

For immediate release: January 19, 2010

## **Exhibition of interactive site-specific work by artist Jeppe Hein to premiere at the Indianapolis Museum of Art in spring 2010**

*Hein's first major solo exhibition in the United States will feature a site-specific installation in IMA's McCormack Forefront Galleries and an experiential artwork in 100 Acres: The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park*

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN**, January 19, 2010—The Indianapolis Museum of Art announced today that a multi-part exhibition of Copenhagen- and Berlin-based artist Jeppe Hein will premiere at the Museum in May 2010. Hein's site-specific installation *Distance* will occupy all 4,000 square feet of the IMA's McCormack Forefront Galleries. Hein is also creating an outdoor experiential artwork titled *Bench Around the Lake* on the Museum grounds for the inaugural installations in 100 Acres: The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park, which opens June 20, 2010.

"Hein's engaging, playful works will take IMA visitors on peculiar and surprising routes through both the museum and the park. Like no other artist working today, Hein is able to create moments of incredulity, absurdity and joy," said Sarah Green, associate curator of contemporary art at the IMA. "This two-part exhibition will highlight Hein's ongoing investigations of interior and exterior space."

Engaging with the architecture of the McCormack Forefront Galleries, *Distance*, on view from May 7 to September 5, 2010, will consist of a dynamic indoor rollercoaster track for a series of white plastic balls. When a visitor enters the gallery space, a sensor will react by setting in motion a ball that runs the length of a more-than-1,000-foot track. The track will pass between walls and navigate through loops, sharp curves and spirals within the circuit. A lone visitor may initially follow the ball triggered by his or her own entry quite easily, but as multiple visitors enter, a new ball will be set in motion every 15 seconds, causing visitors to lose track and experience the installation as an all-encompassing, interactive sculpture. *Distance* features a modular design of steel tracks, which have been configured in previous site-specific installations at venues like the ARoS Kunstmuseum, Denmark, and Barbican Art Centre, London. Suggesting unconventional paths through the museum space, *Distance* at the IMA will begin on the bridge outside the Forefront Galleries and take a detour into the adjacent permanent collection display.

Opening on June 20, 2010, Hein's outdoor experiential artwork commissioned for 100 Acres, *Bench Around the Lake*, imagines a playful and serpentine bench that emerges from the ground, twists, turns and submerges again in several locations around the park's 35-acre lake. The benches will be made of powder-coated galvanized steel, and the form is an improvisation on the design of a basic park bench. Hein worked with IMA horticulturists and Indianapolis-based landscape architect Eric Fulford to select locations for the installation that will form a circuit around the lake, interacting with specific sites and natural phenomena within the park and along the bordering bank of the White River. A new application and interpretation of his acclaimed *Modified Social Benches*, Hein's atypical designs for *Bench Around the Lake* similarly challenge the assumption that a bench is made for passive sitting. Encouraging the exploration of less-frequented areas of 100 Acres, *Bench Around the Lake* will provide visitors with opportunities to sit, look, listen, interact and play.

Jeppe Hein is widely known for his production of experiential, architectural and interactive artworks that are often activated by the audience. Unique in their formal simplicity and notable for their frequent use of humor, his works engage in a lively dialogue with the traditions of Minimalist sculpture and Conceptual art of the 1970s. Hein has created a series of cubes that refuse to sit still (*Shaking Cube*, 2004, and *Burning Cube*, 2005), and gallery benches that emit smoke (*Smoking Bench*, 2003) or are programmed to move when sat upon (*Moving Benches 1 and 2*,

2000). For the 2003 Venice Biennale, he exhibited visitor-activated walls of water (*Space in Action / Action in Space*, 2002).

### **About Jeppe Hein**

Jeppe Hein was born in 1974 in Copenhagen, Denmark. He studied at the Royal Academy of Arts of Copenhagen and at the Hochschule für Bildende Künste, in Frankfurt, Germany. Hein's work has been presented in recent solo exhibitions at ARoS: Aarhus Kunstmuseum, Denmark; Sculpture Centre, New York; Musée d'Art contemporain de Nîmes, France; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; and P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, New York; among many others. For the conclusion of his 2009 residency at Atelier Calder in Saché, France, Hein organized a project titled *Circus Hein* that brought together numerous artists, performers and designers in Saché and at the Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain du Centre in Orléans, France. He is currently working on a major commission to be presented at the Danish pavilion at EXPO2010 in Shanghai.

