



NEWFIELDS

A PLACE FOR NATURE & THE ARTS

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Images available upon request.

Newfields to acquire contemporary installation *El Tendedero/The Clothesline Indiana*
The installation calls for legislative action protecting women



Installation view of Mónica Mayer (Mexican, b. 1954), *El Tendedero/The Clothesline Indiana* (detail), conceived 1978, activated 2019–2020 in collaboration with Women4Change, mixed media, various dimensions. Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, Gift of the Artist and Women4Change, with the generous support of Ann M. Stack. Photo by Samantha McCain Veach.

INDIANAPOLIS, Nov. 2, 2020—The Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields is acquiring [*El Tendedero/The Clothesline Indiana*](#) by Mónica Mayer (Mexico, b.1954). Mayer's social-practice installation transforms a clothesline—a traditional symbol of feminine roles—into a forum on sexual violence against women by inviting participants to anonymously answer questions like 'Where do you feel safe?' on pink notecards and to pin them to the clothesline.

Led by [Women4Change](#) Indiana with support from the [Indiana Coalition to End Sexual Assault & Human Trafficking](#) (ICESAHT), *El Tendedero* includes notecards from all 92 of Indiana's counties. This statewide exhibition, which began in September 2019 and continued through October 2020, resulted in 150 days of public events in a variety of venues from theaters and museums to sorority meetings and libraries. In all hundreds of women told their stories of sexual violence on over 1,500 notecards as part of the work of art. The goal of *El Tendedero* is to persuade state lawmakers to define consent in the Indiana legislature. On March 5, 2020, *El Tendedero* was installed at the Indiana Statehouse calling for legislative action. The installation resulted in the Indiana Legislative Council assigning an interim study committee to consider a law to define sexual consent. The Interim Study Committee on Corrections and Criminal Code met Oct. 6, 2020, but unfortunately decided not to recommend proposed legislation defining consent in the Indiana statute. Nevertheless, encouraged by the other progress made, Women4Change will continue to advocate for consent legislation during the 2021 legislative session and, if necessary, beyond.

El Tendedero was originally exhibited at the Museo de Arte Moderno in Mexico City in 1978, sparking conversations on sexual assault, a subject that was rarely addressed at the time. Tragically relevant four decades later, the Indiana project was the first of Mayer's social activism installations presented in multiple venues over a year-long period to try and persuade lawmakers to change laws to better protect women.

"The first time I saw *El Tendedero* was at the National Museum of Women in the Arts," reflected Ann M. Stack, Arts Advocate, former member of Newfields Contemporary Art Society and former Newfields Trustee. "Mónica Mayer had created a work which was aesthetically creative and intellectually engaging. In Indiana, *El Tendedero* inspired statewide coalitions and organizations representing the visual, performing, and literary arts, survivors, civics, government, academia, the military and women in prison. The common purpose was to end sexual violence against women. As a young woman I found the art of my time challenging, disturbing, beautiful, powerful and exciting. I still do."

Join us for two days of virtual discussions with the artist Mónica Mayer on November 11 and 12:

[The Clothesline / El Tendedero Indianapolis: Artist Conversation with Mónica Mayer and Karen Cordero Reiman](#)

Wednesday, November 11 / Noon

Artist Mónica Mayer and art historian Karen Cordero Reiman will host a conversation about the history of *El Tendedero*, social practice art and their impact. Moderated by Bryn Jackson, assistant curator of audience engagement at Newfields with a special introduction from Women4Change.

RSVP [here](#). A Zoom link will be provided closer to the date.

[The Intersection of Art and Activism: Addressing Sexual Violence and Gender-Based Oppression](#)

Thursday, November 12 / Noon

The panel discussion will feature the artist Mónica Mayer and Women4Change, moderated by Shannon Linker (Vice President of the Arts Council of Indianapolis and Director of Gallery 924).

RSVP [here](#). A Zoom link will be provided closer to the date.

El Tendedero/The Clothesline Indiana is made possible by a generous gift from Ann M. Stack.

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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, 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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