

**100 Acres: The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park
at the Indianapolis Museum of Art**

***Park of the Laments, Alfredo Jaar*
Fact Sheet**

Artist: Alfredo Jaar

Installation Description: Known for his thought-provoking series of Public Interventions that he has staged across the world, Alfredo Jaar created a poetic new project, *Park of the Laments*, located in the woodland area southeast of the lake in 100 Acres: The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park. The form of Jaar's park is a square within a square, one rigid and made of limestone-filled gabion baskets, the other soft and organic, made of indigenous trees. Visitors arrive outside of Jaar's park and descend underground into a long, dark tunnel. Moving toward the light at the end, the visitor finds stairs that lead them above ground, into the center of Jaar's park. Natural, minimalist wooden benches are placed around the amphitheater of foliage, allowing visitors to sit quietly and meditate within the park, walled off by the natural fence of greenery, limestone and the sky. Jaar describes the park as a refuge, a place where visitors can lament and purge the global atrocities of the 20th and 21st centuries.

Park of the Laments is Jaar's largest permanent Public Intervention in the U.S.

Installation Location: Woodland area southeast of the lake.

Size: 150' W x 150' D

Materials: Limestone, concrete, plants, poplar benches

Process: Wheeler-Kearns Architects (Chicago, IL) and Rockey Structures produced construction drawings, hard construction was performed by Hagerman Construction Corporation (Fishers, Indiana). Landscaping was designed by Chad Franer, the IMA's Manager of Horticulture and installed by IMA horticulture staff in spring 2010.

Artist Biography: Born in Chile in 1956, Alfredo Jaar is internationally recognized for his provocative installations and public projects investigating contemporary socioeconomic issues, which he refers to as Public Interventions. Trained as an architect and filmmaker, he incorporates photography, film, text and sculpture into works that look to the relationship between ethics and aesthetics. Jaar's public artworks include a 1987 Public Art Fund commission *A Logo for America*, which appeared on the Spectacolor Lightboard in New York's Times Square. Since then, Jaar has made works drawn from firsthand witness and research of such issues as toxic waste in Africa and the genocide in Rwanda. Recent exhibitions include solo presentations at Museo d'Arte Contemporaneo in Rome, Fundación Telefónica in Santiago, Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts in Lausanne and Hangar Bicocca and Spazio Oberdan in Milan.

100 Acres: The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park: Located on 100 acres of land that includes untamed woodlands, wetlands, a lake and meadows adjacent to the Museum, 100 Acres will be one of the largest museum art parks in the country and the only one to feature the ongoing commission of temporary, site-responsive artworks. The Park will open with eight newly commissioned inaugural works by international artists, a LEED-certified visitors pavilion and numerous walking trails that highlight the indigenous landscape. As with the IMA galleries, admission to 100 Acres will be free.

Opening Date: June 20, 2010

Fundraising: To date, the IMA has raised \$23.6 million toward the Park's campaign goal of \$25 million.

Inaugural Commissions: In 2008, the IMA announced the eight inaugural commissions for the Park. **Atelier Van Lieshout, Kendall Buster, Alfredo Jaar, Jeppe Hein, Los Carpinteros, Tea Mäkipää, Type A** and **Andrea Zittel** have spent several years working closely with the IMA to develop projects that explore and respond to the varied environments of 100 Acres. The IMA's goal is to present contemporary art projects and exhibitions that provoke a reexamination of humanity's multifaceted relationship with the environment. The inaugural artists were selected by Lisa Freiman, Chair of the IMA's Department of Contemporary Art and Director of 100 Acres: The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park, and Sarah Green, Associate Curator of Contemporary Art.

For more information about 100 Acres: The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park at the IMA, visit imamuseum.org or artbabble.org.

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