

I

Skidmore Intercom

Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 3, No. 2 - September 25, 2003

Highlights

[Nayland Blake Opening at the Tang](#)[Different Chinas Program Launched](#)

Printable Version



Magic, (1990-91), puppet, steel, wood, artificial flowers and case; by Nayland Blake, whose works are featured in a new Tang Museum show. (Courtesy of the artist and Matthew Marks Gallery) [Story](#)



Richness of Flower and Bird: No. 1 (2002), ink, watercolor, gouache, and gold leaf on paper, by Yue Dong, part of the Different Chinas program. [Story](#)



Jeanne Bresciani, dancer and artistic director of Isadora Duncan International Institute, will perform on campus. (Photo by Helen Grigoriadou). [Story](#)

Welcome -- The Skidmore *Intercom* Faculty-Staff Newsletter is a production of the Office of College Relations. All members of the campus community are invited to submit story ideas or news items, using the contact information provided below. Department chairs and office directors are asked to please print a copy of this document to share with colleagues who do not have regular access to a computer.

We hope you enjoy this electronic newsletter and encourage you to share your impressions via email or telephone.

Skidmore Intercom

Skidmore College
815 North Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518.580.5000
intercom@skidmore.edu

I
HOME

Highlights

[Nayland Blake Opening at the Tang.](#)[Different Chinas Program Launched](#)

Printable Version

Skidmore Intercom

Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 3, No. 2 - September 25, 2003**'Some Kind of Love' Explored in New Tang Exhibition**

Skidmore's Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery will present *Nayland Blake: Some Kind of Love: Performance Video 1989-2002* from Sept. 27 to Dec. 31, 2003.

One of the Tang's "Opener" series of exhibitions designed to introduce artists and new work to the region, *Some Kind of Love* features several examples of Blake's performance-based work, including videos, objects, and large-scale installations.

Historically researched and often inspired by literature, Blake's sometimes controversial works explore complicated and subtly mixed concepts such as identity, race, and relationships. His sculptural installations and performances address issues of race and sexuality through playful and subversive images often linked to childhood.

For instance, *Feeder 2* is a life-sized cabin made of gingerbread squares fitted onto a steel armature. Like the gingerbread house discovered by Hansel and Gretel in the classic fairy tale, the 7-by-10 foot structure fills the gallery with an overwhelming aroma. Nearby will be an hour-long video titled *Gorge*, in which Blake is continuously fed doughnuts, pizza, an entire hero sandwich, watermelon, chocolates, Perrier water, and milk. With "Bunny Hop" playing in the background, the video exposes the intricacies of nurture and power, pleasure and pain, satiety and discomfort.

Over the past 20 years, Blake's interests have ranged widely, "from popular culture to vanguard subversion; from Camp to the queer body in the age of AIDS; from Sadean and psychoanalytic texts to the toxic legacy of American racism," writes David Deitcher in the exhibition's catalogue. Like many American artists of the 1990s, Blake has often dealt with identity, says Deitcher, expressed as "a compound process rather than a fait accompli."

A native of New York City, Blake earned an M.F.A. at the California Institute of the Arts in 1984. He has had solo shows at the Matthew Marks Gallery in New York City, the Contemporary Arts Museum of Houston, San Francisco Artspace, and other venues.

Nayland Blake: Some Kind of Love will be accompanied by three free public events: a noon curator's tour of the exhibition on Tuesday, Sept. 30, followed later that day by a 7 p.m. "Dialogue" between Blake and Mason Stokes, a member of the Skidmore English faculty. A dance party, featuring the artist as D.J., will begin at 10:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 16.

Organized by Tang curator Ian Berry in collaboration with the artist, the exhibition received its premier showing last winter at the Center for Art and Visual Culture at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. The "Opener" series is made possible with support from the Laurie Tisch Sussman Foundation, the New York State Council on the Arts, the Overbrook Foundation, and the Friends of the Tang.

The Tang Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free for people with a Skidmore ID. For more information on exhibitions and events, call ext. 8080 or go to www.skidmore.edu/tang.

Skidmore Intercom

Skidmore College
815 North Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518.580.5000
intercom@skidmore.edu

Skidmore Intercom

Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 3, No. 2 - September 25, 2003

'Different Chinas:' New Fall Semester Program Launched

Different Chinas – a fall semester program featuring an array of films, lectures, discussions, and an art exhibition gets under way Monday, Sept. 29, with the Fifth-Generation Chinese film *To Live*, by Zhang Yimou. The movie will be shown at 7 p.m. in the Somers Room of the Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery. There is no charge for admission.

