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Newfields announces new curatorial appointments

New American Art curator, new Works on Paper curator and new curatorial affairs manager

INDIANAPOLIS, July 19, 2018—The Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields has added new strength to its curatorial department. Dr. Kelli Morgan has been appointed the new associate curator of American Art, Anna Stein was promoted to assistant curator of works on paper and Robin Lawrence has been promoted to manager of curatorial affairs.

"I am thrilled to welcome Dr. Morgan to the IMA's curatorial team, and to promote both Anna Stein and Robin Lawrence to their new positions," said Dr. Preston Bautista, Deputy Director of Public Programs and Audience Engagement. "We have added three bright and talented individuals to our growing curatorial department who will help us reinvent the museum's practices and develop exhibitions and installations that will help us see art and our collections afresh. Their work has already had tremendous impact on our community."

Dr. Kelli Morgan, Associate Curator of American Art

In this role, Morgan will manage and refine the IMA's significant collection of American Art and provide curatorial oversight for future exhibitions. The IMA's collection of American paintings and sculptures include some of the most iconic and beloved works such as *LOVE*, Robert Indiana's original sculpture made of cor-ten steel, *Gamin* by Augusta Savage and *Jimson Weed* by Georgia O'Keeffe.

Originally from Detroit, MI., Dr. Kelli Morgan earned her doctorate in Afro-American Studies and a Graduate Certificate in Public History – Museum Studies in 2017 from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. As a scholar and curator, Morgan has worked in a variety of curatorial, programming, teaching and research positions at various institutions, including The Tyler School of Art at Temple University, Wayne State University, the University of Michigan, the Birmingham Museum of Art and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA). In early 2014, Morgan was awarded a dissertation fellowship by the prestigious Ford Foundation. She was also named the Curatorial Fellow of African American Art at the Birmingham Museum of Art (2014 – 2015) and in 2016 became the inaugural recipient of The Winston & Carolyn Lowe Curatorial Fellowship for Diversity in the Fine Arts at PAFA.



As a critical race cultural historian, Morgan specializes in American art and visual culture. Her interdisciplinary research concentrates primarily on historic African-American women artists, however her curatorial work often examines, critiques and theorizes the ways in which American artists, art objects, art history and art institutions both challenge and support the systematic mechanisms of anti-Black violence and oppression in the United States. By analyzing the ways in which Americans construct visual discourses, conceptualize images and sometimes resist these discourses, Morgan's curatorial and teaching practices link art history, women's studies, African American history and museum studies to

create stimulating and culturally sensitive educational opportunities for students and public audiences alike.

Anna Stein, Assistant Curator of Works on Paper

As the assistant curator of works on paper, Stein will manage and provide curatorial oversight for the IMA’s collection of over 20,000 prints, drawings and photographs, including the museum’s renowned collection of watercolors and prints by J.M.W. Turner. Stein curated the current photography exhibition, [*Natural Abstraction: Brett Weston and his Contemporaries*](#), as well as collaborated on numerous past IMA exhibitions like *19 Stars of Indiana Art*, *Chemistry of Color* and *Audubon: Drawn to Nature*.



She started at the Indianapolis Museum of Art in 2015 as the curatorial assistant for European and American Paintings, sculpture and works on paper. Before coming to Indianapolis, she was a Research Associate at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Stein has an MA in Art History from Penn State.

Robin Lawrence, Manager of Curatorial Affairs

Since 2015, Robin has overseen the collection assessment of the IMA’s vast holdings, which has resulted in the Museum improving its collecting objectives and deaccession process. The manager of curatorial affairs is responsible for ensuring that the daily and long-term goals of the Curatorial Department are fulfilled while continuing to hone collecting and curatorial practices.



Prior to joining the IMA in 2013, Robin lived in Washington, DC, where she received her Master’s Degree from George Washington University. She has worked at the General Services Administration Fine Arts Collection, The History Factory and the Smithsonian Museum of American History. Lawrence is also one of the curators for the upcoming exhibition, [*Sensual/Sexual/Social: The Photography of George Platt Lynes*](#), organized with the Kinsey Institute, Indiana University, which opens September 30th.

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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