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*Image available upon request.*

**Applications Now Open for Ian Fraser Student Guides at Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields**

*Endowment to empower the next generation of art enthusiasts*



**INDIANAPOLIS**, April 8, 2025 — A new endowment in arts education cements the legacy of former Indianapolis Museum of Art (IMA) curator Alastair Ian Fraser and creates four new part-time Ian Fraser Student Guide positions, beginning this summer. The beloved curator, who many at Newfields simply knew as Ian, passed away on December 13, 2022.

Ian Fraser Student Guides are made possible by the generosity of The Clowes Fund and Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation. Fraser was the inaugural Clowes Collection Curator at the Indianapolis Museum of Art, holding the position until 1998. Born in Achimota, Ghana in 1929, Fraser moved to Indianapolis in 1957, received his MFA from Indiana University in 1970 and began his decades-long tenure at the IMA in the 1970s. A passionate teacher, Fraser was known for his lively tours and authored several books, including *100 Masterpieces of Painting: Indianapolis Museum of Art*.

With this new objects-based research opportunity, college students will immerse themselves in the extensive IMA art collection. [Applications are open now](#) for four positions that will run from May through July. Student Guides will learn the important dynamics of tour development and how to engage the public in the arts by collaborating with museum curators, educators and docents. Each intern will be tasked with developing their own innovative IMA tour.

The aim of these tours is to engage with any visitor, particularly young adults, highlighting the exceptional aspects of the permanent collection. This would also include beloved works from the Clowes Collection, which was assembled by Dr.

George Henry Alexander Clowes (1877–1958) and his wife, Edith Whitehill Clowes (1885–1967). The collection is of critical significance to the Museum's history, forming the nucleus of its European, pre-1800 collection. Building upon Fraser's dedication to teaching and learning, this summer experience will be facilitated by Sadie Arft, Curatorial Assistant for European Art at Newfields. Oversight will be provided by Katy Denny, Interim Director of Education.

Students will learn about the IMA's collection, gain valuable museum experience and learn how to craft visitor-centered experiences. We are excited to continue to work on engaging college students for years to come.

"The Indianapolis Museum of Art has long played a pivotal role in shaping the careers of emerging arts professionals. We are honored to celebrate the life and work of an extraordinary educator by sharing his legacy and passion for the arts with the next generation of cultural leaders. This unique internship program will provide college students with a rare opportunity to explore the inner workings of the museum, its collections, and its professional team, empowering them to develop their own voices and approaches to community engagement through the arts," said Belinda Tate, The Melvin and Bren Simon Director of the Indianapolis Museum of Art. "This experience will not only foster personal growth but will also have a lasting impact on the many communities that we serve in Indianapolis and beyond. Honoring Fraser's legacy as curator, professor and friend, we hope interns will both learn and discover ways to make art history come to life."

Applications are now open and interested students may apply through our website, [DiscoverNewfields.org](https://discovernewfields.org). For more information, reach out to Katy Denny, Interim Director of Education, at [KDenny@discovernewfields.org](mailto:KDenny@discovernewfields.org).

**Image credit:**

Richard A. Davis (American, 1923–2006), *Ian Fraser*, 1997, woodblock print with à la poupée coloring, 13 × 9-1/4 in. Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, Gift of Richard A. Davis, 1999.72. © Richard A. Davis.

**About The Clowes Fund:**

The Clowes Fund is a family foundation established in 1952, in Indianapolis, Indiana, that makes grants in Indianapolis, Massachusetts and northern New England to support human services, education and the arts.

**About Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation:**

Incorporated in 1990, The Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation is the major continuing philanthropic legacy of Mr. Clowes and embodies his love for arts, humanities, and the city of Indianapolis.

**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://discovernewfields.org).

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