



154 SAN ANGELO DRIVE, AMHERST, VA 24521 P. 434-946-7236 VCCA.COM  
18, ESPLANADE du PORT, 82340 AUVILLAR, FRANCE

March 2011

Dear Fellows,

2011 is off to a rousing start. After months of preparation by board, staff and volunteers, we kicked off the first in a series of 40th anniversary celebrations on January 8th at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. One of the nation's top ten comprehensive art museums, VMFA was concurrently hosting an exhibition of one of our own, advisory council member Sally Mann. Just as Sally has dedicated her life to photographing her world, our guests learned of the crucial work of VCCA's 4500 Fellows: professionals who devote their lives to the exploration, observation and interpretation of what it means to be human.

This anniversary year dovetails nicely with another effort that has been four years in the making - our Endowment Campaign: Securing a Creative Space. While it has not publicly launched, I'm pleased to tell you that we've reached a significant milestone by raising over \$2M against the \$6M target. This achievement was motivated by a challenge to board and staff to match an initial \$1M gift. Why are we doing this? ... for art ... for the artists of the world ... for you. While continuously striving to improve your residency experience, we want to be less reliant on you for your residency contributions. By enhancing the current endowment, we hope to minimize all but annual and special projects contributions from our artists. This will bring us closer to the institution we aim to be. Meeting this challenge has been my focus over the past 18 months.

On a personal note, this is my year to retire as executive director. I began this transition when I moved more fully into endowment work and transferred day-to-day decision-making to our director of finance and operations, Michael Dowell. The board has accepted my announcement and the search for my successor has begun. I have no doubt that this process, led by VCCA Board Member and VMFA Executive Director Alex Nyerges, will be navigated with expertise and decorum. Our goal is to have new leadership in place by the end of 2011. In the meantime, as Board President Christine Brennan has said, "This year should be a victory lap for Suny, VCCA and every talented person who has been served by this magical institution, as well as an opportunity to shape the next 40 years of this creative space."

My life has been unbelievably enriched by association with you, but it's the right moment to turn over the vision for our beloved VCCA to another. And, after fifteen years, it's time for me to return to my own studio work. Watching you has been inspiration and siren song. I want to make art too.

This will be a banner year for VCCA and we all have the opportunity to be part of it. There will be celebrations in New York and Virginia, and at the Moulin à Nef Studio Center in France, I hope to see you as this milestone year progresses and, be assured, you'll be hearing more from us.

My very best to you, your families and your work,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Suny Monk'.

Suny Monk  
Executive Director