

## First Major Solo Exhibition of Brian McCutcheon's Work to Open at the Indianapolis Museum of Art

*Indianapolis-based conceptual artist explores outer space through  
new works commissioned by the IMA*

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN**, June 21, 2011— The Indianapolis Museum of Art will present the first major solo museum exhibition of the work of Brian McCutcheon. Comprised entirely of new works commissioned by the IMA, *Brian McCutcheon: Out of this World* will be on display in the McCormack Forefront Galleries from September 9, 2011, to March 11, 2012.

An Indianapolis-based conceptual artist, McCutcheon uses video, photography, and sculpture to explore the relationships between play and masculinity. After realizing that his son is currently the same age that he was during the 1969 Apollo 11 moon landing, McCutcheon chose to investigate the duality of father and son relationships through imagery and footage related to space exploration.

"I'm pleased to provide our community the opportunity to view the work of accomplished Indianapolis artist Brian McCutcheon. The Contemporary Art department at the IMA is dedicated to presenting the most compelling artwork being created today locally, nationally, and internationally." said Senior Curator and Chair of the Department of Contemporary Art Lisa Freiman. "McCutcheon's work is a window into our cultural associations with historical space travel, particularly apt due to the recent shift in space exploration from the public to commercial realm."

*Brian McCutcheon: Out of this World* crafts a story that unfolds throughout the entire exhibition. Created to mimic a children's book narrative, the exhibition explores the Mercury and Apollo space programs in relation to contemporary culture. Visitors will encounter the first work of the exhibition upon entering the IMA's Pulliam Great Hall, where the base of a currently untitled "flight path" sculpture will be sited. Consisting of a curvilinear metal track, the sculpture traces the imagined trajectory of a toy rocket. With the "launch pad" on the IMA's second floor, the sculpture will extend three stories before "landing" in the McCormack Forefront Galleries. Within the galleries, *Out of this World* will continue to evolve as an imaginative narrative, including the launch, space travel, and lunar landing, before arriving at the theme of the splash down—the return to reality at the conclusion of the exhibition.

For McCutcheon, historical space exploration continues to represent an extreme form of human imagination and will—and an extraordinary leap of risk and faith. McCutcheon's whimsical commissions for this exhibition reflect on how the objects that we associate with these events are peculiarly modern yet nostalgic, highly technological yet fantastical.

"My work in *Out of This World* considers a time when rivalry, determination and optimism pushed our culture to achieve goals that were almost unimaginable. As President Kennedy said of the Apollo Program, 'We choose to go to the moon, not because it is easy, but because it is hard,'" states McCutcheon of his forthcoming exhibition. "The IMA is currently garnering international respect as a premier risk-taking institution. It is an honor and pleasure to have the opportunity to present my work at the IMA as they optimistically engage challenging ideas about the role of art in culture."

McCutcheon's past work has focused on the intersection of masculinity, consumerism and suburban iconography. For example, McCutcheon's *Stud* (2001) and *Trailer Queen II* (2003) are

sculptural objects that fuse the customized paint jobs typically adapted for muscle cars and applies them to common objects like Weber grills, creating familiar, but unexpected works that bring together the culture of hot rodding and suburban barbeques.

McCutcheon will discuss his past work as well as the exhibition during an artist talk, which will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, September 8, in The Toby.

#### **About Brian McCutcheon**

Brian McCutcheon (b. 1965, Traverse City, Michigan) has been the recipient of a number of artist grants, awards, and residencies, most recently a 2010–11 Pollock-Krasner Foundation grant and a summer 2009 residency at Sculpture Space in Utica, NY. McCutcheon taught at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and currently teaches at the Herron School of Art and Design (Indianapolis). Over the past decade, his work has been featured in a wide range of exhibitions on a national and international scale. McCutcheon is a co-founder and partner of Indianapolis Fabrications (iFab), a custom fabrication studio. He received an MFA from the Cranbrook Academy of Art after earning a BFA from Colorado State University.

#### **About the Indianapolis Museum of Art**

Encompassing 152 acres of gardens and grounds, the Indianapolis Museum of Art is among the 10 largest and 10 oldest encyclopedic art museums in the United States, and features significant collections of African, American, Asian, European and contemporary art, as well as a newly established collection of design arts. The IMA offers visitors an expansive view of arts and culture through its collection of more than 54,000 works of art that span 5,000 years of history from across the world's continents. The collections include paintings, sculpture, furniture and design objects, prints, drawings and photographs, as well as textiles and costumes.

Additionally, art, design, and nature are featured at 100 Acres: The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park and Oldfields–Lilly House & Gardens, an historic Country Place Era estate on the IMA grounds. Beyond the Indianapolis campus, in May 2011 the IMA opened to the public the recently acquired landmark Miller House and Garden in Columbus, Indiana. One of the country's most highly regarded examples of mid-century Modernist residences, Miller House was designed by Eero Saarinen, with interiors by Alexander Girard, and landscape design by Dan Kiley.

Recognizing the IMA's positive impact on its community, the Museum was named a recipient of the 2009 National Medal for Museum and Library Services – the nation's highest honor for museums and libraries. The IMA's commitment to free general admission, programming for schools and teachers, environmental leadership and online initiatives were among cited community contributions in the Museum's selection for the award.

Located at 4000 Michigan Road, the IMA and Lilly House are open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The IMA is closed Mondays and Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's days. For more information, call 317-923-1331 or visit [www.imamuseum.org](http://www.imamuseum.org).

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