UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND MUSEUMS

JOEL AND LILA HARNETT MUSEUM OF ART
JOEL AND LILA HARNETT PRINT STUDY CENTER
LORA ROBINS GALLERY OF DESIGN FROM NATURE

FALL SEMESTER 2018
Welcome!

Welcome to the University of Richmond Museums. We hope you enjoy looking through our newsletter to see what we are presenting in the museums this fall semester. Mark your calendars and plan to attend our events and programs, visit the permanent installations, and see our exciting exhibitions in the three museums that comprise the University Museums.

The new academic year brings a full menu of exhibitions and related events and programming, and we are staggering the opening of our three museums after the summer break. We re-open on August 22 the Harnett Museum of Art with four exhibitions. The exhibition Infinite Choices highlights Al Held’s abstract drawings from the 1960s, a recent gift from Carole and Marcus Weinstein. We are thrilled to be presenting a major exhibition of the photographs of Edward Weston. Our opening lecture on August 29 will be a talk by Alex Nyerges, Director of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. He is also a photographer and photography historian who has written books on Edward Weston and Ansel Adams and has lectured widely on the history of photography.

On September 14, we open the Harnett Print Study Center with an exhibition of prints and drawings by Isabel Bishop selected from our permanent collection, a summer research and curatorial project completed by Morgan Mitchell, ’20, our 2018 Harnett Summer Research Fellow.

Of special note, we are delaying opening the Lora Robins Gallery until September 20. We are excited to re-open with a newly renovated entry foyer to the museum that we hope will make your visit more enjoyable, and we will open a fascinating new exhibition, Across Time & Cultures, highlighting ceramic vessels from our permanent collection.

For this issue, we have added some interesting statistics on student outcomes and involvement along with campus and community engagement culled from our 2017-2018 Engagement Report. We look forward to seeing you and your friends at the University Museums.

Richard Waller
Executive Director, University of Richmond Museums

The exhibition features Chinese textiles from the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), circa late nineteenth century - early twentieth century, and includes a range of silk objects: robes, rank badges, clothing, panels, and children’s apparel. The textiles are adorned with many symbols and were selected to highlight the diversity of imagery found in Chinese works of art. Real and mythical animals — such as dragons, the phoenix, bats, butterflies, and three-legged frogs — as well as plants, written characters, and auspicious Buddhist symbols form an intrinsic part of Chinese culture.

Recently discovered in storage in Sarah Brunet Hall during campus renovations and construction, the works in the exhibition have been chosen from a gift made in 1960 of more than sixty textiles from Dr. and Mrs. David J. Carver in memory of their son David June Carver, Jr. (1916-1948). The textiles have joined their gift of Chinese ceramics to comprise the Carver Collection in the permanent collection of the Lora Robins Gallery, University Museums.

Organized by the University of Richmond Museums, the exhibition was curated by Richard Waller, Executive Director, University Museums, and Marcin Jerzewski, ’18, Chinese studies and political science double major, and 2017-2018 Curatorial Assistant, University Museums.

UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS OPEN SUNDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, 1 TO 5 P.M.
Edward Weston: Portrait of the Young Man as an Artist

HARNETT MUSEUM OF ART
AUGUST 22 TO NOVEMBER 16, 2018
PUBLIC PROGRAM, WED., AUG. 29 (see centerfold for details)

The exhibition presents more than 120 photographs by Edward Weston (American, 1886-1958). Ranging in date from 1903 to 1946, the exhibition includes his earliest photographs with later works from his career, demonstrating similarities as well as refinement in subject matter, style, and aesthetic exploration. Comparing Weston’s photographs created when he was a teenager through his early twenties with his later masterworks, the exhibition demonstrates the evolution of his singular vision, finding essential forms in his subjects and perfecting his hallmark sense of composition.

The early works are from photograph albums compiled by Weston’s first wife, Flora Chandler Weston, and later given to their children. The subjects are primarily family members and landscapes. The later photographs are lent by the Monterey Museum of Art and Monterey Peninsula College, both in California, and the selection includes several of Weston’s iconic images.