Mao Chen, director of the College's Asian Studies program and associate professor of Chinese, explained that *Different Chinas* focuses "on questions of national identity and international relations set in the context of China studies." With a varied schedule of events and contributors from throughout the campus, *Different Chinas* provides information about the diverse cultural realities of contemporary China and raises awareness about the offerings available on the Skidmore campus. Chen hopes that faculty and students "will utilize this series in their courses and research agenda as much as possible – as a way to integrate China into the curriculum."

Chen will introduce the two Fifth-Generation Chinese films that open the program on Sept. 29 and Oct. 1. Birgit Linder, visiting assistant professor of foreign languages, will introduce two Sixth-Generation films: *Platform*, by Jia Zhangke, and *Quitting*, by Zhang Yang. The movies were selected to highlight the contrast between post-Mao and avant-garde vision by contemporary Chinese filmmakers. Fifth-generation Chinese film emphasizes style and the importance of aesthetics, and also develops new approaches to narrative in a post-Mao world. Sixth-generation film started out as highly experimental, but integrates naturalism.

An exhibition of contemporary Chinese brush painting curated by Professor of Art Doretta Miller opens at the Tang Museum Oct. 17 and runs through December. *Brushing the Present: Contemporary Academy Painting from China*, features work by painters who are affiliated with Chinese academic institutions and who routinely exhibit in state-sponsored venues.

The show features 35 artworks created within the past three years by 27 artists who have used either ink and brush on paper or oil on canvas. Miller, who has been organizing the exhibition for two years, is herself a veteran of teaching in China. She spent part of her sabbatical year there in 1996, an experience that sparked her curiosity about art education in that country. She wondered, "How is the next generation of Chinese artists learning to draw and paint for the Chinese audience?" In subsequent visits to China she learned more about how advanced technology and global culture have affected Chinese artists. Among the questions she wanted to answer were "What's on their minds now? What do they feel comfortable painting? What liberties, subjects, and levels of tolerance are permitted?"

As the show came together a number of themes emerged, including artists' responses to globalization; portraits, models, and still-life as subjects of the academy painter; the artists' affinities to the Chinese landscape; and traditional and new expressions of Buddhism. "The group represents an alternative view to Western audiences with regard to the degree of artistic acceptance and cultural change taking place in China today," explained Miller. The upcoming exhibition is "a snapshot of where China is in terms of Chinese who paint for a Chinese audience. I want to show how a Chinese painter can be true to tradition, yet thrive in a contemporary world." She readily acknowledges that the exhibition is "a moment in time. All this will be different in six years." A catalogue featuring essays by Miller and by Joan Lebold Cohen (who will give a lecture titled "From Mao to Now" Nov. 4 at the Tang) will accompany the exhibition.

In conjunction with the exhibition, there will be a number of special events at the Tang, including a brush painting demonstration by Skidmore's Jack Ling, director of diversity and affirmative action, and exhibition artist Xu Zheng on Oct. 21.

Other *Different Chinas* highlights include an Oct. 2 lecture titled "Chinese Foreign Relations" by Harry Harding of George Washington University; an Oct. 22 dialogue titled "Different Chinas" by Princeton University scholar Perry Link and East Asian expert Ian Buruma, Luce Professor of Humanities and Democracies at Bard College; and the Nov. 14 premiere of a new film, *Chuang Tzu's Powwow Drum*.

For up-to-date information on the entire *Different Chinas* program, visit http://www.skidmore.edu/tang/diff_chinas/

Skidmore Intercom

Skidmore College
815 North Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518.580.5000
intercom@skidmore.edu

Highlights

[Nayland Blake Opening at the Tang](#)

[Different Chinas Program Launched](#)

Printable Version

I

Highlights

[Nayland Blake Opening at the Tang](#)

[Different Chinas Program Launched](#)

[Printable Version](#)

Skidmore Intercom

Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 3, No. 2 - September 25, 2003

Kingdon Talk, Book Signing Set

Jonathan Kingdon, author and Oxford University scholar who was Distinguished Visiting Fellow in the Arts and Sciences at Skidmore in 1997-98, returns to the campus this fall as a visiting lecturer in Liberal Studies.

