

"Splish Splash" Maurice Blik-22

This sculpture was commissioned by Phil and Mary Farris Martin for the London-based sculptor Maurice Blik. The family sought to memorialize their son, Alexander, who died of cardiac arrest at the age of 10. As the sculptor was finishing the piece, Mary Ferris martin died Unexpectedly. Friends of the family donated funds in honor of Mary and Alexander, to the soon-to-be opened Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital. Splishsplash became Vanderbilt Children's signature piece. The sculpture is of 2 children's figures frozen in midair turning back flips over a globe, the negative space between their bodies formaing a heart. The fountain that spouts water between the hands of the two is also calibrated to the beat of the human heart. "I wanted to produce something spirited and strong to give encouragement and optimism to children – many of whom would be facing daunting prospects," Blik said. While the sculptor worked on the piece, he was also battling colon cancer. The only thing that propelled Blik through this dark period of his own life was knowing he had to go into his studio each day to complete the sculpture. And, in the process, he also healed physically.

"Circle of Peace" Gary Lee Price-8

This idea is what "Circle of Peace" represents; portraying children from all walks of life playing with and enjoying each other. The circle that the children form represents the continuum of humanity. The clasped hands represent the interaction and cooperation, together with compassion and respect, which engenders humanity. Respect for each other's uniqueness bridges the gap between any indifference. I created a space in the circle and it is fascinating to watch children interact with the piece. Quickly, they notice the gap and instantly clasp the two outstretched hands and complete the circle. Each and every person is a vital element in this wonderful circle of life.

"Mother with Children" Bill Doak-29

Mother with Children, Running Girl and Circus Horse and Rider are three pieces created by Dr. William Doak, a local pediatrician and sculptor. He created his artwork for the children's hospital to give the children something appealing and something they will enjoy.

"Running Girl" Bill Doak-23

Bill Doak, born in Nashville 1930, is a pediatrician and figurative sculptor. As an undergraduate at Vanderbilt he trained under Puryear Mims, an academic sculptor of wide influence in the local art community at that time. Fascination with the human figure which initially attracted him to sculpture continues to be the driving force for his work

"Circus Horse and Rider" Bill Doak-26

Doak was commissioned by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ritzen to create Circus Horse and Rider. The sculpture was donated to commemorate Vanderbilt Children's Hospital's opening as a "hospital within a hospital".

"Cutouts" Jane DeDecker-27

Cayce Joyce came across this sculpture, Cutouts, by chance and couldn't believe her eyes. She thought it was the perfect piece for Vanderbilt Children's Hospital because it features a young girl cutting out paper dolls which happens to be our Children's Hospital logo. Joyce purchased the piece of art and donated it to be placed in the new hospital, where it will touch countless others. Family is the focus of Jane DeDecker's life and art. She and husband Kyle live in the same town as her parents, Barbara and Raymond, and eight of her nine siblings. Her sister Maggie is her business manager. Another sister Jo, an art historian, helps put the finishing touches on her bronzes. Wax chasing is her mother's domain, while her father makes bases, makes deliveries and does handy-work for the operation. Her 12 nephews and nieces are a constant source of subject material.

Childhood innocence is DeDecker's bread and butter theme. The age before houses, before responsibility, credit cards and car payments, childhood offers a unique view of the world that can never be replicated in an adult environment. Although her portfolio includes solitary adult figures, more typical DeDecker subjects include a group of kids playing on monkey bars, two boys pushing off on a bike and a trio of girls huddled under an umbrella.