The exhibition was curated by Graham Howe and inaugurated at the Monterey Museum of Art as an exhibition originated and toured by Curatorial Assistance Traveling Exhibitions with loans from the Monterey Museum of Art and the Bolt/Chandler family. The exhibition and programs at the University of Richmond Museums are made possible in part with funds from the Louis S. Booth Arts Fund. A catalogue, published by Merrell Publishers, London and New York, is available.
Edward Weston (American, 1886-1958), Charis Wilson, Santa Monica, 1936, gelatin silver print on paper, 9 1/2 x 7 1/2 inches, Monterey Museum of Art, Gift of Cole Weston. © 1981 Center for Creative Photography, Arizona Board of Regents
What does it mean to “be a man” in modern society? How have the clichés of manhood that are pervasive throughout Western history shaped current societal pressures while being challenged by movements such as feminism and multiculturalism? And how does the depiction of these pressures affect our interpretation of art?

The prints and drawings in this exhibition examine different perspectives of the concept of masculinity, as defined by society and history and as depicted in visual culture. These images build upon and challenge art historical traditions of portraiture and figure studies of men, who are often shown as heroic, patriarchal, aggressive, and occasionally as objects of beauty. Included are works that question a range of stereotypical experiences and identities, such as the strong-silent type, the man-child, the chivalrous adventurer, the creative genius, and the dandy.

Organized by the University of Richmond Museums, the exhibition was curated by N. Elizabeth Schlatter, Deputy Director and Curator of Exhibitions, University Museums; with Heather Campbell, Curator of Museum Programs, University Museums; and Martha Wright, Coordinator of Museum Visitor and Tour Services, University Museums. The exhibition is made possible in part with funds from the Louis S. Booth Arts Fund.

Annual Student Exhibition

HARNETT MUSEUM OF ART
AUGUST 22 TO SEPTEMBER 23, 2018

Selected by the visual art faculty, the exhibition features works by visual media and arts practice majors and minors along with non-majors enrolled in beginning through advanced studio art classes during the University’s 2017-2018 academic year.

The exhibition, organized by the University of Richmond Museums in collaboration with the Department of Art and Art History, was coordinated by Richard Waller, Executive Director, University Museums.

NEW EXHIBITIONS
Infinite Choices: Abstract Drawings by Al Held

HARNETT MUSEUM OF ART
AUGUST 22, 2018, TO JULY 7, 2019

American artist Al Held (1928-2005) came to prominence in the 1950s as an Abstract Expressionist. In the 1960s, his gestural painting moved towards a more geometrical and hard-edged approach in his abstraction. The India ink drawings in the exhibition are from this transitional period, still very calligraphic and expressive. His paintings at this time became more concrete, including a series referred to as his “alphabet paintings” where the space and forms explode beyond the canvas edge, hardly recognizable as letterforms. These works led to his well-known geometric abstract paintings that defy their flatness through large-scale compositions with complex cubical perspectives.

“One of the profound powers of the artist is that he can will, or choose, to become anything he wills or chooses,” Held said in 1989. “The art doesn’t come from his soul, or from his genes, it comes from his choices. And those choices are infinite and hopeful.” The exuberant abstract drawings in the exhibition exemplify the artist’s “infinite choices” as he mined the endless possibilities of abstraction, limiting his palette at the time to a deep black ink on a white ground and his gestures to bold strokes pushing beyond the edges of the paper.

Organized by the University of Richmond Museums, the exhibition was curated by Richard Waller, Executive Director, University Museums. The drawings are a recent gift from Carole and Marcus Weinstein.

