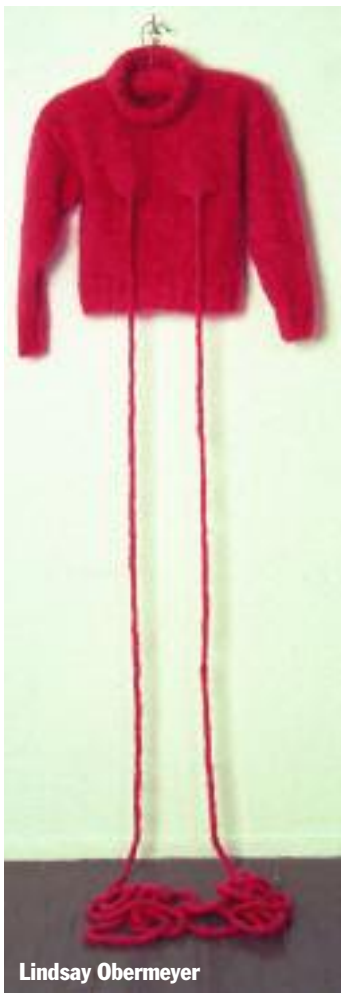


The Arts

“There is a huge drop-off from those who study to be artists and those

VISUAL ARTS:

At **Sarratt Gallery**, fiber artist **Lindsay Obermeyer** opened the fall exhibition season showing textiles that study issues as diverse as medical ethics, mental illness and gender. Her thought-provoking sweater art is both a display of fabric sculpture and a mildly absurd sweater collection. Maternal bonding and the connection between textiles



Lindsay Obermeyer

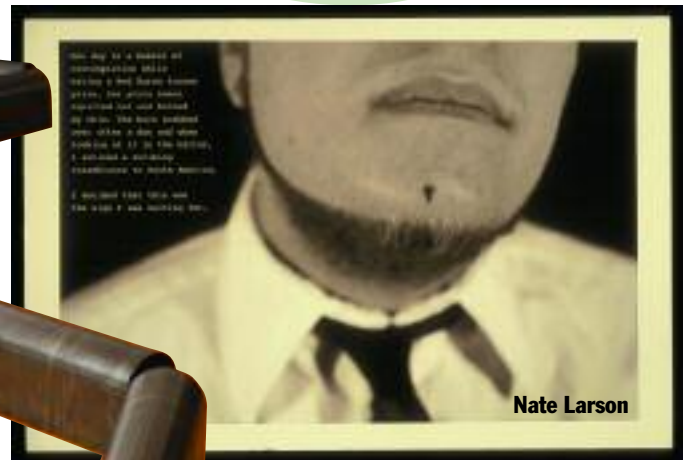


DANIEL DUROIS

and figurative art blend with a celebration of the act of knitting itself, a metaphor for nurturing.

From mid-September through mid-November, **Nate Larson**'s exhibit on the second level of the Sarratt Student Center focused on “how people make meaning of the world around them.” This up and coming Chicago-based photographer pictures everything from unidentified flying objects and Jesus’ face in a tortilla to recent work that has grown more personal and incorporates text.

Starting in mid-October, “**Misleading Trails**” at the **Vanderbilt Fine Arts Gallery** featured work by Ai Weiwei, Xiaoze Xie, Hong Hao,



Nate Larson

Vernon Fisher, Enrique Chagoya, Dan Mills and Hai Bo. At first glance the work of this group of artists from China and the United States is misleading; it appears simply to be about the depicted subjects. Closer viewing reveals complex and layered meanings. After opening at the China Art Archives and Warehouse in Beijing in 2004, the presentation at Vanderbilt travels throughout the United States in 2005–06.

At the **Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development**, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, a photo history titled “**The Science and the Hope: Celebrating 40 Years of Discovery**,” on view from late September through late October, showcased landmark research over the past four decades in behavioral

This installation by Jin Soo Kim, called “roll-run-hit-run-roll-tick,” was on view at the Fine Arts Gallery in September.

Culture

who actually continue to make and exhibit art after school. ” —JUDY CHICAGO

and educational topics. The Kennedy Center is distinctive in its commitment to transferring research into practice in the community. These photos chronicle that commitment from its inception to the present.

