

ART Matters

The Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art

REFLECTIONS Selections from the Commerce Bancshares Fine Art Collection

The Commerce Bancshares art collection began in 1963 with the idea that it would serve the company in three ways. It would provide a stimulating environment for employees, customers, and the general community. It would be a reflection of the high standards to which the company adheres and it would be a further indication of the ongoing support to the arts which has been a commitment of the company for many years. There are currently over 1,000 works in the Commerce Bancshares collection, and almost thirty pieces have been chosen for the exhibit at the Albrecht-Kemper.

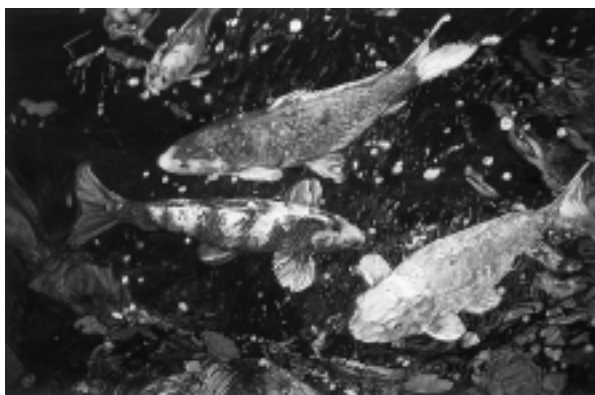
The chance to share part of this wonderful collection with the community was the idea of Commerce Bank, and the artwork chosen will challenge the viewer's perception in several areas. It will challenge the viewer's perception of reality and allow one to examine how artists use light, color, and representation to explore and express something about the world around us. The artists in *Reflections* use forms of realism to depict reflective surfaces, including metal, glass, water, and mirrors, creating unique renderings of reflections. The works in *Reflections* represent only a small part of what is still a growing collection.

The collection features mainly American art from the mid-20th century with the greatest emphasis on contemporary art.

As part of *Reflections*, the public is invited to join us for a guest speaker at 7:00 pm. Thursday, February 8. Jan Schall, Associate Curator of Modern & Contemporary Art at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, will discuss the exhibition in the Mary Boder Theatre on the museum's lower level. *Reflections: Selections from the Commerce Bancshares Fine Art Collection* is on exhibit through February 25.



Above: Janet Fish, *Goldfish Fantasy*, August, 1978. Oil on canvas, 54" x 40". Courtesy Commerce Bancshares Fine Art Collection.



Far Left: Jim Touchton, *Harbor Tortilla*, 1987. Acrylic on paper, 29" x 41". Courtesy Commerce Bancshares Fine Art Collection.

Left: Joseph Raffael, *Summers Pond*, 1994. Watercolor on paper, 44 1/2" by 68 1/4". Courtesy Commerce Bancshares Fine Art Collection.

Letter From The Director

Dear Friends of AKMA,

As we welcome 2001, I'd like to update you on the accomplishments of the past year and highlight my goals for this year. I'd also like to recognize the absolutely essential role that volunteers play in daily AKMA operations and thank you all for your contributions.

During 2000 we had a chance to experience a variety of first-class art. It wasn't all of the same media, nor was it all of the same style. That is the mix I intend to continue. Brent Collins' sculptures were one of the highlights of the year. This Gower, Missouri, native's elegant, intellectually challenging sculptures of wood and bronze clearly illustrate that not all leading-edge art is produced on the coasts. Charles Gruppe's controlled impressionist paintings were well received and his well-attended class brought numerous requests that he repeat the class next year. Warren Rosser's works were aesthetically and intellectually challenging as he grappled with the dilemma of rendering a three-dimensional world on a two-dimensional surface. Finally, the Marshall Collection provided one collector's glimpse of American art from post Civil War period until the start of World War II. Hopefully, there was something for each of you.

In 2001 we begin with *Reflections*, an exhibition of contemporary paintings from the Commerce Bancshares Collection, which will feature a lecture on contemporary art by Dr. Jan Schall of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. Concurrently in the lower galleries will be our very popular "Members Exhibition." In March, the exhibition *Oil and Water: The Paintings of Douglas and David Brega* opens. *Oil and Water* is a retrospective exhibition of over 60 paintings by the Brega twins and is brought to us through the generosity of R. Crosby Kemper. Over the summer we will feature the paintings of Kansas City artists Susan and Bill Tinker in the Thedinger Gallery and the sculptures of Dearborn's Kelly Johnson in the Campbell Galleries. Finally, in the fall we will curate an exhibition titled *The European Connection* featuring works by European artists such as Rembrandt, Monet, and Goya that are in the AKMA collection.

