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Images available upon request.

Newfields announces diverse 2018 exhibition program at the Indianapolis Museum of Art

Shows will highlight fashion, design, sculpture, photography, works on paper and more

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 28, 2018 – This year, Newfields will showcase a diverse group of art exhibitions, with works on display indoors and out. From elaborate hats to groundbreaking photography, discover innovation around every corner in the IMA Galleries. Explore the newly reconceived *Design Gallery*, complete with a virtual reality experience and a brand new lab where guests can design and create. The highlight of the summer, *Summer Wonderland: Spectacular Creatures*, features the brightly colored animal sculptures of the Italian art collective, Cracking Art. Displayed throughout the campus, these playful creatures are also intended as commentaries on key environmental issues. Debuting in the fall, *Sensual/Sexual/Social: The Photography of George Platt Lynes* explores Lynes' groundbreaking work and how he pushed artistic and societal boundaries as a member of the cultural and LGBT communities during the mid-20th century.

Read on to learn more about the upcoming exhibitions and start planning your trip at discovernewfields.org.

[Bes-Ben: The Mad Hatter of Chicago](#) (Apr. 20, 2018- Jan. 6, 2019)

Curated by Niloo Paydar, curator of textile and fashion arts

Known for his elaborate, humorous and flamboyant creations, Benjamin B. Green-Field (1898-1988), the creative genius behind the Bes-Ben label, designed hats using a variety of everyday objects and a wide range of unusual trimmings. The hats were adorned with bizarre items such as fake cigarettes, little stuffed animals, plastic fruits, vegetables, as well as bejeweled and decorative objects. Bes-Ben hats were popular with celebrities such as Elizabeth Taylor and Judy Garland. Many of the wealthy women of Chicago and the Midwest were also among his clients.

[Collecting Contemporaries: Recent Acquisitions from the Koch and Wolf Collections](#) (May 4- Nov. 4, 2018)

Curated by guest curator Elisabeth Smith

This exhibition highlights some of the most significant gifts of contemporary art made to the Indianapolis Museum of Art over its 135-year history, donated by longtime supporters Kay Koch, and Joan and Walter Wolf. The exhibition features works by artists such as Andy Warhol, Alex Katz, Judy Pfaff, John Cage, Sol LeWitt, Ed Ruscha, Claes Oldenburg, Robert Longo and James Rosenquist. Learn about the process of building an art collection and be inspired to start your own. *Support for this exhibition is provided by The Alliance of Newfields.*

[Summer Wonderland: Spectacular Creatures](#) (June 1- Aug. 26, 2018)

Curated by Dr. Preston Bautista, deputy director for public programs and audience engagement

We've teamed up with the Italian art collective Cracking Art to welcome hundreds of animals to the Newfields campus this summer. These brightly colored sculptures are made from regenerated plastic and speak to the environmental issues that face our planet, as well as how the world is becoming increasingly artificial. See snails in the Efroymsen Family Entrance Pavilion and penguins inside the IMA Galleries, before exploring The Garden where you will have to watch out for giant alligators on garden pathways and elephants inside the Lilly House.

This exhibition is presented by Eli Lilly and Company. Creatures inside the Efroymsen Family Entrance Pavilion are made possible by the Efroymsen Contemporary Art Fund, an endowed fund at the IMA.

[Natural Abstraction: Brett Weston and His Contemporaries](#) (June 15, 2018- Mar. 17, 2019)

Curated by Anna Stein, curatorial assistant for European and American painting, sculpture, and works on paper

Brett Weston was a master of black-and-white photography who used his camera to capture increasingly-abstract forms in the world around him. The exhibition presents Weston photographs, gifted by the Christian Keese Collection, alongside those by his contemporaries like Aaron Siskind, Ansel Adams and Brett's father, Edward Weston. *Support for this exhibition is provided by the David C. & Sarajeen Ruttenberg Arts Foundation and The Alliance of Newfields.*

[Design Gallery](#) (re-opening July 27, 2018)

Curated by Shelley Selim, associate curator of design and decorative arts

The Indianapolis Museum of Art's 11,000-square-foot Design Gallery is the largest collection gallery devoted to modern and contemporary design of any museum in the country. This summer, the gallery reopens with a thematic reinterpretation that offers fresh insights into the versatile design process—from inspiration to production. A rotation of more than 150 new objects will be on display, many of which are recent acquisitions being shown for the first time. Newfields' famed Miller House and Garden assumes a greater presence in the gallery with a fully immersive virtual reality experience. This joins several other new interactive spaces, including an 800-square-foot Design Lab where guests can design prototypes using analog and digital tools and try out some of the furniture on display. *This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.*

[Making Faces: The Remarkable Masks of Master Bidou Yamaguchi](#) (Sept. 7, 2018-Feb. 3, 2019)

Curated by Dr. John Teramoto, curator of Asian art

This exhibition will feature the works of contemporary Japanese artist, Bidou Yamaguchi, a traditionally trained Noh mask carver who has created a body of work inspired by Old Master paintings. Bridging traditional Japanese arts and Western masterworks, this series includes three dimensional masks from two dimensional works such as the *Mona Lisa* and *Girl with the Pearl Earring*. The exhibition will unveil the first commissioned work for The Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields' Japanese collection: a mask inspired by Rembrandt's *Self-Portrait*, from about 1629, in the Museum's Clowes Collection. *Support for this exhibition is provided by Christopher and Michelle Reinhold.*

[Sensual/Sexual/Social: The Photography of George Platt Lynes](#) (Sept. 28, 2018–Feb. 24, 2019)

Curated by Rebecca Fasman, Kinsey Institute, Indiana University; Anne M. Young and Robin Lawrence, organizing curators, IMA at Newfields

Explore the artistic legacy of renowned, American photographer George Platt Lynes through this exhibition of photographs from the collection of the Kinsey Institute, Indiana University. Lynes' visionary work catapulted him to notoriety as a New York-based commercial fashion and ballet photographer, but resulted in his drift from the spotlight when it was revealed that he photographed male nudes as well. Lynes also turned his lens on his social circle—the artistic and literary minds of the mid-20th century—who accepted him as a gay man during a period of harsh anti-LGBT laws in America. Learn about Lynes' groundbreaking work with lighting and darkroom manipulation and his personal passion, the male nude, considered taboo and illegal in the 1930s and '40s. *Organized by the Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields and the Kinsey Institute, Indiana University.*

About Newfields

Newfields: A Place for Nature & the Arts, offers dynamic experiences 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, and 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: 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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