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*Images available upon request.*

## ***47 Rōnin: A Tale of Honor and Loyalty* opens at Newfields July 19**

**INDIANAPOLIS**, June 17, 2019—The exhibition [\*47 Rōnin: A Tale of Honor and Loyalty\*](#) examines one of the most popular tales of vengeance and loyalty in Japan. The exhibition uses woodblock prints from the Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfield's permanent collection to explore the ancient story of a group of 47 leaderless samurai, *rōnin*, who killed a government official that they blamed for the death of their lord. When they surrendered, they were ordered to commit *seppuku*, a form of Japanese ritual suicide.

The prints illustrate main and side stories exploring why this tale of murder and vengeance remains so popular. Utagawa Kunikiyo II (act. L. 19c) illustrates 12 of the most popular acts from the dramatic version of the story titled, *Chūshingura*. His prints are augmented with versions by other artists to express the many iterations the story has taken throughout history. Imaginary portraits of the participants by Tsukioka Yoshitoshi (1839–1892), a great depicter of action figures, are also included in the exhibition.

Dr. John Teramoto, Curator of Asian Art at the Indianapolis Museum of Art explains, "A good story profits from an evil villain. In this story, the dramatic narrative has far overshadowed the actual historical incident." He hopes that by sharing side stories that feature wives and mothers, fathers and sons of the men who tragically sacrificed themselves, guests will connect to the humanized story and find that it proves more attractive than just the facts.

*47 Rōnin: A Tale of Honor and Loyalty* is part of *Seasons of Japan*, a year-long celebration of Japanese art and culture at Newfields. Guests are encouraged to supplement their visit to *47 Rōnin* by visiting [\*Nihontō: The Samurai Sword\*](#) which explores the beautiful and practical Japanese weapon referenced throughout *47 Rōnin*. [\*Fashion Redefined: Miyake, Kawakubo, Yamamoto\*](#) is another can't-miss exhibition that features contemporary garments from legendary Japanese designers. Make sure to stop by [\*Pop Up: Noodle Shop\*](#), a curated culinary experience just steps away from the IMA Galleries.

The exhibition will be on display from July 19 through November 17, 2019.

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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](http://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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