I want to close with some comments about the AKMA's greatest asset, our volunteers. We could not exist as a viable institution without the innumerable contributions of our volunteer corps led by Rebecca Wissehr. The volunteer cooks provide a significant portion of our operating funds. Volunteer docents conduct our educational tours. Volunteers help with the front desk on weekends. Volunteers make the Pot O' Gold and Sugarplum happen. To all of you who volunteer, I want to say "thank you." You are the reason 2000 was so successful.

Sincerely,
Terry Oldham, Director



Member Artist of the Month



Al Kost

The heritage of The Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art is most exemplified through the work it contains and the artists behind the art. This remains true for the work of artist Al Kost. Not only is his art part of the permanent collection, Mr. Kost played a key role in the

development of the Albrecht-Kemper into what it is today.

Born and educated in St. Joseph, Mr. Kost's signature works are his watercolors. Each of his pieces capture scenic landmarks and milestones of Northwest Missouri. His art documents a kind of populist idealism with which any Midwesterner can identify. Depictions of rural and small town life are frozen in time through his paintings.

Although many of his pieces constitute childhood recollections, Mr. Kost's career as an artist developed later in his life. He served in WWII where he proved adept at painting warplane insignias, but it was not until 1969 that he picked up the brush again to receive formal training at Missouri Western State College. Embarking on his artistic career, his subjects became old barns, farmhouses and other remnants of rural life, so much so that he became known as the "barn painter."

Mr. Kost has been a member and a volunteer at the Albrecht-Kemper since its opening as the Albrecht Gallery in 1966. During the 1980s, he was an active member of the Board of Directors. In 1988, when the Board was considering building an addition onto the existing facility, Mr. Kost came up with an initial concept for the project. His sketches of a large, unobstructed space and a glassed-in dining area to serve as the transition between the old and new buildings played a key role in the design of the gallery as it is today. As an appropriate tribute to Mr. Kost's artistic talent and contributions to the new expansion, his was the first solo exhibit to hang in the new Campbell Galleries in 1993.

Mr. Kost remains active in the arts. He continues to teach in the tiny corner studio of his home as he has for many years. He acts as the guide to local artists through their approach to watercolor, rather than imposing his style on them. This approach has won him a wide and loyal following producing a great deal of art within this community. To view one of Mr. Kost's pieces, visit the Barclay Gallery at The Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art.

Wednesday Art Classes

The following classes are being held at the museum under the instruction of Mary Davis. All registration is done through the Midland Empire Community Arts (MECA) Department at MWSC. Please call (816) 271-4106 to register, or the AKMA Information Desk at (816) 233-7003 for more information. Classes are held from 3:30 to 5 p.m. and cost \$8 per student.

FIMO (Ages 8-10) Simple and fun. Create your own colors and creations...baked to preserve forever. Wednesday, February 7.

FIMO (Ages 11-14) Simple and fun. Create your own colors and creations...baked to preserve forever. Wednesday, February 14.

PRANG PAINTS (Ages 8-10) Explore color and creativity through paint and paper. Wednesday, February 21.

PRANG PAINTS (Ages 11-14) Discover color and create your own work of art. Wednesday, April 11.

PASTEL PAINTING (Ages 11-14) Creativity is in full force when mixing and blending these chalklike pieces. Wednesday, February 28.

CREATIVE TEXTURE RUBBINGS (Ages 8-10) Art pieces will be created by taking rubbings on objects found and discovered...endless possibilities. Wednesday, March 7.

WATERCOLOR PENCILS (Ages 11-14) The perfect combination to explore color and water combinations...see how your creation changes when water is added. Wednesday, March 14.

COLLAGE (Ages 8-10) Explore your world and then create art by placing objects together to form your own masterpiece. Wednesday, March 21.

COLOR THEORY (Ages 11-14) Color theory project: Explore why and what makes us like certain pieces and how to create your own statement in art. Wednesday, March 28.