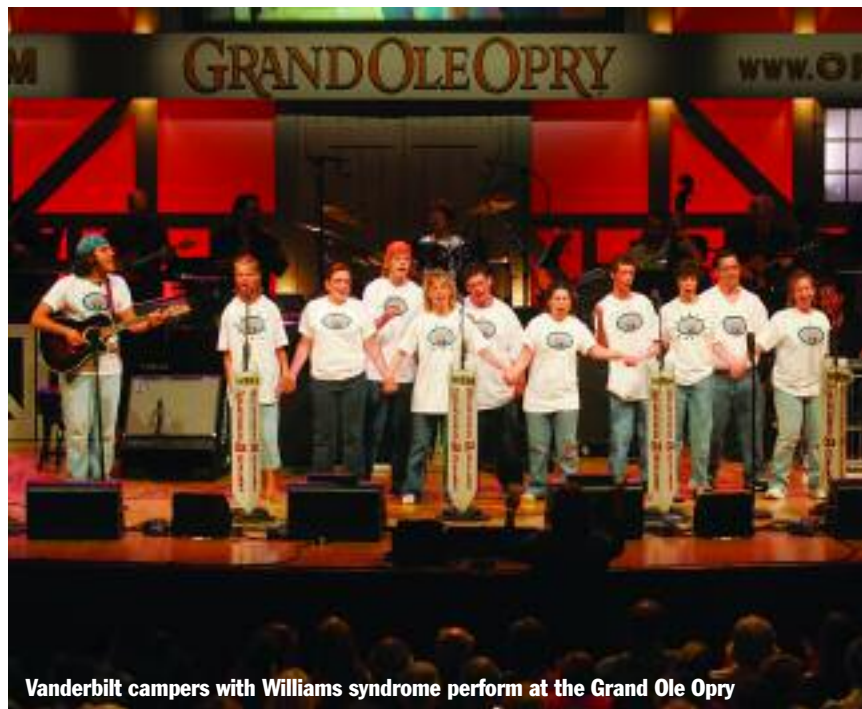


Kennedy Center

Brenda Butka, a practicing pulmonologist on the Vanderbilt medical faculty, showed watercolors, quick sketches and poems reflecting upon daily activities at the **Vanderbilt University Medical Center** through the end of October. During the day she picks up paintbrush or pen and quickly captures an image of a patient, a gesture of a co-worker, or the view from her office window on torn manila folders designated for recycling. Her work gives an intimate glance of the mundane yet poignant environment in which she is professionally enmeshed.

MUSIC:

Caused by a genetic deficiency of only 20 genes, people with **Williams syndrome** have various developmental and health challenges. At the same time they have a strong proclivity for music. Many individuals with this syndrome have amazing musical gifts, including perfect pitch, metronomic-like rhythm, or the ability to sing in multiple languages or memorize thousands of songs. In late July, thanks to a partnership among the **Vanderbilt Kennedy Center**, the Grand Ole Opry, Vanderbilt's Blair School of



Vanderbilt campers with Williams syndrome perform at the Grand Ole Opry

Music, the National Williams Syndrome Association, and many generous Nashville musicians, a one-week, on-campus camp for 10 young adults with Williams syndrome from across the country was held,

culminating with the campers performing on the Opry stage, where they received a standing ovation from the audience.



Los Hombres Calientes

The *afrocubosoul* ensemble **Los Hombres Calientes** presented an evening of upbeat Afro-Caribbean dance music to open the University's **Great Performances Series**. The group considers itself to be on “a musical, cultural and historical mission founded on and bound by the principle that we as all people are one—that all of our intricate individual ancestry leads back to one source.” However, in addition to the group's desire to express its deep cultural experiences,

co-leaders Bill Summers and Irvin Mayfield simply insist that “listeners move as many body parts as possible.” That was accomplished at Ingram Hall in late September.

In September and October, the **“Blair Presents” Series** brought tenor **Ian Bostridge** and baritone **Nicholas**

globe for his unique vocal qualities. In opera, he is a regular guest at Covent Garden, English National Opera, and the Bavarian State Opera. Nicholas Isherwood is an expressive, sophisticated and lyrical interpreter of both early and contemporary vocal music. His program for Vanderbilt Homecoming

Weekend included repertoire extending from Baroque music to improvised rock music, via Schubert and contemporary classical music, including a piece by the singer himself.



