

# kemperMUSEUM

of contemporary art

For Immediate Release  
March 30, 2010

For more information or to secure digital images,  
contact Margaret Keough at 816-457-6132 or [margaret@kemperart.org](mailto:margaret@kemperart.org)

## ***Mythic Architectures* on view now in Kemper East Galleries**

### **Exhibition's Works Explore Layered Meanings Assigned to Architecture**

In each of the works of art in the exhibition *Mythic Architectures: Works from the Kemper Museum Collection*, artists use images of architecture not only as a representation of what we can see but also as a

symbol of what the structure connotes. In total, the exhibition pulls together fifteen works by early modernists as well as by the artists of today. The exhibition is on view now through August 27, 2010 in the galleries at Kemper East, located at 200 E. 44th Street, a block north of the Kemper Museum. Kemper East is open 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Tuesday–Friday. Admission is free.



William Clift, *Studio of Henriette Wyeth at the Hurd Home, San Patricio*, 1972; gelatin silver print, 7 1/2 x 9 1/2 inches; Collection of the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, Missouri, Gift of Drs. Antonio and Luz Racela, photo: Dan Wayne

In the exhibition, several artists present architectural elements to transport viewers to another place and time. For example, William Clift's photographs give mythic status to the otherwise vernacular architecture of the American West, as seen his image of Henriette Wyeth's studio in the remote New Mexico desert, far removed from her childhood home in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania. Clift romanticizes the West further in his photograph *Corral, Hondo Valley* (1972) of a structure once used to tame wild horses.

Dan Budnik photographed several of the past century's greatest artists in their

(more)

## **Page 2 of 3...*Mythic Architectures* at Kemper East**

studios and captures their inspiration and creativity. In Budnik's image of Willem de Kooning, he shows the Abstract Expressionist painter working on his "larger-than-life" canvases in his light-infused studio in the Hamptons. In contrast, Budnik's photograph of Lee Bontecou pictures the artist, working in solitude in a dark, repurposed industrial site. The exhibition also includes Budnik's portraits of Alexander Calder in his cluttered studio as well as Marisol Escobar, pictured among her sculptures.

Whimsy and the transformation of space are themes found in Christo and Jeanne Claude's collage, commemorating wrapping the walkways of Kansas City's Jacob Loose Park in yellow fabric, something the duo did in 1978.

In *The Visions of Charles Bonnet* (2007), Elizabeth Huey uses the half-timber architecture of the Black Forest to suggest a world of dark worries and dramatic confusion. In the exhibition's earliest work, the grandeur of architecture is celebrated in Charles Burchfield's watercolor *Green Columns* (1917).

*Mythic Architectures* also includes works by William Christenberry, Hans Hoffman, Lisa Sanditz, Joel Sternfeld, and Jamie Wyeth.

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

Kemper at the Crossroads (33 West 19th Street) is open noon–8:00 p.m., Fridays; and

(more)

**Page 3 of 3...*Mythic Architectures* at Kemper East**

noon–6:00 p.m., Saturdays. 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, H&R Block Foundation, and William T. Kemper Foundation—Commerce Bank, Trustee.

**For more general information about the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, visit [www.kemperart.org](http://www.kemperart.org).**

(end)