

kemperMUSEUM

of contemporary **art**

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Exhibition at Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art Provides Context for New Acquisition by Marc Swanson

New Public Artwork to be Installed in Fall

As part of a collaboration between the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art and DST Systems, Inc., Brooklyn-based artist Marc Swanson has been commissioned to create a new sculpture to be placed in downtown Kansas City, Missouri, later this fall. The Kemper Museum's soon-to-open exhibition *Acquisitions in Context: Marc Swanson* provides context for the newly commissioned sculpture, *Descent of Civilization (Bison Memorial)* (2010). The exhibition is on view August 20–December 5, 2010, at the Kemper Museum. Admission is free.

The large-scale sculpture—the artist's first permanent public art commission—pays homage to the American buffalo or bison, the majestic beast of the American West. Reminiscent of a skeleton one might find at a natural history museum, the new sculpture—the third placed through the DST Systems and the Kemper Museum alliance—will be installed at the northeast corner of Ninth and Broadway in downtown Kansas City. The work will be part of the Kemper Museum's permanent collection, made possible through a gift of DST Systems, Inc.

Swanson grew up in rural New Hampshire,



Marc Swanson, *Untitled (Looking Back Buck)*, 2004; crystals, polyurethane foam, adhesive, 38 x 18 x 18 inches; Private Collection, New York, New York

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and his father, an avid hunter and ex-Marine, tried to pass on his interests in hunting and other rugged outdoors pursuits to his son. Swanson now juxtaposes those formative experiences with his interests in the sculptural presentation of the natural world.

Acquisitions in Context: Marc Swanson features five works, including two of the artist's signature crystal-encrusted sculptures—*Untitled (Looking Back Buck)* (2004) and *Untitled (Black Antler Pile)* (2008).

Swanson has lived in Boston and San Francisco, where he became involved in various facets of the gay subculture, experimenting in art, music, fashion and performance. He studied at Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, Maine in 2000, and received an MFA at the Milton Avery Graduate School of the Arts at Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York in 2004. Swanson currently resides in Brooklyn, New York, and has had a solo museum exhibition at the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, and a collaborative exhibition with Neil Gust at St. Louis Art Museum. His work also has also been included in a number of group exhibitions, including the Seattle Art Museum; Museum of Arts and Design, New York; Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center, New York.

This exhibition also starts a three-part series, called *Acquisitions in Context*, at the Kemper Museum. These smaller sized, focused exhibitions feature a recent addition to the Museum's permanent collection and provides more information about an artist's body of work while highlighting the role of the Kemper Museum in collecting art by living artists.

Past DST Systems, Inc./Kemper Museum Collaboration

This relationship has resulted in the placement of two sculptures in downtown Kansas City, Missouri. The first *Mesteño (Mustang)* (1997) by the late Luis Jimenez was placed in 2004 at the corner of 12th and Broadway on the grounds of Kansas City Southern. The sculpture of a bucking mustang with wild red eyes and a blackish blue

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palomino coat symbolizes the untamed spirit of the American Southwest. A 32-foot-tall version of this sculpture now stands at Denver International Airport.

In 2005, the playful artwork *Putto 2x2x4* (2005) by Kansas City native Michael Rees was placed just west of the historic Folly Theatre on 12th Street. Part of Rees's "monster" series, the work includes an 18-foot-tall sculpture accompanied by an animation of the figure on a 6-by-9-foot outdoor video display. An assemblage of two legs, two large fingers, and four small fingers, the "monster" on the video screen dances through a variety of contortions and wrestles itself.

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 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 currently under renovation. It re-opens October 1.

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

This exhibition is presented with the generous support of DST Systems, Inc.

The Museum thanks its annual sponsors.

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For more general information about the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, visit www.kemperart.org.

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