

## **Bringing Art to Indianapolis**

At the IMA, visitors experience art that brings past cultures alive.

**Date:** July 29, 2008

**Duration:** 2:07

### **Transcript**

[A. Laker] It's been humbling to encounter the ideas in art from so many different cultures. When I came here, I had no sense of the depth of Asian culture, for example, and its richness and long, long history. So, the IMA's a great place to come to get a new perspective, through time and place and history. My job is to try to think of some of the themes and activities that's really going to engage people and make people want to come to the IMA to directly experience art and culture either with their own two hands, or the big ideas that kind of surround the art.

The IMA is fortunate enough to have collections from around the world that are permanent that you can see every day, from Asia, Africa, Europe and many countries. And then a couple times a year, a special exhibition comes through, and every day I would talk to a curators--you know, there's experts in African art, contemporary art--and work with them to understand the art and help interpret or translate that into a program that people might want to enjoy.

I think the arts are here to remind us what it means to be human. That sounds really, maybe, too deep, but I think that when you encounter something made by a person thousands of years ago, it reminds you of what we all have in common. It reminds you that certain things do last and certain things are timeless, and that's a comforting thought, in today's world when things are pretty rapid. But by the same token, much art that's being produced is up to the minute and responding to the way our culture has changed and the sense of technology and recordings and documentation and everything that's possible now--it's really two halves of a whole, I think, in terms of the ancient and the very, very new.