

# kemperMUSEUM

of contemporary art

For Immediate Release

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## Icons and Fantasy Combine in Jack Hughes's Works of Art

### ***Jack Hughes: New Paintings* Opens December 5 at Kemper at the Crossroads**

In his vivid, dreamlike paintings, Florida-based artist Jack Hughes fuses elements of art history, popular culture, and fantasy. **The exhibition *Jack Hughes: New***

***Paintings* opens with a free public reception, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., Friday,**

**December 5.** The exhibition is on view December 5, 2008–January 31, 2009, at

Kemper at the Crossroads, the

Kemper Museum's new space (33 W. 19th Street) in the heart of Kansas City's Crossroads Arts District.

Kemper at the Crossroads is newly expanded gallery space for the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art. Admission is free.

Realized in a self-taught aesthetic with a bold palette and stylized forms, Hughes's latest paintings present fictitious worlds. Using hints of Surrealist imagery, children's book illustrations, and a medley of pop-cul-

ture icons from the 1950s and beyond, Hughes creates vibrant, free-form paintings in  
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Kemper at the Crossroads | 33 W. 19th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64111



*And if...#3*, 2008; acrylic on board, 36 x 31 inches, Courtesy of the artist

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which anything goes. In his paintings, rabbits dance, mountains sing, and a host of characters, including the baby-faced Speedy Alka-Seltzer and *South Park*'s Kyle, Cartman, and Stan, parade across invented landscapes.

The exhibition features fifteen paintings and one sculpture from 2007 and 2008. It is the artist's first solo museum exhibition.

### **Artist Talk**

**2:00 p.m., Saturday, December 6**

#### **Kemper at the Crossroads (33 West 19th Street)**

Jack Hughes leads a tour of his exhibition *Jack Hughes: New Paintings*. The talk is free.

### **About Kemper at the Crossroads**

Part of the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kemper at the Crossroads is the newest location for the Museum. The Kemper at the Crossroads' building at 19th and Baltimore has been for many years the home of the Dolphin Gallery. The first phase of renovations encompasses a new entryway for the building off 19th Street, light renovations to the primary gallery, and the creation of a "flex space." The new exhibition gallery measures 2,400 square feet, and the flex space adds 1,740 square feet. A small lobby space of 400 square feet will connect the two spaces.

The Museum's two other buildings—the signature Gunnar Birkerts-designed Kemper Museum (4420 Warwick Boulevard) and Kemper East (200 East 44th Street)—are located in the Southmoreland neighborhood next door to the Kansas City Art Institute and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, northeast of the historic Country Club Plaza. For more general information about the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, visit [www.kemperart.org](http://www.kemperart.org).

### **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,

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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–6:00 p.m., Thursdays; 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**

The Kemper Museum acknowledges the generous support of ArtsKC Fund—Arts Council of Metropolitan Kansas City; Francis Family Foundation; Arvin Gottlieb Charitable Foundation, UMB Bank, n.a., Trustee; Hallmark Corporate Foundation; Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation; Missouri Arts Council, a state agency; and Richard J. Stern Foundation for the Arts—Commerce Bank, Trustee. Financial assistance has been provided by David Woods Kemper Memorial Foundation and William T. Kemper Foundation—Commerce Bank, Trustee.

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