



For immediate release

INSTALLATION OPENS

Connections in Place
Albert Bloch, Robert Sudlow, & Keith Jacobshagen

Summer 2008 // 20/21 Gallery

MEDIA CONTACT

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PROMOTIONAL IMAGES AVAILABLE

Lawrence, KS—Beginning Saturday, June 6 and continuing through the summer, the Spencer Museum of Art's 20/21 Gallery "Conversation Wall" will feature the third installation on the theme of "place." *Connections in Place*, organized by Bertram Lyons, director's intern, revolves around works by Albert Bloch, Robert Sudlow, and Keith Jacobshagen. The installation also features video footage shot and edited by Kurt Funke, SMA exhibition assistant and 2008 KU graduate in theatre and film from Washington, Kan.

Lyons explains that Bloch, Sudlow, and Jacobshagen were selected for this conversation because their art and lives respond to the theme in multiple ways. "Bloch was a teacher of Sudlow, who was a teacher of Jacobshagen," says Lyons, KU graduate student in museum studies from Memphis, Tenn. "Their relationships begin in Lawrence, Kansas, and they resonate in other places and spaces. With artwork from these artists presented on the Conversation Wall, we are inviting patrons to consider this specific stream of interconnectedness, as well as to reflect on experiences in their own lives that connect them, through people, to place."

ABOUT THE VIDEO INSTALLATION

"As an element of this conversation," Lyons says, "we envisioned a spontaneous video installation to bring local landscapes and the people to whom they are important into the gallery to create a real dialogue between artists and the community about place. We asked students and community members to

respond to these artworks by Bloch, Sudlow, and Jacobshagen as well as to the concepts of Kansas, landscape and interconnectedness in their lives. We asked them to identify local sites that are important to them. Then we went to the designated places and filmed the landscapes.”

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Albert Bloch was born in Saint Louis, Missouri, in 1882. Between 1909 and 1921, Bloch lived and worked mainly in Germany. In 1911 he met the expressionist painters Vasily Kandinsky and Franz Marc, who invited Bloch to exhibit in the two landmark exhibitions of Der Blaue Reiter (The Blue Rider) in 1911 and 1912. Bloch was the only American painter to show with The Blue Rider group. Bloch returned to the United States in 1919 and began a career as a teacher, first at the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts in 1922-23, then at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, where he headed the Department of Drawing and Painting from 1923-47, teaching not only art but also KU's first courses in art history. He continued to paint until 1958, and died on December 9, 1961. The Spencer holds the largest public collection of Bloch's art.

Robert Sudlow was born in Holton, Kansas, in 1920. From 1938 to 1942, he attended the University of Kansas, studying drawing and painting with Albert Bloch, Karl Mattern, and Raymond Eastwood. Upon graduation from KU, he served in the United States Navy as a seaplane pilot and was discharged as Lieutenant, Senior Grade. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for service in the Western Pacific Theater during World War II. He taught at KU from 1945 until his retirement in 1987. Sudlow continues to live and work in Lawrence, Kansas.

Keith Jacobshagen was born in Wichita, Kansas, in 1941. After graduating from the Kansas City Art Institute, Jacobshagen worked in the Contemporary Design Department of Hallmark Cards in Kansas City, Missouri. In 1966 he was accepted into the MFA program at the University of Kansas, where he met and studied under Robert Sudlow. Since moving to Nebraska in 1968 he has concentrated on the landscape within a sixty-mile radius of Lincoln, where he is currently a professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

ABOUT THE 20/21 GALLERY

The 20/21 Gallery is intentionally designed as a project in process. It is a space where we can talk about new ideas, rethink old assumptions, experiment with emerging technologies, explore the connections of historic objects to our present lives, and imagine possibilities for our future.

We believe that a museum has, at its heart, two essential functions. First, it develops and cares for a collection of objects. Second, it works with these objects in such a way as to reveal not only the care that goes into their preservation, but also the caring that caused their creation. In revealing this care, we want

to prompt creative thinking and meaningful discussion. With these essential roles in mind, we have structured the 20/21 Gallery according to two concepts: the collection and the conversation.

THE COLLECTION

On the west, north, and east exterior walls of the gallery we have assembled a selection of the more than 10,000 twentieth- and twenty-first-century objects in the Spencer's collection. Just as the collection grows and changes as we acquire, lend, and conserve different objects, so too will this installation evolve over time. This living archive is here for investigation, contemplation, research, and imagination.

THE CONVERSATION

On the south walls of the gallery we bring together small groups of objects according to different topics of conversation. In these small installations, we hope that museum patrons will hear not only the voices of individual artists and interpreters, but also enter into the conversation with their own thoughts and questions. Just as conversations move fluidly from one topic to the next, so too will these flexible installations change with relative frequency.

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Spencer Museum of Art

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Also find the Spencer...

- **On the Web:** www.spencerart.ku.edu
- **E-mail:** 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).**