American Museum of Modern Art in Washington, D.C., and the National Museum of Art in Santo Domingo. The exhibit was co-sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution and the Afro-Hispanic Review.

At the Vanderbilt Fine Arts Gallery, works by Ralph Baiz, the 2004 Margaret Stonewall WorldWide Hamilt Award winner, were on view from Jan. 12 through Feb. 2. The award, a $10,000 grant to be used for travel and study during the year following graduation, culminates in this exhibition. In order to know my personal history before I can continue my future."

In "Three Paths to Abstraction: Herbert, Leland and Mode," on view from Feb. 9 through March 16, the Emerson art critic Pinney Herbert (Memphis), Whitney Leland (Knoxville) and Darrell Mode (Nashville)—who have demonstrated a lifelong commitment to non-representational art—showed abstraction on a viable mode of visual communication.

In February, Sarratt Gallery showed photos by Beth Lilly, whose work is poignant and ethereal. In March, Colin McLain showed paintings that derive motifs from Gray's Anatomy, and according to the New York Times, "give the human form neon vibrancy with his thickly derrischnique and his brush palette of pinks, greens and yellows inspired by skateboard graphics."

Longtime art critic and theorist Lucy Lippard spoke about “Common Ground: Arts and Communities” during the Chancellor’s Lecture Series in February, conveying the traditions of South African music. Choirmaster David Mulvieder-Zi and South African executive producer Beverly Breyer built the Soweto Gospel Choir from talent in the many churches in and around Soweto.

Also in February, the Ingram Center for the Performing Arts was one of the world’s select locations for an exhibition of photos of contemporary composers by philanthropist/photographer Betty Freeman, with a concert honoring three composers Freeman has sponsored.

And for the last two Fridays in March, the Blair String Quartet presented a special double bill—performing the complete six quartets of Béla Bartók. The Blair School of Music’s Concert Series

**MUSIC:**
- Also in February, the Ingram Center for the Performing Arts was one of the world’s select locations for an exhibition of photos of contemporary composers by philanthropist/photographer Betty Freeman, with a concert honoring three composers Freeman has sponsored.
- And for the last two Fridays in March, the Blair String Quartet presented a special double bill—performing the complete six quartets of Béla Bartók. The Blair School of Music’s Concert Series

**THEATRE & FILM:**
- Laurie Anderson presented The End of the Moon in November as part of Great Performances at Vanderbilt. This expression of contemporary life incorporated dreams, theories and research from her recent stint as NASA artist-in-residence through stories, spoken word and her violin. Anderson appeared courtesy of the Chancellor’s Lecture Series

**ART CRITIC LUCY LIPPARD**

**Vanderbilt Magazine**
understood by an audience if they are heard and impediment—the speaking of lines so they are heard and compassion. The company presented a “Playwright Talk-Back” session that afternoon before the performance.

Vanderbilt’s Advanced Production Workshop in the new Film Studies Program created The Room of Frequent Assignment as this semester’s student-produced video project. Written by Don Jones and Will Akers, and directed by Akers (who teaches the class), it is a period piece about the funeral of a romance novelist who drops dead under suspicious circumstances. His wife and children are at the funeral when, one by one, his mistresses arrive.

DANCE: To celebrate Chinese New Year in late January, the Chinese Arts Alliance of Nashville presented Teaching Clouds: Experiments with Chinese Music & Dance. The program also featured other Chinese pieces as well as modern dances that interpreted Chinese music.

Great Performances at Vanderbilt once again brought top-notch contemporary dance to Nashville this spring with Richard Alston Dance in late January and DanceBrazil in March. Richard Alston Dance is based in the finest modern dance company in the United Kingdom. They visited Vanderbilt on their first North American tour, also offering a master class the afternoon before the performance. The members of DanceBrazil are masters of capoeira (the Brazilian martial art) and have performed at Spoleto USA, the Kennedy Center and Lincoln Center. An Audience Talk-Back Percussion Workshop was held at Nashville’s Global Education Center during their visit.

BOOKS & WRITERS: Lost Delta Found: Rediscovering the Fish University Library of Congress Coahoma County Study, 1941–1942 was published recently by Vanderbilt University Press. The book, edited by Robert Gordon and Bruce Nemerov, brings to light the work of musicologist John Work, sociologist Lewis Jones, and graduate student Samuel Adams—all of Fisk—who accompanied famed musicologist Alan Lomax on research trips in 1941 and 1942. Lomax condensed the two trips into one in his book Land Where the Blues Began after plans for a joint publication between Fisk and the Library of Congress fell through.

The research and writing of Work, Jones and Adams were rediscovered in a mislabeled box in Nashville storage facility by Gordon while he was researching a biography of Muddy Waters.

The Gertrude Vanderbilt and Harold S. Vanderbilt Visiting Writers Series hosted poet R.D. Ottaway reading from his work in October. His first collection, The Drive-In, won the Breakthrough Award from the University of Missouri Press in 1986. He was awarded the Michael Benedum Award in 2004 for Light Verse from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and was named University Scholar at Lamar University. His latest volume is No Word of Farewell: New and Selected Poems, 1970–2000. He lives in Beaumont, Texas.

Charles Baxter, whose fiction has been described as “a valentine to the Midwest” by The Atlantic, read from his work in late January. Baxter has published eight books of fiction, including The Feast of Love, which was a 2000 National Book Award finalist. He is the Edelstein-Keller Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Minnesota and has received the Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

UPCOMING

MUSIC

Vanderbilt’s Dyer Observatory continues its Bluebird on the Mountain concert series this summer with some of the top songwriters in town playing in the round on perhaps the highest hilltop in Nashville. Bluebird concerts begin May 13 and continue monthly through October.

VISUAL ART

From June 1 through Aug. 4 at Sarratt Gallery, electronic media artist Brian DeLevie shows glide prints that juxtapose images concerning the Holocaust and World War II.

DANCE

The second annual Vanderbilt Summer Dance Festival will take place June 7–17. Sponsored by the Vanderbilt Dance Program, it offers intensive dance training to persons 14 years of age and older.