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*Images available upon request*

***Daughter/Mother/Ancestor: Threads of Connection* opens at Newfields 11/10**

*Textile exhibition explores connections of women artists through generations*



**INDIANAPOLIS**, November 8, 2023—The Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields announces the opening of a new exhibition, [\*Daughter/Mother/Ancestor: Threads of Connection\*](#), on view from November 10, 2023, through June 30, 2024, in the June M. McCormack Forefront Galleries on Floor 2 of the IMA Galleries. Featuring historic and contemporary works from around the globe, this new exhibition highlights the ways women preserve intergenerational skill-sharing in the fiber arts and employ the rich symbolism textiles carry to honor their female ancestors and the noble role of motherhood.

*Daughter/Mother/Ancestor* showcases exciting new acquisitions from global contemporary artists Ebony G. Patterson, Mary Sibande and Gio Swaby, along with a newly commissioned sculpture by Marie Watt. Watt's *Skywalker/Skyscraper (Matriarch)* was constructed from blankets donated by patrons of the Indianapolis community and beyond. Each donated blanket includes an attached tag bearing the donor-submitted stories behind each blanket, which explore reminders of female relatives, symbolize familial care and carry expansive definitions of motherhood. The sculpture will be formally acquired into the IMA's permanent collection later this month.

"Traditionally—across time and place—women have learned textile-making skills from the women in their families, and it's a practice that continues to this day. I, too, was taught how to sew by my mother," said Shelley Selim, Curator of Design and Contemporary Art. "In most cultures, textile craft was an everyday necessity. It was also closely tied with important rituals, and

often the only mode of creative expression women were allowed to pursue. Because of this, textiles can carry incredible symbolic and sentimental power, especially for women, and that is the central idea we're exploring with this show."

In addition to the contemporary artworks, several monumental historic pieces will be on display, some for the very first time. Comprised entirely of textiles from the IMA's collection, the exhibition will feature some of the world's most exceptional examples of embroidery, weaving and appliqué from Africa, Central America and Central and Southeast Asia. These works—all made by women using techniques passed down through generations—are both functional and symbolic; familiar and strikingly original. They commemorate coming of age and marriage, preserve ancestral belief systems, and reveal how textiles are woven into our complex relationships with gender roles, motherhood and our ancestors.

Celebrate the opening of *Daughter/Mother/Ancestor: Threads of Connection* at the [Opening Reception](#) on Friday, November 10, 2023, at Newfields from 6–8 PM. Hear from Dr. Colette Pierce Burnette, Newfields President & CEO, and exhibition curator Shelley Selim, Newfields Curator of Design and Contemporary Art. Guests can enjoy entertainment from DJ Lady Locs. Light refreshments and a cash bar will be available.

*Daughter/Mother/Ancestor: Threads of Connection* is curated by Shelley Selim, Curator of Design and Contemporary Art, and is on view in the June M. McCormack Forefront Galleries on Floor 2 of the IMA.

**Image credit:**

Marie Watt (American, Seneca, Turtle Clan, b. 1967), *Skywalker/Skyscraper (Matriarch)*, 2023, steel, cotton, 96 × 24 × 24 in. Commissioned by the Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, General Endowed Discretionary Art Fund, Museum Accession by Exchange. © Marie Watt. Photo by Kevin McConnell.

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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](https://www.discovernewfields.org).

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