

For immediate release: June 29, 2011

Indianapolis Museum of Art Announces Public Art Installation by Artist Mary Miss to Premiere September 2011

*Site-specific work, FLOW: Can You See the River?, will be installed along the White River
and throughout the IMA grounds;*

*first commission for 100 Acres: The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park
following the June 2010 opening*

Additional components to include a festival, interactive website and an educational mobile application

INDIANAPOLIS, IN, June 29, 2011 – The Indianapolis Museum of Art announced today details of the opening of *FLOW: Can You See the River?*—a visionary art project conceived by visual artist Mary Miss, commissioned by the Indianapolis Museum of Art, with concurrent activities facilitated by EcoArts Connections and more than 20 leading arts, science, environment, and municipal organizations and agencies. The project will premiere September 22 and is the first new work commissioned for 100 Acres: The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park since the Park's opening in June 2010.

The intention of *FLOW* is to reveal important and unique elements of the White River water system—its history, ecology, origins, and potential. Using mirrors and markers and a series of activities and technology, Mary Miss's project finds innovative ways to integrate visitors with the surrounding landscape, inspiring them to experience how water affects their everyday lives. *FLOW* includes a series of art installations located along the river; a mobile application called Raindrop; the *FLOW* website (www.flowcanyouseetheriver.org); and the *FLOW: White River Festival*, which will take place September 22 – October 1. Activities and installations will happen along, over, in, and through the White River, offering ways for people of all ages to celebrate and rediscover the River and embrace its future. Visitors will also be encouraged to explore further information on the IMA's *FLOW* project website, which will feature an interactive map, event schedule and links to additional content on project collaborator websites.

"Mary Miss's project will create an important and dynamic link between *100 Acres*, the city of Indianapolis, and the natural features that impact and determine our experience of both," said Lisa Freiman, Senior Curator and Chair of the IMA's Department of Contemporary Art. "*FLOW: Can You See the River?* will engage Miss's acute sculptural and architectural expertise to encourage the visualization of processes and phenomena that are largely invisible and often overlooked."

According to Mary Miss: "With this project, Indianapolis is setting a precedent for how city government, cultural institutions, scientists, artists and the community can work together to make issues like climate change and sustainability more tangible to its residents. The city is decoded at riverside sites through accessible information where the processes happen, instead of only being available through scientific websites and books."

Using carefully placed mirror markers and oversized map pins to create a series of reflections, the installations engage the viewers and portray them as an integral part of the watershed. These features will be located along a six-mile stretch of the river and canal and will point out and interpret key aspects of the system such as wetlands, floodplains, combined sewer outfalls and pollution. At each of the installation sites along the river, visitors will be able to use their personal cell phones to access site-specific commentary – such as the best place to watch river turtles or current storm water levels.

The Indianapolis Museum of Art also will feature stopping points to highlight many uses of water in its building and on its grounds, tracing how water supports the functions of the built environment. The installation will draw attention to the varied ecological features found at 100 Acres.

Visitors entering the Museum will be able to visualize the full installation through a walkable floor map that will be part of the Efroymsen Family Entrance Pavilion series in the IMA's main entrance. The map will feature all of the installation locations along the river and canal. It will enable visitors to better understand the personal relationship between where they live, study, work, or play and the river, as well as aid in planning visits to the installation locations. This installation will be on view in the Efroymsen Pavilion September 23, 2011, to February 26, 2012.

The Raindrop mobile application will allow visitors to track the path of a raindrop falling at their location or at any other site in Marion County to the White River, allowing them to appreciate Dr. Travis Ryan's concept that "All property is riverfront property. The river starts at your front door." Raindrop, also available online, will display additional information about pollutants that threaten streams in the area and provide tips on how to help improve the quality of the water system. Raindrop is being created by a collaborative team, led by Tim Carter, Director of the Butler University Center for Urban Ecology. Additional team members are the IMA, Williams Creek Consulting, Mary Miss Studio and EcoArts Connections.