### **About 100 Acres: The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park**

Located on 100 acres of untamed woodlands, wetlands, a lake and meadows adjacent to the Museum, 100 Acres will be one of the largest museum art parks in the country and the only one to feature the ongoing commission of temporary, site-responsive artworks when it opens on June 20, 2010. The park will open with eight newly commissioned inaugural works by international artists, including Atelier Van Lieshout, Kendall Buster, Alfredo Jaar, Jeppe Hein, Los Carpinteros, Tea Mäkipää, Type A and Andrea Zittel; a LEED-certified visitors pavilion; and numerous walking trails that highlight the indigenous landscape. The IMA's goal is to present contemporary art projects and exhibitions that provoke a reexamination of humanity's multifaceted relationship with the environment. For a full press release about 100 Acres, visit [www.imamuseum.org/sites/default/files/100AcresOpening\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.imamuseum.org/sites/default/files/100AcresOpening_FINAL.pdf).

### **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, the IMA has been actively seeking out the works of new and emerging artists through both gift and acquisition, and in addition organizing major traveling exhibitions and commissioning site-specific installations.

*Jeppe Hein* will be one of several contemporary art exhibitions and installations premiering at the IMA in spring 2010, culminating in the grand opening of 100 Acres: The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park on June 20, 2010. Other exhibitions of contemporary art at the IMA this spring will include:

- *Heather Rowe: Tenuous Arrangements* (February 19–August 1, 2010). New York-based artist Heather Rowe will create a site-specific installation in the Efrogmson Family Entrance, which will employ fragments of architectural materials to create a self-supporting structure that appears as a succession of cascading frames.
- *Joshua Mosley: American International* (March 12–August 29, 2010) will bring together two video and sculpture installations by Philadelphia-based artist Joshua Mosley, including the premiere of his first work since *dread* (2007), which was presented at the 2007 Venice Biennale.
- *Tara Donovan: Untitled* (April 4–August 1, 2010), which will be the first major museum exhibition to present together sculptures and drawings by contemporary American artist Tara Donovan. Donovan dramatically transforms everyday materials—such as pencils, Elmer's glue and electrical cable—into sublime abstract environments.
- *Body Unbound: Contemporary Couture from the IMA's Collection* (April 17, 2010–January 30, 2011) will examine the many ways designers have manipulated, transformed and liberated the female form since 1960. The exhibition will feature iconic pieces of contemporary fashion, many recently added to the IMA's growing collection of Fashion & Textile Arts.

### **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.

Recognizing the inherent connections between art, design and nature, the IMA offers visitors experiences at the Museum, in 100 Acres: The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park, which will be one of the largest contemporary art parks in the United States when it opens in June 2010, and at Oldfields–Lilly House & Gardens, an historic Country Place Era estate on the IMA's grounds.

The IMA completed a \$74 million expansion project in May 2005. The construction added 164,000 square feet to the Museum and includes 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 was outfitted with new 10,000-plus-square-foot Clowes Special Exhibition Gallery on the Museum's first level. In November 2008, the IMA opened the renovated 600-seat Tobias Theater. Nicknamed, "The Toby," the theater is a venue for talks, performances and films.

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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#### **Media Contacts:**

Katie Zarich / Laura Pinegar  
IMA  
317-920-2650/317-923-1331 x 239  
[kzarich](mailto:kzarich)/ [lpinegar@imamuseum.org](mailto:lpinegar@imamuseum.org)

Ilana B. Simon / Molly Kurzius  
Resnicow Schroeder Associates  
720-746-9552 / 212-671-5163  
[isimon](mailto:isimon) / [mkurzius@resnicowschroeder.com](mailto:mkurzius@resnicowschroeder.com)