

INDIANAPOLIS MUSEUM OF ART TO PREMIERE NEW SITE-SPECIFIC INSTALLATION BY ADRIAN SCHIESS THIS OCTOBER

Twelve Large-Scale Works Will Create Interactive Environments Sited in Multiple Locations in Museum Building and Grounds

Presentation at IMA Marks Schiess' First Solo U.S. Museum Exhibition

Indianapolis – August 3, 2007 – On October 18, 2007, the Indianapolis Museum of Art will unveil the latest site-specific art installation by Swiss artist Adrian Schiess—the artist's first solo museum exhibition and largest installation in the United States. Sited throughout the IMA's buildings and surrounding campus, the exhibition will feature video projections and ten works of Schiess's signature "flat" paintings, which are large-scale panels made of mixed media. The exhibition will feature some new works that will be shown for the first time at the IMA. *Off the Wall: Adrian Schiess* will be on view at the IMA through April 27, 2008.

The artist Adrian Schiess has been exhibiting his trademark "flat" paintings internationally for more than two decades. The large panels, measuring up to 6.5 feet by 10 feet in size, are rendered in colorful enamel or digital prints covered with glossy lacquer. The paintings are not conventionally hung on the wall. Rather, the artist places the works on the floor or propped upright against a wall. Occupying various sites in the museum galleries and halls, as well as in Lilly House, a historic house museum on IMA's campus, select works will be displayed in relation to windows and building architecture. The arrangement of the works is specifically intended to reflect changes of light, seasonal shifts, and human activities that will occur around them during their six months on display. A video installation by the artist also will be on view.

"*Off the Wall: Adrian Schiess* will create an engaging, responsive environment that explores the interaction of society and setting," said Maxwell L. Anderson, the Melvin & Bren Simon Director and CEO of the Indianapolis Museum of Art. "As we develop a vibrant contemporary art program, we are excited to showcase artists such as Schiess, whose work provides visitors with an experience of art not normally found in an encyclopedic museum."

For Schiess, the act of arranging his works produces an awareness of the environments around them. "For decades, Adrian has considered something that is now prevalent in discussions around art," said Rebecca Uchill, assistant curator of contemporary art at the IMA. "He began early on to produce variable artworks that change with each installation. Viewers will have different personal experiences of the work and of the shifting landscape."

Off the Wall: Adrian Schiess will be on view in the contemporary and European art galleries, museum hallways and Lilly House. The exhibition is the most recent initiative in the Museum's contemporary program, which includes the *Forefront* exhibition series, an endowed installation series in the Museum's principal entry pavilion, and the ongoing development of the Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park.

On October 18 at 7 p.m., Claire Schneider, associate curator of contemporary art at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, will conduct a free public interview with Adrian Schiess to discuss his working process. Schneider co-organized the 2005 exhibition *Extreme Abstraction*, which included the first presentation of work by Adrian Schiess in a United States Museum.

About Adrian Schiess

Adrian Schiess was born in Zurich in 1959, and lives in Mouans-Sartoux in Provence, France. The artist has exhibited his work in numerous solo and group exhibitions internationally, including representing Switzerland at the 1990 Venice Biennale; Documenta IX, Kassel; the Renaissance Society, Chicago; and more recent exhibitions at Neues Museum, Nürnberg; Museu Serralves, Porto; ZKM, Karlsruhe; and participating in *Extreme Abstraction* at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York.

About the IMA Contemporary Program

The IMA's robust contemporary art program is evolving as a model for encyclopedic museums as they engage the art of our time. With a renewed focus on its contemporary collection, the IMA has been actively seeking out the works of new and emerging artists through both gift and acquisition, and in addition to organizing major traveling exhibitions, has established two innovative exhibition series to showcase the work of leading contemporary artists. The Museum has recently announced a groundbreaking installation program in its principal entry pavilion, a rotating series of site-specific artworks which features different artists responding to the same distinctive space, and which will allow visitors to interact with art from the moment they enter the Museum. IMA will also unveil a new site-specific sculpture by Maya Lin in fall 2007.

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 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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Media Contacts:

Jessica Di Santo/Katie Zarich
IMA
317-920-2650/317-923-1331 x 295
jdisanto@imamuseum.org
kzarich@imamuseum.org

Ilana B. Simon
Resnicow Schroeder Associates
212.671.5176
isimon@resnicowschroeder.com