DRAWING (Ages 11-14) There can never be enough time spent exploring our world, and then putting it on paper...may be done in the galleries or outside Wednesday, April 4.

Tax-Deductible Gift Giving

It may be common knowledge that gifts to the museum are tax deductible, but it may not be as well known that there are restrictions, as well as ways to maximize total benefits. This article is intended to help explain some of the rules that apply when making donations to the museum. For your specific situation, contact your tax advisor.

Deductions for charitable contributions, such as those made to the museum, are subject to ceiling limitations. In other words, deductions cannot exceed a percentage of the adjusted gross income. Generally, the limitation is reduced to 30% if the contribution is 50% of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income. This limitation is reduced to 30% if the contribution is of certain appreciated property, such as art. Before any percentage limitation is considered, the general rule is such that the amount of the individual's charitable deduction is the sum of money plus the fair market value of any property other than money which has been given to the museum.

Contributions given to the museum can result in a benefit to the individual contributor. In such a case, a deduction can be taken, but only for the amount of the contribution that is more than the value of the benefit received. An example of this would be an individual paying more than the fair market value for a dinner at a fundraiser. The amount paid beyond the fair market value of the meal can be considered a charitable contribution. The same rule applies to membership fees - any money paid beyond the value of the benefits received is deductible. For specific rules and exceptions, see your tax advisor.

A gift of property and certain types of property other than money are subject to certain

exceptions that could result in a deduction which is less than the property's fair market value. This is the complicated area of ordinary income property and capital gains property. Generally, an individual can claim the fair market value of such property as a deduction for a contribution. However, if the deduction is ordinary income property, (examples would be inventory and capital assets held one year or less and generally the deduction is limited to the contributor's basis in the property) the amount of the deduction is its fair market value less the amount that would be ordinary income or short-term capital gains. An example of this would be stock donated to the museum that the donor held for five months. The fair market value of the stock on the day it is donated is \$700, but only \$500 was paid for the stock. The \$200 difference would be short-term capital gain and the deduction is limited to the \$500 originally paid for the stock.

Capital gain property, which is defined as such if its sale at fair market value on the date of the contribution would have resulted in long-term capital gain. A deduction can be made on the fair market value of the contribution as long as the property is used by the museum in its activities for which tax-exempt status has been granted. An example would be that an individual donates a piece of art

that he or she purchased for \$5000 but appraised for \$20,000 on the date of the gift. As long as the art is used in the museum for display and/or educational purposes, the full \$20,000 could be deducted.

Volunteers are vital to the success of the museum. For those who so graciously donate time and energy there are tax benefits available. One benefit would be a deduction for any amounts paid in giving services to the museum. Such amounts must be:

- ✓ Directly connected with services
- ✓ Non-reimbursed
- ✓ Expenses that were incurred only because of the services given.

These amounts must also not be personal, living, or family expenses. The most applicable example would be the use of a personal vehicle to travel (even around town) for the purpose of the museum. Actual expenses can be deducted, or a standard mileage rate of 14 cents per mile.

This information is a very basic overview of possible deductions available to museum contributors. As is the case with most tax issues, every donation situation is different and may be subject to special tax laws. The IRS or a qualified tax accountant should be consulted to determine how to get the maximum benefit from a museum contribution.

Letter From The President

It has been a privilege to serve The Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art for six years, the last two as president. Members and volunteers have responded to challenges to contribute funds to be matched by Missouri Cultural Trust to bring the total combined assets of the AKMA Foundation to over a million dollars. They have responded to special activities like the Pot-O-Gold auction and the Sugarplum Gift Gallery proving that one can have fun and support the museum at the same time. They have been active audiences for the many special exhibits. We have been treated to special events and now weekly feeding by the famous Albrecht-Kemper Cooks. We have received accreditation from the American Association of Museums. We have been blessed with an active director. We have received significant grants. We have worked together to "turn the corner" with our aesthetically desirable "jewel on Frederick Avenue."

