

For Immediate Release

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**Polly Apfelbaum's *Split* Spills Across Floor
at KC's Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art**

Since the early 1990s, American artist Polly Apfelbaum has been absorbed by staining—pouring and dripping fabric dye onto cotton sheeting and synthetic velvet. The Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art draws from its permanent collection for the exhibition *Polly Apfelbaum: Split*, on view February 6–August 9, 2009, at the Kemper Museum (4420 Warwick Blvd., Kansas City, Missouri).

The exhibition features the artist's 1998 work *Split*, an organically shaped arrangement of dyed, crushed velvet. (The exhibition doors open at 5:00 p.m.)

By “blotting” the fabric, Apfelbaum creates organic, rather than gestural, fields and patterns of pure color. Reminiscent of stained canvases by many artists associated with Color Field painting, such as Dan Christensen, Helen Frankenthaler, and Kenneth Noland,

Apfelbaum's dyed fabrics often are installed on the wall, stacked neatly, or sprawled across the floor, and allude not only to painting and sculpture, but also to a myriad of categories in between: drawing, collage, tapestries, bed sheets, and clothing.

Apfelbaum's *Split* is a litany of odd-shape swatches of crushed stretch velvet. Stained in alternating colors and individually arranged, each saturated segment bleeds into neighboring swatches, forming a kaleidoscope of colors, shapes, and textures. Responding to the



Polly Apfelbaum, *Split*, 1998; synthetic velvet, fabric dye; dimensions variable; Collection of the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Bebe and Crosby Kemper Collection; Museum Purchase, Enid and Crosby Kemper and William T. Kemper Acquisition Fund, 2004.7

(more)

Page 2 of 2...Polly Apfelbaum: Split | Kemper Museum

surrounding architecture, the work organically spreads over the gallery floor, visually disarming us with its colorful decorative motif. *Split* was on view in a 2004 exhibition of her work at the Kemper Museum.

A 1978 graduate of Tyler School of Art in Elkins Park, PA, Apfelbaum lives and works in New York. Her works are found in collections throughout the world, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York, Henry Art Gallery, Seattle, WA, and Musee d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, France.

About the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art

Kansas City's renowned free modern and contemporary art museum, the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art opened in October 1994 and draws more than 120,000 visitors each year. The Museum boasts a rapidly growing permanent collection of modern and contemporary works of artists 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.

The Museum (4420 Warwick Blvd.) 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. Café Sebastienne, a four-star restaurant, serves lunch 11:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m., Tuesday–Sunday; and dinner 5:30–9:30 p.m., Friday–Saturday. The Museum and Café are closed on Mondays and major holidays. Admission is free.

Kemper at the Crossroads (33 West 19th Street) is open noon–8:00 p.m., Fridays; and noon–6:00 p.m., Saturdays. Admission is free. (Please check www.kemperart.org to see if an exhibition is on view.)

The galleries of Kemper East (200 E. 44th Street) are open 10:00 a.m.–4 p.m., Tuesday–Friday. Admission is free.

For more general information about the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, visit www.kemperart.org.

Thank you

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