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Indianapolis Museum of Art to Reconfigure Third Floor Galleries

New galleries will enable more efficient display of Asian, African, design arts, and textiles and fashion arts collections

INDIANAPOLIS, IN, January 28, 2011— The Indianapolis Museum of Art announced it is remodeling its third floor galleries consisting of the Asian, African, design arts, and textiles and fashion arts collections throughout the next two years. The new configuration will allow for more efficient use of space and improved display of objects, while providing room for the IMA's growing design arts collection. Temporary gallery closures will begin February 1 as the Museum prepares for new exhibitions.

"As an encyclopedic Museum, it is important that we continue to show all areas of our permanent collection in fresh and innovative ways," said Maxwell L. Anderson, The Melvin & Bren Simon Director and CEO of the IMA. "The African galleries were last renovated prior to the Museum's expansion, so I am thrilled they will have a fresh look, a more central location, and new interest. The changes on the third floor will engage audiences in our ever-evolving permanent collection – an ongoing goal we are setting in the Museum's strategic planning process."

Renovations have begun, and the project is expected to be complete by fall 2012. The updated space will include energy-efficient lighting systems that will better illuminate the Museum's collection.

Beginning February 1, a portion of the third floor will be closed in preparation for upcoming exhibitions. *Material World* will open April 22 in the Paul Textile and Fashion Arts Suite. *Dynasty and Divinity: Ife Art in Ancient Nigeria* opens July 8 in the third floor space that will later hold the IMA's permanent African collection.

The third floor changes will include:

- **Asian Galleries** will be concentrated to one side of the third floor with improved layout and lighting. The new space will retain the same amount of square footage as the previous Asian Galleries. The Frances Parker Appel Gallery will continue to host rotating Japanese print exhibitions. Portions of the collection will be on view through August 2012, while the entire suite will open fall 2012.
- The Paul Textile and Fashion Arts Suite will continue to display **textile and fashion exhibitions**, and the Dorothy and Lee Alig Textile Learning Center will remain an education resource.
- A portion of the Asian galleries will close and then house *Dynasty and Divinity* July 8 to January 15, 2012. The **Eiteljorg Gallery of African Art** will close January 2012 and move into the renovated space that held *Dynasty and Divinity*. The African collection will reopen spring 2012 with many familiar objects, as well as a newly interpreted collection.
- The IMA's **design arts collection** will open on the third floor in fall 2012, in the former African galleries. The gallery will offer more space to display the IMA's rapidly expanding contemporary design collection.

The third floor changes will be made possible through capital funds and financial support from donors.

About the Indianapolis Museum of Art

Encompassing 152 acres of gardens and grounds, the Indianapolis Museum of Art is among the 10 largest 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 2011 the IMA will open 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 Daniel Urban 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.

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