



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Images available upon request.*

***Left of Center* opens in the IMA Galleries at Newfields on Mar. 15**  
*Local artist Samuel Levi Jones makes his major solo show debut*

**INDIANAPOLIS**, Mar. 5, 2019—Next month, Indianapolis and Chicago- based artist, Samuel Levi Jones will make his major museum debut at the Indianapolis Museum of Art with [\*Samuel Levi Jones: Left of Center\*](#), open from Mar. 15 through Sept. 1, 2019.

In this thought provoking exhibition Jones provides visual commentary on the oppressive nature of American power structures, particularly those that substantiate our education system, the criminal justice system and healthcare system, as well as the American historical narrative. Jones does this by deconstructing materials such as encyclopedias, law textbooks, medical textbooks and football equipment and making them into abstract paintings and sculptures.

His work is inspired by questions of authority, representation and recorded history. Jones rearranges the deconstructed books into grid-like compositions that are meant to expose their flaws and question their truth. Jones explains that he is “ultimately thinking about information that is selectively left out.”

“This is a very important time for Newfields to present this show, as art institutions across the nation are finally taking an honest look at how traditional museum practices have been historically discriminatory. It is imperative that Jones’ exhibition takes place right here and right now, as Newfields is a prominent museum rapidly transforming its culture from the inside out,” said curators Dr. Kelli Morgan and Bryn Jackson. “As curators of color who are also scholars of critical race theory and performance. We’re very excited about the exhibition because Jones quite literally peels back the layers of institutional racism in our society. With purposeful examination, his beautiful patch-worked canvases completely restructure the tomes that uphold race-based oppression. His ability to deconstruct and transform the antiquated into new visual and textual paradigms reframes the relationships between freedom and oppression, power and vulnerability, as well as equality and exclusion.”

*Left of Center* strives to communicate that Newfields continues to be a museum actively engaging with its local art communities and continues to host important conversations. As guests spend time in the gallery they will be confronted with Jones’ process and perspective through a constellation of references to popular culture, current events and personal experiences. Each work reveals a conceptual richness to those who are willing to follow in Jones’ footsteps, revealing the many layers of meaning that are embedded within the materials.

Jones was born in Marion, Indiana and now lives and works between Chicago, Illinois, and Indianapolis. His work is also currently on view in *Solitary & Solidarity: The Joyner/Guiffrida Collection*, Smart Museum of Art, Illinois; *We the People*, Albright Knox Gallery, New York; *Infinite Blue*, Brooklyn Museum, New York and *Personal to Political*, Northeastern University, Massachusetts. Forthcoming solo exhibitions include *Let us Grow* at Galerie Lelong & Co., Paris in May 2019, Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects in June 2019, and Galerie Lelong & Co., New York in September 2019. Jones’ most notable exhibitions include *After Fred Wilson* at the Indianapolis Museum of Contemporary Art, Indiana; and *Unbound* at the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York. His work can be found in museum and public collections such as the Chazen Museum of Art, University of Wisconsin – Madison, Wisconsin; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, California; Rubell Family Collection, Florida; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California; Studio Museum in Harlem, New York; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New

York. In 2014, Jones was the recipient of the Joyce Alexander Wein Artist Prize, an annual award whose past recipients include prominent artists such as Leslie Hewitt, Glenn Ligon and Lorna Simpson.

On Mar. 15 from 6 to 8 pm., help us celebrate the *Samuel Levi Jones: Left of Center* [exhibition opening](#) with friends and family inside the IMA Galleries. In August, guests will be invited to an artist discussion with Samuel Levi Jones and the curators followed by a catalog signing.

*Samuel Levi Jones: Left of Center* is open from Mar. 15 through Sept. 1, 2019 and is curated by Dr. Kelli Morgan, Associate Curator of American Art and Bryn Jackson, Assistant Curator of Audience Engagement and Performance.

*This exhibition is presented by Central Indiana Community Foundation (CICF). CICF works to mobilize people, ideas and investment to make Central Indiana a community where everyone has equitable opportunity to reach their full potential—no matter place, race or identity. Additional support is provided by an anonymous donor.*

**Looking for a perfect time to visit Newfields?** We've added hours, more light mean more time to explore. The Newfields campus is open Sunday through Wednesday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and closed Mondays.

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

###

### **Media Contacts:**

Mattie Wethington  
Public Relations Manager  
317-923-1331 ext. 265  
[mwethington@discovernewfields.org](mailto:mwethington@discovernewfields.org)

Emily Sogard  
Communications Coordinator  
317-923-1331 ext. 111  
[esogard@discovernewfields.org](mailto:esogard@discovernewfields.org)