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Images available upon request.

**Newly expanded Design Gallery opens in IMA Galleries at
Newfields 7/27**

Discover more than 150 new objects, 3-D printing, virtual reality and more

INDIANAPOLIS, July 11, 2018 — Starting July 27, explore the renovated [Design Gallery](#) inside the Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields and discover never-before-seen highlights of the collection.

The Design Gallery in the IMA Galleries is the largest permanent collection gallery devoted to modern and contemporary design of any art museum in the country. Over several months it has undergone a complete thematic update, including a refreshed layout and design, a rotation of more than 150 new objects and new interactive features. It has also been expanded to include an 800-square-foot interactive Design Lab.

In 2014, the IMA received a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, which provided financial support to create more interpretive and interactive elements and convert a former storage area into a hands-on learning space. After a lengthy innovation process, that storage area has been transformed into a new Design Lab.

The hands-on activity space is the largest addition to the Design Gallery. Inside, visitors can build their own prototypes and design a chair, a lamp or a teapot on a Newfields Lab modeling app. They can try out and evaluate chairs by leading designers like Alessandro Mendini and Philippe Starck. Guests can also sign up for design workshops and classes to produce their own prototypes on 3-D printers right in the Lab.

This installation will feature Newfields' first use of virtual reality (VR) with an immersive, interactive tour inside the famed Miller House and Garden in Columbus, Ind. The home was designed between 1953 and 1957 by architect Eero Saarinen, with interiors by Alexander Girard and landscape design by Dan Kiley. The VR tour will transport guests inside the home, where they can explore Girard's brilliant use of color in the interior of this midcentury masterpiece. The Miller House and Garden is owned and operated by Newfields, and public and private tours can be booked year-round. More information on tours and booking can be found at the DiscoverNewfields.org/MillerHouse.

More than 150 new objects will be on view in the renovated gallery, many of which have never been on display before. The space will now be grouped thematically, divided into sections relating to the design process, such as inspiration, production, technique, materials, form, and function. Guests might also notice the inclusion of familiar objects from other parts of the IMA's collections. Paintings from our European and contemporary art departments, as well as Native American, African and Japanese pottery and basketry are interspersed with the design collection to complicate and amplify the gallery's themes.

"Whenever I'm working on an exhibition, I try to curate with empathy," said Shelley Selim, associate curator of design and decorative arts. "I like to put myself in the visitor's shoes, and think about not only what information is important for her to learn, but how she might best receive that message. From my years as a student, a teacher and a voracious museum visitor, I've noticed that an excellent strategy is to let design tell a story—about the time it was made, who designed it, and especially that object's journey from idea to final product. Guests understand that works in a museum must be important, but they are

sometimes left wondering *why* they are important. For design—a field that shapes and influences our everyday lives, and is tied closely to technological advancement and material experimentation—so much of this question is intertwined with the designer’s creative process.”

One of the gallery’s themes is materials, and how designers use them in new and innovative ways. Dutch designer Wieki Somers’ *High Tea Pot with cover* (2003) is one of the many objects on display in this section.

“This is one of my favorite works in our collection,” said Selim. “While its form may seem grotesque—it was modeled from the skull of a wild boar—the materials used to create it add another layer of intrigue. Somers chose to make the teapot from bone china—a type of porcelain containing bone ash that was used in 18th-century fine dining—to call out its historic ties to opulence and make a wry reference to the teapot’s skeletal form. The accompanying cosy appears to be made of mink fur, another material associated with luxury and expense, but is actually created from the pelt of a muskrat, an animal considered an invasive pest in Somers’s native Netherlands.”

The materials theme also features a large touch wall, where guests can touch some of the materials represented in the gallery. This and many other new interactives in the renovated gallery encourage guests to engage with the artworks in new and unexpected ways.

Newfields members can see the new Design Gallery first at the [Members-Only Preview](#) on July 26. To kick-off this preview, Newfields Members are also invited to join the Design Arts Society for a [presentation](#) from Shelley Selim, Associate Curator of Design and Decorative Arts, in DeBoest Lecture Hall on July 26 from 6 to 7 p.m. To learn more about the gallery highlights and the curatorial vision behind the reinstallation, join Shelley Selim on August 5 at 2 p.m. for a [Members-Only Talk](#).

This project was made possible in part by The Institute of Museum and Library Services MA-10-15-0031-15. The Design Gallery’s Founding Donors are Otto N. Frenzel III, Steve and Livia Russell, June M. McCormack, Kay F. Koch, James E. and Patricia J. LaCrosse, Penny and Russell Fortune, Tom and Nora Hiatt, Ann M. and Chris Stack, Jane Fortune and Robert Hesse, and William L. Fortune Jr. and Joseph D. Blakley. The Design Gallery was previously supported by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts in 2012.

Support for the Design Gallery virtual reality experience is provided by Monna Quinn and David Spoelstra.

About Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s approximately 120,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. Our mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Our grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. To learn more, visit www.imls.gov and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

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 www.discovernewfields.org.

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