

For immediate release: August 5, 2010

Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's Pin Collection to be Exhibited at the Indianapolis Museum of Art

IMA will be the only Midwest venue to host this major traveling exhibition, which explores jewelry as a diplomatic, political and social tool

Secretary Albright will appear at the IMA for a public talk and book signing on November 11, 2010

INDIANAPOLIS, IN, August 5, 2010—The Indianapolis Museum of Art announced today that it will present *Read My Pins: The Madeleine Albright Collection*, opening November 7, 2010. Organized by the Museum of Arts and Design in New York, the exhibition features more than 200 pins, many of which Secretary Albright wore to communicate a message during her diplomatic tenure. The exhibition examines the collection for its historic significance as well as the expressive power of jewelry and its ability to communicate through a style and language of its own. *Read My Pins* will be on view in the Patrick O'Reilly & Elizabeth Fortune Gallery and the Ann & David Knall Treasury at the IMA through January 30, 2011.

In 1997, Albright was named the first female Secretary of State and became, at that time, the highest ranking woman in the history of the U.S. government. While serving under President Bill Clinton, first as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, and then as Secretary of State, Albright became known for wearing brooches that purposefully conveyed her views about the situation at hand. "I found that jewelry had become part of my personal diplomatic arsenal," Albright has said. "While President George H.W. Bush had been known for saying 'Read my lips,' I began urging colleagues and reporters to 'Read my pins.'"

The collection that Secretary Albright cultivated is distinctive and democratic—sometimes demure and understated, sometimes outlandish and outspoken—spanning more than a century of jewelry design and including fascinating pieces from across the globe. The works on view are chosen for their symbolic value, and while some are fine antiques, many are costume jewelry. The exhibit explores the stories behind these works and their historical and artistic significance, and is accompanied by a book, *Read My Pins: Stories from a Diplomat's Jewel Box* (2009), published by HarperCollins.

"The Indianapolis Museum of Art is pleased to host this unique exhibition, which offers visitors a glimpse into Albright's tenure as UN Ambassador and as the first woman U.S. Secretary of State through the unlikely medium of jewelry," said Maxwell L. Anderson, The Melvin & Bren Simon Director and CEO of the IMA. "Some pieces are mere dime-store trinkets, others family heirlooms, and still others hand-crafted, but each demonstrates how Albright harnessed the expressive power of jewelry to deliver messages about world affairs in a subtle yet authoritative manner."

Over the years, Albright's pins became a part of her public persona, and they chart the course of an extraordinary journey, carving out a visual path through international and cultural diplomacy. A highlight of the exhibition will be the brooch that initiated her unusual use of pins as a tool in her diplomatic arsenal. After Saddam Hussein's press referred to her as an "unparalleled serpent," Albright wore a golden snake brooch pinned to her suit for her next meeting on Iraq. *Read My Pins* will feature the famous brooch among many other pins with similar stories—some associated with important world events, others gifts from international leaders or close friends.

The exhibition will also showcase a group of Americana pins, which is at the center of the Madeleine Albright collection. One of her most original pieces is a silver brooch that shows the head of Lady Liberty with two watch faces for eyes, one of which is upside down—allowing both her and her visitor to see when it is time for an appointment to end. As demonstrated in this clever work, *Read My Pins* explores Albright's ongoing impact on the field of jewelry design and collecting.

PUBLIC TALK AND BOOK SIGNING

Madeleine Albright will visit the Indianapolis Museum of Art on November 11, 2010, for a public talk and book signing at 6 p.m. in the Tobias Theater. Ticket prices for the public talk are Members \$5 / Public \$10 / Free for Fashion Arts Society members. Purchase tickets in advance online starting Friday, September 10. Talk ticket prices include exhibition admission. General admission for the exhibition is Public \$5 / Free for members.

CATALOGUE

Read My Pins: The Madeleine Albright Collection is accompanied by the New York Times bestseller *Read My Pins: Stories from a Diplomat's Jewel Box* (2009) by HarperCollins Publishers. The publication, authored by Secretary Albright, reveals the full story behind the collection, and illustrates all the pins featured in the exhibit.

EXHIBITION ORGANIZATION AND CREDITS

Generous support for this exhibition was provided by Bren Simon and for the exhibition catalogue by St. John Knits.

EXHIBITION VENUES

At this time, the Indianapolis Museum of Art is the sole Midwestern venue for *Read My Pins*. The exhibition opened at the Museum of Arts and Design in New York City and traveled to the William J. Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, Arkansas, and the Smithsonian Castle in Washington, D.C., prior to opening at the IMA.

ABOUT MADELEINE ALBRIGHT

Madeleine Albright is Chair of Albright Stonebridge Group, a global strategy firm, and Chair of Albright Capital Management LLC, an investment advisory firm focused on emerging markets. Dr. Albright was the 64th Secretary of State of the United States. In 1997, she was named the first female Secretary of State and became, at that time, the highest ranking woman in the history of the U.S. government. From 1993 to 1997, Dr. Albright served as the U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations and as a member of the President's Cabinet.

She is a Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. She chairs both the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, and the Pew Global Attitudes Project and serves as president of the Truman Scholarship Foundation. Dr. Albright serves on the Board of Directors of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Board of Trustees for the Aspen Institute and the Board of Directors of the Center for a New American Security.

Dr. Albright earned a B.A. with Honors from Wellesley College, and Master's and Doctorate degrees from Columbia University's Department of Public Law and Government, as well as a Certificate from its Russian Institute.

Dr. Albright is the author of four New York Times bestsellers: her autobiography, *Madam Secretary: A Memoir*, (2003); *The Mighty and the Almighty: Reflections on America, God, and World Affairs* (2006); *Memo to the President: How We Can Restore America's Reputation and Leadership* (2008); and *Read My Pins: Stories from a Diplomat's Jewel Box* (2009).

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.

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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