Isabel Bishop (American, 1902-1988) arrived in New York in 1918 hoping to become an illustrator, but the energy and spirit of the city inspired her to create art based on her experience there. At the Art Students League, she studied with Kenneth Hayes Miller, Reginald Marsh, and Guy Pène du Bois, whose influences she assimilated into her own work. Together these artists, referred to collectively as the Fourteenth Street School, continued the earlier Ashcan School tradition of realistically portraying everyday life. The Union Square neighborhood provided them with an endless spectacle of life, populated by movie theaters, bank employees, shop girls, students, and vagrants. Over the course of her career, Bishop’s interest shifted from workaday social interactions to more abstracted scenes of New Yorkers moving about on the streets and in the subways.

The prints and drawings in this exhibition, selected from the permanent collection of the Harnett Print Study Center, represent different stages of the artist’s creative process. Bishop would work on a single subject or theme for a long time. The vibrant images are composed of precise, elegant lines and forms that animate her figures and offer a lifelike perspective. Her works show a heightened interest in motion, gesture, and interactions of people in a social realist style. The artist’s work seeks to embody the aura of a character or scene and the distillations of movement in urban spaces.

Organized by the University of Richmond Museums, the exhibition was curated by Richard Waller, Executive Director, University Museums, and Morgan Mitchell, ’20, art history major, and 2018 Harnett Summer Research Fellow, University Museums. The exhibition is made possible in part with funds from the Louis S. Booth Arts Fund.
Across Time & Cultures:
Ceramic Vessels from the Collection

LORA ROBINS GALLERY
SEPTEMBER 20 TO DECEMBER 2, 2018
SNEAK PEEK PROGRAM, THURS., SEPT. 20 (see page 11 for details)

For more than 25,000 years, humans have shaped, decorated, and fired clay, and vessels are a universal theme in ceramic traditions. Looking across time, global locations, and cultures, the exhibition features a selection of more than forty objects from the collection of the museum to highlight the remarkable universality of ceramic vessels, ranging from an ancient Greek vase made circa 550 B.C.E. to sculptural vases made by a contemporary Japanese artist, from Native American and pre-Columbian bowls to nineteenth-century British and American pitchers and vases, from Oceanic vessels to late Qing Dynasty Chinese porcelains.

“Ceramics have been an all-cultures, all-the-time phenomenon for thousands of years,” wrote *New York Times* art critic Roberta Smith in 2002. “The continuity of the medium stems also from the slow but steady development of different clay bodies, of slips and glazes, of the potter’s wheel, of stamping and molding techniques.” She goes on to emphasize, “It encompasses social habits, myths and religious beliefs, and economies of both local industry and foreign trade, as well as the impulse to decorate and depict the world.”

Organized by the University of Richmond Museums, the exhibition was curated by Richard Waller, Executive Director, University Museums.

UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS OPEN SUNDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, 1 TO 5 P.M.
University Museums programs this semester take place on the campus of the University of Richmond and are free and open to the public.

**Wednesday, August 29, 6 to 8 p.m.**
6 p.m., Lecture, Alice Jepson Theatre, Modlin Center for the Arts
“Edward Weston: Lover of Life”
Alex Nyerges, Director of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
7 to 8 p.m., Reception and viewing of the exhibition *Edward Weston: Portrait of the Young Man as an Artist*, Harnett Museum of Art, University Museums

**Friday, September 14, 3 to 3:30 p.m.**
Curator’s Talk, Harnett Print Study Center
“Isabel Bishop and the Human Comedy”
Richard Waller, Executive Director, University of Richmond Museums, and curator of the exhibition
In conjunction with the exhibition *The Human Comedy: Prints and Drawings by Isabel Bishop*

**Wednesday, September 19, 1 to 1:30 p.m.**
Gallery Talk, Harnett Museum of Art
“The Technicalities of Edward Weston”
Brittany Nelson, artist and Assistant Professor of Photography, University of Richmond
In conjunction with the exhibition *Edward Weston: Portrait of the Young Man as an Artist*

**Thursday, October 4, 6 to 8 p.m.**
6 p.m., Performance, Camp Concert Hall, Modlin Center
“There is no person without a world”
Danishta Rivera, musician, vocalist, and sound artist
(with introduction by Brittany Nelson, artist and Assistant Professor of Photography, University of Richmond)
7 to 8 p.m., Reception and preview of the exhibition *Warm Worlds and Otherwise: Brittany Nelson & Danishta Rivera*, Harnett Museum of Art, University Museums

