

**fine arts** first friday

**SHOWS**

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**Kemper at the Crossroads**

Kemper at the Crossroads always draws a big crowd on First Fridays. Its February opening marks the first solo museum show for Brooklyn-based Eric Fertman, who is exhibiting upward of 20 whimsical sculptures and several large graffiti-inspired drawings.

Kemper chief curator Barbara O'Brien said she was captivated by the work when she saw it at the Susan Inglett Gallery in New York.

"I got inspired by one small work and thought it was playful and serious. The craft is very serious, and the formal qualities have a lot of art historical resonance," she said. "And it has a sense of play. I don't think we get enough of that in contemporary art."

O'Brien discerns a film noir element in some of the work, as well as affinities to artists Philip Guston, R. Crumb, Martin Puryear and Edward Hopper. Some pieces, she said, have an "exacting verisimilitude," including a carved rotary telephone and various lightbulbs.

O'Brien is particularly enthused by his installation "Room," which she compares to a "3-D sketch of a red room." Within it the artist will place a grouping of his quirky quasi-figurative sculptures made from oak, horsehair and other materials.

Born in Boston, Fertman holds a bachelor of fine arts from Cooper Union, which awarded him the Elliot Lash Award for Excellence in Sculpture in 1997. He's shown a bit in New York, where one reviewer labeled the work "enticing" and another called it "refreshing."



FROM THE ARTIST AND SUSAN INGLETT GALLERY, NEW YORK, NEW YORK

**"Parfum" (2010), by Eric Fertman, is part of the Brooklyn-based artist's exhibit "Here's Your Hat, What's Your Hurry?" opening Friday at Kemper at the Crossroads.**