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Images available upon request.

Life and Legacy: Portraits from the Clowes Collection opens May 4

See some of the greatest treasures of the Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields' in a whole new light

INDIANAPOLIS, April 23, 2019—The exhibition [*Life and Legacy: Portraits from the Clowes Collection*](#) explores the lives and art collection of Dr. George H.A. Clowes and Edith Whitehill Clowes, who were two of the of the Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields' greatest benefactors.

In 1921, Dr. Clowes, a research scientist at Eli Lilly and Company, helped develop a process to mass-produce insulin, then a revolutionary new treatment for diabetes. His work saved millions of lives and allowed Clowes to pursue his passion for collecting great art. Much of the Clowes Collection is on display in this exhibition and is considered to be among the finest collections of European art in the Midwest.

Life and Legacy: Portraits from the Clowes Collection features many of the Indianapolis Museum of Art's most beloved paintings, including Rembrandt's *Self-Portrait*, painted when he was 23 years old. Through such masterpieces, guests will learn about the development of portraiture as a specific art form over the course of nearly four centuries.

"The more I researched the Clowes Collection, the more it became apparent that each work was uniquely important to Dr. Clowes," says Dr. Kjell Wangenstein, Assistant Curator of European Art and curator of the exhibition. "Portraits seem to have especially fascinated him, as can be seen from the extraordinary quality of the ones he acquired. So it became clear that a fresh look at this group of works would serve nicely as a kind of 'portrait' of Clowes himself."

The exhibition will focus on the history of portraiture, the process of painting a portrait, the various ways in which artists portrayed their subjects and the many functions that portraits served across the centuries. "In our age of digital photography, it's easy to forget that portraits were once precious objects that were difficult and expensive to make," says Wangenstein. To emphasize the point, visitors to the exhibition will have the opportunity to create their own portraits at a drawing station.

The legacy of Dr. and Mrs. Clowes lives on today. Edith, like her husband, was an important figure in Indianapolis and took an active role in many local organizations besides the Indianapolis Museum of Art, including the Orchard School, Butler University, Trinity Episcopal Church and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. Their home, Westerley House & Gardens, was the site of numerous Indianapolis social events for visiting scientists, artists, musicians and intellectuals. In 2001 the Clowes' son, Allen Whitehill Clowes, bequeathed Westerley to Newfields for use as a director's residence and site for a wide range of events.

Life and Legacy provides visitors with an excellent opportunity to see much of the Clowes Collection, while a complete renovation of the Clowes Pavilion is underway thanks to generous funding from The Clowes Fund and The Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation.

To celebrate the life and impressive collection of Dr. and Mrs. Clowes, live classical music will be playing adjacent to the exhibition in Pulliam Family Great Hall on May 4 and 5, opening weekend, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Members are invited to attend Dr. Wangenstein's talk, "Dr. George H.A. Clowes: Portrait of a Collector" at 6 p.m. on May 16 in DeBoest Lecture Hall. The event is free for members but advanced registration is required.

Life and Legacy: Portraits from the Clowes Collection will be on display in the Allen Whitehill Clowes Special Exhibition Gallery May 4 through August 18, 2019.

The preservation study, presentation and interpretation of works in the Clowes Collection is supported by The Clowes Fund and The Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation. Additional support provided by anonymous donors.

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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 home, performance spaces, a nature preserve and sculpture park. From inspiring exhibitions in the IMA Galleries, to concerts in The Toby, to a stroll through The Garden with a glass of something cold, 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 ten 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.

Looking for a perfect time to visit Newfields? We've added hours, more light means 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.

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