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**Please note:** Slides and digital images are available of several works in the exhibition *The First Ten Years: Conversations with the Collection*. Please contact Margaret Keough at 816-457-6132 or [margaret@kempeart.org](mailto:margaret@kempeart.org) if interested.

**To Celebrate its 10th Anniversary, Kemper Museum Showcases Collection in Exhibition**  
***The First Ten Years: Conversations with the Collection***  
**on view September 17 through November 28**

Celebrating more than one hundred exhibitions at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, this special 10th-anniversary exhibition lauds the heart of the Museum—its permanent collection, which has more than tripled to more than 800 works since the Museum opened in 1994. The exhibition *The First Ten*



*Years: Conversations with the Collection* is on view September 17–November 28, 2004, at the Kemper Museum. Admission and parking are free.

**The exhibition will open with a free reception, 5:30–7:30 p.m., Friday, September 17 at the Kemper Museum.**

The Museum's collection encompasses art created from the time of the 1913 New York Armory Show to today, by artists such as Georgia O'Keeffe, Andrew Wyeth, Joan Mitchell, Andy Warhol, Wayne Thiebaud, Robert Mapplethorpe, Louise Bourgeois, Lesley Saar, and Bruce Nauman, among many others. Juxtaposing specific works from various periods, the exhibition *The First Ten Years: Conversations with the Collection* underscores the formal, thematic, or conceptual connections that works have with one another across time and place.

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Curator Elizabeth Dunbar said, “as much as each work has individual meaning, I want the exhibition, through the arrangement of particular works, to lead to thought-provoking and illuminating discoveries.” With works loosely grouped around the common themes or connections of people, places, and things, the exhibition will also explore crossover ideas and cross pollinations within each category. Dunbar adds, “I hope the exhibition’s works ‘speak’ to each other and that they will in turn speak to viewers thereby creating a multidimensional conversation. The exhibition not only highlights the Kemper Museum’s major works, but also provides a fresh context in which to view them.” For example, the Museum’s works by William Wegman, Joe Walters, and Robert Chambers are connected by the thread of science and scientific inquiry. Visitors may also compare the rugged landscape painting *Backwaters up Millinocket Way* (1939–40) by Maine painter Marsden Hartley beside David Bates’s seaside painting *97th Street Pier* (1992).

At the core of the permanent collection is the *Bebe and Crosby Kemper Collection*, a gift of Bebe and R. Crosby Kemper Jr. and the Kemper Foundations. Director Rachael Blackburn Cozad said, “Our collection started with a generous gift from our Museum founders and has grown dramatically since we opened ten years ago. The Museum’s circle of patrons is expanding as the public begins to recognize what a valuable community asset the Museum and its collection, is to Kansas City.”

The Kemper Museum recently published a catalogue, featuring color plates of two hundred works from the Museum’s collection and a full listing of the more than one hundred exhibitions the Museum has hosted in ten years. The catalogue *Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art: The First Ten Years* sells for \$39.95 in the Museum Shop and via [www.kemperart.org](http://www.kemperart.org).

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Museum is bringing ten artists to the Kemper Museum for various educational opportunities, from public lectures to hands-on workshops. See the press release “Kemper Museum Brings Ten Artist in Ten Weeks

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to Kansas City” for more information.

The Museum has also planned two community celebrations on its actual anniversary date October 2. Children and adults can get creative at The Power of Ten Birthday Bash, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., Saturday, October 2. This free family event will include artist Joe Walters, birthday cake, hands-on art activities, and more. Then that night, the Museum will host X-Party: Celebrate Late at the Kemper Museum, 10:00 p.m.–1:00 a.m. This party for adults will engage the senses with live music and appearances by the Rah Booty Cheerleaders and the Burly-Q Girly Crew. See the press release “Party at Kemper Museum on October 2” for more details.

### **Thank You**

Special thanks to the Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation; the American Century Foundation; the Richard J. Stern Foundation for the Arts; and the William T. Kemper Foundation, Commerce Bank, Trustee, for their support of the exhibition *The First Ten Years: Conversations with the Collection*.

The Kemper Museum acknowledges the generous support of Bank of America for the 2004 Visiting Artists Program. Financial assistance has been provided by the Arvin Gottlieb Charitable Foundation, UMB Bank, n.a., Trustee; the Hallmark Corporate Foundation; the David Woods Kemper Memorial Foundation; Missouri Arts Council, a state agency; and the Kearney Wornall Charitable Trust and Foundation, UMB Bank, n.a., Trustee. Generous in-kind support is provided by The Fairmont Kansas City at the Plaza, *The Kansas City Star*, and Midwest Airlines.

### **About the Kemper Museum**

The Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art opened October 2, 1994, and draws more than 120,000 visitors each year. The Museum boasts a rapidly growing permanent collection of modern and contemporary works by artist from around the world. The Museum hosts temporary exhibitions, installations, performance work, film and video series, lectures, concerts, children’s workshops, and other creative programs designed to both entertain and challenge. Admission and parking are free.

The Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art is open 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Tuesday–Thursday; 10:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m., Friday–Saturday; and 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Sunday. The galleries at Kemper East (200 E. 44th Street) are open 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Tuesday–Friday. The Museum’s popular Café Sebastienne serves lunch 11:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m., Tuesday–Saturday, dinner 5:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday; and brunch 11:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m., Sunday. The Museum and Café are closed on Mondays and major holidays, including Thanksgiving, November 25.

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