

For Immediate Release
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Please Note: A number of digital images are available from the exhibition *Naomi Fisher: Clear Cut*. Please contact Margaret Keough at 816-457-6132 or margaret@kemperart.org if interested.

**Miami Artist Explores Issues of Femininity and Grrrl Power
at Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art**

Naomi Fisher: Clear Cut on view April 15–July 10

Miami-based Naomi Fisher creates psychologically and sexually charged images in which tropical landscape, decorative pattern, and fairytale figures collide in nightmarish scenarios. Fisher's high-fashion seductresses are menacing—often wielding knives—in her drawings and photographs, saturated with reds, oranges, yellows, and



Ladies 11/2/2004 (Election Day), 2004

pinks. Featuring 11 works, the exhibition *Naomi Fisher: Clear Cut* is on view April 15 through July 10 at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art. Museum admission and parking are free.

The exhibition *Naomi Fisher: Clear Cut* will open with a free, public reception, 5:30–7:30 p.m., Friday, April 15. As a visiting artist at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Fisher will speak about her work that evening at 6:30 p.m. in the Museum's Meeting Room. (Seating is first come, first served.) For a complete list of educational events planned in conjunction with the exhibition, see pages 2 and 3.

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Fisher's "ladies," as she calls them, are drawn from characters imagined or inspired by horror films, feminist literature, music, mythology, and art history. Her tough-girl images reflect a shift in the representation of women in today's culture, with Xena Warrior Princess, Gwen Stefani, Lara Croft, and other icons of "grrrl power" on center stage. Fisher's ladies sport high heels and modish dresses, but they do not relinquish their power. They are sexually enticing to men and symbols of strength for women.

In her menacing nature scenes, tropical foliage overwhelms, waters seem endless, and skies are ominous. Her subjects are literally consumed by nature. In the exhibition's accompanying brochure, Kemper Museum Curator Elizabeth Dunbar writes, "the female embodies nature in Fisher's drawings—she is Mother Nature incarnate."

Born in 1976 in Miami, Florida, Fisher received a B.F.A. from the Maryland Institute College of Art in 1998. She has had solo exhibitions at the Miami Art Museum (2001) and the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee (2000).

The exhibition features seven drawings and four photographs and is accompanied by a free, four-color brochure with an essay by Elizabeth Dunbar, curator of the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art.

Free Educational Events

Wednesday–Friday, April 13–15

Visiting Artist: Naomi Fisher

Visiting artist Naomi Fisher will work with students from Paseo Academy and Academie Lafayette and discuss her image-making process and invite them to make digital images. Educators, please phone 816-753-5784 to inquire about upcoming visiting artist workshops.

Friday, April 15, 6:30 p.m.

Artist Talk: Naomi Fisher

During the opening reception of her exhibition (5:30–7:30 p.m.), Fisher will speak about her work at 6:30 p.m. in the Museum's Meeting Room. These talks are popular, and seating is first come, first served.

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Friday, April 29, noon–1:30 p.m.

Feed Your Mind: We Won't Play Nature to Your Culture—The Photography of Naomi Fisher

In this lunch-hour lecture, Maria Elena Buszek, assistant professor of art history at the Kansas City Art Institute, will discuss the feminist history and subtexts of Naomi Fisher's photography. The lecture is free, but reservations are required. Call 816-753-5784 to enroll. You also may order an \$8.00 box lunch from Café Sebastienne with a credit card. The lunch includes a sandwich, salad, drink, and cookie. Please specify if a vegetarian option is preferred. No outside food or drink is permitted.

Saturday, July 9, 2:00 p.m.

Tour: Meet Me at the Museum

Enjoy a docent-led tour of the exhibition *Naomi Fisher: Clear Cut*. Meet at the Visitor Services Desk at 2:00 p.m.

Thank You

Special thanks to the Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation for its support of the exhibition *Naomi Fisher: Clear Cut*.

The Kemper Museum acknowledges the generous support of Bank of America for the 2005 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 Richard J. Stern Foundation for the Arts. 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

Kansas City's acclaimed 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. At the core of the permanent collection is the Bebe and Crosby Kemper Collection, a gift by the Museum's donors R. Crosby Kemper and his wife Bebe Kemper, and the Kemper Foundations. For more information, visit www.kemperart.org.

Hours and Admission

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 East 44th Street) are open 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Tuesday–Friday. Café Sebastienne serves lunch 11:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m., Tuesday–Saturday; dinner Friday–Saturday, 5:30–9:30 p.m.; and brunch 11:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m., Sunday. The Museum and Café are closed on Mondays, and major holidays, including Memorial Day and July 4. **Museum Admission and parking are free.**

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