

INDIANAPOLIS MUSEUM OF ART ANNOUNCES MAJOR DESIGN INITIATIVES INCLUDING THE ACQUISITION OF 37 NEW WORKS FOR DESIGN COLLECTION

IMA Will Open Design Center Featuring Sustainable Design Products in Fall 2008 Groundbreaking Exhibition on European Design Will Premiere at IMA in 2009

Indianapolis, IN, March 12, 2008—The Indianapolis Museum of Art today announced several major design initiatives, including:

- The acquisition of 37 new works, 19 of which come from the Liliane and David M. Stewart Collection in Montreal. Liliane Stewart, with her late husband David, amassed one of the most important international twentieth and twenty-first-century design collections in North America.
- The creation of the IMA Design Center, a retail space opening in November 2008 which will offer contemporary, sustainable design products for sale.
- The organization of the exhibition *European Design Since 1985: Shaping the New Century*, which will debut at the Museum on March 8, 2009. The exhibition will be the first comprehensive survey of contemporary Western European Design from 1985-2005.

In October 2007, R. Craig Miller joined the IMA as Curator of Design Arts and Director of Design Initiatives, following 17 years as Curator of the Department of Architecture, Design & Graphics at the Denver Art Museum. Miller's appointment and the creation of the Design Arts Department were part of a renewed focus on design at the IMA. Since he arrived, Miller has actively pursued acquisitions for the IMA's design collection.

"In a few short months, we have acquired a number of spectacular works, thanks to the generosity of Mrs. Stewart and her foundation," said Maxwell L. Anderson, the Melvin & Bren Simon Director and CEO of the Indianapolis Museum of Art. "Under Craig's leadership, we are building a compelling and fully-rounded department of twentieth and twenty-first-century design and implementing a number of initiatives, including the Design Center, to bring intelligent and sustainable design to our audiences."

New Acquisitions

The IMA recently received a gift of 19 objects from the collection of Liliane Stewart, who, with her late husband David, founded the Museum of Decorative Arts in Montreal. Mrs. Stewart and her husband amassed one of the most important international twentieth and twenty-first-century design collections in North America. She has long been a benefactor of museums in the United States and Canada. Acquisition highlights include:

- Clifford B. Stevens & Edward P. Schreyer, *Iron Petit Point* Traveling Iron (1941). Manufactured by Waverly Tool Co., Sandusky, Ohio;
- Ettore Sottsass, *Teadora* Armchair (1986-87). Manufactured by Vitra, Basel, Switzerland;
- Alessandro Mendini, *Alchemilla* Vase (1993). Manufactured by Design Gallery Milan, Italy;
- Philippe Starck, *Ara* Lamps (1988). Manufactured by Flos, Brescia, Italy.

The works from Mrs. Stewart will be among the first objects to enter the Museum's collection since the Design Arts Department was created in October 2007. In addition to these gifts,

the IMA recently purchased a number of objects to further enhance the Museum's design holdings, including:

- Eliel Saarinen, Sideboard (1929). The sideboard was first exhibited in a dining room designed by Saarinen for a major exhibition, *The Architect and the Industrial Arts*, at The Metropolitan Museum of Art;
- Frank Gehry, *Bubbles Chaise Longue* (1986) from the Experimental Edges Series. Manufactured by New City Editions, Venice, California;
- Maarten van Severen, *CK94 Copyright* Bookcase (1994). Manufactured by Maarten van Severen Meubelen, Ghent, Belgium;
- Shiro Kuramata, *Three-legged* Side Chair (1983). Manufactured by Ishimaru Co., Ltd, Japan;
- Alessandro Mendini and Alessandro Guerriero, Side Chair (1988) from the *Olio* Collection. Manufactured by Consorzio Esposizione Mobili for Studio Alchymia, Milan, Italy.

The Museum will debut many of its new design acquisitions in late fall 2008. The objects will be on view in the Lori Efroymson Aguilera & Sergio Aguilera Gallery on the Museum's third gallery level, which is principally devoted to showing art from the post-World War II era.

IMA Design Center

In addition to building a design collection, the Museum will open the IMA Design Center in November 2008, which will provide sustainable and intelligent design solutions for everyday life. The Center will complement IMA exhibitions and offer contemporary design products that otherwise are not widely available in Indiana or the United States. Though it will feature mid-century classic pieces by Charles and Ray Eames, Isamu Noguchi and others, the Design Center also will highlight more recent pieces by designers working today including Ron Arad, Jurgen Bey, Hella Jongerius, Jasper Morrison, and Philippe Starck, as well as a younger generation including Maarten Baas, Tord Boontje, Erwan and Ronan Bouroullec, and Konstantin Grcic. In addition, the Design Center will feature products from major manufacturers such as Alessi, Cappellini, Droog, Kartell, Magis, Moooi and others.