It is my dream that the future Boards of the AKMA will meet to discuss which art works should be purchased to enhance the already exquisite collection; to plan even more educational activities for "children of all ages;" to accept works from generous donors; to welcome an increased number of volunteers in all aspects of the museum; to thank the voters of St. Joseph and Buchanan County for voting for an assessment to support local museums and the arts; to welcome new audiences to the museum; to thank Terry Oldham for his continuous service; to acknowledge the increased contributions to the AK Foundation from the many estates that have supported the museum; to be thankful for the many ways in which the museum collaborates with other museums and art groups; to simply wander through the halls on a regular basis to view regular collection and the many exhibits to develop their own tastes and distastes for art and to have a variety of aesthetic experiences; to think back to the dream of the early days of the St. Joseph Art League and wonder if we would be here today if they had not looked over "A Venetian Balcony;" to be thankful that Mr. and Mrs. Conger Beasley gave the wonderful home in memory of the Albrechts; to be thankful to Crosby Kemper for his continued support; to be thankful for those who dreamed of adding to the museum and had the fortitude to bring their dreams to fruition; to think back and realize what would be missing from this community if The Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art were not here.



Jim Roever
Retiring President, Board of Directors

Valentine Dinner



throughout the museum, we have the perfect spot for you.

Dinner features divine delights with a choice of Beef Wellington or Salmon served with Duchess

Enjoy a romantic evening with your sweetheart on Saturday, Feb. 10. Indulge in dinner prepared by the Albrecht-Kemper cooks, enjoy music to put you in the mood or swoon to a tune chosen especially for you. With seating available

Potatoes, Glazed Vegetables, Salad and Hot Rolls, and the "sweets for the sweet," White Chocolate Mousse Cake. A cash bar will be open all evening and wine will be available by the bottle. During dinner surprise your sweetie with a singing telegram. Telegrams cost \$5 and can be purchased at the dinner or in advance by calling the Information Desk.

Reservations for this special evening are required. Call the Albrecht-Kemper Information Desk at (816) 233-7003 by 4 p.m. Feb. 6.

St. Joseph Collects

Local collectors Billie and Jack Barclay and Bebe and Manning Grimes were featured in two concurrent exhibits in the Campbell Galleries. The Barclays' collection of finely crafted



This Dave McGary bronze sculpture was included in the *St. Joseph Collects* exhibit.

bronzes of Native Americans by Dave McGary displayed astonishing detail and originality while conveying the spirit and stories of the Native Americans.

Keeping with the Native American theme was the bead and jewelry collection of Bebe and Manning Grimes. The intricate detail of the beadwork and the beauty of the turquoise jewelry told their own stories of things past. The exhibit included beaded moccasins, vests, purses and other bead-adorned attire.

Annual Membership Exhibit

The Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art's *27th Annual Membership Exhibit*, showcasing the talents of museum members, opened January 19th. Current members were invited to participate in the competitive exhibit and could submit two original works not previously exhibited at the Albrecht-Kemper.

Teresa Harris, practicing multi-media artist and instructor at Highland Community College, judged the exhibit in seven categories including oil/acrylic painting, watercolor painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, sculpture and ceramics, and mixed media. Awards in each category were presented during the opening reception honoring the artists. The Albrecht-Kemper Gourmet Cooks hosted a dinner for the artists and their friends before the awards ceremony.

The *27th Annual Membership Exhibit* continues in the Campbell Galleries on the museum's lower level until Feb. 25.

The Art of Cooking

From the time Michael Smith and Debbie Gold walked through the doors at the Albrecht-Kemper on Jan. 4, you could tell the husband and wife team came to make the evening special. As executive chefs at the American Restaurant in Kansas City, the two kindly donated their time to help raise money for the museum with a cooking demonstration followed by a five-course meal. More than 90 people attended the event.

After Carol Burns, Mignon DeShon, Karen Foley and Carol Meyers, Albrecht-Kemper gourmet cooks and co-chairs for the event, gave the couple and their 18-month old daughter, Sophie, a tour of the museum the pair went right to work. Just by watching the couple, it was easy to see they definitely make cooking a fine art. The chemistry between the two was obvious in the delightful way that they joked with each other, and it was reflected in their culinary talents as the food was prepared and presented.

The diners joined Michael and Debbie in the Mary Boder Theatre to watch the chefs prepare appetizers including Sea Scallop on Toast and Hubbard Squash Soup with Truffled Lobster. Following the demonstration, the audience made its way to the upstairs galleries and enjoyed a five-course meal of culinary masterpieces fitting perfectly with the fine art on the walls. A marvelous meal with magnificent wines could only be completed with a Chocolate and Pecan Torte and a personal visit at each table by the chefs who created the meal.

