



INDIANAPOLIS MUSEUM OF ART
VIRGINIA B. FAIRBANKS ART & NATURE PARK
OLDFIELDS – LILLY HOUSE & GARDENS

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FIRST CONTEMPORARY ART EXHIBITION EXPLORING PARADES AND STREET PAGEANTRY TO OPEN MAY 2008 AT IMA

On Procession Will Premiere New Works by Allison Smith, Fritz Haeg, Amy O'Neill, and Friends With You

November, 29, 2007 – The first exhibition of contemporary art exploring parades and street pageantry will premiere at the Indianapolis Museum of Art (IMA) in May 2008. *On Procession* will draw upon themes of ritual, propaganda and civic celebration, and survey issues of history, identity, and public visibility. The exhibition will feature videos, sculpture, installations, costumes, banners, and parade artifacts and ephemera by such artists as Francis Alÿs, Jeremy Deller, Fritz Haeg, Paul McCarthy, Amy O'Neill, Allison Smith, and art collective Friends With You. In conjunction with the exhibition, the IMA is organizing a downtown art parade on April 26, 2008, and will debut new works by Smith and Haeg as part of the parade.

“As a major part of our culture, processions, whether they are religious, political, or for pure entertainment, engage the human spirit,” said Maxwell L. Anderson, the Melvin & Bren Simon Director and CEO of the Indianapolis Museum of Art. “We’re excited to be able to take our commitment to contemporary programming a step further by inviting the public to participate in the live parade, by joining us in person or via our web site.”

On Procession will be on view in Indianapolis from May 2 through August 10, 2008 and will feature works including:

- **Francis Alÿs:** *The Modern Procession*, 2002, featured a march from the Museum of Modern Art in Manhattan to Museum of Modern Art in Queens, NY, in which participants carried reproductions of iconic works by artists such as Pablo Picasso and Marcel Duchamp, and carried artist Kiki Smith on a platform. The exhibition will feature video documentation, drawings, and planning documents created around the project.
- **Jeremy Deller:** *A Social Parade*, 2004, was created for the *Manifesta 5* biennial held in San Sebastián, Spain. Deller searched for ways to expand the use of public space for social congregation, and collaborated with the city’s underground social groups and associations. Video from this parade and other related works will be on display.
- **Amy O’Neill’s** project *Parade Float Graveyard* (2004-2006) recreates parade floats and fragments of floats from actual parades. O’Neill will create a new piece for IMA, based on the premise that memorializing parade floats demonstrates their status as temporary monuments of popular culture.
- **Friends With You** presented their floating blimp parade *Skywalkers* at Art Basel Miami Beach in 2006. Friends With You will create a new blimp for the exhibition that will be on display in the IMA’s Pulliam Great Hall. An accompanying display will be featured in the downtown parade.

Other artists and collectives with work in the exhibition will include **Allison Smith, Fritz Haeg, Michele Magema, Paul McCarthy, and Dave McKenzie**. The exhibition will also feature art ephemera from the annual **Deitch Projects/Creative Time Art Parade** in New York.

The IMA-organized parade will take place on Saturday, April 26, 2008 in downtown Indianapolis. As the artistic director of the parade, Los Angeles-based artist Fritz Haeg will challenge the conventionally linear parade route by dividing the route in two, but conclude with the Eastern route meeting the Western. His piece is titled *East Meets West Interchange Overpass Parade*. Participation in this project is open to submissions at www.onprocession.org.

Artist Allison Smith has been commissioned by the IMA to produce three large-scale, pull-toy donkeys during her teaching residency at the Herron School of Art. Smith will work with local cultural institutions to research and create her performance for the parade, which will include the wheeled donkeys and costumed attendants. Other artists and community groups will also devise parade projects for inclusion in this event. To engage a broad spectrum of community members in the parade, IMA also will host public workshops in the spring with artist Alison Heimstead, who has designed puppets and choreographed processions with Bread & Puppet and Heart of the Beast Puppet & Mask Theatre's MayDay Parade in Minneapolis.

"The parade is a platform for presenting and engaging artwork in the public sphere," said Rebecca Uchill, assistant curator of contemporary art at the IMA. "It will forge a new model for an exhibition in the street, inviting audiences to march and create alongside the artists."

The parade, which will process through the Indianapolis neighborhood of Fountain Square, is conceived as an extension of the exhibition. It will be documented and presented in part in the coinciding IMA exhibition, online at www.onprocession.org and in an online exhibition catalogue, which will include user-submitted video archives and do-it-yourself artwork devised by New York design firm Elasticbrand. Information about the public workshops is available at www.onprocession.org.

On Procession is curated by Indianapolis Museum of Art's Assistant Curator of Contemporary Art Rebecca Uchill and will be on view from May 2 – August 10, 2008.

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 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 allows visitors to interact with art from the moment they enter the Museum. IMA is also unveiling a new site-specific sculpture by Maya Lin in November 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.

IMA Information

Encompassing 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 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 completed a \$74 million expansion project in May 2005 that featured 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 includes renovation of 90,000 square feet of existing space. In order to present major exhibitions of its own and to accommodate major traveling exhibitions, the expanded Museum was outfitted with new 10,000-plus square foot Clowes Special Exhibition Gallery on the Museum's first level.

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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