

CURATOR'S CHOICE 2025

Presented by

RAYMOND JAMES

Tour Descriptions 1–20

Art

1. Students in the Spotlight: *THE LUME* Featurettes

See a powerful glimpse into the future of immersive art. Join Sarah Trew, Curatorial Assistant, for a tour of *THE LUME* Featurettes, three immersive digital installations created in partnership with the Herron School of Art + Design. Explore *Harmonia*, *Echoes of Home*, and *Evren* and learn about each student's unique themes, creative processes, and technical approaches. Trew will share insights into how these student-led commissions use sound and image to explore emotions, memory, and cosmic wonder. Along the way, you'll learn more about the program's role in supporting emerging digital artists.

2. Rooted in Connection: Indigenous Australian Bark Paintings

Join Robin Cooper, Manager of Curatorial Affairs, for a tour in the final gallery of *THE LUME* where you'll find Indigenous Australian bark paintings from the Indianapolis Museum of Art's permanent collection. You'll learn about the deep historical roots of the bark paintings and the techniques used to create them. Dr. Henry Skerritt, Assistant Professor in the Department of Art and Curator of Research at the Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection at the University of Virginia provided curatorial aid for the selection and interpretation.

3. The Ancient Emperor's Groove

Join Anna Stein, Associate Curator of Works on Paper, Sadie Arft, Curatorial Assistant, and Doug Sanders, Conservator of Works on Paper, to learn more about *The Triumphal Arch of Maximilian I* (1515). Roughly twelve feet high and ten feet wide, it is the largest print in the IMA's collection and among the largest prints ever made. Using paper and ink instead of stone, Albrecht Dürer and a team of artists

created a woodblock print that overflows with scenes, symbols and figures that celebrate and support the reign of the Holy Roman Emperor Maximillian I. We'll unroll our impression out on the floor of the photography studio, talk about its history, and get as close as possible to see some of its boundless details.

4. The Decadent Design of *Resplendent Dreams*

Learn more about the design process for *Resplendent Dreams: Reawakening the Rococo* with Veronica Vela, Exhibition Designer. You'll learn about the installation of the exhibition and the challenges surrounding the display of mannequins with over-the-top dresses. You'll also learn more about how the designers collaborated with three living artists to build the layout of each section. We'll end the tour with a Q&A and a visit to the Design Studio if time allows.

5. Dressing up the IMA Galleries for Success: *Resplendent Dreams*

Join Michael Vetter, PhD, Associate Curator of Contemporary Art, for a tour of one of the newest exhibitions, *Resplendent Dreams: Reawakening the Rococo*. The exhibition showcases work from three contemporary queer artists—Robert Horvath, Diego Montoya, and Anthony Sonnenberg, who were influenced by the Rococo period, a movement in European art, architecture, and design that developed over the first half of the 1700s. The artists draw on the Rococo period's sense of frivolity to create extravagant contemporary pieces, demonstrating how the past continues to resonate with their concerns and sensibilities today.

6. From the Cosmos to the Canvas: The Life and Work of Alma Thomas

Join Tascha Horowitz, Director of Content and Interpretive Engagement, for a tour of *Composing Color: Paintings by Alma Thomas*. On tour from the Smithsonian American Art Museum, *Composing Color* invites you to experience the world through the artist's eyes. Known for her dazzling abstract paintings inspired by nature, music, and the cosmos, Thomas transformed color into a multisensory experience. Through immersive exploration, share Thomas's sense of wonder and connect with her dynamic vision of the natural world.

7. The Art of the Plan: Exhibitions 101—Making Museum Magic

Ever wonder how exhibitions at Newfields go from a spark of an idea to a fully

immersive experience? Join Amanda Dietz Brooks, Director of Exhibitions, for a behind-the-scenes tour that reveals the creative hustle and strategic magic behind every show. From concept to opening day, explore how curators, designers, educators, and the broader museum team dream big and deliver. Get a peek at the tools that make it all happen—project timelines, design mockups, interpretive plans, and digital dashboards—and hear what really happens when things go off-script (they always do!). Whether you're a process junkie or just museum-curious, this energetic walkthrough is your all-access pass to the art of the plan.

Nature

8. Glamour in The Garden: Plantings Inspired by *Resplendent Dreams*

Join the dynamic duo of Irvin Etienne, Curator of Herbaceous Plants and Seasonal Garden Design, and Jaime Frye, Associate Curator of Living Collections, for a walk through this summer's seasonal displays in The Garden inspired by the exhibition, *Resplendent Dreams: Reawakening the Rococo*. You'll get a peek into the plantings emulating one-of-a-kind feathered dresses, traditional European iconography, and the idea that “more is more!” at an intersection where art and nature meet. This is an outdoor walking tour. Please come prepared with appropriate footwear and clothing for the weather.

9. Opulent Orchids: Summer in Full Bloom

Join Ian Wilhite, Senior Horticulturist and Orchid Specialist, for an exclusive journey through the Madeline F. Elder Greenhouse—a hidden gem at Newfields! Discover rare and exotic orchids, lush ferns, and other captivating plants from around the globe. As you explore this vibrant living collection, you'll uncover the fascinating stories behind these plants, their vital roles in nature, and why they've earned a special place in our Greenhouse. It's a behind-the-scenes experience you won't want to miss!

