

For Immediate Release

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**Images of American Vernacular Documented in
*Biographical Landscape: The Photography of Stephen Shore, 1969–1979***

On View February 22–May 18, 2008 at Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art

Stephen Shore's documentary-style photographs color the familiar and the everyday with a personalized and almost diaristic aesthetic, imbuing the ordinary with a striking sense of humanity. More than 150 images make up the exhibition *Biographical Landscape: The Photography of Stephen Shore*, on view February 22–May 18, 2008, at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, Missouri. Admission to the Kemper Museum is free.

The exhibition opens with a free public reception on Friday, February 22, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

A full list of programs, including those planned with the neighboring Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, is found on pages 2–3.

The exhibition includes Shore's celebrated and influential series *Uncommon Places*, documenting America of the late 1960s and early '70s. Shore captured the American vernacular in his images of parking lots, apartment buildings, crossroads, motel rooms, and restaurants in large cities and desolate byways. Influenced by the documentary style of photographers Walker Evans and Robert Frank, Shore elevated the imagery of the everyday through carefully arranged composition in his works. He was one of the first photographers to work solely in color at a time when it was considered a commercial format.

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Stephen Shore, *Ginger Shore, Causeway Inn, Tampa, Florida, November 17, 1977, 1977*; digital c-print, 25 x 29 inches; Courtesy of the artist and Aperture Foundation

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Shore first began taking and printing photographs as a child, and at age 14, he sold three photographs to the Metropolitan Museum of Art's photography curator Edward Steichen for the Museum's permanent collection. At 17, Shore met Andy Warhol and photographed his notorious "Factory." Then at age 23, Shore had a solo exhibition in 1971 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, only the second living photographer to do so. Considered to be one of the most influential American photographers, Shore has been the director of photography at Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York, since 1982.

His works may be found in collections around the world, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and George Eastman House, Rochester, New York.

The exhibition is accompanied by the acclaimed monograph, *Uncommon Places*, published by Aperture. A not-for-profit organization devoted to photography and the visual arts, Aperture has organized this traveling exhibition and produced the accompanying publications.

Educational Programs—Double Exposure

Many of the programs for this exhibition have been planned in conjunction with the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and its exhibition *American Horizons: The Photographs of Art Sinsabaugh*, on view January 26–April 6, 2008. Tickets are required for the Nelson-Atkins' exhibition, but Kemper Museum members may pick up free tickets at the Kemper's Visitor Services desk.

Saturday, March 1, 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Symposium: Framing America

Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Atkins Auditorium (4525 Oak Street)

This special afternoon program explores and discusses ways in which artists portray shape, and use the land and the shifting face of culturescape in America. This event is offered in conjunction with the Kemper Museum's exhibition *Biographical Landscape: The Photography of Stephen Shore, 1969–1979* and *American Horizons: The Photographs of Art Sinsabaugh* (on view at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art from January 26–April 26, 2008).

Moderated by Kemper Museum curator Christopher Cook, presenters include:

- Keith F. Davis, curator of photography at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
- Chicago-based artist Terry Evans
- poet, scholar, and author William L. Fox

Symposium admission is free, but reservations and tickets are required by calling 816-751-1ART or online at www.nelson-atkins.org. (free)

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Crossing Paths

Start your evening at either museum and work your way across the neighborhood for these evening tours offering various perspectives on two exhibitions: *Biographical Landscape: The Photography of Stephen Shore, 1969–1979* at the Kemper Museum and *American Horizons: The Photography of Art Sinsabaugh* at the Nelson-Atkins (4525 Oak Street).

Friday, March 14, 6:00, repeated at 7:15 p.m.

Docent-Led Tours

Docents from the Kemper Museum and the Nelson-Atkins provide tours of both exhibitions.

Friday, March 21, 6:00, repeated at 7:15 p.m.

Meet the Curators

Christopher Cook, Kemper Museum curator, and Keith Davis, Nelson-Atkins' curator of photography, discuss the work of Stephen Shore and Art Sinsabaugh in their respective galleries.

Friday, March 28, 6:00, repeated at 7:15 p.m.

Artist Perspectives

Architectural and fine art photographer Michael Sinclair, who got to know Sinsabaugh while attending the University of Illinois, draws parallels in both their work and explore the nature of architectural photography today. Professor of Photography at Emporia State University, Larry Schwarm, responds to Shore's work by exploring global themes and issues of humankind's relationship to the land.

Saturday, April 26, 2:00 p.m.

Public Talk by Stephen Shore

Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Atkins Auditorium (4525 Oak Street)

Artist Stephen Shore speaks about his color photographs—an influential body of work documenting both the American cultural landscape of the 1970s and his personal journey traveling the highways and byways of America. Shore's work with color photography advanced the process beyond advertising and fashion photography to reveal remarkable and vivid images of the interiors and exteriors of the American culturescape.

Free tickets are available by calling 816-751-1ART or online at www.nelson-atkins.org. (free)

Thank you

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About the Kemper Museum

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. Permanent collection artists include Louise Bourgeois, Dale Chihuly, Petah Coyne, Nan Goldin, Willem de Kooning, Hung Liu, Morris Louis, Joan Mitchell, Georgia O'Keeffe, Tom Otterness, Jaume Plensa, Matthew Ritchie, and Wayne Thiebaud. The Museum hosts temporary exhibitions, installations, performance work, film and video series, lectures, concerts, children's workshops, and other creative programs designed to both entertain and challenge.

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

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