The Design Center will serve as a retail space where customers will be able to purchase items such as textiles, furniture, tableware and toys, as well as place orders for custom merchandise. For architects and designers, the Design Center will be a resource for the selection of fabrics, finishes and other special orders. In addition to the Design Center, the IMA's other retail initiatives include the IMA Store, which carries books, jewelry, art supplies, educational products, and other merchandise, and the Madeline F. Elder Greenhouse which offers plants and garden supplies.

European Design Since 1985: Shaping the New Century

Premiering at the IMA from March 8 to May 31, 2009, the *European Design* exhibition and catalogue will be the first critical examination of the dramatic developments in Western European design from 1985 to 2005. The exhibition is organized by the IMA and the Denver Art Museum, in conjunction with Kingston University, London, and is curated by R. Craig Miller.

European Design Since 1985: Shaping the New Century will feature 250 works by 118 designers from fourteen Western European countries. The groundbreaking exhibition will identify the most influential figures and define the two major movements that shaped European design during this period: *Modernism* (industrial design) and *Postmodernism* (decorative design). The exhibition will encompass a wide range of media, including furniture, glass, ceramics, metalwork and product design and will provide context for the

complex forces that shaped design, from the European Union, globalization, politics, fashion to film.

Modernism represents a multifaceted “resurgence” that arose in the mid-1980s in reaction to the Postmodernist movements of the late 1970s and early 1980s. There were three themes of Modernism that swept across Western Europe: *Geometric Minimal* design, *Biomorphic* design, and a *Neo-Pop* mode. In these movements, designers such as Ron Arad, Erwan and Ronan Bouroullec, Jasper Morrison, Marc Newson, and Jerszy Seymour were concerned with producing functional objects that could be mass-produced. Exhibition highlights include:

- Ron Arad, British, born Israel (b. 1951), *Tinker Chair*, 1988. Manufactured by One Off Ltd.;
- Marc Newson, Australian (b.1963), resides United Kingdom and France, *Orgone (POD Edition) Chair*, 1993. Manufactured by Bodylines;
- Jerszy Seymour, German (b.1968), *Pipe Dreams* Watering Can, 2000. Manufactured by Magis S.p.A.

Although *Postmodernism* was widely believed to have gone out of style by the late 1980s, it had continued through two movements—*Decorative* and *Expressive* design. In the early 1990s, three other similar design approaches emerged that were antithetical to Modernism: *Conceptual*, *Neo-Dada/Surreal*, and *Neo-Decorative* design. Many designers who contributed to these trends, such as Jurgen Bey, Tord Boontje, Zaha Hadid, Hella Jongerius, Philippe Starck, and Marcel Wanders, were primarily concerned with producing objects that were more “metaphors” than functional objects. These designs were most often made in limited or studio production. As a result, a number of these Postmodernist designers have helped to define in Europe a new concept of craft in relation to art, decorative design, and industrial design. The exhibition will include:

- Philippe Starck, French (b.1949), *J. Serie Lang* Armchair, 1987. Manufactured by Driade S.p.A.;
- Tord Boontje, Dutch (b.1968), resides France, *Princess Chair*, 2004. Manufactured by Moroso S.p.A.;
- Zaha Hadid, British, born Iraq (b.1950), *Zaha Hadid* Tea and Coffee Service, 1995-96, Manufactured by Sawaya & Moroni

IMA Information

Encompassing 152 acres of gardens and grounds, the IMA connects visitors to its unique and expansive view of art with the Indianapolis Museum of Art, the future Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park, and Oldfields, the Lilly House & Gardens. The Indianapolis Museum of Art is the fifth largest encyclopedic art museum in the United States and features significant collections of African, American, Asian, European, contemporary and decorative art, including paintings, sculpture, prints, drawings and photographs, textiles and costumes.

The IMA completed a \$74 million expansion project in May 2005 that featured three new wings that provided 50 percent more gallery space, expanded educational spaces, two new restaurants by Wolfgang Puck Catering, and an enhanced museum store. The construction added 164,000 square feet to the Museum and included the renovation of 90,000 square feet of existing space. In order to present major exhibitions of its own and to accommodate major traveling exhibitions, the expanded Museum built a new 10,000-plus square foot Clowes Special Exhibition Gallery on the Museum’s first level.

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.

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