

kemperMUSEUM

of contemporary art

For Immediate Release

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Ian Davis: Faith in the Future **Opens February 26 at Kemper at the Crossroads**

In many of artist Ian Davis's paintings, a multitude of men, all identically dressed, stand in ambiguous formations. These narratives place the groups in of figures in either interior spaces where drama is expected—a theater, a museum, or an auditorium—or exterior worlds of even more mysterious origin. The viewers of these scenarios are left to wonder, "Do we wait in anticipation or have we come upon something that has just transpired?" The exhibition *Ian Davis: Faith in the Future*, the artist's first solo museum exhibition, draws together 17 paintings from public and private collections in the United States. The exhibition is on view February 26–June 19, 2010 at Kemper at the Crossroads (33 W. 19th Street), located at the heart of the Crossroads Arts District in Kansas City, Missouri. Kemper at the Crossroads is open noon–8:00 p.m., Fridays, and noon–6:00 p.m., Saturdays. Admission is free.

The exhibition *Ian Davis: Faith in the Future* opens with a free public reception with the artist from 6:00–8:00 p.m., Friday, February 26. For those who want to learn more about Davis's art, they may join the artist and Museum Curator Barbara O'Brien for a conversation in the gallery at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, February 27. Admission is free.

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Ian Davis, *Bacchus*, 2007; acrylic on linen, 46 x 50 inches; Private Collection, Oaks, Pennsylvania; photo: Jeffrey Sturges

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In Davis's paintings, doppelgängers are dwarfed by their surroundings: mountains of audio speakers, art crates, or chairs stacked in towers that seem just about to lose their balance. According to Davis, the locations are "meant to be imposing and to imply authority." In the exhibition's accompanying essay "Ian Davis: The Earnest Skeptic," Kemper Museum Curator Barbara O'Brien writes, "the paintings are infused with dark humor based in the anxieties of Davis's educated worldview."

A 1994 graduate of Arizona State University, Davis lives and works in upstate New York. He was awarded a residency at the Skowhegan School in Maine and has had solo exhibitions at Acuna Hansen Gallery, Los Angeles in 2006 and at Leslie Tonkonow Artwork + Projects, New York in 2007 and 2009. His works are included in public and private collections in the United States and Europe.

Exhibition Related Events

Exhibition Opening with Artist

6:00–8:00 p.m., Friday, February 26

Kemper at the Crossroads (33 W. 19th Street) | Free

Be among the first to see the exhibition *Ian Davis: Faith in the Future* and have a chance to meet the artist.

Conversation with Artist Ian Davis and Curator Barbara O'Brien

2:00–3:00 p.m., Saturday, February 27

Kemper at the Crossroads (33 W. 19th Street) | Free

As they walk through the exhibition, Ian Davis and Kemper Museum Curator Barbara O'Brien will talk about the journey the artist has taken navigating the complexities of the contemporary art world.

Meet the Curator at the Crossroads

1:00–2:00 p.m., Friday, March 26

Kemper at the Crossroads (33 W. 19th Street) | Free

Take a break from your day and join Kemper Museum Curator Barbara O'Brien for an engaging tour of the exhibition *Ian Davis: Faith in the Future*.

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

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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.

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 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.

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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