



"We can do more together than we can individually," says Alexander "Sandy" Kemper, chairman of The Collectors Fund and co-founder of The Kansas City Collection. Turns out he's right: You never know what opportunity might arise.

A new collection comprising roughly 100 works of art by 15 local artists has taken Kansas City by storm. But it's not at the Nelson-Atkins, nor the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art. You won't find it at the Nerman, either. Instead, it will be publicly displayed in the headquarters of 11 local businesses.

Managed by The Collectors Fund, an art and asset management company founded by Kemper and Will Connor in 2006, the works in The Kansas City Collection will rotate among the corporate partners—which include Barkley, Bishop-McCann, Helix Architecture + Design Inc., Tradebot and Peruvian Connection. Kemper, Connor and The Fund's Robin Fortin came up with the idea after watching The American Masters Collection, a rotating residential art program for Fund investors, meet with great success. "For The Kansas City Collection, we deliberately went after companies that haven't been involved in the arts but exhibit great leadership and creative innovation," Kemper says. "It's a win for the artists, a win for the corporations, a win for the community."

"Any time you can encourage artists to see Kansas City as a place they can stay and live and work, it's a win," Connor adds. What's more, the Collection has created unforeseen opportunities by exposing its curatorial team of influential national art leaders to Kansas City's talent. And it makes financial sense, Kemper says, promising participating companies a huge return on their investment just in the value of the art rotating through their halls. ■

genius pool

The artists featured in The Kansas City Collection's first cycle were selected from a pool of more than 60 candidates. They are: Carol Ann Carter, Leopoldo Esquivel, Tanya Hartman, Diane Henk, Don Kottmann, Michael Krueger, Mike Lyon, Judith Burns McCrea, Yoonmi Nam, John Ochs, Anne Austin Pearce, Debra M Smith, Aaron Storck, Hong Chun Zhang and Brian Zimmerman. Visit thekccollection.com.

STORY BY ERYN SWANSON

This captivatingly vibrant piece by Lawrence-based Michael Krueger was done with colored pencil on paper. Measuring 27 by 44 inches, it is titled "Sea of Blue."