

Abstract Kansas City

Spanning fifty years of abstraction in Kansas City, this exhibition celebrates the thirtieth anniversary of the college's art collection. It also reflects the college's and museums' depth of commitment to artists who have a biographical or geographical connection to the Kansas City area. Begun in 1981, the JCCC collection exceeded 1,000 works of contemporary art in January 2011. Approximately thirty percent of the collection now showcases the achievements of artists associated with metropolitan Kansas City.

The current exhibition focuses upon a rich history of abstract painting in Kansas City, but also extends to works on paper, photography, and clay. Ranging from artist Wilbur Niewald's 1961 landscape-inspired watercolor to Lauren Mabry's 2011 cylindrical vessel, the show provides an opportunity to establish dialogue between thirty-four works on view. It is also an opportunity to glimpse varying approaches to abstraction, as well as the sensibilities and affinities of the 32 artists included in the exhibition.

Additionally, *Abstract – Kansas City* features many recent acquisitions to the museum's permanent collection. Acquired during 2011, 10 of the 34 works on view are being exhibited for the first time in the museum. The Nerman museum has long supported area artists through acquisitions, exhibitions and its Third Thursday lecture series. The Barton P. and Mary D. Cohen Gallery on the museum's second floor is dedicated to regional artists. "It's essential for institutions to support artists affiliated with Kansas City," said Bruce Hartman, the museum's executive director. "Many nationally acclaimed artists have close ties with our community."

Artists included in Abstract Kansas City:

Corrie Baldauf
James Brinsfield
Joe Bussell
Dan Christensen
Brian Fahlstrom
Nate Fors
Lester Goldman
David Harrison
Rachel Hayes
Ke-Sook Lee
Jim Leedy
Anne Lindberg
Lauren Mabry
Grant Miller
Amy Myers
Wilbur Niewald

Garry Noland
John Ochs
Sharon Patten
Vince Roark
Warren Rosser
Eric Sall
Ron Slowinski
Kent Michael Smith
Jered Sprecher
Caleb Taylor
Larry Thomas
Mary Wessel
Stanley Whitney
Sandy Winters
Matt Wycoff
Andrzej Zielinski