While on campus at the end of September, Kingdon will sign copies of his new book, *Lowly Origin: Where, When and Why Our Ancestors First Stood Up*, and meet members of the campus community at a reception in his honor. The book signing begins at 4:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 29, in the Skidmore Shop. At 5:30 p.m. that day Kingdon will be the guest of honor during a reception in the Payne Room of the Tang Museum. Both events are open to the campus community.

Currently a Senior Research Associate at the Institute of Biological Anthropology and Department of Zoology at Oxford, Kingdon is a widely respected naturalist, illustrator, and field-guide author. In 1971 he discovered a new race of giant squirrel in Uganda. In the 1980s he became something of a TV personality as the focus of two BBC documentaries. He is a scholar of evolution and human origins who wrote *Self-Made Man: Human Evolution from Eden to Extinction* in 1993 and whose seven-volume *East African Mammals: An Atlas of Evolution in Africa (1971-82)* was cited by *American Scientist* as one of the "100 books that shaped a century of science."

Kingdon was Skidmore's inaugural Distinguished Visiting Fellow in the Arts and Sciences, a program funded by a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation during the late 1990s. The program stressed the interconnections between art and science, especially the nature of creativity and the process of discovery and invention.

New York Times Art Critic to Deliver Fox/Adler Lecture

The history of American art museums as institutions of social and economic improvement will be the foundation for an upcoming lecture at Skidmore College by Michael Kimmelman, chief art critic at the *New York Times*. Titled "Art in Aisle One: The Early History of American Museum and Department Stores," the lecture gets under way at 5:15 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25, in the Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery. Admission to the talk, this year's Fox/Adler Lecture at Skidmore, is free and open to the public.

[Click here for more information](#)

Duncan's Myth and Image to Be Explored in Performances

"Myth and Image in the Dance of Isadora Duncan" with Jeanne Bresciani and the Skidmore Dancers, will be presented at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 1, and Thursday, Oct. 2, in the Skidmore Dance Theater. General admission is \$5 per person, with Skidmore student tickets priced at \$3.

Jeanne Bresciani, a 1972 Skidmore graduate, has been in residence reconstructing the works of Isadora Duncan for the Skidmore Dancers. This performance will include dances to Schubert and Scriabin, including Schubert Waltzes and the C Major Symphony.

The dances on this program originate from the period of the Grunewald School (1905-1908) and subsequently, as taught by Isadora and her sister, Elizabeth, to the "Isadorables" -- Anna, Irma, Maria-Theresa, and Lisa Duncan. These dancers of the Isadorian tradition later transmitted the technique and choreography of Isadora to their own pupils.

Bresciani studied and performed from 1974 to 1988 with Anna and Irma Duncan's principle disciples, Julia Levien and Hortense Kooluris; and with Maria-Theresa Duncan as well as her long-time pupil, Kay Bardsley; and with Anita Zahn, the chief exponent of Duncan pedagogy in America.

Bresciani is artistic director and director of education of The Isadora Duncan International Institute, Inc., a performing company of adults and children created in 1988.

From 1976 to 79 Bresciani was soloist with the Isadora Duncan Commemorative Dance Company was co-founder and co-artistic director of Dancers for Isadora from 1980 to 87. In 1987, she succeeded to artist-in-residence of the Isadora Duncan International Institute after Maria-Theresa Duncan, becoming also its artistic and educational director.

Bresciani has performed as soloist at New York's Lincoln Center, at the National Museum of Dance at Saratoga Springs, before the United Nations General Assembly, at pre-Olympic ceremonies in 1988, and at the National Museum of Women in the Arts. She has appeared as guest performer/teacher/lecturer at colleges and other stages throughout the United States and in Canada, Europe, South America and the Far East.

Middle East Scholar on Campus for New Residency

Skidmore's inaugural Jacob Perlow Scholar-in-Residence, Meir Zamir of Ben-Gurion University in Israel, has two additional public lectures planned this fall. They are the following:

- "(Re-)Building an Iraqi State: From Establishment to the Post-Saddam Era, 1921-2003," Tuesday, Sept. 30;
- "Territorial Extension and National Homogeneity: The Case of Lebanon," Tuesday, Oct. 7;

The talks will begin at 8 p.m. in Gannett Auditorium of Palamountain Hall. Admission is free and receptions will follow. Zamir's residency is made possible due to a gift from alumna Jane Greenberg Cameron '81. For details on the new residency and Zamir, read the [news release](#).