Nicholas Isherwood



Ian Bostridge

Isherwood to campus for two separate concerts. A major figure in the world of classical music, Ian Bostridge has become recognized around the

The **Blair Voice Faculty** performed and discussed cabaret music from around the world, written specifically for classical



Blair Voice Faculty

singers in **“Cabaret du Monde.”** Exploring the many languages, approaches, historical contexts, and the inside scoop on composers, performers included Amy Jarman, soprano; Gayle Shay, mezzo-soprano; Jonathan Retzlaff, baritone; and Melissa Rose accompanying on piano. The mid-October concert was part of Blair’s new Nightcap Series held on various Mondays at 9 p.m.

DANCE:

This summer, performances by Ballet Manila, Stephanie Powell of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and the Nashville Ballet were featured during **“A Celebration of Cultures: An Evening of Dance”** at Ingram Hall. The event was held to honor the first anniversary of the founding of the Asian American Performing Arts Society (AAPAS). Christopher Mohnani, principal dancer at Nashville Ballet and director of the AAPAS, said he had received several requests to bring Ballet Manila back to Nashville since the group’s last

ACCOLADES

There’s a soundtrack interwoven into the stories of pioneer survival in the *Little House* books by Laura Ingalls Wilder—enduring music that can shed light both on Wilder’s stories and America’s musical heritage.



For the new album ***Happy Land: Musical Tributes to Laura Ingalls Wilder***, top Nashville musicians were brought together by **Dale Cockrell** and **Butch Baldassari** of Vanderbilt’s Blair School of Music to record fresh versions of songs cited in the *Little House* books.

Released in August by Pa’s Fiddle Recordings (www.pasfiddle.com), the album, produced by Cockrell and Baldassari, features performances by Riders in the Sky, Dave Olney, **Andrea Zonn** (BMus’93), Deborah Packard, Pat Enright, Douglas P. Green, Keith Little and The Princely Players.

In **“Omaggio a Boccherini,”** renowned guitarist and Blair faculty member **John Johns** along with the **Blair String Quartet** opened the Blair Signature Series with a concert honoring the 200th anniversary of composer Luigi Boccherini’s death. They performed two of the most popular Boccherini quintets for guitar and strings. Johns also played solo guitar pieces by Fernando Sor and the “Sonata Concertata” for violin and guitar by Niccolò Paganini.



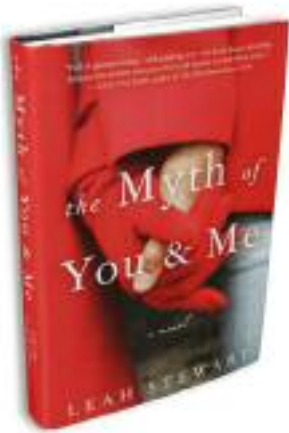
John Johns

NEIL BRAKE

performance. Mohnani, a native of the Philippines, studied with the company before joining Nashville Ballet.

BOOKS AND WRITERS:

When a romantic relationship ends, weeks are spent deconstructing the mistakes and rationalizing the final move. But when a friendship breaks up, there is often a painful silence, as if the topic alone will reveal secret faults.



Leah Stewart's (BA'94) novel, *The Myth of You and Me* (Shaye Areheart Books, 2005), captures the universal experience of friendships gained and lost. The book explores the intensely rewarding, sometimes heartbreaking, but always meaningful and life-changing bonds of early friendship. This is the dramatic story of a woman who must track down her childhood best friend a decade after their painful feud.

Award-winning novelist and short story writer **Nancy Reisman** began teaching at Vanderbilt this fall, as a master's program in creative writ-

ing begins to take shape at the University.

