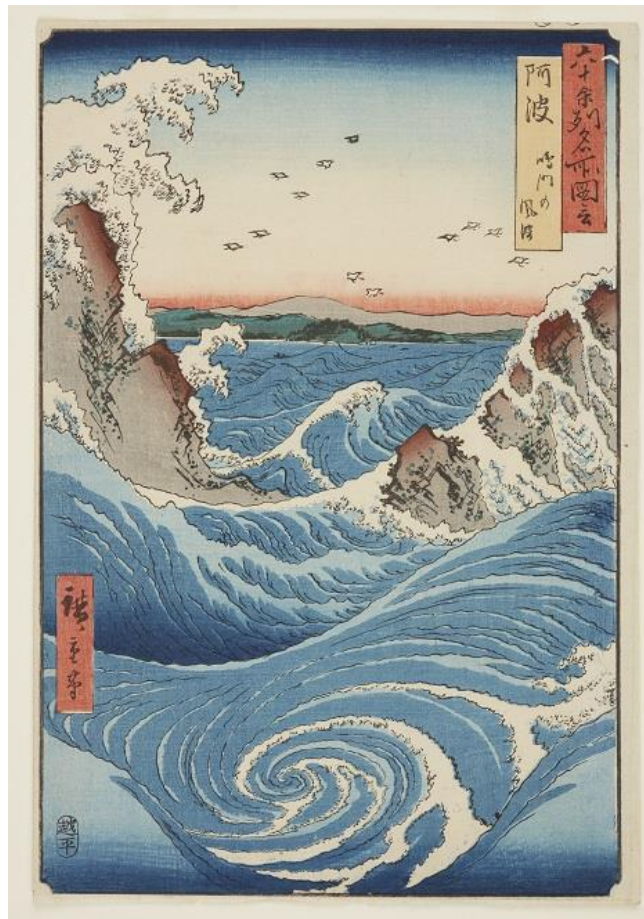




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Images available upon request.

Community-voted *People's Choice* exhibition opens at Newfields 2/23
Nearly 1,000 individuals cast their votes to create a compelling display of works on paper



INDIANAPOLIS, February 14, 2024—Newfields is opening its newest exhibition, the first of its kind in the Indianapolis Museum of Art: [*People's Choice: Favorites from the Works on Paper Collection*](#) The selection of artworks on view was voted on by community members and finalized by students from Indianapolis Public Schools Butler Lab School 55 and Herron School of Art and Design at Indiana University alongside Newfields experts.

Over summer 2023, nearly 1,000 community members voted on their favorite pieces online and at the Indiana State Fair. From the top 30 results, IPS and Herron students voted in person on a final selection of 22 artworks in addition to informing specific pairings of works. Each student's unique perspective brought new aesthetic relationships to life.

The project was designed to engage the public around the IMA's stellar collection by offering the community the opportunity to select and share their favorite works of art. To further extend its educational mission, the IMA invited local students to build meaning and context to the public's favorites. The final display presents fresh insights, sparks new conversations and reminds us of the importance of art in our everyday lives. The community and student participants reflect a diverse subset of our region, demonstrating that there is art at Newfields for everyone.

"The voting process was full of surprises, from unexpected favorites in the online vote to some brilliant visual pairings by Herron students," noted Anna Stein, Associate Curator of Works on Paper. "Comments by students in both classes were impressive and made me look again at the art, which is exactly why we wanted to do this."

"I really enjoyed the process of freely associating unlikely artworks to make meaning. I'm particularly curious how a variety of individuals respond to and project their own interpretations onto a work of art, and how this collective interaction shapes the overall exhibition." said Herron student Lisa Cooreman.

The exhibition features fine prints, drawings and photographs ranging chronologically from the early 1500s to 2010 and geographically from Indiana to Japan. By co-creating with the community, Newfields provides new connections for visitors to uncover through art and inspires more audience members to participate in unique museum experiences.

Artworks for *People's Choice* were selected by the general public and students from Indianapolis Public Schools and the Herron School of Art and Design, with the support of staff partner Anna Stein, Associate Curator of Works on Paper at Newfields. The exhibition will be on view in the Susan and Charles Golden Gallery on Floor 2 of the IMA.

Image Credit: Utagawa Hiroshige (Japanese, 1797–1858), *Awa: Naruto Whirlpool's Rough Seas*, from the series *Famous Places in the Sixty-odd Provinces*, 1855, colored ink on paper, woodblock print, 13-3/4 × 9-1/2 in. (sheet). Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, John Herron Fund, 10.226.

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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 Tobias Theater, 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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