

For Advance Release



For more information,
please contact Margaret Keough
816-457-6132 or margaret@kemperart.org

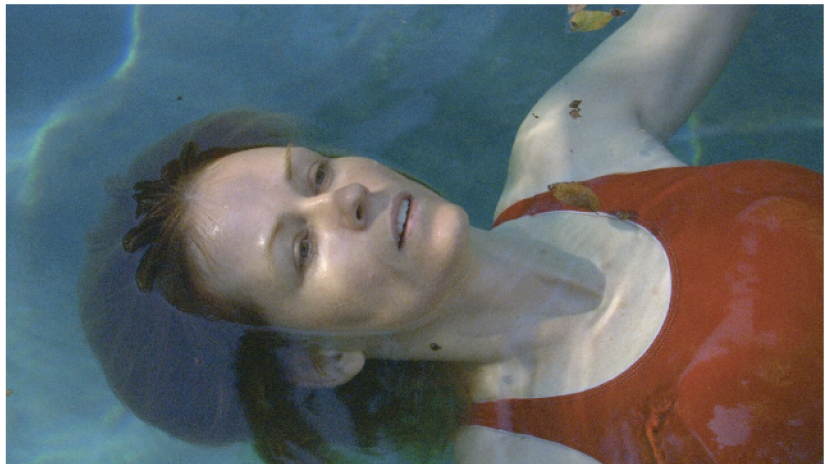
Please Note: A number of digital images are available from the exhibition
Teresa Hubbard / Alexander Birchler: Editing the Dark. Please contact Margaret Keough
at 816-457-6132 or margaret@kemperart.org if interested.

**First Major Solo Exhibition in North America for
Video Team Hubbard / Birchler at Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art**

Hubbard / Birchler Create Cinematic Works of Unresolved Drama and Wonder

For their first major solo museum exhibition in North America, the Austin,

Texas-based team of Teresa
Hubbard and Alexander
Birchler will present a
selection of their recent
video works at the Kemper
Museum of Contemporary
Art. The galleries will go
dark for the exhibition *Teresa*



still, *House with Pool*, 2004

Hubbard / Alexander Birchler: Editing the Dark, on view March 11–May 15, 2005 at the
Kemper Museum in Kansas City, Missouri. Museum Admission is free.

The exhibition *Teresa Hubbard / Alexander Birchler: Editing the Dark* will open
with a free public reception, 5:30–7:30 p.m., Friday, March 11 at the Kemper Museum.
The artists will speak that evening at 6:30 p.m. in the Museum's meeting room. Seating
is first come, first served. Teresa Hubbard and Alexander Birchler are visiting artists at
the Kemper Museum. (For a complete list of educational offerings, see pages 3 and 4.)

Hubbard and Birchler are best known for their looping, cinematically inspired
high definition videos that combine a sense of hyper-reality with psychological
tension. Their works lack dialogue and the structure of traditional linear narrative,

(more)

but command a strong sense of storytelling nevertheless. Especially influenced by the films of Alfred Hitchcock, their peculiar scenes of people in indeterminate yet familiar settings are loaded with uncanny potential.

In the exhibition's three works, visitors will see recurrent themes explored, such as isolation and alienation, domestic unease, and tragedy. Since these works loop endlessly, there is no distinct beginning or end to them. The sequence of events is purposefully made unclear.

The centerpiece of this mini-survey exhibition is the duo's most ambitious and magical work to date, *House with Pool* (2004), an intensely emotional 20-minute video projection that revolves around an ambiguous story featuring three protagonists, a modernist suburban home, and a swimming pool. Although the characters never directly interact with one another, they are psychologically connected through an unfolding chain of events.

Their work *Single Wide* (2002) is as much about the video's emotionally distraught woman as much as the single-wide trailer itself. The six-minute work chronicles a catastrophic nighttime incident that leaves us surprised, spellbound, and eager to watch again.

In three-minute work *Eight* (2001), a young girl deals with the disappointment of her rained-out birthday party. Abandoned balloons and party favors combine with waterlogged hotdog buns, floating potato chips, and sodden cake to create a scene of sadness and futility. The scene reminds us of nature's swift and sometimes ill-timed presence and the temporal quality of life and its setbacks.

Teresa Hubbard and Alexander Birchler live in Austin, Texas, where Hubbard is an assistant professor in the department of art and art history at the University of Texas. Hubbard, an American (born in Dublin, Ireland), and Birchler, a Swiss (born in Baden, Switzerland), have been working collaboratively since 1990. The pair have recently had

(more)

exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria in New York; Museum für Gegenwartskunst Basel, Switzerland; and other Museums in Europe.