Reisman, author of the short-story collection *House Fires* (University of Iowa Press, 1999) and novel *The First Desire* (Pantheon, 2004), came to Vanderbilt from the University of Michigan. A native of Buffalo, N.Y., she earned her master of fine arts degree from the University of Massachusetts. Her fiction has appeared in *2001 Best American Short Stories*, *Glimmer Train* and *Kenyon Review*, and her story "Tea" was included in the anthology *The O. Henry Prize Stories 2005*. *House Fires* won the 1999 Iowa Short Fiction Award, and the National Foundation for Jewish Culture awarded *The First Desire* the 2005 Samuel Goldberg Jewish Fiction Award in June. The *New York Times* named *The First Desire* a notable book of 2004.

THEATRE:

Girls ages 12–16 participated in **Act Like a Grrrl**, a three-week summer program designed to help participants tell their personal stories through writing and performance. Working with instructors from Nashville's **Actors Bridge Ensemble** and Vanderbilt's **Women's Studies Program**, participants generated written material based on their real-life experiences, and learned to act and craft their work into public performance.

UPCOMING

VISUAL ART

Native Nashvillian and sculptor **Steve Benneyworth** collaborates with the Sarratt Visual Art Committee in a long-term public art installation on the University campus, beginning in January.



MUSIC

Blair Celebrates the Holidays in a series of three evening performances for the holiday season with the Vanderbilt Chamber Winds and Contemporary Music Ensemble on Dec. 1, the Vanderbilt Symphonic Choir on Dec. 2, and the Vanderbilt Chamber Orchestra on Dec. 3. All concerts are in Ingram Hall at 8 p.m.

China Coin

THEATRE

Djali poet/playwright and musician **Sekou Sundiata** spins a tapestry of poignant spoken word with humor and irreverence in his play "Blessing the Boats," about his five-year battle with kidney disease. The production, part of Vanderbilt's Great Performances Series, is Nov. 30 at 8 p.m. at Belmont University's Curb Event Center.



Sekou Sundiata

The Great Performances Series kicked off a national tour with the world premiere of "The Great Tennessee Monkey

Trial" Oct. 19–20 at Belmont University's Curb Event Center. Adapted by Peter Goodchild from the Scopes trial transcripts and drawing on actors Edward Asner, John de Lancie and Alley Mills, radio theatre company LA Theatre Works set the stage for





DAVID CRENSHAW

“The Man Who Came to Dinner”

the ongoing national debate over the separation of church and state in a democratic society.

Forced to recuperate after falling on an icy walk in small-town Middle America, celebrated critic and radio personality Sheridan Whiteside exposes the Stanley household to his acerbic wit and eccentric friends in **“The Man Who Came to Dinner.”** Kaufman and Hart’s classic American comedy has delighted audiences since 1939 with its parade of madcap characters and wickedly comic banter. **Vanderbilt University**

Theatre’s production ran in late September and early October at Neely Auditorium.

HUMANITIES:

Vanderbilt Senior Lecturer in Earth and Environmental Sciences **Jonathan Gilligan** discussed “Democracy in the Age of Science: Trust, Numeracy, and the Voice of the People” in early September at the Nashville Public Library for the first **“Thinking Out of the Lunch Box”** lecture this fall. Gilligan works primarily at the intersection of science, ethics and public policy with a focus on the ways in which scientific

knowledge and uncertainty affect policy decisions about the government. Thinking Out of the Lunch Box, now entering its fourth year, is co-sponsored by Vanderbilt and the Nashville Public Library.

As People’s Branch Theatre set the stage for its production of George Orwell’s “1984,” mass media and its role in the age of information became the topic of this year’s first **“InsideOut of the Lunch Box”** lunchtime discussion on the performing arts. **“The Media Machine and Orwell’s ‘1984’”** involved Matt Chiorini, artistic director of People’s Branch Theatre; Jeffrey Frace, director of SITI Company; and Christopher Yoo, professor of law at Vanderbilt Law School, in a discussion moderated by Cindy Steine, director of external relations at Vanderbilt’s Blair School of Music. The



STEVE GREEN

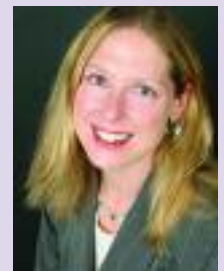
Jonathan Gilligan

event took place in mid-September at the Tennessee Performing Art Center’s Polk Theater.

