

KIM HUMPHRIES

## COLLECTION

Kim Humphries' new project for the Contemporary is *Collection*, a discursive installation comprised of four elements: a wall "painting," artist designed museum furniture, a series of color field paintings, and, at the center, a re-created living room featuring an eccentric array of collectibles and activities for the viewer to partake.

Humphries is interested in what he calls the "uncurated" environment, particularly the estate sale, garage sale, and flea market, all of which have now been eclipsed by Internet culture, principally eBay. He relishes the research and discoveries into social anomalies that such environments yield, as the role of the artist is conflated with that of the collector, amiable stranger, and/or potential friend. Not the discriminating connoisseur, Humphries himself is rather the obsessed collector who wants to pay a small homage to the "minutiae from which lives are constructed." *Collection* lays bare the instinctual habit to acquire things and decorate our surroundings, thus creating our own individual material culture. In *Collection*, one enters a kind of personal material culture theme park, dated circa 1950 to the present. It is a nonsensical assemblage that evokes middle class social and economic structures, which may pique the collector in all of us, but essentially consists of the objects of a suburban, anywhere USA existence. Humphries readily admits to a heavy use of "the patina of my youth."

June 2004. Shannon Fitzgerald, Curator. Taken from 2004 Great Rivers Biennial Artists Exhibition Program Notes, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis.



**COLLECTION, 2004 (INSTALLATION)**  
mixed media, dimensions variable

Photography courtesy of Jay Fram: Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis



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