



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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Photographic Memory: Library of Virginia to Offer Three Photography Exhibitions

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For Immediate Release

Since its introduction in 1839, photography has found its way into almost every corner of society. Beginning this summer, a wonderfully idiosyncratic and compelling series of exhibitions at the Library of Virginia will survey selected facets of Virginia's photographic heritage. Each will include photographs assembled around a particular theme and taken by residents and visitors, professionals and amateurs.

The Importance of Being Cute: Pet Photography in Virginia, 1840—2013

Whether they bark, meow, or hiss, pets are important parts of their owners' lives and increasingly are recognized as full-fledged family members. *The Importance of Being Cute: Pet Photography in Virginia* is an exhibition of more than 100 historic and contemporary photographs exploring the complex relationships that have existed between Virginians and their animals since the advent of photographs. These timeless images resonate with humor, poignancy, and life. This exhibition opens June 10 and runs through February 22, 2014 in the lobby of the Library.

Dark Side: Night Photography in Virginia

Night holds a special place in the heart of photography. The geometry of light and shadow creates an interplay of mystery, possibility, and the foreboding of the unknown. Advances in night photography have paralleled advances in photographic technology for the last hundred years, and as night photography has become increasingly more accessible, an ever-increasing number of photographers have engaged in the practice. In addition to examples of historic night photography, *Dark Side* also introduces several contemporary Virginia photographers who are using it as an artistic medium. This exhibition features nearly 40 large format images and opens June 10 and runs through October 5, 2013.

No Vacancy: Remnants of Virginia's Roadside Culture

U.S. Route 1, once the main highway for travelers going north or south along the East Coast, now serves mostly as a detour for drivers stuck in traffic on I-95. By contrast, travelers in the early and mid-20th century who traveled along Route 1 stopped at camps, motor courts, roadside cottages, and motels to take a break from the hours of driving. Often locally owned, these businesses were and full of the local flavor of the area. Today, in the shadows of the bright lights of the Holiday Inns and Econolodges, the remnants of Virginia's roadside culture can still be seen in rusted signs, overgrown lots, boarded windows, and repurposed buildings. This photography exhibition, opening October 28 and running through February 22, 2014, will showcase the evolution of Virginia's roadside lodging along Route 1.

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Editor's Advisory: Images available upon request.

About the Library of Virginia: The Library of Virginia (www.lva.virginia.gov), located in historic downtown Richmond at 800 East Broad Street, holds the world's most extensive collection of material about the Old Dominion and has been a steward of the commonwealth's documentary and printed heritage since 1823. The story of Virginia and Virginians has been told in many ways since 1607. At the Library of Virginia it is told through more than 116 million manuscripts, more than 350,000 photographs and images, and more than 1.9 million books, serials, bound periodicals, microfilm reels, newspapers, and state and federal documents, each an individual tile in the vast and colorful mosaic of Virginia's experience.