Annual Art Faculty Exhibition Announced

The annual Art Faculty Exhibition at Skidmore's Schick Art Gallery opens Friday, Oct. 3 and runs through Sunday, Nov. 2. An opening reception is scheduled from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 3 and a gallery talk is slated for 3 p.m. Oct. 10 in the gallery.

These events are free and open to the public.

Multi-media works, including ceramics, metals, photography, graphic design, drawing, painting printmaking and sculpture will be among the works exhibited by the following full-time and visiting faculty members: Regis Brodie, John Cunningham, Deborah Hall, Kate Leavitt, Richard Linke, Margo Mensing, David Miller, Doretta Miller, John Moore, David Peterson, Paul Sattler, Janet Sorensen, Peter Stake, and Joanne Vella, John Danison, Leslie Ferst, John Galt, Trish Lyell, Jane Mackintosh, Deborah Morris, Victoria Palermo, and Sara Tack.

The Schick Art Gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the week and from 1 to 4:30 p.m. on weekends. Admission is free.

In the News

Sandy Baum, professor of economics, wrote an essay titled "More Need-Based Aid Would Level the Playing Field" published in the Sept. 19 edition of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. In addition, Baum was the source for the following: a Sept. 13 story in *In These Times* (published by the Institute for Public Affairs), titled "Hard Knocks: For many poor students, college remains only a dream"; a Sept. 7 story in the *Duluth News-Tribune* titled "Debt clouds darken for recent grads"; a Sept. 4 story in *The Los Angeles Times* titled "GOP Report Says College Tuition Increases Causing 'Crisis'"; and an Aug. 31 story in *The Houston Chronicle* titled "Loan debt the norm for college students."

Don Hastings, director of residential life, was interviewed for a Sept. 7 *Sunday Gazette* story titled "Area colleges easing campus housing crunch."

Bret Ingerman, director of CITS, was a source for "Copyright Infringement 101" a story in the Sept. 11-17 edition of *Metroland*.

Gary McClure, associate professor of management and business, was a source for a Sept. 14 *Saratogian* article titled "Owners risk double the defeat in hopes of double the dough."

Pat Oles, dean of student affairs, was interviewed by Laura Vanderkam for an opinion essay titled "Get a life parents – and let adult child have one, too!" published Aug. 26 in *USA Today*.

Rick Scarce, assistant professor of sociology, was a source for a story titled "Chiron blasts may signal escalation by activists; Experts: Second bomb set to go off when responders arrived" on an attack by animal rights activists at the Emeryville, Calif., bioresearch firm Chiron Corp. Written by Sean Holstege of MediaNews Group, the story appeared in the following California newspapers: *The Alameda Times-Star*, *The Argus* (Fremont), *The Daily Review* (Hayward), *The Oakland Tribune*, and *Tri-Valley Herald* (Pleasanton).

Mary Zeiss Stange, associate professor of religion and women's studies, wrote an opinion essay titled "Monument to an Inglorious Past," published Aug. 26 in *The Los Angeles Times*.

Sue Van Hook, senior teaching associate in biology, was interviewed for a story titled "Fungus Fever: Mushroom fans finding bumper crop" published Sept. 14 in *The Sunday Gazette*.

Skidmore Intercom

Skidmore College
815 North Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518.580.5000
intercom@skidmore.edu



Highlights

[Nayland Blake Opening at the Tang](#)

[Different Chinas Program Launched](#)

[Printable Version](#)

Skidmore Intercom

Faculty & Staff Newsletter

Vol. 3, No. 2 - September 25, 2003

Faculty-Staff Activities

Giuseppe Faustini, professor of Italian, delivered a lecture on Niccolò Machiavelli's "La Mandragola: The Prince or the republic?" April 11 at Wake Forest University. He also lectured on Alberto Lattuada's film *La Mandragola* (1965) and chaired a discussion on the film.

