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NEWS FROM THE GETTY

DR. MICHAEL BRAND

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Dr. Michael Brand became director of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in August 2000. During his tenure at VMFA, Brand has been a driving force behind an extremely successful capital campaign, which was initiated to fund the upcoming expansion of the museum. To date, this campaign has raised \$158 million with approximately \$5 million remaining to be raised for the expansion. In 2001, VMFA selected London-based architect Rick Mather to design the \$108-million building expansion and transformation of 13.5-acre complex. For the VMFA project, Mather has incorporated with the Richmond-based firm, SMBW, to form Rick Mather + SMBW. Philadelphia-based Olin Partnership will design VMFA's new E. Claiborne and Lora Robins Sculpture Garden — 3.5 acres of art, flowers, water features, and green spaces — within the newly landscaped campus. Under Dr. Brand's directorship, VMFA also successfully implemented a new graphic image and identity project to reflect the Museum's transformation.

One of the country's first state art museums and among the great art museums along the East Coast cultural corridor, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts is dedicated to serving a statewide audience as well as metropolitan Richmond. Since its inception in 1934, it has been based on a unique public-private partnership between the state and private donors. Notable holdings include the Sydney and Frances Lewis Collections of Art Nouveau, Art Deco, and Modern and Contemporary American art; the Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mellon Collections of French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist art and British sporting art; the Lillian Thomas Pratt Collection of objects from the workshops of Peter Carl Fabergé; the Jerome and Rita Gans Collection of English Silver; American art acquired through the J. Harwood and Louise B. Cochrane Fund; and one of the country's leading collections of the art of India, Nepal and Tibet. Recently, collectors James and Frances McGlothlin announced their plan to bequeath their collection of American art and to give financial support valued at well above \$100 million to the museum.

A native of Australia, Dr. Brand, whose field is Indian art and architecture, earned his M.A. in 1982 and his Ph.D. in 1987 from Harvard University. Majoring in Asian studies, he graduated with honors from the Australian National University in

Canberra in 1979. In 1971 and 1972, Dr. Brand lived in McLean, Virginia, and completed high school in Washington, D.C., where his father served as a director of the International Monetary Fund.

Brand is proficient in French and Italian, and has used Hindi, Urdu, Persian and Sanskrit in his research. Boards and committees include the American Friends of the National Gallery of Australia (AFANG), the Membership Committee of the Association of Art Museum Directors, the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce; organizations include The French Regional American Museum Exchange (FRAME), where he currently serves as the museum directors' representative to the FRAME Steering Committee. He is also a member of the Association of Art Museum Directors.

From 1996 to 2000, Brand was Assistant Director of the Curatorial and Collection Department at the Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia. At the Queensland Art Gallery, he led the collection division and played a significant role in the gallery's third Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art 1999. Dr. Brand led the effort to enhance the Queensland Art Gallery's collection of contemporary Asian art, and it is now recognized as one of the top collections in the world. He was also a leader in the innovative use of technology to make the Queensland state collection available to a broader audience and has lectured and published extensively on Indian and Islamic art and architecture and, more recently, on contemporary Asian art. .

Before joining the Queensland Art Gallery, Dr. Brand was the founding head of Asian art at the National Gallery of Australia (1988-96) where he raised funds for the creation of its first dedicated Asian gallery space and organized the ground-breaking exhibition "The Age of Angkor: Treasures from the National Museum of Cambodia." He has also been co-director of the Smithsonian Institution Mughal Garden Project in Lahore, Pakistan (1988-93), a research fellow at the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery at the Smithsonian (1987), and curator of Asian art at the Museum of Art of the Rhode Island School of Design (1985-87). Among Brand's publications is *Akbar's India: Art from the Mughal City of Victory*, co-written with Glenn D. Lowry, to accompany the 1985 exhibition of the same name at the Asia Society in New York.

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