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Images available upon request.

The IMA at Newfields announces major gift of Indiana fashion designer Stephen Sprouse's work

The collection is the largest fashion donation in the museum's history

INDIANAPOLIS, Nov. 7, 2019— The Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields announces the landmark acquisition of the Stephen Sprouse Collection. This is one of the largest single gifts the IMA has ever received. It includes thousands of pieces, including men's and women's clothing, shoes, accessories, textile samples, design sketches, audio-visuals, photographs, business documents and press clippings. Two important portraits of Sprouse painted by Andy Warhol in 1984 are also part of this significant gift.

"We are thrilled to have been entrusted with Stephen Sprouse's legacy," said Niloo Paydar, curator of textile and fashion arts at the IMA. "This acquisition marks the creation of the definitive collection of Stephen Sprouse fashion and archives—a chapter in 1980s and '90s American fashion history with roots in Indiana that the Indianapolis Museum of Art is proud to steward."

Joanne Sprouse and Brad Sprouse, Stephen's mother and brother, donated the collection and archives in memory of Stephen to honor his legacy. Highlights include two rare leather jackets by Sprouse that were hand painted by the Italian artist Stefano Castronovo in the mid-1980s. The jackets depict a young Andy Warhol and Debbie Harry, the lead singer of Blondie. A unique dress worn by supermodel Kate Moss for the *Choose or Lose* campaign commercial in 1996 is also a part of the gift.

A fashion visionary, Stephen Sprouse (1953–2004) is best known for his downtown New York City inspired clothing. Sprouse's sixties aesthetic incorporated Day-Glo bright colors and bold graffiti, for both men and women. The clothing was sold through upscale department stores such as Bergdorf Goodman and Henri Bendel. Sprouse also designed costumes for rock musicians Debbie Harry, Axl Rose and Billy Idol, and collaborated with artists Andy Warhol and Keith Haring on a number of drawings that were used in his textile designs.

Born in Dayton, Ohio, and raised in Columbus, Indiana, Sprouse visited the IMA on many occasions and had a profound connection to the Museum. He initially worked for designer Bill Blass as a summer intern, and later attended [Rhode Island School of Design](#). Sprouse became Halston's assistant from 1972–1973. Both Blass and Halston were Indiana natives and their creations are extensively represented in the IMA's



Andy Warhol (American, 1928–1987), *Stephen Sprouse (Double Portrait)*, 1984, synthetic polymer and silkscreen inks on canvas, 40 × 40 × 1-1/2 in. Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, Gift of Joanne Sprouse, in memory of her son Stephen Sprouse, 2018.69 © 2019 The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. / Artists Rights Society (ARS), NY.

fashion arts collection. Stephen Sprouse became a notable name in the 1980's and '90's for infusing punk music and graffiti into his fashion design. His last collaborations included partnering with Marc Jacobs and Louis Vuitton in 2000–01 and designing "Americaland", a fashion line for Target in 2002.

The Andy Warhol double portrait of Sprouse, a highlight of the gift, is included in the current exhibition: [*Andy Warhol – From A to B and Back Again*](#). The show debuted at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York then traveled to [San Francisco Museum of Modern Art](#) and is currently on view at the [Art Institute of Chicago](#).

Selections from this significant collection will be exhibited in the Gerald and Dorit Paul Galleries in spring 2021.

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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 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 [DiscoverNewfields.org](#).

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