug 2018

Artist Melissa Schappell recognizes the power of art to spark conversation about a challenging subject, our mental health. She channels her personal struggles with an anxiety disorder into her art.



### New Waves 2018

Mar 2018-Aug 2018

Virginia MOCA proudly celebrates its 23<sup>rd</sup> juried exhibition, *New Waves 2018*. This annual tradition presents a small portion of the vast array of artistic talent found in Virginia. *New Waves 2018* juried by Cay-Sophie Rabinowitz.







### Inka Essenhigh: A Fine Line

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts Jul 28-Dec 2, 2018 Kalamazoo, MI





Closing Celebration & Puppet Parade with Wayne White Feb 2018





Master Class and Artist Talk with Inka Essenhigh
May 2018



Small Works, Tall Tales
Panel Discussion
Sep 2017



Master Class with Tracey St. Peter Feb 2018



Artful Insights:
New Waves 2018
Jun 2018

# community e n g **0** gement





Wayne White Teacher Workshop June 2017



USS Monitor: Heavy Metal on the High Seas with NOAA Jan 2018



Lynnhaven River Now Clean-Up at MOCA

March 2018



Open (C)all 2018
Jun-Aug 2018

In partnership with Virginia Beach SPCA

Special Theme: Compassion



### Hampton Roads Historium

Nov 2017-Feb 2018

Taking a cue from our current exhibition Wayne White: Monitorium, MOCA staff worked with area art teachers to create Hampton Roads Historium. This exhibition featured puppets designed and created by local students, inspired by local history.

The project kicked off with a workshop for art teachers at MOCA. Taking what they learned back to their respective schools, the teachers tasked their students with researching a historical figure from Hampton Roads. Next, they sketched ideas for their puppets, making sure to stay true to the character of their historical figure. Finally, using cardboard, hot glue, and paint, the students brought their sketches to life. The exhibition closed with a celebration featuring a puppet parade led by Wayne white.









PNC

#3 in 2016 by Sunshine Magazine

250,000 visitors

280 artists from across the country













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adult & teen audio tours artist talks art crush conversations tours curatorial tours family fest family night master classes military family day outreach in schools panel discussions pre-k art day studio art classes student tours student exhibitions summer art camp teacher institute teacher workshops teen studio teen takeover teen apprenticeship program





















### To whom it may concern:

Thank you so much for the invitation for our fourth graders to attend MOCA this year. Our field trip is one of the all-time favorites for our students. We are a Title I school with many students who will likely never see the inside of a museum if we aren't able to share those experiences with them.

I feel like the visit to your museum isn't just an amazing event for the kids, but it opens their eyes to a different world altogether. The visit plants seeds for what they could become, could try, could imagine themselves as. The value of the visit to MOCA for some of our students is priceless and life-changing.

The tour guides are courteous and informative. The hands-on activity is always a hit. Some students have been making pop-up cards on their own since our visit, which is a direct indication of the connection that has been made. Thank you for that! We also love that the tour is always completely different and the contemporary artists you feature are always unique, yet relatable.

Last year you had a huge portrait that was painted by Kehinde Wiley. At that time, the painting was probably the favorite amongst our 4th graders. What a treat it was to bring that photo up next to the presidential portrait and have students (now in 5th) remember and relate what they'd heard on the tour to the new portrait in the news. Your museum touches us in ways we don't always expect.

Please accept my sincerest appreciation. I love teaching my students art and for me, it is such a gift to be able to bring them to MOCA and see the wonder in their eyes. It's one of my favorite days of the year!

Thank you from the bottom of my heart, Bev Gray Art Teacher Churchland Primary & Intermediate School







MOCA's Outreach Programs are offered to public and independent schools throughout Hampton Roads. These fast-paced and hands-on courses for elementary school aged students emphasize critical thinking skills and integrate visual art while reinforcing the Virginia SOLs.

