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For immediate release



For more information or digital images,
contact: Margaret Keough at 816-457-6132 or margaret@kemperart.org

Robin Bernat's Video Installation Seeks Solace

***American Pastoral* on view July 13 through September 30 at Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art**

Robin Bernat explores longing, solitude, and romantic notions of love and beauty in her video works. In *American Pastoral* (2001), Bernat combines images of the American South with indigenous folk and gospel music and addresses her profound grief in a personal quest for solace. The exhibition *American Pastoral* by Robin Bernat is on view July 13–September 30, 2007, at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art. Admission to the Kemper Museum is free.



Robin Bernat, *American Pastoral* (video still), 2001; video installation, edition of 20, dimensions variable; Gift of the artist, 2003.7, photo: Mark Ramsey

Bernat created *American Pastoral* after her boyfriend died in a tragic camping accident in Argentina. In this 45-minute, five-part work, the artist examines spiritual longing, faith, grief, desire, and grace, while searching for transcendence through a deep connection to nature and place. Images of baptism, fireworks, and rolling pastoral landscapes combine with sounds of whispered poetry and writ-

ings (including *Tender Buttons* by Gertrude Stein) and hymnals and religious spirituals, creating a layered sensory experience in the gallery. Bernat, who appears in this three-channel video installations, surrenders to grief in her search for comfort in this haunt-

(more)

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ingly beautiful and poetic piece.

A native of Monroe, Louisiana, Bernat is an Atlanta-based artist and poet. Her artwork has been included in the *2000 Whitney Biennial* exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, NY, and in *Film/Video: Georgia* (2003/04) at the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia in Atlanta, among others. She has also published a number of books of her poetry.

Bernat generously gave *American Pastoral* to the Kemper Museum after its premier showing at the Museum in 2003.

Free educational program

Saturday, August 25, 9:00 a.m.–noon

Adult Writing Workshop: Pastoral Prose

This workshop, conducted by Dr. Patricia Cleary Miller, professor of English at Rockhurst University, introduces participants to the long tradition of pastoral poetry and will guide them in creating their own poems and poetic prose, in response to the exhibition *American Pastoral* by Robin Bernat. Registration is required. Please call 816-457-6134 or email bharris@kemperart.org to register. (free)

Thank you

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About the Kemper Museum

Kansas City's acclaimed, free contemporary art museum, the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art opened in 1994 and draws more than 130,000 visitors each year. The Museum boasts a rapidly growing permanent collection of modern and contemporary works by artists from around the world. The Museum hosts temporary exhibitions, film and video series, lectures, concerts, children's workshops, and other creative programs designed to both educate, inspire, and challenge. For more information, visit www.kemperart.org.

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 5:30–9:30 p.m., Friday–Saturday; and brunch 11:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m., Sunday. The Museum and Café are closed on Mondays.

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