

**Indianapolis Museum of Art to Present the Work of Allora & Calzadilla  
for 54th International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia in 2011**

***Six new commissions will premiere at the U.S. Pavilion  
with integrated digital and public programs***

***For the first time, the U.S. Pavilion will feature an artist collaborative  
that lives and works in Puerto Rico***

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN**, September 7, 2010— The Indianapolis Museum of Art has been selected to present the work of Puerto Rico-based artist collaborative Jennifer Allora and Guillermo Calzadilla at the U.S. Pavilion at La Biennale di Venezia, the 54th International Art Exhibition which will be on view from June 4 through November 27, 2011. Six new works by Allora & Calzadilla will premiere at the 2011 Biennale, transforming the interior and exterior of the U.S. Pavilion into a dynamic and interactive space.

The new commissions by Allora & Calzadilla will employ a variety of artistic practices to pose important questions about the relationships among art, politics, and international identity. These multimedia works will utilize performance, sculpture, video and sound elements to highlight the role of art in framing and exploring complex social issues such as national identity, democracy, militarism, and freedom. Comprised of works developed specifically in response to the U.S. Pavilion site, the exhibition will analyze contemporary geopolitics through the lens of spectacular nationalistic and competitive enterprises such as the Olympic Games, international commerce, war, the military-industrial complex and even the Biennale itself.

“The choice of Allora & Calzadilla to represent the United States is a confirmation of the role of new voices in shaping our cultural landscape,” said Maxwell L. Anderson, The Melvin & Bren Simon Director and CEO of the IMA. “It is an honor for the IMA to present the collaborative work of Allora & Calzadilla at the Venice Biennale and I’d like to thank the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State for their support in making this possible.”

“Allora & Calzadilla represent the diversity and vitality of contemporary American art and their selection is a critical historic moment for the United States,” said Lisa Freiman, Chair of the IMA’s Department of Contemporary Art and Commissioner of the U.S. Pavilion at the 2011 Venice Biennale. “Not only is this the first time an artist collaborative has been chosen to represent the United States at the Biennale, but it also acknowledges the significance of performative, interdisciplinary artistic practices, which have been essential to the breadth and variety of American art since the early 1960s.”

“The Department of State has long been supportive of the arts as an integral component of our foreign policy. Without the need for translation, the arts have the unique ability of helping us reach beyond differences to embrace our common humanity,” said Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Ann Stock. “In our continued efforts to reach broader audiences, the outreach programs associated with this unique interdisciplinary work will ensure that a diverse audience can benefit from and experience the creative genius of this remarkable American collaborative.”

The IMA will use its outstanding resources in new media and community outreach to provide an unprecedented variety of educational and public programming to complement Allora & Calzadilla’s exhibition in the U.S. Pavilion. Engaging audiences in Venice, Puerto Rico, Indianapolis, and beyond, programs will include social media integration, video documentation,

public talks and related publications. Additionally, the IMA will organize a Teen Forum on Art and Global Dialogue, which will provide educational and visual literacy programming for a small group of underserved teens from Indianapolis, Ponce, Puerto Rico, and Venice who will engage in social networking and new media initiatives to encourage audiences to connect more deeply with the installations and foster greater public debate.

The U.S. Pavilion is organized by the Indianapolis Museum of Art and is presented by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State, which supports and manages the official United States participation at selected international exhibitions.

### **About Allora & Calzadilla**

Working together since 1995, Jennifer Allora (b. 1974, Philadelphia, Penn.) and Guillermo Calzadilla (b. 1971, Havana, Cuba) are a Spanish-speaking collaborative that lives and works in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Allora & Calzadilla create works that blend sculpture, photography, performance, sound, and video. Their work has been featured in solo exhibitions internationally, including Haus der Kunst in München, Germany (2008), Serpentine Gallery and Whitechapel Art Gallery in London (2007), Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam (2008), Kunsthalle Zürich in Zürich, Switzerland (2007), National Museum of Art in Oslo, Norway (2009), and the Renaissance Society in Chicago (2007).

The collaborative pair has also been included in group exhibitions such as the Whitney Biennial (2006); Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art in Oslo, Norway (2009); the Musée d'Art Moderne de La Ville de Paris/Arc (2004) and the Centre Pompidou in Paris; The New Museum in New York (2008); and Barbican (2008) and Tate Modern Galleries (2003) in London among others.

Allora received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Richmond in Virginia (1996) and a Master of Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2003) and was a fellow at the Whitney Museum of American Art Independent Study Program. Calzadilla received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Escuela de Artes Plásticas, San Juan, Puerto Rico (1996) and a Master of Fine Arts from Bard College (2003).

### **About La Biennale di Venezia**

La Biennale di Venezia has for over a century been one of the most prestigious cultural institutions in the world. Since its founding in 1895, it has promoted contemporary culture, new ideas, and artistic trends through major international exhibitions. The 54th International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale will take place June 4 – November 27, 2011, and is directed by the art historian and critic Bice Curiger. *To obtain media credentials for the June 1, 2, 3 vernissage and for other information about La Biennale, please visit [www.labiennale.org](http://www.labiennale.org)*

### **About the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs**

The [Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs](#) (ECA) promotes international mutual understanding through a wide range of [academic](#), [cultural](#), professional, and [sports](#) exchange programs. ECA exchanges engage youth, students, educators, artists, athletes, and emerging leaders in many fields in the United States and in more than 160 countries. [Alumni of ECA exchanges](#) comprise over one million people around the world, including more than 40 Nobel Laureates and more than 300 current or former heads of state and government. For more information, visit [www.exchanges.state.gov](http://www.exchanges.state.gov).

### **About Contemporary Art at the IMA**

The IMA's robust contemporary art program is evolving as a model for encyclopedic museums as they engage the art of our time. With a renewed focus on its contemporary collection, programs, and publications, the IMA has been actively seeking out the works of emerging and mid-career international artists through both gift and acquisition, and organizing major traveling exhibitions and newly commissioned projects. In recent years, the IMA has worked with artists including Ingrid Calame, Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons, Amy Cutler, Tara Donovan, Orly Genger, Jeppe Hein, Robert Irwin, Tony Feher, Josephine Meckseper, Joshua Mosley, Type A, and Ernesto Neto, among others.

In June 2010, the IMA launched its new 100 Acres: The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park to wide critical acclaim and it has been hailed across the United States as a new model for site-responsive sculpture parks in the 21st century. Among the backdrop of woodlands, wetlands and a 35-acre lake, the Park currently includes eight commissioned art installations by artists from throughout the world as well as the Ruth Lilly Visitor Pavilion designed by architect Marlon Blackwell. 100 Acres is one of only a few sculpture parks in the United States dedicated to the ongoing commission of site-responsive art work.

#### **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 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.

###

#### **Media Contacts:**

Katie Zarich / Candace Gwaltney  
Indianapolis Museum of Art  
317-920-2650/317-923-1331 x 239  
[kzarich/ cgwaltney@imamuseum.org](mailto:kzarich/cgwaltney@imamuseum.org)

Ilana B. Simon / Abby Margulies  
Resnicow Schroeder Associates  
720-746-9552 / 212-671-5170  
[isimon / amargulies@resnicowschroeder.com](mailto:isimon/amargulies@resnicowschroeder.com)