We provide 10 action-packed courses for students in grades 1-5. MOCA's Outreach Educators work with over 10,000 students across Hampton Roads each year.









### THANK YOU TOWNEBANK

It was an honor to dedicate MOCA's galleries in the name of TowneBank in 2018. We are very grateful to TowneBank for recognizing the value we bring to the Hampton Roads region and beyond. Their support is a testament to their understanding that taking an active role in the support of the arts builds stronger, vital communities and creates economic worth.





1,311 artists exhibited

332,838 total attendance

17% increase in donations

\$60,000 in in-kind donations

more than 15,160 K-12 student participants

25% increase in outreach programs

704 educational programs

215 art classes ages 2 to 102 3% increase in facility rental income

18
educational
program
partners

1698 students in art classes

over
350
volunteers

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# financials

### Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison

As of June 30, 2018

	unaudited	
	Jun 30, 18	Jun 30, 17
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
Cash on Hand		
Office Petty Cash	450	357
Retail Store Register	150	150
Total Cash on Hand	600	507
Public Art Work Fund	1,659	29,400
Total Restricted	63,607	65,894
Reserve Funds	997,384	896,126
Total Unrestricted	361,243	301,382
Total Checking/Savings	1,424,493	1,293,310
Total Accounts Receivable	131,257	72,221
Other Current Assets		
In Kind BWAS Art Donations	9,280	9,785
Inventory	8,569	8,569
Prepaid Expense	21,845	15,816
Prepaid Workers Comp Insurance	0	6,188
Undeposited Funds	1,150	1,845
Total Other Current Assets	40,844	42,203
Total Current Assets	1,596,594	1,407,734
Fixed Assets		
Accumulated Depreciation	-1,822,174	-1,742,261
Furniture Fixtures & Equipment	574,042	570,697
Leasehold Improvements	2,065,365	2,065,365
Total Fixed Assets	817,234	893,801
TOTAL ASSETS	2,457,109	2,301,535
	· <del></del>	
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	28,247.87	47,843.82
Credit Card	13,523.51	10,428.27
Other Current Liabilities	10,020.01	10,120.21
Accrued Expenses	0.00	10,145.00
Admission Tax Liability	303.60	430.20
Deferred Revenue	52,147.50	73,730.00
Facility Rental Deposits	115,810.00	144,294.00
Total Payroll Liabilities	11,848.02	1,885.67
Sales Tax Liability	534.30	113.70
Total Other Current Liabilities	180,643.42	230,598.57
Total Current Liabilities	222,414.80	288,870.66
Equity	222,414.00	200,070.00
• •	266 424 26	101 147 74
Board Restricted Net (Endow)	266,424.26	181,147.74
Temp. Restricted Net Unrestricted Capital (PP&E)	63,395.63 817.233.86	39,424.24
. ,	817,233.86 865,610,51	964,094.45
Unrestricted Operation Net Income	865,610.51 178 749 14	721,954.50
	178,749.14	106,043.33
Total Equity TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	2,191,413.40 <b>2,413,828.20</b>	2,012,664.26 2,301,534.92
		_,001,004.02

Gratefully, MOCA recognizes the valued members, donors, foundations, businesses, Trustees, volunteers, and staff who enable the museum to fulfill its mission each year. The following lists serve to acknowledge those who have supported the museum through fiscal year 2017–2018.





### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Andrew Hodge, Chair
Scott Duncan, First Vice-Chair
Mark Nelson, Treasurer
Sue Grube, Secretary
Meredith Rutter, Immediate Past Chair
Mike Matacunas, At-Large
Lorraine Wagner, At-Large
Debi Gray, Executive Director

### **TRUSTEES**

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Linda S. Taylor

GENERATION MOCA: a vibrant group of community minded young professionals, ages 21-40 who participate in a variety of cultural and educational events in support of MOCA's mission. Each year they produce a wildly successful fundraiser to benefit the Museum.