Kyle Nichols, assistant professor of geosciences, and **James McLelland**, visiting professor of geosciences, will make presentations at the 115th annual meeting of the Geological Society of America, scheduled Nov. 2-5 in Seattle. Nichols is co-author of a presentation titled "The Life of Desert Piedmont Sediment: Sediment Tracing Using Cosmogenic Nuclides," and McLelland will be co-presenter of "Direct Dating of Adirondack Anorthosite by U-PB Shrimp Techniques: Implications for AMCG Genesis." In addition, Nichols will join Robin Wiles-Skeels '04 for an additional presentation, titled "City in the Country: Quantifying the Effects of Land-Use Change on the Hydrology of a Water Supply Watershed, Saratoga Springs, N.Y."

Jay Rogoff, lecturer in English, read from his poetry Aug. 14 at the Bright Hill Literary Center in Treadwell, N.Y. He delivered a pre-performance talk titled "Shakespeare and Balanchine: A Meeting of Two Geniuses," July 10 at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center before the New York City Ballet's performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and July 12 at the Surrey-Williamson Inn to a group of Skidmore alumni prior to an NYCB matinee. Rogoff also served as a pre-performance interviewer July 11 at SPAC, discussing Jerome Robbins's ballet *Glass Pieces* with former NYCB dancer and current assistant ballet master Jean-Pierre Frohlich, and again July 23, talking about Christopher Wheeldon's new ballet *Carnival of the Animals* with NYCB resident choreographer Wheeldon and actor John Lithgow, who wrote and recited the ballet's narration in addition to dancing the role of the elephant.

In addition, Rogoff was an invited speaker at the New York Council for the Humanities Teacher Institute on "Adaptations: Teaching Shakespeare, Literature, and History Through Film" July 24 at Bard College, where he also gave a talk on *Hamlet* called "To Be or Not to Be: So What's the Question?"

Publications & Exhibitions

Giuseppe Faustini, professor of Italian, has published the following articles:

"La Ciociara di Moravia: romanzo e film," in *La Ciociaria: Letterature e Cinema*, edited by F. Sangrilli, Ancona: Metauro, 2002; "A proposito di Pirandello traduttore," published in *Ariel, Quadrimestrale dell'Istituto di Studi Pirandelliani* (Roma), Vol. 15, No. 3, Settembre-Dicembre 2001; and "Pirandello critico di se stesso," published in *Nuova Antologia* (Firenze), Vol. 136, No. 2220, Ottobre-Dicembre 2001.

Deb Hall, assistant professor of art, has work included in the following national exhibitions:

"Digitally Speaking," through Oct. 9 at the Womanmade Gallery in Chicago. Juror for the exhibition was Dorothy Simpson Krause. [View](#) the show; "2003 National Digital Art Exhibition," Aug. 1-Sept. 8 at the Muse Gallery, Prescott, Ariz.; and "Works on Paper," Aug. 3-31 at the Long Beach Arts Gallery, Long Beach, Calif.

A catalogue published by the Tang Museum has won a national prize. *Narratives of a Negress*, which accompanied the *Kara Walker: Narratives of a Negress* exhibition held earlier this year at the museum, won second prize in the 2003 American Association of Museums Museum Publication Design Competition. **Ian Berry**, Tang curator, was a co-editor of the volume, along with Darby English, Vivian Patterson, and Mark Reinhardt, all of Williams College. The quartet also co-curated the exhibition, which is now at Williams College.

Jay Rogoff, lecturer in English, has had several poems recently accepted for publication.

"Courtship at Isenheim" will appear in *The Journal*; "Making a Fool of Myself Over Maria Kowroski" in *Literary Imagination*; "In Camera" in *Margie*; "A Breakdown" in *The Southern Review*; and three poems, "Chawton," "The Glass of Fashion and the Mold of Form," and "Tulum," in *Western Humanities Review*. His poem "Night Light" has appeared in *The Southern Review*, Vol. 39, No. 3 (Summer 2003), and another poem, "Turner River," has been published in *Emerson at Harvard*, a poetry anthology marking the bicentennial of Ralph Waldo Emerson's birth (Bristol, IN: Quill, 2003).

His extended essay-review, "Formal Gardens with Real Poets in Them," a consideration of new books of poetry by Daniel Hofman, John Hollander, X.J. Kennedy, Mary Jo Salter, and Terri Witek, has been accepted for publication in *The Southern Review*.

Skidmore Intercom

Skidmore College
815 North Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518.580.5000
intercom@skidmore.edu