10. Paving the Way: A Tram Tour of Fairbanks Park

Take a ride on the electric tram (Late Miss Kate?) down to The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park with Lisa Milton, Director of Natural Resources, where you'll see the Wild Birds Unlimited Native Pollinator Meadow at peak bloom and the new Bioretention Raingarden. You'll also learn about the garden design and construction

process, the importance of green infrastructure, and how the new parking lot meets Fairbanks Park's sustainability goals. Along the way, you'll see sculptures and gain a behind-the-scenes perspective of the cross-departmental collaboration that makes them possible.

11. Going Glick: A Fabulous New Fountain

Join Jonathan Wright, The Ruth Lilly Director of the Garden and Fairbanks Park, and Chad Franer, The Tom & Nora Hiatt Director of Horticulture, for a behind-the-scenes tour of the newly revitalized Glick Fountain. You'll hear fun facts and stories about the process of transforming this space into an icon of our nationally recognized historic landscape. You'll also get a sneak peek inside the historic pumphouse which houses the mechanics of the fountain.

Behind-the-Scenes

12. Behind the Blooms: Bringing Art in Bloom to Life

Join us for a tour led by Erin Kilhefner, Manager of Festivals, and go behind the scenes of Art in Bloom and discover how we select artworks that inspire floral designers each spring. Learn what makes a piece bloom with creative potential and how florists interpret fine art through petals, color, and texture. At the end of the tour, you get to help shape the future—cast your vote for an artwork that will be featured in Art in Bloom 2026.

13. Archives Quest: Uncovering Museum History and Other Treasures

When people think of archives, they often think of boxes full of papers, maybe photographs or videos, but probably not mini-golf clubs! Join Anastasia Karel, Interim Director of the Library & Archives, and Marina Ito, Librarian, on a deep dive into the Newfields Archives as she highlights some of the oddities in the collection. If it's important to the Museum's history, but not an accessioned piece of art, chances are it belongs in the archives. You'll also have the chance to see rarely displayed items from the Miller House & Garden Collection, a scrapbook created by Brown County gallerist Onya La Tour, and the first textiles acquired by the museum.

14. A Day in the Life of a Museum Art Teacher

Come and “learn” something new from the Education team. You’ll get a full tour of the inner workings of Museum Education and the planning that goes into each program. From Docent tours, to Wee Wonders, to Inspired Sips, you'll explore how the Education department provides hands-on educational opportunities to all age groups.

15. Ochres & Earth Pigments: The Colorful Dirt from Down Under Conservation Lab

Ochres, umbers, and earth pigments are the oldest colorants used by humans. These colorful minerals provide an almost complete palette of colors. Join Greg Smith, Otto N. Frenzel III Conservation Scientist, and Allison Slenker, Associate Curator of Objects in the science laboratory to learn about these colorants in indigenous Australian artwork and assist in roasting earth pigments over a flame to create your own examples of burnt ochres.

16. For the LOVE of Art: A Look into the Robert Indiana Files

The Indianapolis Museum of Art is home to the first and largest Robert Indiana *LOVE* sculpture. Join the Registration department for a dive into the files and artifacts related to Robert Indiana in celebration of this iconic acquisition. On this tour, you’ll read letters written and signed by the artist, view signed drawings and plans, learn how the IMA Registration department preserves the history of art objects and artistic intent, and understand more about the many roles of a Museum Registrar.

17. Be the Host with the Most

Join Rachel Hudziak, Director of Internal & External Events, and Allie Steel, Events Manager, to learn how our team empowers guests to be the host with the most in The Beer Garden year-round. You’ll also get a behind-the-scenes look at our hosting capabilities, infrastructure, and logistics for *Spring Blooms*, *Harvest Nights*, and Corporate Happy Hours.

18. Programs, Partnerships, and Planning – Oh My!

Join Sandy Schmidt, Senior Manager of Family and Community Programs, for a comprehensive tour of all that goes into planning programs. We'll start in Waller Gallery and discuss how we collaborate with community artists and leaders to design programs. We'll then move to The Amphitheater to talk about our long running programs that appeal to a wide audience. We'll end the tour in the Tobias Theater lobby where you'll learn about partnership programs and scholarly programming that support our relationships with local arts institutions.

**Newly Added Tours:*

19. Lights—Camera—Copyright! Licensing Newfields' Collections

Have you ever wondered how Newfields' collections and properties end up being reproduced in books, films, magazines, or even on a U.S. stamp? Join Anne M. Young, Director of Legal Affairs and Intellectual Property and Emma L. Carter, Rights Specialist to view recent licensing completed with Sports Illustrated, the U.S. Postal Service, Crash Course, and more. Beyond these final products, learn how reproduction and shoot requests are vetted, how copyright and related rights are managed both legally and ethically, and how licenses are facilitated to put Newfields' collections out into the world.

20. Museum Data and Technology: Where Art Meets Algorithm

From computer vision and augmented reality to data reporting and server pipelines, the Newfields Lab uses technology throughout the Indianapolis Museum of Art to bring artworks to life, enhance guest experiences, and improve internal business processes. Join the Newfields Lab for a behind-the-scenes tour and learn how we serve the public and our internal clients as we explore technology implementations in the Clowes Pavilion.