

kemperMUSEUM

of contemporary art

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Artist David Bates—Longtime Painter of Gulf Coast—Chronicles the Devastation of Hurricane Katrina

For decades, Texas-based artist David Bates has painted images of America's bucolic Gulf Coast—its people and places. In 2005, Bates, like many Americans, was overwhelmed by the destruction of Hurricane Katrina. In *David Bates: The Katrina Paintings*, the artist addresses Katrina, one of the most severe and inexplicable tragedies of our time and its devastating aftermath. In this series, Bates' paintings affirm both horror and life and remind us again why art defines our civilizations. The exhibition *David Bates: The Katrina Paintings* is on view May 21–August 22, 2010 at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art in Kansas City, Missouri. Admission is free.



The Deluge V, 2007; oil on canvas, 60 x 84 inches; Courtesy of the artist and Dunn and Brown Contemporary, Dallas, Texas

When Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans in 2005, Bates knew that the people and landscapes he depicted in the past would be forever changed. Bates responded to the disaster through his art and painted a series of works about Katrina from 2005 to 2007. Because New Orleans and much of the region were closed at first, he painted from images in newspapers and television. Later, the artist traveled several times to reconnect with and document the places that had so often been his subject. As well, he formed relationships with the Gulf Coast's citizens that sought refuge in his

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hometown of Dallas. Known for his bright palette, Bates in this series painted dark and agonizing images, including those of destroyed property as well as the displaced people of the South.

A native of Dallas, Bates earned a BFA in 1975 and an MFA in 1978 from Southern Methodist University. His paintings are in collections throughout the United States, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Museum of Modern Art in New York, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue with essays by exhibition and Kemper Museum Curator Barbara O'Brien, arts writer Carl Little, and New Orleans-based gallerist Arthur Roger.

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 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 and in three locations—the signature Gunnar Birkerts-designed building, Kemper at the Crossroads, and Kemper East. The Museum hosts temporary exhibitions, installations, lectures, concerts, children's workshops, and other creative programs.

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.

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

Thank you

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

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