**Sunday, October 7, 1 to 3 p.m.**
**FAMILY ARTS DAY CELEBRATION!**
University Museums and Modlin Center for the Arts
Join us for a FREE! arts-centered family fun day with the current exhibitions in the Harnett Museum of Art and Print Study Center, hands-on art activities in the Booth Lobby, Modlin Atrium, and the Lora Robins Courtyard of the Modlin Center, and refreshments!

3 p.m., Performance, Alice Jepson Theatre, Modlin Center, featuring *Call of the Wild: Illustrated Edition* by Theatre Heroes (paid tickets required for performance), for information modlin.richmond.edu

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**Sneak Peeks**

*Noon to 1 p.m., for University Faculty, Staff, & Students*  
(and the public is invited)

- **Thurs., Aug. 30:** Edward Weston, Harnett Museum of Art
- **Thurs., Sept. 20:** Across Time & Cultures, Lora Robins Gallery  
  (the museum re-opens with a new entryway and an exhibition of ceramic vessels from the collection)
- **Fri., Oct. 5:** Warm Worlds and Otherwise, Harnett Museum of Art  
  (walk through the exhibition with the artists Brittany Nelson & Danishta Rivero)
Brittany Nelson’s work appropriates and distorts processes from nineteenth-century photography to question representation as photographic ideal. In chemically manipulating traditional mordançage and tintype techniques, she causes unprecedented reactions in the materials which result in abstract imagery. In her most recent practice, Nelson (American, born 1984) borrows from found material such as NASA photographs of the surface of Mars. The pictures were taken by the Opportunity rover as it looks back at its own tracks while it is still roaming the planet more than fourteen years after its mission was supposed to be completed. By applying techniques such as the pictorial bromoil method to these images, she translates between analog and digital media, resulting in prints that warp not only the surface and constitutive photographic features but also question the content on view. Nelson is Assistant Professor of Photography, Department of Art and Art History, University of Richmond.

The artist draws on science fiction, technological utopias, spaceflight, and time travel, moving away from the nostalgia often accompanying the resuscitation of photographic procedures. In the legacy of feminist and queer approaches to abstraction, Nelson urges us to reconsider the aesthetics and politics of representation. In this exhibition, she collaborates with the musician, sound artist, and vocalist Danishta Rivero (American, born 1978) on a live performance calling to mind messages sent back to Earth from outer space, resonating with the works on view.

Organized by the University of Richmond Museums, the exhibition was curated by Richard Waller, Executive Director, University Museums, in collaboration with Brittany Nelson and Danishta Rivero. The exhibition and programs are made possible in part with funds from the Louis S. Booth Arts Fund.
2017-2018 Collections and Exhibitions

University Museums organized 14 exhibitions featuring turtle fossils, sound art, Chinese textiles, contemporary prints, large-scale woodcuts, insects as subject and metaphor, legacy media, Japanese paintings, contemporary Japanese fashion, laser-cut prints, and nineteenth-century jugs.

2017-2018 Reflections

8,524 visitors attended 182 programs including exhibition lectures, receptions, gallery talks, workshops, family events, and Modlin Center performing artist talks.

Exhibitions on the Road

Organized by the University Museums, three exhibitions are on tour this year: Unexpected Smiles: Seven Types of Humor in Japanese Paintings (Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, Delray Beach, FL), Steinlen: Humanity (William King Museum of Art, Abingdon, VA), and Chasing Bugs: Insects as Subject and Metaphor (Daura Gallery, Lynchburg College, VA).