The museum staff and event co-chairs thank Michael Smith and Debbie Gold for a wonderful meal and a marvelous evening.



Michael Smith shares his cooking secrets with Albrecht-Kemper Gourmet Cook Karen Foley.



The Central High School Encore carolers welcomed everyone to the breakfast.



Good to the last drop!



Behind the scenes fun.

Just Plum Fun

Christmas came early to the Albrecht-Kemper with the Sugarplum Festival Nov. 9, 10, & 11. This is the one weekend a year when the art comes down and the museum becomes a shopper's boutique. The annual event proved to be the most successful yet.

The festivities began with the Gift Gallery which combined the finest selection of gifts from the best shops in the region, 32 vendors in all. Guests enjoyed a holiday lunch buffet while children participated in a workshop with a rainforest theme.

Festivities continued on December 2nd featuring Breakfast with Santa and Pet Pics.

Nearly 100 volunteers donated their time to ensure that things ran smoothly. Those deserving special recognition are the four chairpersons, Carol Burns, Mignon DeShon, Karen Foley, and Carol Meyers.



You should always taste your building material.



Thank you, Alby Davis and Snorkel, for replacing our Christmas lights.



Parking, anyone?



In the gallery of festivities.



Sugarplum Fairies.



Santa with a good little girl.



Waiting to tell Santa if they've been naughty or nice.

Memorials and Tributes

Our thanks for the many memorials and tributes received at the museum. To make a memorial or tribute contribution, please forward your gift directly to the museum. Each gift is promptly acknowledged and an appropriate notification is made according to the donor's request.

**In Memory of
Gilbert Tootle**
Mrs. Wilbur McDonald
Dr. & Mrs. Wallace McDonald

**In Memory of
Jean and Duncan Wright**
Mr. & Mrs. John P. Barclay, Jr.
Mrs. Wilbur McDonald
Dr. & Mrs. Wallace McDonald
Mr. & Mrs. F.L. Ford, Jr.
Rod and Anne Fletcher
Mr. & Mrs. Lewis B. Wheeler

**In Memory of
Jean Runquist**
Gwen Bartlett

**In Memory of
Ralph Cargill**
Robert & Marcia Colscott

**In Memory of
Harriet R. Gross**
Dr. & Mrs. Tyson Carpenter
Mr. & Mrs. David Carpenter

**In Memory of
Dean Hilenebeck**
Mrs. Wilbur McDonald

**In Memory of
Norman Wissehr**
Kyle & Robyn Enright

**Donations of books to the
Bradley Art Library:
In Memory of
Richard & Teresa Dickens**
Lynne Dickens

**In Honor of
Mrs. David "Cobbie" Morton**
Frank & Rita Connett

**In Honor of the
50th Wedding Anniversary
of Bill & Shirley Miller**
Frank & Rita Connett

**In Honor of
Michael Robins**
Mary Ann Barber

New Acquisition:
Rolf Westphal
Discourse, 1969.
24'x6', Corten Steel
Gift of Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Simpson

The Albrecht-Kemper Staff

Director
Terry Oldham

Registrar/Office Administrator
Ann Tootle

**Communications/
Membership Coordinator**
Jane Graves

Public Programs Director
Robyn Enright

Maintenance & Grounds
Ron Johnson

Receptionists
Mary Davis
Casey Cathcart

Communications Intern
Susie Campbell

clearance-clearance-clearance

THE MUSEUM SHOP

clearance-clearance-clearance

It's a new year and the shelves in the Museum Shop at the Albrecht-Kemper could use some revamping. Stop in to find discounts up to 50% off of selected items

Upcoming Exhibits

March 2 - June 3 - Thedinger Gallery
Doug & David Brega: Oil and Water

March 2 - April 14 - Campbell Galleries
Regional High School Art Exhibit
(Awards reception March 11)

April 20 - June 3 - Campbell Galleries
Highlights from the Collection

June 10 - September 9 - Thedinger Gallery
Bill & Susan Tinker

June 10 - September 9 - Campbell Galleries
Kelly Johnson

THINK PINK!



The Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art
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