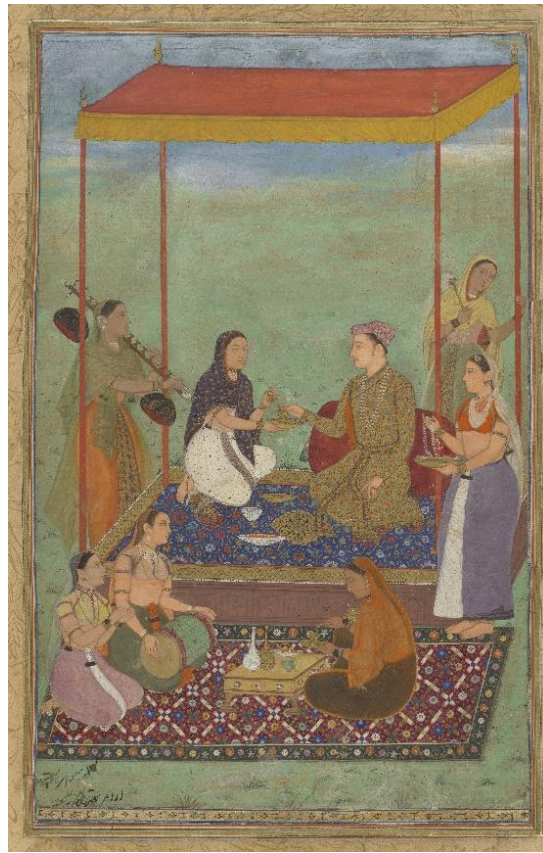


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 16, 2026

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Announces Its 2026 Special Exhibitions

Must-see exhibitions of contemporary art, masterpieces of French Impressionism, a commemoration of the nation's founding, and stunning objects from India's Mughal empire go on view this year.



A Prince, Perhaps Sultan Parviz, with Female Companions, ca. 1605–10, attributed to Bishandas (Indian, ca. 1590–ca. 1640), opaque watercolor and gold on paper. Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Adolph D. and Wilkins C. Williams Fund, 2025.118

Richmond, VA — The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) announced today its 2026 schedule of special exhibitions.

“We are delighted to provide our visitors with access to remarkable works of art from around the world and from a broad span of time,” said Director and CEO Alex Nyerges. “This year, the museum’s must-see exhibitions range from displays of powerful contemporary art, the radical origins and legacy of French Impressionism, a commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, and stunning objects from the golden age of India’s Mughal empire. We welcome everyone to experience these exciting exhibitions at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.”

VMFA’s slate of current and upcoming special exhibitions includes:

***Giants: Art from the Dean Collection of Swizz Beatz and Alicia Keys* | Through March 1, 2026**

Tickets are on sale now: \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors 65+, and \$8 for youth ages 7–17 and college students with ID. [*Giants: Art from the Dean Collection of Swizz Beatz and Alicia Keys*](#) conveys the deep imprint that Black artists have made and continue to make on contemporary art. Organized by the Brooklyn Museum, this exhibition includes approximately 130 paintings, art installations, photographs and sculptures by nearly 40 acclaimed artists — from 20th-century icons to living artists who are advancing the legacies of those who came before them.

***Titus Kaphar and Junius Brutus Stearns: Pictures More Famous than the Truth* / February 14 through July 26, 2026**

Free admission; no tickets are required.

[*Titus Kaphar and Junius Brutus Stearns: Pictures More Famous than the Truth*](#) juxtaposes scenes from the life of George Washington by painter Junius Brutus Stearns (American, 1810–1885) with contemporary portraits and sculptural works by Black artist and former MacArthur Fellow Titus Kaphar (American, born 1976) that offer 21st century perspectives on the Virginia-born President. Stearns' works played a key role in mythologizing George Washington and his place in history. Kaphar's works function as additions or amendments to traditional portraits of Washington and reclaim part of this narrative for the enslaved individuals long excluded from the dominant story. This exhibition is part of [VA250](#), a multi-institution commemoration of the 250th anniversary of Virginia's role in the American Revolution.

***India's Great Mughals: Art, Power, and Opulence* / May 9 through August 23, 2026**

Tickets: \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors 65+, and \$8 for youth ages 7–17 and college students with ID.

VMFA Member Ticket Pre-Sale: February 9, 2026 | Public Ticket Sales: March 9, 2026

[*India's Great Mughals: Art, Power, and Opulence*](#) showcases the highly sophisticated, globally connected empire's artistic treasures of unparalleled splendor and magnificence — from dazzling jeweled objects, intricate paintings, lavish textiles and furniture, to the breathtaking wonder of the Taj Mahal. Organized by the Victoria & Albert Museum (London, England) and featuring additional objects from VMFA's permanent collection, the exhibition focuses on the golden age of the Mughal court when the country's most famous emperors — Akbar, Jahangir and Shah Jahan — reigned.



