

For Immediate Release

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Museum Volunteers Select Works for Next Exhibition at Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art

Volunteers at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art were asked to select “that’s my favorite work” from the Museum’s permanent collection. The result, *Volunteer Voices: Selections from the Collection of the Kemper Museum*, draws together sculptures, paintings, drawings, and more by a variety of artists, including Leslie Dill, Bruce Nauman, Louise Nevelson, and Wayne Thiebaud. The exhibition *Volunteer Voices: Selections from the Collection of the Kemper Museum* is on view December 11, 2009–April 25, 2010 at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art in Kansas City, Missouri. Admission is free.

At the core of the Kemper Museum stands its permanent collection, a collection that has more than tripled since the Museum opened in 1994. The collection engages visitors, particularly the Museum’s dedicated volunteers. In early November, volunteers were asked to select one or two works and write an explanation as to why the work was chosen. Their personal stories, included on the exhibition’s wall tags, are meant to inspire and connect others in a conversation about art. In total, more than thirty volunteers selected nearly fifty works.

For example, veteran docent Jill Norden selected Michael Lucero’s sculpture



Michael Lucero, *Anthropomorphic Form with Hen*, 1997, from *Reclamation*; white earthenware, glazes, pre-Columbian head, 15 x 13 x 7 1/2 inches; Collection of the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Bebe and Crosby Kemper Collection, Gift of the Enid and Crosby Kemper Foundation, 1997.9

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Anthropomorphic Form with Hen (1997). She wrote, "I love the dichotomies; the fact that Lucero has combined old with new (the head is pre-Columbian), found and fabricated, sculpture with painting, abstraction and realism, black and white and color."

Norden is one of the Kemper's many volunteer docents, or tour guides, who give tours of the Museum to thousands of schoolchildren and adult groups each year.

Volunteers of the Kemper Museum serve as docents, visitor services volunteers, and assistants at educational events and in administrative offices. If you are interested in volunteering at the Kemper Museum, please contact Hannah Hess at hess@kemperart.org or 816-457-6100.

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 critically acclaimed 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 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

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

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