



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Images available upon request.*

**Works by leading contemporary artists debut at Newfields 5/4**

*Exhibition features work from Sol LeWitt, Jasper Johns, Robert Longo, Andy Warhol and more*

**INDIANAPOLIS**, May 3, 2018—Tomorrow, two of the largest gifts of modern and contemporary art in the Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields' history will debut in the new exhibition [Collecting Contemporaries: Recent Acquisitions from the Koch and Wolf Collections](#), open May 4 through November 4, 2018.

Longtime supporters Kay Koch and Joan and Walter Wolf each generously donated their impressive collections to the IMA to ensure that works on paper by many of the most influential artists in America, including Jasper Johns, Robert Longo, Alex Katz, Sol LeWitt, Judy Pfaff, Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol would be available to our community for generations to come.

Koch and the Wolf's hope their passion for collecting works of art will inspire and motivate new generations and audiences to collect works of their own.

"It is okay to start small. When you're in high school you may start collecting by hanging posters on your wall of your various idols, and then as you get older your interests evolve," said Kay Koch. "Find something that interests you and concentrate on growing that collection."

Koch was encouraged to begin collecting art by her mentor Norbert Neuss when she first moved to Indianapolis to work at Eli Lilly and Company. The first work she ever purchased was at the Penrod Arts Fair. "I wasn't sure if I should get it or not, but Norbert told me 'if you like it, buy it,'" Koch said. "So I went back and bought it."

Koch's commitment to collecting deepened following her marriage to Bryan Molloy in 1971. Koch and Molloy were captivated by the leading artists of the 1950s, 60s and 70s. The bold and bright works by these artists captured their imagination. Koch and her late husband always wanted to donate their collection to a museum so the works of art would be accessible to a large audience.

Walter Wolf—who collected prints extensively and exclusively—shared that his passion was inspired by his grandfather who was a collector of Old Master prints. Wolf hopes that others too will find inspiration in the activity of collecting.

"There is an essential pleasure in knowing you own a certain piece," Wolf said. "I would encourage everyone to start collecting."

To share their passion and serve as inspiration, the Wolfs decided to give their collection to the IMA. "I hope in this setting, the public will learn how to look at art, how to compare pieces, and how to look for particular strengths," Mr. Wolf says. "In this exhibition, guests will be able to compare artists and see what each one did well."

Newfields members are invited to view these exceptional gifts before the exhibition opens to the public at the [Members-Only Preview](#) on Thursday, May 3 from 5:30–8 p.m. Later in the summer, join us for a [Panel Discussion: Collecting Contemporary Art in Indianapolis](#) on June 28 at 7 p.m. in The Toby. Three guest panelists will discuss their roles in the launch of Collectors' Night and cultivating a culture of art collecting in Indianapolis.

Docent-led [tours](#) for the exhibition begin May 6 and will be on Saturdays, Sundays, and alternate Thursdays (beginning May 10) at 2 p.m. *Collecting Contemporaries: Recent Acquisitions from the Koch and Wolf Collections* will be on view in the June M. McCormack Forefront Galleries on floor four of the IMA Galleries.

*Collecting Contemporaries* is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional support for this exhibition is provided by The Alliance of Newfields.

### **Experience more of [Hello Spring](#)**

After exploring *Collecting Contemporaries*, discover all there is to do at Newfields this spring. The campus-wide celebration featuring more than 250,000 blooms, local brews on tap in the Beer Garden, wildflowers in The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park: 100 Acres, more inspiring exhibitions inside the Lilly House and more time to see it all, with our new expanded hours.

### **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](http://www.discovernewfields.org).

###

### **Media Contacts:**

Mattie Lindner

Communications Coordinator

317-923-1331 ext. 265

[mlindner@discovernewfields.org](mailto:mlindner@discovernewfields.org)