



*Images and knowledge are worthless unless they are seen as always changing.*

ANSELM KIEFER

**Anselm Kiefer**

***Book with Wings, 1992-94***

**Lead, tin, and steel**

**74 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 208 <sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 43 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches**

**Collection of the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth,**

**Museum purchase, Sid W. Richardson Foundation Endowment Fund**

**Acquired in 2000**

Anselm Kiefer's *Book with Wings* greets visitors in Ando's unique oval-shaped gallery, the first gallery in the Modern. Kiefer has combined two objects – a large open book and a long, swooping pair of wings – to create his work. The book sits open, perhaps offering some form of knowledge, though the pages are blank. Kiefer has chosen to show us the symbol of knowledge – the book – rather than the knowledge it contains. In this way, he asks us to question how we learn, rather than what we learn. And though both the book and the wings refer to lightness and even the ability to uplift, both are made of lead. No doubt, Kiefer plays on this paradox, and asks the viewer to consider other interpretations for knowledge, history, and how we learn about the past and the world around us. These ideas are especially relevant to Kiefer, who was born in Germany just after World War II.