Created by the V&A – touring the world

***Fine Arts & Flowers 2026* | October 8 through October 11, 2026**

Free admission; no tickets are required.

[*Fine Arts & Flowers*](#) is a spectacular museum-wide exhibition of floral designs inspired by works of art in VMFA's permanent collection. Held biennially since 1987, *Fine Arts & Flowers* is presented by The Council of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

***The Impressionist Revolution: Monet to Matisse from the Dallas Museum of Art* / November 14, 2026, through March 14, 2027**

Tickets: \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors 65+, and \$10 for youth ages 7–17 and college students with ID.

VMFA Member Ticket Pre-Sale: August 17, 2026 | Public Ticket Sales: September 14, 2026

Opening two years after the 150th anniversary of the first-ever Impressionist art exhibition, [*The Impressionist Revolution: Monet to Matisse from the Dallas Museum of Art*](#) reveals the rebellious origins of the independent artist collective known as the Impressionists and the revolutionary course they charted for modern art. Visitors will explore the fascinating story of Impressionism, from its birth in 1874 to its legacy in the early 20th century and beyond, and see the resounding impact made by beloved Impressionist artists such as Claude Monet, Edgar Degas, Berthe Morisot and Pierre-Auguste Renoir, displayed alongside the works of successive generations of artists, including Paul Gauguin, Vincent van Gogh, Piet Mondrian and Henri Matisse. This exhibition is organized by the Dallas Museum of Art.



In addition to major exhibitions, visitors to the museum can also enjoy art installations and exhibitions of works from the permanent art collection. VMFA is the only art museum in the U.S. open 365 days a year with free general admission.

To learn more about these and other upcoming exhibitions and related programs at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, visit www.VMFA.museum.

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About the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, Virginia, is one of the largest comprehensive art museums in the United States. VMFA, which opened in 1936, is a state agency and privately endowed educational institution. Its purpose is to collect, preserve, exhibit and interpret art, and to encourage the study of the arts. Through the Office of Statewide Partnerships Program, the museum offers curated exhibitions, arts-related audiovisual programs, symposia, lectures, conferences, and workshops by visual and performing artists. In addition to presenting a wide array of special exhibitions, the museum provides visitors with the opportunity to experience a global collection of art that spans more than 6,000 years. VMFA's permanent holdings encompass more than 50,000 artworks, including the largest public collection of Fabergé outside of Russia, the finest collection of Art Nouveau outside of Paris and one of the nation's finest collections of American art. VMFA is also home to important collections of Chinese art, English silver, French Impressionist, Post-Impressionist, British sporting and modern and contemporary art, as well as renowned South Asian, Himalayan and African art. In May 2010, VMFA opened the James W. and Frances G. McGlothlin Wing I after a transformative expansion, previously the largest in its history. A new expansion, the McGlothlin Wing II, is planned to open in 2029. Comprising more than 170,000 square feet, it will be the largest expansion in the museum's history and will make VMFA the fourth largest comprehensive art museum in the United States.

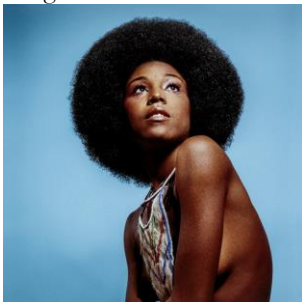
Named the 11th-best art museum in the U.S. by The Washington Post, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts is the only art museum in the United States open 365 days a year with free general admission. For additional information, telephone (804) 340-1400 or visit www.VMFA.museum.

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Images & Credits Follow



Untitled (Model who embraced natural hairstyles at AJASS photoshoot), 1970, ca. 1970, printed 2018, Kwame Brathwaite (American, 1938–2023), archival pigment print. The Dean Collection, courtesy of Swizz Beatz and Alicia Keys. © Estate of Kwame Brathwaite



Washington as Statesman at the Constitutional Convention, 1856, Junius Brutus Stearns (American, 1810–1885), oil on canvas. Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Gift of Edgar William and Bernice Chrysler Garbisch, 50.2.1



Shadows of Liberty, 2016, Titus Kaphar (American, born 1976), oil and rusted nails on canvas. Yale University Art Gallery, Purchased with a gift from Ellen and Stephen Susman, B.A. 1962, 2017.67.1



Embroidered Tent Hanging, ca. 1700–50. © Victoria and Albert Museum, London



A *Fine Arts & Flowers* arrangement by Diane Burgess (Crozier), River Road Garden Club, is inspired by the painting *Landscape with a Single Cloud*, 1922–23, by American artist Marsden Hartley. Photo by Troy Wilkinson, © 2024 Virginia Museum of Fine Arts



Water Lilies (detail), 1908, Claude Monet (French, 1840–1926), oil on canvas, 31 ½ in. diam. Dallas Museum of Art, gift of the Meadows Foundation, Incorporated, 1981.128. Image courtesy Dallas Museum of Art