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A new monumental sculpture to join *LOVE* in IMA Galleries *Fletcher Benton sculpture will permanently go on view next month*

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 6, 2020—The Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields is pleased to announce the addition of a monumental abstract sculpture to its contemporary collection, Fletcher Benton's (1931-2019) *Folded Circle Dynamic Rhythms Red Phase III* (1973).

The monumental sculpture will be a permanent addition to the Pulliam Family Great Hall, framed by Robert Irwin's [*Light and Space III*](#) (2008). Benton's dynamic sculpture is constructed from two, red-painted aluminum half-circles placed perpendicularly to each other, with a polished stainless steel band around the edges. A vertical, kinetic element features colored acrylic panels that move back and forth, creating rhythmic, color changes.

An abstract homage to the ancient Greek sculptor Polykleitos, the shape and scale of the work calls attention to the importance of spatial orientation and our understanding of form, which was a common theme of sculpture made in the 1960s.

"*Folded Circle Dynamic Rhythms Red Phase III* is a major work that will make a striking addition to the atrium. This piece will strengthen the IMA's rich holdings of late modernist sculpture and provide a thoughtful juxtaposition with other works in the contemporary collection," said Dr. Michael Vetter, Assistant Curator of Contemporary Art at Newfields. "We are delighted to have this important irrevocable promised gift from Jon and Molly Ott and grateful to the Alliance of Newfields and Randy and Sheila Ott for their support of the work's conservation."

Benton is best known for his mechanized sculptures made in the 1960s and early 1970s, which are all central works in the history of kinetic art. *Folded Circle* is Benton's second-largest kinetic piece, weighing 3,600 pounds and measuring about 14.5 feet tall. In comparison, Robert Indiana's [*LOVE*](#) (1970) sculpture is 12 feet tall, but weighs 9,200 pounds.

The National Bank of Ohio originally commissioned the piece for their building in Columbus, and the piece entered the collection of PNC Bank when it acquired the National Bank of Ohio. Jon and Molly Ott, who live in the San Francisco Bay area, but have family ties to the IMA and the Midwest, purchased the sculpture from PNC and irrevocably promised it to the IMA at Newfields in 2019. Since its acquisition by the Otts, the work has been undergoing conservation treatment.

"I have been going to the Indianapolis Museum of Art since I was a boy being led through the museum by my parents," said Jon Ott. "My family and I couldn't be more pleased to be contributing to a community that we have grown up in, married in, thrived in, and still visit with regularity to this day."

Jon grew up in Illinois and his wife Molly grew up in Indiana. In 2004, the couple married at the Indiana Historical Society. Jon also worked for ExactTarget (now Salesforce) for the past 10 years and continues to visit Indianapolis and the Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields.

"We are so excited by the gift of *Folded Circle* by Jon and Molly," said Dr. Charles L. Venable, The Melvin & Bren Simon Director and CEO. "The Ott family has been a joy to get to know since my arrival in Indianapolis in 2012 and having one of Fletcher Benton's most important sculptures installed at the heart of the IMA so soon after his death is a real tribute to this important artist and the Otts."

To prepare the floor for the sculpture, sanding began earlier this month and other preparation will continue intermittently through mid-March. The IMA Galleries will remain open during the installation period, but alternative routes may be required for guests to reach their desired destination. The sculpture will be on view to the public starting mid-March.

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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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Media Contacts:

Mattie Wethington
Public Relations Manager
317-923-1331 ext. 265
mwethington@discovernewfields.org

Emily Sogard
Communications Coordinator
317-923-1331 ext. 111
esogard@discovernewfields.org