In 2017-2018, the Harnett Museum of Art, the Harnett Print Study Center, and the Lora Robins Gallery acquired works on paper, sculptures, natural specimens, decorative arts, and fossils. Artists include: John Taylor Arms, Isabel Bishop, Jacques Callot, Matthew Carter, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Carl Chiarenza, Teresa Cole, Albert Flamen, Al Held, Jacob Hoefnagel, Satoru Hoshino, Gong Juanhua, Kenneth Hayes Miller, Pierre-Auguste Renoir.

2017-2018 acquisitions include:

299 works on paper

75 natural specimens and decorative arts objects

50+ fossil plant specimens from the Triassic age

Jeff Perrott (American, born 1966), Untitled Assemblage VII, 2013, watercolor monotype on paper, 24 3/4 x 33 1/2 inches, Joel and Lila Harnett Print Study Center, University of Richmond Museums, Center Street Studio Archives, H2017.18.29 © Jeff Perrott

Guest curator Dr. Audrey Yoshiko Seo giving a gallery talk in WAR-DROBE: Fantasy & Exaggeration in Contemporary Japanese Fashion
Students Working & Engaging

From leading tours to curating exhibitions to designing marketing campaigns to exhibiting artwork, there are many connections available for University of Richmond students to be involved with the University Museums and to develop personal skills and experience.

2017-2018 Reflections

947 University of Richmond students from all 5 schools participated in 68 exhibition and collection tours designed by museum staff with academic faculty to complement coursework.

Last year University Museums employed 39 Museum Attendants, 7 Museum Ambassadors, 5 Behind-the-Scenes Assistants, and 1 Harnett Summer Research Fellow.

University of Richmond students gain important career and leadership experience at the University Museums in many ways. Museum Attendants help keep art safe, greet and interact with visitors, and answer their questions. Museum Ambassadors encourage accessibility and exposure to our programs, collections, and exhibitions through marketing, event planning, and social media outreach to University students. Behind-the-Scenes Assistants work directly with museum staff in areas such as education, marketing, curating, collections management, and exhibition installation. The Harnett Summer Research Fellow works on various projects, including curating an exhibition, for the University Museums.

To get involved, contact Martha Wright, Coordinator of Visitor and Tour Services, at mwright3@richmond.edu for more information
Students Working & Engaging

Students Meet @ the Museum to enjoy a casual evening mingling with friends over festive beverages and hors d’oeuvres while browsing the galleries. It’s a great opportunity to unwind after classes, meet new friends, network with recent alumni, and discover what’s on view in the University Museums.

Save the Date!

SEPTEMBER 6, 5-6 P.M.
Harnett Museum of Art

OCTOBER 18, 5-6 P.M.
Lora Robins Gallery

DECEMBER 7, 5-6 P.M.
Harnett Museum of Art

2017-2018 Reflections
786 University of Richmond students attended the Meet @ the Museum series, a student-only event that encourages art exploration and friendship.
Campus & Academic Collaborations

The collections, exhibitions, and programs of the University Museums provide a valuable resource for research and creativity across many disciplines at the University of Richmond. Museums staff are committed to encouraging faculty, staff, and students to engage in experiential learning and critical thinking in a range of curricula and personal involvement.

925 objects were selected last year from the permanent collection for use with custom tours developed by museum staff working closely with academic faculty.

The University Museums offers teaching opportunities for faculty from all disciplines. A wide range of departments use the Museums collections and exhibitions in their classes: Art and Art History; Biology; Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; Latin American, Latino, and Iberian Studies; Joan Oates Institute for Partners in the Arts; Osher Lifelong Learning; and many more.

Tours of exhibition and collections are available for all academic and administrative departments. Concepts from course curricula can be incorporated into customized tours that are interactive, discussion based, and focused on creative thinking exercises. For more information and to plan a tour, contact Martha Wright, Coordinator of Visitor and Tour Services, at mwright3@richmond.edu.

Last year University Museums partnered with Dr. Karina Vazquez, Director of Community-Based Learning, Department of Latin American, Latino, and Iberian Studies, University of Richmond, to develop Spanish-language guided tours led by University of Richmond students in the Latino and Iberian Studies program.