FLOW is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts Mayors' Institute on City Design 25th Anniversary Initiative and is one of only 21 awarded to projects that contribute to the livability of cities. Support for the Raindrop application was also provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA).

FLOW is a precedent project of The City as a Living Laboratory: Sustainability Made Tangible through the Arts (CaLL), a framework developed by Mary Miss and Marda Kirn, Executive Director of EcoArts Connections. CaLL brings together the arts with other fields to make sustainability visible, tangible, visceral, and actionable. CaLL offers a vision for linking the arts with science, urban planning, education, etc. to help us imagine and create cities that redefine how we live our lives, use our resources, communicate, educate, and work. The second CaLL precedent project will take place along Broadway in New York City.

In addition to the IMA, the content and Festival for FLOW is being created in collaboration with EcoArts Connections and more than 20 Indianapolis arts, science, environmental, municipal and other organizations. Collaborating organizations are: Butler University Center for Urban Ecology, Central Indiana Land Trust, City of Indianapolis Office of Sustainability, Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, Friends of the White River, Hoosier Environmental Council, IDNR – Indiana Project WET, IDNR – Project Wild, IUPUI Center for Earth and Environmental Science, IUPUI Regatta, Indiana State Museum, Indianapolis Art Center, Indianapolis Department of Public Works, Indianapolis Zoo, Indy Parks, KI EcoCenter, Marian University, The Nature Conservancy, NOAA, Riverside Civic League, USGS Indiana Water Science Center, Upper White River Watershed Alliance (UWRWA), White River State Park, and Williams Creek Consulting.

FLOW: White River Festival

The FLOW: White River Festival will take place September 22-October 1. Activities include performances, exhibits, talks, tours, treasure hunts, urban safaris, Native American storytelling, regattas, raft trips and more. An artist talk in celebration of the opening of FLOW will begin the festival Thursday, September 22, at 7 p.m. in The Toby. Full event schedule will be available online at www.flowcanyouseetheriver.org.

About Mary Miss

Known for her environmentally based artwork, Mary Miss lives and works in New York City. She has reshaped the boundaries between sculpture, architecture, landscape design and installation art by articulating a vision of the public sphere where it is possible for an artist to address the issues of our time.

Social, cultural and environmental sustainability are the focus of installations that allow the visitor to become aware of local history, ecology or other aspects of the site that have gone unnoticed. Miss has collaborated closely with architects, planners, engineers, ecologists and public administrators on projects as diverse as a proposal to create a temporary memorial around the perimeter of Ground Zero; marking the predicted flood level in Boulder, Colorado; revealing the history of the Union Square Subway station in New York City; or turning a sewage treatment plant into a public space. A recipient of multiple awards, Miss has participated in exhibitions at the Harvard University Art Museum, Brown University Gallery, The Institute of Contemporary Art in London, the Architectural Association in London, Harvard University's Graduate School of Design and the Des Moines Art Center.

About EcoArts Connections

EcoArts Connections brings together science, arts, and other organizations to deepen understanding of climate change and speed the shift to sustainability. Activities include performances, exhibits, talks, tours, commissions, consulting, convenings, and other activities and events. Based in Boulder, Colo., by the end of 2011 EAC activities will have been held in Colorado; Seattle; Indianapolis; New York; and Washington, D.C.

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.

In June 2010 the IMA opened 100 Acres: The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park, one of the largest contemporary art parks in the United States. Adjacent to the Museum and located on 100 acres that include woodlands, wetlands, meadows and a 35-acre lake, 100 Acres is one of the largest museum art parks in the country, and features the ongoing commission of site-responsive artworks that focus on the unique relationships between contemporary art and the natural world. Additionally, art, design, and nature are featured at 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, the 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 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.

###

Media Contacts:

Katie Zarich / Candace Gwaltney
IMA
317-920-2650/317-923-1331 x 239
kzarich / cgwaltney@imamuseum.org

Ilana B. Simon / Molly Kurzius
Resnicow Schroeder Associates
720-746-9552 / 212-671-5163
isimon / mkurzius@resnicowschroeder.com