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Images available upon request.

***Happy World: On a Cloud* arrives at Newfields on 6/11**

The new installation debuts in the Efroymsen Family Entrance Pavilion this summer



FriendsWithYou, artist collaborative (founded 2002), *Little Cloud*, 2021, cold air inflatable with internal LED's, 24 x 15 x 18 ft © FriendsWithYou. Photo by Shigeru Tanaka.

INDIANAPOLIS, June 9, 2021—Beginning June 11 through May 29, 2022, guests at Newfields will be welcomed by [*Happy World: On a Cloud*](#), created by Los Angeles-based artist collective [FriendsWithYou](#), inside the Efroymsen Family Entrance Pavilion. This new exhibition will feature a smiling inflatable sculpture called, *Little Cloud*, alongside two accompanying characters, *Hug Bug* and *Peanut Butter*. The installation encourages mutual, experiential loving connection, while allowing guests to connect with others through play, laughter and curiosity.

FriendsWithYou is the art collaboration of Samuel Borkson and Arturo Sandoval III. Since 2002, the pair has created mesmerizing installations with the mission of spreading a positive message of magic, luck and friendship. The duo will present a newly commissioned work titled *Happy World: On a Cloud*, combining a site-specific installation with custom costumes and live performances. *Hug Bug* and *Peanut Butter* will be worn by specially trained performers from [NoExit Performance](#) collective in Indianapolis, a body of multidisciplinary artists who create and present innovative

performance experiences within diverse spaces. These performances will take place alongside *Little Cloud* in the Efroymsen Family Entrance Pavilion and occasionally be seen in the IMA Galleries and The Garden.

"This playful installation by FriendsWithYou is about establishing connection," said Bryn Jackson, Assistant Curator of Audience Engagement and Performance at Newfields. "Through this exhibition, we invite everyone to experience Newfields as a space of belonging, of appreciating and celebrating one another and the environment.

Happy World is co-curated by Bryn Jackson, Assistant Curator of Audience Engagement and Performance and Dr. Michael Vetter, Assistant Curator of Contemporary Art.

"We are delighted to welcome FriendsWithYou to the Efroymsen Family Entrance Pavilion for a groundbreaking installation that combines their iconic inflatable sculptures with sound, costumes, and live performance," said Dr. Michael Vetter, Assistant Curator of Contemporary Art at Newfields. "The exhibition presents exciting new avenues of exploration for the artists and will create a truly immersive and interactive experience for Newfields guests."

"Happy World is all around us! A joyful, colorful world that shines with beauty and simplicity. Follow *Hug Bug* and *Peanut Butter* into the beauty and music of nature as we celebrate each other and our living world," said Samuel Borkson and Arturo Sandoval III, FriendsWithYou artists. "Happy World is a way to join together to create a more loving and responsible world, where everything is happy and harmonious. From each little bug, to the flowers and trees, to you and me. We created Happy World with the vision of creating an important relationship between people and nature."

Happy World: On a Cloud is made possible by the Efroymsen Contemporary Art Fund, an endowed fund at the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

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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 mansion, performance spaces, a nature preserve and sculpture park. From inspiring exhibitions in the Indianapolis Museum of Art Galleries, to concerts in The Toby, to a stroll through The Garden with a glass of cheer, 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 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, 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, IN.—one of the nation's most highly regarded examples of mid-century Modernist architecture. For more information visit DiscoverNewfields.org.

About the Efroymsen Family Fund

The Efroymsen Family Fund, a donor-advised fund of the Central Indiana Community Foundation, continues a long legacy of charitable commitment by the Efroymsen family in central Indiana. The Efroymsen Family Fund was established in 1998 by Dan and Lori Efroymsen to promote the viability of communities and to date has awarded more than \$120 million in grants in central Indiana and beyond. The Efroymsen Family Contemporary Art Fund is an endowed fund that was established in 2006 by the Efroymsen Family Fund to support work by emerging and established local, national and international contemporary visual artists through a rotating installation program in the Efroymsen Family Entrance Pavilion. Past artists and collectives whose work has been supported by the Fund include Allora & Calzadilla, Ball-Nogues Studio, Tony Feher, Spencer Finch, FriendsWithYou, Orly Genger, William Lamson, Judith G. Levy, Mary Miss, Julian Opie, Heather Rowe, Alyson Shotz, Julianne Swartz, Sopheap Pich, Erwin Wurm, Richard Wentworth, Monika Sosnowska, Cracking Art, Studio Drift and Anders Ruhwald. For more information about the Efroymsen Family Fund, visit efroymsenfamilyfund.org.

About FriendsWithYou

FriendsWithYou is the art collaboration of Samuel Borkson and Arturo Sandoval III, working together since 2002, and created with the intention to bring more joy, kindness, and love to the world. The collaboration is a vehicle for the exploration of emotional healing through culture creation and art making. Each work is created with the intention of transcendence, and nurturing care for the viewer or participant. FriendsWithYou's meaning is in its name, in that everything in the universe can and wants to be friends with you, an aide in the promotion of love, harmony & peace in our lives. Their goal is to connect and heal as much as possible through their work, to grow the love and joy in each person, creating an exponential aggregate of sharing, healing, and compassion for each other and our living planet. They have created the successful animation show *True and the Rainbow Kingdom* on Netflix, participated in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in 2018 featuring their iconic Little Cloud character, and have exhibited their artworks in museums and public venues worldwide.

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