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Images available upon request.

New photography exhibition now open at Newfields

Explore black-and-white photography in [Natural Abstraction: Brett Weston and His Contemporaries](#)

INDIANAPOLIS, June 21, 2018—Discover the work of Brett Weston (1911–1993), a master of black-and-white photography who used his camera to capture increasingly-abstract forms in the world around him. [Natural Abstraction: Brett Weston and His Contemporaries](#) is now open in the Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields.

The Indianapolis Museum of Art acquired its first 11 photographs by Weston in 2015, thanks to the generosity of the Christian Keese Collection. *Natural Abstraction* features those photographs alongside those by eight of his colleagues who worked in the 1930s through 1970s, including Ansel Adams, Aaron Siskind, Berenice Abbott and Brett Weston’s father, Edward Weston.

These photographers shared many formal and compositional interests, but they never formed a unified group that moved in harmony toward abstraction. Each had his or her own approach to photography. The exhibition allows guests to compare and contrast the different ways each photographer transformed subjects found outdoors into powerful compositional elements.

Brett Weston was born into the world of American Modernism. Dubbed the “child genius of American photography,” he began working alongside his father, renowned photographer Edward Weston, in Mexico at age 13. He quickly developed his own style to become part of a generation of Modernist photographers who explored abstraction.

These photographers moved toward abstraction by increasing their focus on tones, shapes and lines of the subject matter, whose identity became secondary in importance. As their styles matured over the middle of the century, photography as a medium became increasingly accepted as an art form and desirable on the market. This created a new period of success and influence both for Weston and his peers.

The exhibition includes a section that highlights parts of the process of making a large-format photograph, and how various technical decisions were part of the creative process. The technical methods of a midcentury black-and-white photographer are very different from photographers today, but the inspiration that Weston and his contemporaries found existing in the nature around them can be shared by any photographer.

"We have so many Indy photographers, professional and amateur, who come to our campus to compose a beautiful image in a natural setting. I wanted to offer them and all our guests some of the greatest examples from photographers who created truly incredible works of art outdoors," said Anna Stein, assistant curator for works on paper. "I'm all the more excited that this show is part of a larger lineup of IMA exhibitions spotlighting photography this year. It's such a neat medium."

Guests are invited to compare the works in *Natural Abstraction* with those in other current or upcoming photography exhibitions, including [Sensual/Sexual/ Social: The Photography of George Platt Lynes](#), opening September 30, [Portraits of Our City](#) open on Floor 2 of the IMA Galleries and [Inspired by Spring](#), open on the second floor of Lilly House.

Natural Abstraction is open now through March 17, 2019. Support for this exhibition is provided by the David C. & Sarajeun Ruttenberg Arts Foundation and The Alliance of Newfields.

About Newfields

Newfields offers dynamic experiences with art and nature for guests of all ages. The 152-acre cultural campus features art galleries, lush gardens, a historic home, performance spaces, a nature preserve and sculpture park. From inspiring exhibitions in the IMA Galleries, to concerts in The Toby, to a stroll through The Garden with a glass of something cold, guests are invited to interact with art and nature in exciting new ways. Newfields is home to the Indianapolis Museum of Art, among the ten largest and ten oldest general art museums in the nation; the Lilly House, a National Historic Landmark; The Garden, featuring 40 acres of contemporary and historic gardens, a working greenhouse and an orchard; and The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park: 100 Acres, one of the largest art and nature parks in the country. The Newfields campus extends outside of Indianapolis with Miller House and Garden in Columbus, Ind.—one of the nation’s most highly regarded examples of mid-century Modernist architecture. For more information visit www.discovernewfields.org.

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