



News Release

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*** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

Contact: Julie Thomson, Outreach Coordinator
517/353-9834; thomso16@msu.edu

EXHIBITION: *Alex Katz: The Woodcuts and Linocuts*

DATES: May 8- July 30, 2004

OPENING Sunday, May 9, 2-5 p.m.

LOCATION: Kresge Art Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich.

Alex Katz: The Woodcuts and Linocuts

EAST LANSING, MICH. – From May 8 through July 30, 2004, Kresge Art Museum presents *Alex Katz: The Woodcuts and Linocuts*, a comprehensive survey of sixty-seven prints created by the artist since 1951. Internationally renowned for his figurative paintings, this exhibition presents an exceptional opportunity to view an often-neglected and highly experimental area of the artist's work. Organized by the Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville, Maine, home to the Paul J. Schupf Wing for the Works of Alex Katz, this presentation is on view through the generous support of the Michigan Council of the Art and Cultural Affairs.

This exhibition, which spans fifty years of the artist's career, provides a unique look into Katz's graphic vision and a subtle yet continuous development both in technique and imagery. "In the past two years Katz's work has been celebrated in east coast galleries and museums where this exhibition originated. Kresge Art Museum's showing is a wonderful opportunity for those in Michigan and surrounding states to see his prints," says April Kingsley, Curator at Kresge Art Museum.

Alex Katz is one of the leading American painters of the twentieth century. Born in 1927 in Brooklyn, New York, Katz studied at The Cooper Union and the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine. His coolly detached and serene landscapes, individual and group portraits form a unique contribution to modern realism. For Katz, the formal concerns of space, color and the effects of light override subject matter and psychological concerns. Although Katz experimented with prints in the 50s, it was not until the mid 60s that his interest intensified. Translating his paintings into prints he explored what he called "final synthesis of painting." Katz further simplified forms, dramatically cropped his images, and used bold color to create compositions compatible with the graphic nature of printmaking.

A second exhibit, *Alex Katz and Friends*, of paintings, prints, and poetry from Katz's circle drawn from the Kresge Art Museum collection and MSU Special Collections will be on view in the Works on Paper Gallery.

Admission is free to Kresge Art Museum and many of its public programs. The museum is open Monday – Friday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Thursday until 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday noon – 5 p.m. During the summer (June 1 – July 30) the museum is open Tuesday through Friday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday noon – 5 p.m., and closed on Mondays. Kresge Art Museum is located on the campus of Michigan State University, in the Kresge Art Center, between the MSU Auditorium and the Alumni Chapel. For additional information please call 517/355-7631 or visit www.artmuseum.msu.edu

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