Carole Pateman (political science, UCLA) and **Charles Mills** (philosophy, University of Illinois, Chicago) gave a joint presentation titled **“Contract and Domination: A Collaborative Debate on**

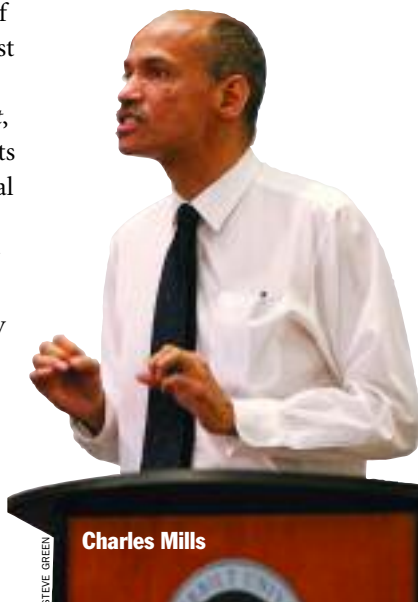
ACCOLADES

Bridgette Kohnhorst, director and student facilitator of the 30-year-old Great Performances Series at Vanderbilt, was a guest this summer of the Taiwanese government for a cultural exchange sponsored by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Affairs Office. In an effort to promote cultural understanding and global exchange between the United States and Taiwan, six of America’s top arts presenters were asked to participate in a three-day celebration and tour. This celebration coincided with Taiwan’s first National Performing Arts Fair in the southern city of Kaohsiung. Kohnhorst joined 30 other curators and managers from France, the U.S., the United Kingdom, Belgium, Japan, Singapore, Macau and Hong Kong on the former military Wei Wu Camp site with government officials and President Chen.



Social Contract Theory” at the Vanderbilt Law School in September. Pateman is the author of *The Sexual Contract*, and her major research has covered three broad areas: democratic theory, theories of original contracts and feminist political theory. Mills is the author of *The Racial Contract*, and his main research interests are in radical and oppositional political theory, particularly around issues of class, gender and race. Together they are working on a book tentatively titled *Contract and Domination*. The program was an outgrowth of the Diversity Reading Group, one of the **Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities’** 2004–05 seminars.

Sept. 26 with a lecture on the parade’s history. The celebration was founded in 1935 by a group of Memphis business and professional African-



STEVE GREEN

Photographs documenting the 70-year history of the **Kemet Jubilee** were on display in late September at the **Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center**. The organization’s general chairman, Clyde Venson, kicked off the exhibit

Americans who wanted to counter the white Memphis establishment’s Cotton Carnival Parade. The first parade is credited with helping launch Memphis’ Beale Street as the “home of the Blues.”



Kemet Jubilee display

DANIEL DUBOIS

Chicago, Woodman to Be First Chancellor’s Artists-in-Residence

Vanderbilt University will strengthen its commitment to the arts this spring when Judy Chicago and Donald Woodman spend a semester as the first Chancellor’s Artists-in-Residence.



“Judy Chicago is one of the great artists of this generation,” says Chancellor Gordon Gee. “Her work is both exuberant and provocative. We are honored that she and Donald will become part of the Vanderbilt community next year and will share their creativity with our students, faculty and artists from the community.”

The semester-long, nine-credit class will mix upper-division Vanderbilt art students with established artists on a project or projects facilitated by Chicago and Woodman, who are married. The content and scope of the art will surface through a process of discovery, and an exhibition will conclude the project and open April 21.

Woodman is a commercial and fine-art photographer and teacher whose work has been exhibited internationally and published in *Vanity Fair*, *Art in America*, *Newsweek*, and many other national magazines. Chicago is an artist whose career spans four decades. Her major

works include “The Dinner Party,” a symbolic history of women in Western civilization. The multimedia work was created from 1974 to 1979 with the aid of hundreds of volunteers and will be permanently housed starting in 2007 at the Brooklyn Museum as part of the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art.

The Vanderbilt residency will be devoted to giving art students a taste of life after university, Chicago says.

“There is a huge drop-off from those who study to be artists and those who actually continue to make and exhibit art after school,” she says. “Students in this program will learn something about what’s involved in professional art practice. And local artists will get the opportunity to work with young and enthusiastic students who bring a fresh perspective, something that one can lose as an artist contends with the challenges of professional practice.”

—Jim Patterson