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Indianapolis Museum of Art to Present a Runway Show Featuring Innovative Designs and Unexpected Materials

Project IMA: Fashion Unbound will take place October 22 in The Toby

INDIANAPOLIS, IN, September 15, 2010— The Indianapolis Museum of Art announced today it will present a runway fashion show featuring uncanny silhouettes and unexpected materials. “Project IMA: Fashion Unbound” will feature works by local and national fashion designers at 7 and 8 p.m. Friday, October 22, in the Tobias Theater.

More than 40 artists and fashion designers chosen from a national pool of submissions will show original works featuring innovative uses of re-purposed and used materials. Joining some of Indianapolis’ top designers will be participants from New York, Chicago and Rhode Island. This is the second runway show organized by the IMA with four returning designers.

The Elizabeth Kraft Meek Fashion Award, a best of show juried prize of \$500, will be presented the night of the event. Evaluation will be based on creative uniqueness and the originality of the work. An Audience Choice award will also be presented based on text message voting.

The IMA Fashion Arts Society (FAS) will sponsor “Behind the Seams,” the official Project IMA after party inviting guests to mingle with designers and models and see the runway pieces up close. Fashion Arts Society, the newest IMA affiliate organization, seeks to promote interest and appreciation of textile and fashion arts through the study of couture and cloth from around the world. A portion of ticket proceeds from “Behind the Seams” will benefit the IMA’s Fashion Arts Acquisition Fund.

“Project IMA: Fashion Unbound” tickets are \$12 for general public, \$7 for IMA members. “Behind the Seams” tickets are \$50 for general public, \$40 for FAS members and include fashion show admission. Purchase tickets for in advance at www.imamuseum.org or call 317-955-2339.

Also on view at the IMA, *Body Unbound: Contemporary Couture from the IMA’s Collection* examines the many ways designers have manipulated, transformed and liberated the female figure. This free exhibition features groundbreaking designs by Rudi Gernreich, Issey Miyake, Junya Watanabe, Thierry Mugler, Jean-Paul Gaultier, Gianni Versace and other avant-garde fashion designers. *Body Unbound* is on view until January 30, 2011, in the Paul Textile and Fashion Arts galleries.

Fashion and Textile Arts at the IMA

The IMA’s collection of textile and fashion arts began with the acquisition of an Irish embroidery in 1888. Today, the collection comprises approximately 7,000 items and represents virtually all of the world’s traditions in fabric.

Among the objects from Asia are textiles and costumes from China, kimonos and Buddhist robes and furnishings from Japan, Kashmir shawls, ceremonial hangings from India and a large group of textiles from Indonesia. West and Central Asian holdings include rugs and kilims from Iran, Ottoman embroideries from Turkey, and costumes and ceremonial textiles from Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. In 1996, the late Colonel Jeff W. Boucher’s collection of 65 Baluchi rugs and weavings was donated to the Museum. Later, this collection was augmented by 11 pieces, making it the largest and most comprehensive in the United States.

The IMA also houses a significant African textile arts collection, with a particular concentration in rugs, costumes and embroideries from Morocco.

European holdings feature silks from the late 16th to 19th centuries, a lace collection spanning 500 years and a large group of 19th-century paisley shawls woven in England. Also represented are European fashions dating from the late 18th to the 20th centuries, as well as couture by prominent designers such as Dior, Balenciaga, Chanel, Gaultier and Versace.

The North American textile collection features noteworthy Indiana quilts and coverlets, as well as fashions by designers Norman Norell, Bill Blass, Halston and Rudi Gernreich. Central American holdings include Guatemalan textiles and a significant collection of about 360 Panamanian Molas.

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, 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.

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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