A 56-page publication with color plates and an essay by Kemper Museum Curator Elizabeth Dunbar will accompany the exhibition. The catalogue, titled *Teresa Hubbard / Alexander Birchler: Editing the Dark*, is available in the Museum Shop.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Friday, March 11, 6:30 p.m.

Artists's Talk: Teresa Hubbard / Alexander Birchler

The galleries will go dark for the exhibition *Teresa Hubbard / Alexander Birchler: Editing the Dark*. Hubbard and Birchler create cinematic works of unresolved drama and wonder. Meet the video team during their opening from 5:30–7:30 p.m., and hear them speak at 6:30 p.m. in the meeting room. Seating is first come, first served. (free)

Sunday, March 20, 1:00–3:00 p.m.

ArtReach Workshop: Illustrating Stories

In this workshop for children ages 10–13, participants will use pictures to describe an event or action. Registration is required and limited. To enroll in this event, contact Kristy at kristy@kemperart.org or 816-457-6134. (free)

Friday, April 1

5:00–7:00 p.m. at Nelson-Atkins and 7:00–9:00 p.m. at Kemper Museum

Teacher Burnout Buster: Musing in (and using) the Museum

We're not fooling! This evening is dedicated to educators at your two favorite museums. First, head to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art at 5:00 p.m. for Fabulous Friday for Teachers: *Bingham to Benton—Midwest as Muse*, and then at 7:00 p.m. come to the Kemper Museum for more inspiration. Enjoy snacks, a free teacher packet, and a guided tour, and make classroom connections. While this workshop is free, registration is required. Contact Kristy at kristy@kemperart.org or 816-457-6134 to reserve a space at the Kemper Museum. To register for the Nelson-Atkins's event, call 816-751-1ART. (free)

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

Tour: Meet Me at the Museum, *Teresa Hubbard / Alexander Birchler: Editing the Dark*

Gather at the visitor services desk for a tour and informal discussion led by a Museum docent. No reservation required. (free)

Friday, April 8, 10:30 a.m.–noon

Lecture: Contemporary Video Art

J. Ronald Green, professor of film studies at Ohio State University, will speak about Hubbard and Birchler's work in the context of contemporary video art. Seating is first come, first served in the Museum's meeting room. (free)

(more)

Saturday, April 16, 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

The Whole Cinema Experience: A Workshop on Watching and Writing Film as Creative Encounter

Dr. Charles M. Kovich, professor, playwright, novelist, and producer, will discuss the work of Hubbard and Birchler as a springboard into the cinematic experience. Each participant will develop a scenario and refine ideas on plot and conflict. Registration is required and open to those ages 16 years and older. To enroll in this event, contact Kristy at kristy@kemperart.org or 816-457-6134. (free)

Friday, April 22, 8:00–11:00 p.m.

Late Night University

Forego final projects and studying and celebrate the end of the semester at the Kemper Museum. Bring your friends and see short video works by New Media and Film students from the Kansas City Art Institute and the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Their works are inspired by the three video works in the exhibition *Teresa Hubbard / Alexander Birchler: Editing the Dark*. DJ Ozgood will spin contemporary sounds between video screening segments. Spend time in the exhibition, view short video works, enjoy free coffee, and escape the pressures of college. (free)

Thank You

Special thanks to the Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation for its support of the exhibition *Teresa Hubbard / Alexander Birchler: Editing the Dark*.

The Kemper Museum acknowledges the generous support of Bank of America for the 2005 Visiting Artists Program. Financial assistance has been provided by the Arvin Gottlieb Charitable Foundation, UMB Bank, n.a., Trustee; the Hallmark Corporate Foundation; the David Woods Kemper Memorial Foundation; Missouri Arts Council, a state agency; and the Kearney Wornall Charitable Trust and Foundation, UMB Bank, n.a., Trustee. Generous in-kind support is provided by The Fairmont Kansas City at the Plaza, *The Kansas City Star*, and Midwest Airlines.

About the Kemper Museum

Kansas City's acclaimed 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. At the core of the permanent collection is the Bebe and Crosby Kemper Collection, a gift by the Museum's donors R. Crosby Kemper and his wife Bebe Kemper, and the Kemper Foundations. For more information, visit www.kemperart.org.

Hours and Admission

The Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art 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 at Kemper East (200 East 44th Street) are open 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Tuesday–Friday. Café Sebastienne serves lunch 11:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m., Tuesday–Saturday; dinner Friday–Saturday, 5:30–9:30 p.m.; and brunch 11:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m., Sunday. The Museum and Café are closed on Mondays, and major holidays. Museum Admission and parking are free.

(end)