### **OFFICERS**

Andrew Dreps, 1st Director
Elizabeth Napolitano, 2<sup>nd</sup> Director
Jesse Welsch, 3<sup>rd</sup> Director
Colby Raymond, 4<sup>th</sup> Director
Alex Divaris, Chair & MOCA Board of Trustees Liaison

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Carley Shaw
Daniel Sumerlin
Nicole Wilkens
Christian Williams
Bo Ram Yi





# \$5,000 and Above The Luminaries

Nancy and Manny Arias

Alison and Ben Cohen

Arleen Cohen

Barbara and Andrew Fine
Sue and Craig Grube

Jean and Mike Matacunas

Cindy and Jeff McWaters

Meredith and Brother Rutter

Petra Snowden and Dieter Steinhoff

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# Corporate & Foundation

Acoustical Sheetmetal, Inc.

Atlantic Shores

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Victoria Miro Gallery

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# \$1,000—\$2,499 Friends of MOCA & The Curator's Circle

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# Corporate and Foundation

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21st Street Art Gallery

ATM 2 GO

Bath Fitter

Wilbanks, Smith, and Thomas

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**Traditions Catering** 

VEER

The Virginian Pilot

Virginia Living Magazine

WHRO Public Media

**WVEC** 

Your Pie

Yummy Goodness

## staff & educators

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Eliot Hicks, Part-time Assistant Preparator

Jade O'Day, Gallery Assistant

Truly Matthews, Associate Curator of Education

Rebecca Davidson, Manager of School & Educator Programs

Lea Bennett, Outreach & Family Programs Coordinator

Katie Kaltenbach, Part-time Outreach Educator/Visitor Services

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Andrew Miller, Museum Associate

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Ronnie Elliot, Maintenance Technician

Renee Rogers, Maintenance Technician

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Bri Picone

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Dotti Tamez

Hedi Vo

Over **350 total volunteers and interns** contribute **13,000+ hours** to MOCA each year! These dedicated individuals work with staff to provide crucial support for education, events, operations, and special projects.







































Cover: Wayne White: Monitorium. Installation view. Photo by Glenn McClure. | Art Crush photo by Fresh Look Photography. | Inka Essenhigh: A Fine Line. Installation view. Photo by Echard Wheeler. Pg. 1: Photo by Bill Murray. Pg. 3: Photo courtesy of the City of Virginia Beach. Pg 4: Wayne White: Monitorium. Installation view. Photo by Glenn McClure. | Wayne White: Monitorium. In progress photo by Fresh Look Photography. | Hampton Roads Historium. Installation view. | Small Works, Tall Tales. Installation view. Photo by Glenn McClure. Pg 5: Inka Essenhigh. Fairy Procession, 2016. 78 x 80 inches. Oil and enamel on panel. Courtesy of the artist and Miles McEnery Gallery, New York, NY. | Marlowe Emerson. Printemps, 2017. Mixed media on canvas. 48 x 48 inches. Courtesy of the artist. | Maser. People and Plants, 2017. Enamel Paint. Photo by Fresh Look Photography Pg 6: Toobz Muir at Virginia MOCA. Photo by Fresh Look Photography | Jason Stick. Deer, 2017. Photograph. 30 x 45 inches. Courtesy of the Artist. | Melissa Schappell. Urban Pollution, 2017. Mixed media. 22 x 30 inches. Courtesy of the artist. | New Waves 2018. Installation view. Photo by Glen McClure. Pg 7: Art Crush and Inka Essenhigh Talk photos by Fresh Look Photography. | Inka Essenhigh: A Fine Line. Installation view. Photos by Fresh Look Photography. Pg 12: Art Crush, Studio School, Outreach Program. Photos by Fresh Look Photography. Pg 13: Maser. People and Plants, 2017. Enamel Paint. | Aggie Zedd, you go to war with the army you have, 2011. | Wayne White: Monitorium. Installation view. Photo by Echard Wheeler.