

MEDIA ADVISORY

Indianapolis Museum of Art to Celebrate Super Bowl XLVI With Special Robert Indiana Installation

*Newly-restored sculpture Numbers will be placed in IMA Welcome Center
to honor Super Bowl 46 in Indianapolis*

INDIANAPOLIS, IN, January 25, 2012— The Indianapolis Museum of Art announced today that it will place Robert Indiana's sculptures *Numbers (four)* and *Numbers (six)* in the IMA Welcome Center to celebrate Super Bowl XLVI in Indianapolis. The sculptures will be on view from January 27 to February 9, 2012.

Following this special installation, *Numbers (four)* and *Numbers (six)* will rejoin the complete *Numbers* series on the IMA's Alliance Sculpture Court, where the series was recently installed after undergoing restoration for the first time since the series was completed in 1983.

Numbers consists of 10 colorful two-tone sculptures that each stand 8 feet tall, 8 feet wide and 4 feet deep. Created by Robert Indiana from 1980–1983, the series was commissioned by Melvin Simon and Associates (now Simon Property Group) to commemorate the Indianapolis-based real estate investment company's 20th anniversary. The 10 sculptures first were shown individually and in groups on Simon properties throughout the country. When creating *Numbers*, Indiana instructed that the complete series eventually be given to the Indianapolis Museum of Art. Simon gifted *Numbers* to the Museum in 1988.

The Simon commission provided the opportunity for Indiana to create his first sculptures of the colorful hard-edge numbers that he had begun painting in the 1950s. Indiana told *The Indianapolis Star* in 1981 that the commission was the "largest and most important in my life." Since the original *Numbers*' commission, additional versions have been fabricated and displayed in exhibitions around the world.

Born Robert Clark in New Castle, the artist changed his last name upon moving to New York City in 1954. In addition to *Numbers*, many works by Indiana are part of the IMA's collection, including his well-known *LOVE* sculpture, which remains on view on the IMA grounds. Indiana now lives and works in Maine.

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.

Additionally, art, design, and nature are featured at 100 Acres: The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park and Oldfields—Lilly House & Gardens, a historic Country Place Era estate on the IMA grounds. Beyond the Indianapolis campus, in May 2011 the IMA opened to the public the 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 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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