

IMA TO PREMIERE NEW MAYA LIN SCULPTURE IN OCTOBER 2007

Site Specific Work Based on Indiana's Underground Rivers Will Form Visual Gateway to Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park

Indianapolis – (August 1, 2007) – The Indianapolis Museum of Art announced today that *Above and Below*, a new site-specific sculpture by artist Maya Lin, will be installed at the Museum this Fall. The piece, which was commissioned in conjunction with the reopening of the IMA's Asian Galleries, will premiere in October 2007. When completed, Lin's sculpture will serve as a gateway work between the main museum building and the new Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park, scheduled to open in 2009.

Using aluminum tubing and working from images created by photography and sonar readings, Lin will create a sculptural "sketch" of a portion of the vast underground river system which flows through Indiana. The sculpture, which will be sited on the Fortune Balcony of the main museum building, will be visible from inside the museum's galleries as well as from the walkway bridge designed by Mary Miss that will lead to the Art & Nature Park. The installation was funded through a gift from William L. and Jane H. Fortune.

"Maya Lin's exceptional work invites viewers to reconsider the world around them, and this sculpture will respond from every angle to its surrounding environment," said Maxwell L. Anderson, the Melvin & Bren Simon Director and CEO of the IMA. "Positioned to be seen from both within and outside the Museum, *Above and Below* will visually guide visitors from the IMA's galleries to the Art & Nature Park, creating a continuous, engaging experience of art."

Above and Below will continue an ongoing conceptual theme in Lin's work, using technology to probe and interpret the form and function of the natural world. Using aerial, satellite, and sonar views of the varied landscapes that make up the earth's surface, the artist creates works that reinvent those landscapes as sculptural forms. The design for *Above and Below* was developed by Lin through a series of visits to the underground White River, located in the Bluespring Caverns in Bedford, Indiana, as well as collaboration with scientists at Bluespring Caverns State Park and USGS Indiana Water Science Center. Working with the scientists, Lin used ultrasound technology to map the complex structure of tributaries and caves that run beneath the state. Photographic and bathymetric surveys of the region were used to capture images of both above-ground and underwater terrain in the caverns. The 2,000 square-foot project will be completed this summer at the Walla Walla Foundry, Wash., before its installation at the IMA.

Lin's sculpture is part of the Museum's growing contemporary program, which most recently announced an ongoing installation series in the IMA's principal entry pavilion. Site-specific works in the series will include sculpture installations in mixed media, as each different artist responds to the pavilion space. In addition, the IMA has developed a robust exhibition schedule, featuring the work of some of the country's most influential contemporary artists. Upcoming IMA-organized exhibitions include Ingrid Calame's *Traces of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway*, with works derived from tracings of the marked surface of Indianapolis' famous racetrack; and *Off the Wall: Adrian Schiess*, a new installation of works which create distinct and responsive environments throughout the Museum's buildings and grounds. In the past five years alone, IMA has received more than \$17 million in endowment funds supporting its contemporary programming, an amount which is unparalleled for an encyclopedic museum in the United States.

About Maya Lin

Maya Lin emerged as an internationally renowned artist in 1982, when she designed the critically-acclaimed Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. Lin's work, which straddles the line between art and architecture, reflects her strong interest in the environment and our interactions with it, most recently through large-scale environmental works which explore how we experience and relate to the landscape that surrounds us.

Lin's recent work includes *Eleven Minute Line* (2004), an earthen line traversing a meadow in Sweden; and *Flutter* (2005) a 20,000 square foot sculpted earthwork commissioned for a federal courthouse in Miami, FL. Her current projects include the design for the Museum of Chinese in America's new space in lower Manhattan, large-scale art installations for Storm King Art Center in N.Y. and for the California Academy of Sciences, and a multi-sited installation that spans the Columbia river system in the Pacific Northwest. Lin is also focusing on what will be her last memorial entitled, "Missing," at the California Academy of Sciences. A committed environmentalist, Lin, in both her art and architectural works, has focused on the environment and on sustainable design solutions. She is a board member of the National Resource Defense Council and formerly sat on the Energy Foundation's board.

About the IMA

Encompassing 152 acres of gardens and grounds, the IMA connects visitors to its unique and expansive view of art with its Indianapolis Museum of Art, the future Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park and Oldfields—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 has recently completed a \$74 million expansion project that features three new wings, 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 a renovation of 90,000 square feet of existing space.

For more information, call 317.923.1331 or visit www.imamuseum.org.

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