“The tours provide University of Richmond students the opportunity to use their Spanish communication skills in a cultural environment oriented to serve the community by providing a space for cultural encounters in a bilingual context,” stated Professor Vazquez.
Community & Outreach Collaborations

Our exhibitions, collections, and events extend beyond the University of Richmond campus. Resources are shared to support education in the greater Richmond area through field trips and tours, and often supplement SOL objectives. Twice each year, the University Museums welcome families to campus for Family Arts Days with free, interactive, hands-on art activities, music, and exhibitions.

2017-2018 Reflections

506 students. 12 teachers. 7 elementary schools.

Blue Sky Fund, a non-profit organization that provides environmental science education for urban youth, brings students to campus for exploratory tours focused on rocks, minerals, and fossils from the University Museums collection.

Museum-in-a-Box is a free program that brings University Museums collections to classrooms with subjects including geology, natural sciences, and fine arts. For more information, contact Martha Wright, Coordinator of Visitor and Tour Services, mwright3@richmond.edu

1,215 K-12 students

from 31 greater Richmond schools visited the University Museums last year for customized tours that incorporated concepts from syllabi or SOLs, with interactive games, activities, and discussion.

2017-2018 Reflections

389 community members participated in Family Arts Days
Morgan Mitchell, ’20

Morgan Mitchell, ’20, art history major, has been engaged with art, art history, and museums for a very long time. Her interest began in 2014 in high school with the Museum Leaders in Training program at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, where she was first exposed to the possibilities of the art world and museum work. From there, she completed a summer internship in the VMFA’s education department followed by a curatorial internship with Christopher Oliver (’05 and the 2003 Harnett Fellow), Assistant Curator of American Art at the VMFA. For years Morgan has known that she wanted to study art history and pursue a career in the arts, even writing about her hopes to conduct research with the University Museums on her college admissions essay to the University of Richmond.

She joined the University Museums staff as a Museum Attendant during the fall semester of her first year and then worked as a Museum Ambassador during the spring semester. During her sophomore year, she was a behind-the-scenes Education Assistant working with Martha Wright, Coordinator of Visitor and Tour Services, University Museums.

Morgan was awarded the 2018 Harnett Summer Research Fellowship, established by Joel and Lila Harnett in 2002. Her main projects for her research included co-curating two exhibitions with Richard Waller, Executive Director, University Museums: *The Human Comedy: Prints and Drawings by Isabel Bishop* and *The Printed World: Masterpieces of Seventeenth-Century Printmaking from the Frank Raysor Collection and the Harnett Print Study Center Collection*. For *The Printed World*, she had the opportunity to work with Mitchell Merling, Paul Mellon curator and Head of the Department of European Art, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, and with Frank Raysor at the VMFA’s Frank Raysor Center for the Study of Works on Paper.

As part of her fellowship, Morgan also travelled to New York City and met with a network of alumni who work in various sectors of the art world. She was able to gain valuable, first-hand insight on what it is like to work in museum fundraising, art insurance, and in different types of commercial galleries. Between meetings, she visited several museums and galleries. The trip inspired her concerning possible careers in the art world which best match her personality and interests. While in New York, Morgan also spent time in the Sondra Gilman Study Center at The Whitney Museum of American Art to continue her research on American artist Isabel Bishop.
Annual Museum Awards for Students

At the end of each academic year, the University Museums present an awards celebration to highlight the achievements of our student workers and to thank them for their enthusiastic participation in the museums throughout the year. At the event last April we announced our 2018 award winners, including the Joan Maitre Award for Outstanding Museum Attendant (Mariah Maki, ’18), the Doris and Warren Dieterich Award for Outstanding Service (Emma Felt, ’18), and this year’s Harnett Summer Research Fellow (Morgan Mitchell, ’20).

Left: Mariah Maki, ’18, accepts the Maitre Award from Joan Maitre; right: Emma Felt, ’18, recipient of the Dieterich Award, is shown with Marion Dieterich, daughter of Doris and Warren Dieterich.