

Centuries of Art @ Your Library – Winter 2019

January 14, 2019 - *Congo Masks: Masterpieces from Central Africa* – William Neer

Info from VFMA:

Masks of the Congo exhibition. Curatorial Assistant for Exhibitions William Neer will be there on January 14 to address that exhibition. He is a sort of a rising star here who worked extensively on *Terracotta Warriors* with that curator and recently wrote all the didactics for the Congo exhibition. There is no official description of the talk he is putting together.

<https://www.vmfa.museum/exhibitions/exhibitions/congo-masks/>

William Neer is Curatorial Assistant for Exhibitions at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. He has worked closely with curators on exhibitions and catalogues, including *Terracotta Army: Legacy of the First Emperor of China* and *Congo Masks: Masterpieces from Central Africa*. He is a graduate from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, with bachelors' degrees in history and art history. Prior to joining the Exhibitions department, he acted as Curatorial Assistant for East Asian Art, where he worked with collections, acquisitions, and gallery rotations, as well as holding an internship at VMFA's Frank Raysor Center for the Study of Works on Paper.



February 4, 2019- *Love in the art of the ancient regime (or Love in the Art of 18th Century France)* – Don Schrader

Soon after ascending the throne at age 13, King Louis XV of France decided to abandon governance in favor of a life of sensual pleasures, to be enjoyed with his wife, mistresses official and unofficial, and countless encounters with young adventuresses brought to him from many parts of his country. The formalities and complexities of love, legitimate and otherwise, among the aristocracy were brilliantly reflected in the works of the three greatest painters of the 18th century. Antoine Watteau, a Fleming whose success caused him to be 'acclaimed' to membership in the Royal Academy, portrayed an idealized and lyrical vision in bucolic settings, called the *fête gallante*; François Boucher, a bourgeois Parisian who had nearly every official honor bestowed upon him, painted the frank and unrestrained hedonism of his time; and Honoré Fragonard, from Grasse in the South, turned his back entirely on the public art establishment, painting *risqué* scenes of contemporary love exclusively for private clients. In this lecture we will introduce these great formulators of the rococo style, and investigate the meanings and public reception of their work for a society approaching its doom.

Dr. Donald Schrader, an adjunct professor of art history at the University of Mary Washington, received his MA and PhD from The University of Virginia, specializing in Italian Renaissance art.



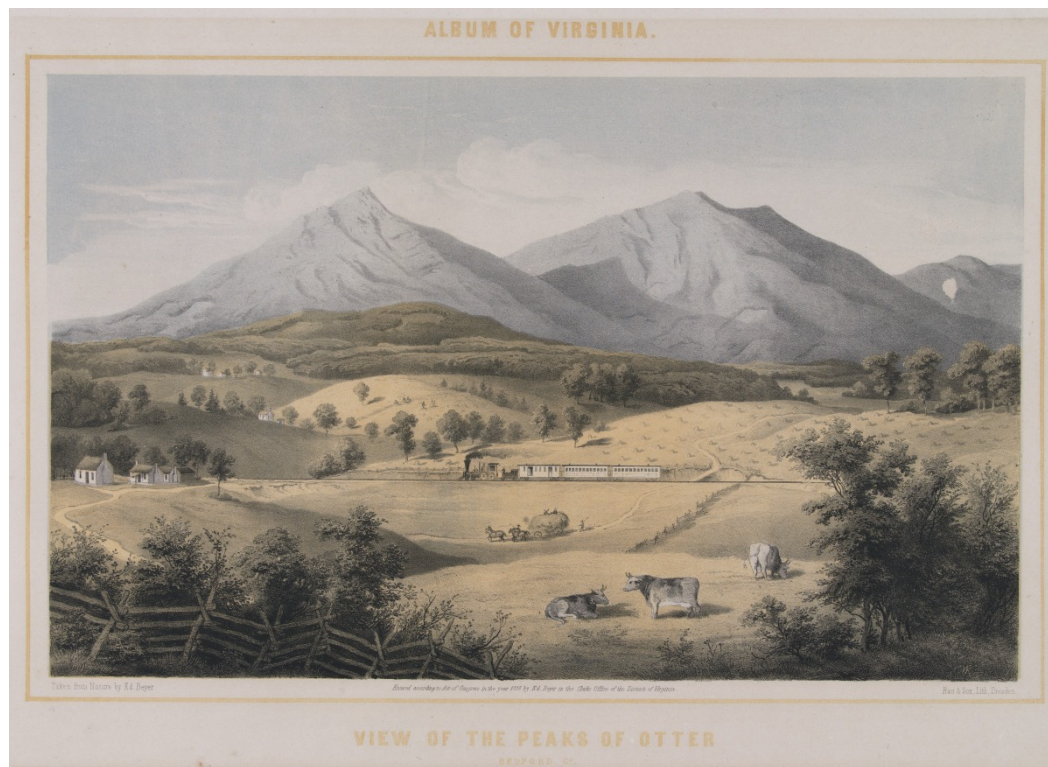
February 11, 2019- *Edward Beyer and the Jeffersonian Landscape* – Jeffrey Ruggles

The artist Edward Beyer came to the U.S. from Germany after the Revolution of 1848. For several years Beyer, a graduate of the Düsseldorf Academy, traveled around the northeast U.S. and Ohio, sketching, painting oil landscapes, and exhibiting a moving panorama. In the mid-1850s he traveled to Virginia where he made panoramic oils in the western part of the state. For a number of towns Beyer's view remains the best single historical representation. In 1857-58 he produced *Album of Virginia*, a portfolio of 41 lithographic views. In the *Album*, especially, Beyer's vision was that of a European liberal who saw the world as a Jeffersonian idealist.

Jeffrey Ruggles works at Virginia Center on Aging, Virginia Commonwealth University, and holds a BA from University of Virginia and a MFA in Design/Photography from Virginia Commonwealth University. formerly served as the Curator of Prints and Photographs at Virginia Historical Society



Peaks of Otter



February 18, 2019 - Audio Visual: Music in Art – Margaret Hancock

Enter the world of music in art! This visual presentation delves into the unique depictions of musicians, instruments, notes and musical ephemera in a variety of works and media. From Picasso's framed collages to Man Rays iconic photographs, the audio has greatly influenced the visual in 20th century 2-D and 3-D works of art.

Margaret Hancock is a professional writer in the art and philanthropy world. She holds an M.Ed from the University of Virginia and a B.A. in Art History from Duke University.



Portrait of an Extraordinary Musical Dog