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Note: Images available upon request.

INDIANAPOLIS MUSEUM OF ART LAUNCHES *ROMAN ART FROM THE LOUVRE* EXHIBITION WEB SITE

www.theRomansareComing.com uses innovative technology and presents exhibition information, events and IMA-produced videos

INDIANAPOLIS – In preparation for hosting the United States premiere of the *Roman Art from the Louvre* exhibition, the Indianapolis Museum of Art has launched www.theRomansareComing.com, a special web site that features exhibition information, images, a calendar of events and a series of 10 IMA-produced downloadable videos that will bring to life various themes in the exhibition. *Roman Art from the Louvre* is organized by the American Federation of Arts and the Musée du Louvre and will be on view from September 23, 2007 to January 6, 2008.

Earlier this year, a team of five IMA staff members traveled to Rome and Paris to conduct interviews with Louvre representatives and to gather footage of historic monuments, buildings, and examples of Roman and Parisian culture. The IMA team then transformed the HDV footage into engaging, two- to three-minute videos called “webisodes” that will be available on www.theRomansareComing.com. The first video currently is available and more will be posted during the course of the exhibition. Upcoming video topics include the city of Paris, which is home to the Musée du Louvre; conservation techniques for antiquities; the art’s journey from Italy to the Louvre; and an analysis of the Roman influence on architecture throughout Indianapolis. An episode titled “I Love the A.D.s” investigates Roman pop culture and is patterned after the VH1 show “I Love the 80s.”

To further explore Rome and its culture, the web site also will feature lists of books and movies, a glossary of terms used in the exhibition, a calendar that includes upcoming programs and events at the IMA and teacher and school resources. Visitors may purchase advanced tickets to *Roman Art from the Louvre* on the web site as well. Exhibition admission is \$12 for adults (ages 18-64); \$6 for children (ages 7-17) and college students; \$10 for seniors (65+) and groups of 10 or more. The exhibition is free for children six and under and for all school groups booked through the IMA Education Division.

In addition, www.theRomansareComing.com will be enhanced by a tool that uses Google maps technology, where geographic origins will be associated with some of the works of art. Users will be able to select a location from the Roman Empire and view contemporary aerial photography as well as related artifacts. Web users can access this information at home with Google Earth and see even more detailed photos of street level sites as they look today. This application will be available at the museum as well as the web site.

Virtual Rome is another feature that will be available beginning in September both on the web site and at the IMA. Visitors will be able to take a virtual look inside the ancient Roman Forum using a 3-D, animated model. The Virtual Forum will be presented by the IMA with help from

Past Perfect Productions, the owner of the model. Visitors will see ancient buildings as they would have looked when they were built, and they will find out more about objects in the *Roman Art from the Louvre* exhibition by navigating through the space to discover people, places and stories of the empire.

Exhibition Information

Featuring 184 works drawn from the Louvre's unparalleled collection of Roman art, *Roman Art from the Louvre* includes mosaics, frescoes, terracotta statuettes, monumental sculptures, sarcophagi, marble reliefs, glass and metal vessels, and gold jewelry, most of which have never traveled to the United States. Organized thematically, the exhibition examines everyday Roman public and private life through different lenses, including religion, urbanism, war, imperial expansion, funerary practices, intellectual life, and family. *Roman Art from the Louvre* is the largest traveling exhibition of works ever drawn from the Louvre's collections.

The exhibition was organized by the American Federation of Arts and the Musée du Louvre and is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities. It is supported locally by Lilly Endowment Inc. and Chase Bank.

Roman Art from the Louvre will be on view at the IMA from September 23, 2007 to January 6, 2008. The exhibition will travel to the Seattle Art Museum (February 19–May 11, 2008) and the Oklahoma City Museum of Art (June 19–October 12, 2008).

IMA information

Situated on 152 acres of gardens and grounds, 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 IMA is the fifth largest general 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.

Located at 4000 Michigan Road, the IMA is open Tuesday, Wednesday and 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. IMA is closed Mondays and Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's day. Admission to the Indianapolis Museum of Art's permanent collection galleries and Lilly House is free.

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

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