



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Images available upon request.

New interactive installation by Studio Drift to debut at Newfields *Meadow opens Feb. 22*

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 6, 2019—Later this month, guests to Newfields will be greeted by [Meadow](#), a large-scale, kinetic light sculpture by Amsterdam-based art and design collective Studio Drift. Comprised of an “upside-down landscape” of 18 mechanical blossoms that open and close in response to visitors passing below, *Meadow* will be on view inside the Efroymsen Family Entrance Pavilion beginning Feb. 22, 2019 through Feb. 23, 2020. This will mark the first time this installation has been exhibited in America.

Studio Drift is known for their large-scale installations that re-establish the connection between humans and the earth. The Studio was founded in 2007 by Lonneke Gordijn and Ralph Nauta shortly after they graduated from the Design Academy Eindhoven (DAE). The DAE boasts one of the best interdisciplinary design programs in the world, spawning a succession of superstar designers in the 1990s and 2000s, including Hella Jongerius, Maarten Baas, Marcel Wanders, Tord Boontje, Tejo Remy, Richard Hutten, Jurgen Bey, Piet Hein Eek, Nynke Tynagel, Job Smeets and Wieki Somers—all of whom have works in the IMA’s collection.

In their collaborative partnership, Gordijn’s interest in biology and natural systems is matched by Nauta’s deep love of the speculative technologies and social structures found in science fiction. Together the pair creates works that channel the wonder of natural phenomena and challenge the bounds of technological possibility.

In 2014 they produced *Shylight*, a light sculpture composed of silk flowers that descend, bloom and recede in floating, poetic harmony. The technical components of the *Shylight* installation took five years to master and involved developing custom circuit boards and software.

Meadow expands upon those concepts and technologies, and both works are inspired by the biological behavior of nyctinasty, the capacity of certain plants to bloom in the daytime and close their petals at night. Suspended from the ceiling inside the Pavilion, the inverted meadow of mechanical flowers reacts to the guests walking beneath them. The color palette of the petals gradually shifts from light to darker, combining with colored LED lights to simulate a skyscape as dawn transitions to dusk.

“The enduring appeal of Lonneke and Ralph’s work is their ability to merge art, design, and technology in a way that sparks wonder for their audiences,” said Shelley Selim, Associate Curator of Design and Decorative Arts. “*Meadow* captures this beautifully—not only by using cutting-edge tech to mimic nature’s scientific laws, but by evoking the unquantifiable, intrinsic awe and amazement that nature inspires in humankind. I am so thrilled that visitors to Newfields will be the first to see this fantastic piece on American soil.”

Installations by [Studio Drift](#) are exhibited in museums, art fairs and institutions all around the world such as the Victoria & Albert Museum (UK), Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam (NL), World Expo Shang hai (CN), Art Basel/Miami Basel, Miami (US), Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam (NL), M.A.D. New York (US), The Israel Museum (IL), Abu Dhabi Art Fair (UAE) and La Biennale di Venezia (IT), Biennale de São Paulo (Brazil) and the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam (NL).

On Feb. 21, join the Studio Drift artists, Lonneke Gordijn and Ralph Nauta, and Newfields’ Shelley Selim for a free [Artist Talk](#) in The Toby to learn more about their process and vision.

Meadow is made possible by the Efroymsen Contemporary Art Fund. Additional support is provided by the Christel DeHaan Family Foundation and Ms. Nancy L. McMillan.

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 mansion, performance spaces, a nature preserve and sculpture park. From inspiring exhibitions in the Indianapolis Museum of Art Galleries, to concerts in The Toby, to 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 discovernewfields.org.

About the Efroymsen Family Fund

The Efroymsen Family Fund, a donor-advised fund of the Central Indiana Community Foundation, continues a long legacy of charitable commitment by the Efroymsen family in central Indiana. The Efroymsen Family Fund was established in 1998 by Dan and Lori Efroymsen to promote the viability of communities and to date has awarded more than \$80 million in grants in central Indiana and beyond. The Efroymsen Family 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, Monika Sosnowska and Cracking Art. For more information about the Efroymsen Family Fund, visit cicf.org.

###

Media Contacts:

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