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Nihontō: The Samurai Sword opens at Newfields May 10
Explore the artistry and power of the Japanese sword

INDIANAPOLIS, April 29, 2019—The Japanese word *Nihontō* means “sword,” but describes much more than a deadly weapon. [*Nihontō: The Samurai Sword*](#) opens in the Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields on May 10 and explores the artistry, design and historical development of this remarkable art form and lethal weapon.

The exhibition brings together at the Indianapolis Museum of Art excellent examples, many of which have never been on public display, of some of the finest *Nihontō* ever made. Many of the blades on display are certified in Japan as “Important” (*jūyō*) or “Especially Important” (*tokubetsu jūyō*), the highest rankings available for cultural treasures. Guests will learn about the art of sword making, one of Japan’s oldest traditional crafts, dating back to the eighth century. The art of the Japanese sword involves more than the finished blade alone, it includes all aspects from forming and decorating the scabbard to fine metal work of the sword’s guard and decorative fittings. The exhibition also features one of only 26 remaining sword guards made by the famous samurai warrior and master swordsman, Miyamoto Musashi (c. 1584-1645).

Nihontō experts, Mike Yamasaki and Darin Furukawa guest-curated the show, with Dr. John Teramoto, Curator of Asian Art, at Newfields.

“These razor sharp blades with their elegant profiles and fascinating surface patterns superbly exemplify the unity of form and function in the creation of works of art,” said Dr. Teramoto. “Furthermore, I believe guests will be amazed at the pristine condition of these blades, some of which are 800 years old and realize the respect and care with which these swords have been treated over many, many generations.”

Nihontō: The Samurai Sword is part of *Seasons of Japan*, a year-long celebration of Japanese art and culture at Newfields. The Indianapolis Museum of Art is known for having one of the finest collections of Japanese paintings outside of Japan and has held exhibitions of ancient, modern and contemporary woodblock prints and ceramics in recent years. This exhibition highlights samurai arms and armor that will give our guests the opportunity to experience Japanese art and culture from an entirely new perspective.

For a special tour of the exhibition, join the Asian Art Society, Mike Yamasaki and Curator of Asian Art at Newfields, Dr. John Teramoto, on Thursday, May 9. The tour will begin at 6 p.m.; tickets are \$25 with limited availability. Continue the celebration with dinner and drinks at the Woodstock Club beginning at 7 p.m.; tickets for this event can be purchased for an additional \$50. RSVP to Nancy Inui at nfsinui@gmail.com. Please reserve your tickets by May 4.

Nihontō: The Samurai Sword will be on display from May 10 through November 3, 2019 in the Krannert Galleries and was organized by Jidai Arts.

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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.

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Media Contacts:

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

Emily Sogard
Communications Coordinator
317-923-1331 ext. 111
esogard@discovernewfields.org