



For immediate release

# ***Construction/Destruction***

## **A 20/21 Gallery Conversation**

### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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### **PROMOTIONAL IMAGES AVAILABLE**

**Lawrence, KS**— We construct and destroy on a daily basis. Whether eating an apple, throwing out garbage, drafting an essay for class, or building a birdhouse, our activities are in a constant flux of creation and destruction. A new installation in the Spencer Museum of Art's 20/21 Gallery invites viewers to explore the ways in which we construct and destruct, and how those actions affect our lives.

The installation features works all from the Spencer's collection, curated by Bertram Lyons, director's intern. Lyons says the idea for the installation stemmed from his interest in the way cultures communicate through destruction: for example, war. These destructions, in turn, spark constructions, such as monuments and memorials.

*Construction/Destruction* includes photographs of raw construction and destruction, physical ornaments from buildings, and video footage of local graffiti artist Erok Johanssen. Lyons says the installation is a perfect opportunity to discuss the art of graffiti.

"Graffiti is a way we actually communicate on our constructions. Some people think that it's a form of construction and others think it's a form of destruction," Lyons says.

*Construction/Destruction* offers conversation questions, inviting viewers to discuss and ponder the ways construction and destruction relate to our daily lives and society in a broader sense. Lyons says viewers can explore the balance between creating too much and too little.

The 20/21 Gallery features a new construction of its own with the installation of new walls, designed by exhibition designer Richard Klocke. The walls function as both hanging space for artwork, as well as a physically engaging element of the gallery.

Next to the *Construction/Destruction* conversation wall is the 20/21 Gallery Process Space. Continuing the *Construction/Destruction* theme, the Process Space currently displays objects from the Museum's collection that viewers typically don't see because they have been damaged, and also a pair of etchings that imagine the disintegration of two famed New York art museums. Lyons says the display relates to the ideas of construction, destruction, and preservation.

"There's a myth that museums keep things forever; that if it's in the museum's hands it will always be around. But the truth is that objects continually decay," Lyons says. "The museum does everything it can to preserve them, but at some point nature wins."

Lyons says the Process Space encourages viewers to question at what point objects are no longer presentable for a museum, and if damage, whether from natural or human forces, affects the meaning of objects. "We're really looking at a museum's role in the preservation of objects and the effect that it has on the life cycles and interpretations of objects," Lyons says.

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## Spencer Museum of Art

The University of Kansas

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Also find the Spencer...

- On the Web: [www.spencerart.ku.edu](http://www.spencerart.ku.edu)
- E-mail: [spencerart@ku.edu](mailto:spencerart@ku.edu)

### Gallery hours

Tues., Wed., Fri., & Saturday 10 AM—5 PM

Thurs. 10 AM—9 PM

Sun. Noon—5 PM

Closed Monday

Museum Shop closes 30 minutes before the galleries close.

- Free parking in Lot 91 after 5 PM on weekdays and all day weekends, excepting home football games.
- Parking garage adjacent to Kansas Union is \$1 per hour weekdays, free on Saturdays and Sundays (but unavailable on home football games).