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Images available upon request.

Brightly colored animal sculptures flock to Newfields this summer
*Summer Wonderland features nearly 500 animals made from recyclable plastic,
indoors and out*

INDIANAPOLIS, May 17, 2018—This summer, explore [Summer Wonderland: Spectacular Creatures](#), an art installation featuring nearly 500 brightly colored sculptures in various sizes—from miniatures to larger-than-life creatures—all made from recyclable plastic, open June 1 through August 26, 2018.

Summer Wonderland: Spectacular Creatures is a campus-wide exhibition that fuses both art and nature in unexpected ways. The sculptures are the creations of Cracking Art—a collective of artists based in Italy—who create these works from recyclable plastic to speak to the increasing artificiality of society and to raise awareness of environmental issues such as, global warming, the overuse of fossil fuels and the importance of recycling. With unusual hues and sometimes unnatural sizes, the sculptures demand to be noticed and provoke conversations around the issues that concern the artists, like environmental sustainability.

Beginning June 1, Cracking Art's colorful creatures will migrate to Newfields—hopping, crawling and slithering around campus. Explorers young and old can stumble upon snails climbing the walls in the Efroymsen Family Entrance Pavilion, mischievous meerkats in the Richard D. Wood Formal Garden, elephants roaming inside Lilly House, giant alligators sunning on garden pathways, bears picking apples in the Gene and Rosemary Tanner Orchard and penguins cooling off inside the Indianapolis Museum of Art in the Pulliam Family Great Hall.

For Cracking Art, each animal also has a specific meaning. The nearly 8-foot-tall, blue snail that debuted in the Efroymsen Family Entrance Pavilion in February, is a symbol of regeneration and renewal, while its shell suggests the simultaneously repetitive and progressive nature of time. Unique to this art exhibition, all of the sculptures can be touched and serve as perfect companions for a summer selfie.

Summer Wonderland: Spectacular Creatures marks the collective's first collaboration with a major American art museum. Cracking Art invasions typically appear in urban environments. They have exhibited their work throughout the world — in various Italian cities, and as far as Thailand and China. Their works have brightened the United Nations headquarters, provoked conversation in Cleveland during the 2016 Republican National Convention and can be seen in Midwest cities such as Cincinnati and Louisville.

"Newfields is committed to hosting conversations about the critical issues of our time, and these sculptures inspire an important dialogue about the state of our environment. They also break down walls between Newfields' indoor and outdoor spaces and remind the community how family-friendly our campus is," said Dr. Charles L. Venable, The Melvin & Bren Simon Director and CEO. "*Summer Wonderland* is the first ever art exhibition in The Garden, inviting guests to experience art in unexpected places; but, the installation also spreads into the Indianapolis Museum of Art and Lilly House."

On May 31, members are invited to preview the exhibition after the [135th Annual Meeting](#). In celebration of the exhibition opening, Newfields will host [Family Day: Wonderland](#) on Saturday, June 2 from 11a.m. to 3 p.m. Get up close and personal with these spectacular creatures during a traveling theater performance for all ages. Create a costume using recycled materials, listen to live music and search for all the spectacular creatures around the

Newfields campus. On July 15, attend the [Members-Only Curator Talk](#) with Dr. Preston Bautista, Deputy Director of Public Programs and Audience Engagement and curator for *Summer Wonderland*. Spend the afternoon from 2–3 p.m. on a walking tour with Dr. Bautista and learn more about Cracking Art and the environmental messages behind their works.

Continue your exploration of *Summer Wonderland* into the Beer Garden, where swallows will greet guests and add a colorful touch to summer. Also beginning in June, the Beer Garden will debut a new summer menu featuring a variety of rotations on tap. With more summer daylight, comes more time to see it all with extended Newfields hours. Newfields will be open until 8 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and open at 11 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

Summer Wonderland: Spectacular Creatures is made possible by the Efroymsen Contemporary Art Fund and Eli Lilly and Company. The Efroymsen 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, Friends with You, Orly Genger, William Lamson, Judith G. Levy, Mary Miss, Julian Opie, Heather Rowe, Alyson Shotz, Julianne Swartz, Sopheap Pich, Erwin Wurm, Richard Wentworth, and Monika Sosnowska.

About Cracking Art

Cracking Art movement was founded in 1993 with the goal of changing the history of art through a strong social and environmental commitment that, combined with an innovative use of plastic materials, evokes the close relationship between nature and artificial reality. The concept of Regeneration enlivens the artistic history of the movement since its origins. The plastic, chosen material of the movement, has the eternal property of being crushed and reshaped into other sculptures. For more information visit www.crackingart.com.

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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