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Images available upon request.

New gifts of art showcased in exhibition at Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields

Director's Choice opens Sept. 29

INDIANAPOLIS, Sept. 21, 2017 – This fall, the Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields will celebrate recent gifts to the collection in the new annual exhibition, *Director's Choice: Gifts of Art 2017*. The exhibition, opening Sept. 29, will be curated by Newfields' Melvin & Bren Simon Director and CEO, Dr. Charles L. Venable.

Director's Choice will feature works of art in a variety of mediums and styles including fashion art, Neo-Impressionism, contemporary art and design objects. The exhibition also highlights works by a diverse array of artists, including Hoosier, Hungarian and Dutch artists, among others. While these works of art will eventually be exhibited in different galleries, this exhibition unites these works so guests can experience the breadth of new acquisitions to the Museum's collection in one place.

Typically once acquired, new works of art are sent to conservation, storage or placed in the galleries, making it difficult for guests to know what is new to the collection. That guesswork is gone with *Director's Choice*, as the new works of art are shown front and center inside the Pulliam Family Great Hall.

The vast majority of this exhibition—and most of the Museum's collection in general—includes works donated to the IMA from private collectors and generous members to ensure Museum guests have access to these works for generations to come.

"We are very excited to have this format to showcase a selection of the wonderful gifts we have received and acquired over the past year," Venable said. "We view this exhibition as our gift to the community, in a season of celebration and gift giving."

Highlights of the exhibition include:

- *Le Raccard (The Grain Holder)* (1895) was purchased with the Maisie Eden Power Endowment Fund and accepted into the collection in honor of Ellen W. Lee, curator emerita of European art. The Neo-Impressionist work by Johannes Josephus Aarts is an ideal choice to honor Lee, who built the IMA's Neo-Impressionism collection into the finest in North America. *The Grain Holder* is one of just six Neo-Impressionist works by Aarts known to exist. With this acquisition, the IMA now houses paintings from all four of the major Neo-Impressionist painters who worked in the Netherlands: Aarts, Jan Toorop, Hendricus Bremmer and Jan Vijlbrief.
- A green *evening dress* (1973) by Halston brings the fashion arts to *Director's Choice*. This shimmering dress, purchased through funds raised by the Fashion Arts Society, is made of ombre dyed silk chiffon, which fades from pale yellow-green to blue-violet fish scale printed silk, and is entirely covered with iridescent sequins.

- *Cross and Circle* (1922) by László Moholy-Nagy is a gift from Steve Conant. Moholy-Nagy's work was strongly influenced by Russian Constructivism, which can be seen in the geometric forms of this linocut.
- For thousands of years, Chinese scholars have collected and revered scholar's rocks, which are naturally forming, untouched rocks with qualities such as thinness, openness, perforations and wrinkling. The newly acquired *Scholar's Rock* (date unknown) exemplifies the abstract beauty of these natural works and was a gift from Dr. Alan Helms in memory of Lillian and Bud Helms.
- *View of the Chateau of Versailles from the side of Le Notre's Parterre d'Eau* (about 1680) is the work of Israel Silvestre, who was the appointed draughtsman to King Louis XIV. Silvestre spent his life capturing the immense Chateau of Versailles for the French king, including its massive gardens and many buildings. This watercolor drawing is a gift of the Cain Foundation.

The exhibition will be on view until June 24, 2018 before it is refreshed for the next holiday season. Learn more at www.imamuseum.org.

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.imamuseum.org.

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