

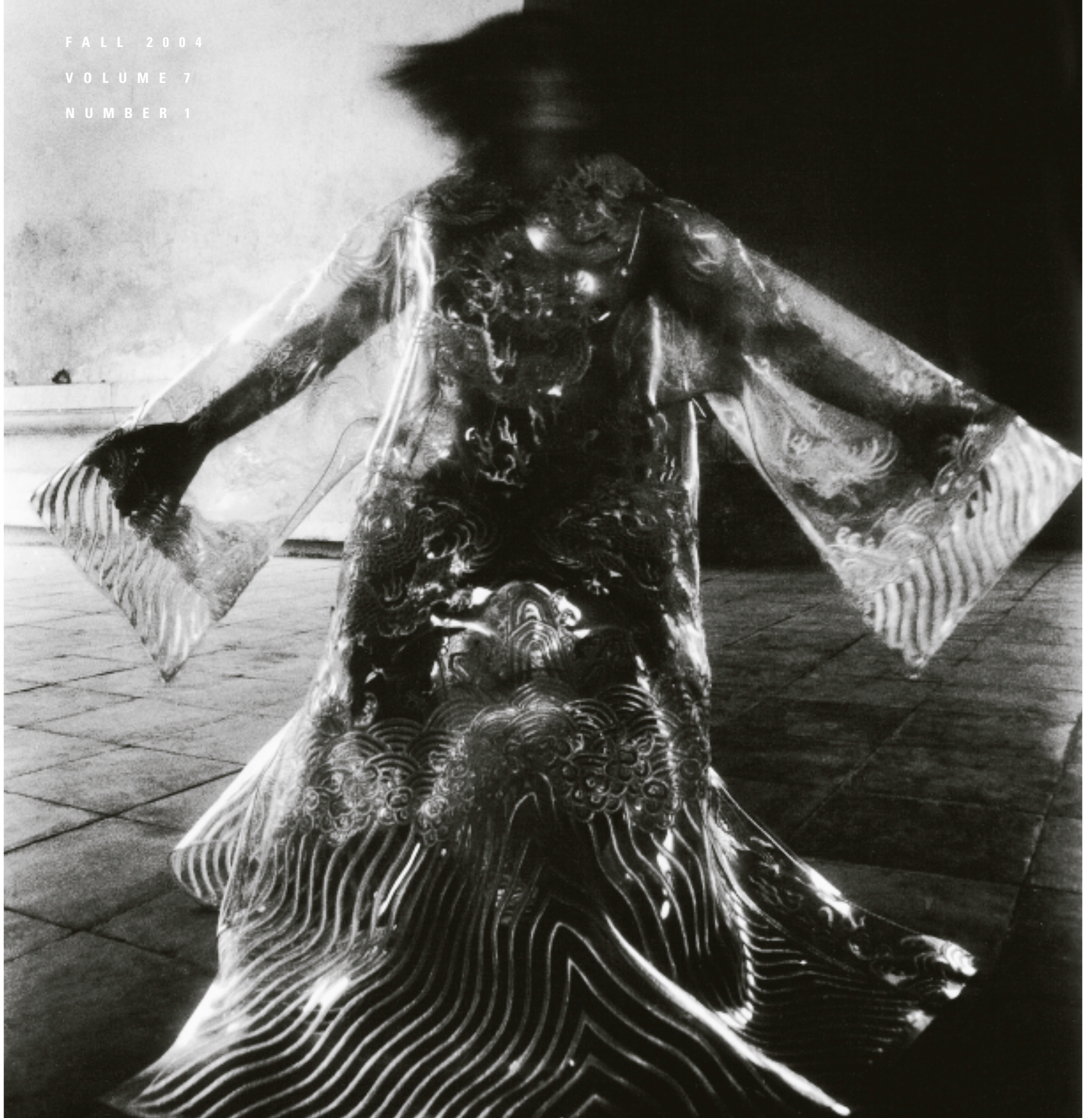
# TABLEAU

THE NEWSLETTER *for the* DIVISION *of the* HUMANITIES  
*at* THE UNIVERSITY *of* CHICAGO

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## DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



I WROTE IN SEPTEMBER to say that in the fall issue of *Tableau* I'd share with you my summer thoughts. At present they consist more of questions than of answers, and start from the one central question: What does the future hold for humanistic inquiry and scholarship in the humanities?

It's easy to say that in a time of war, terror, and uncertainty we need more than ever the texts, images, music, and concepts that help lift our attention away from basic needs for food, shelter, and security and toward our higher human goals. May present circumstances not degrade our capacities to seek great artistic and scholarly achievements! May we not forget that security without humanity is no victory.

But those are the easy thoughts. It is harder to specify the work that professors and deans should be doing in Year 2005, or that we can expect to be doing in Year 2010. What exactly is the role of a Humanities Division in the current world?

First, it's important to assimilate the remarkable transformation underway in the global economy, through which, for the time being, the First World is securing a near monopoly on intellectual labor (research and development, inventions and refinements, marketing, cultural productions, and other features of our economic life that depend on creativity and imagination), while the Second and Third Worlds (forgive my use of outdated terms) are developing a monopoly on industrial production. It's not that developing countries are not contributing to intellectual capital; the arts thrive worldwide. But currently, there is a global distribution of labor in which we have secured for ourselves the job of developing the ideas.

As Don Randel likes to point out, universities are

among the few major institutions—or, let's stretch the term, businesses—in the U.S. that aren't outsourcing jobs. There's a pretty straightforward reason for this: the enterprise of universities is production of intellectual capital.

My suspicion is that the Humanities are central to the job that you, I, and our fellow citizens will perform in the coming decades as the leading producers of the world's intellectual capital. I believe that this leadership position will last for a limited time only, not because we're unworthy of it but because the human spirit everywhere desires above all to develop intellectual capital. Already managers of telecommunications customer service centers in India complain that all the creative, stimulating work is being kept in the U.S. (*Los Angeles Times*, Aug. 2, 2004). And fair enough. We humanists understand that complaint.

The leadership position that we currently hold—and that I hope will ultimately be the basis for strong creative traditions and activities shared throughout the world—confers on us an awesome responsibility.

How do we preserve the treasures of the world's past and identify the present questions that will help us cultivate knowledge and intelligence for the future so as to ensure that the next generation's storehouse of intellectual capital is not just efficient, or cost-effective, or powerful, but also humane?

How do we ensure that our students can think historically, move comparatively across traditions, and work flexibly in a variety of languages as they seek to understand the types of intellectual capital that can help our conflicted world live more humanely?

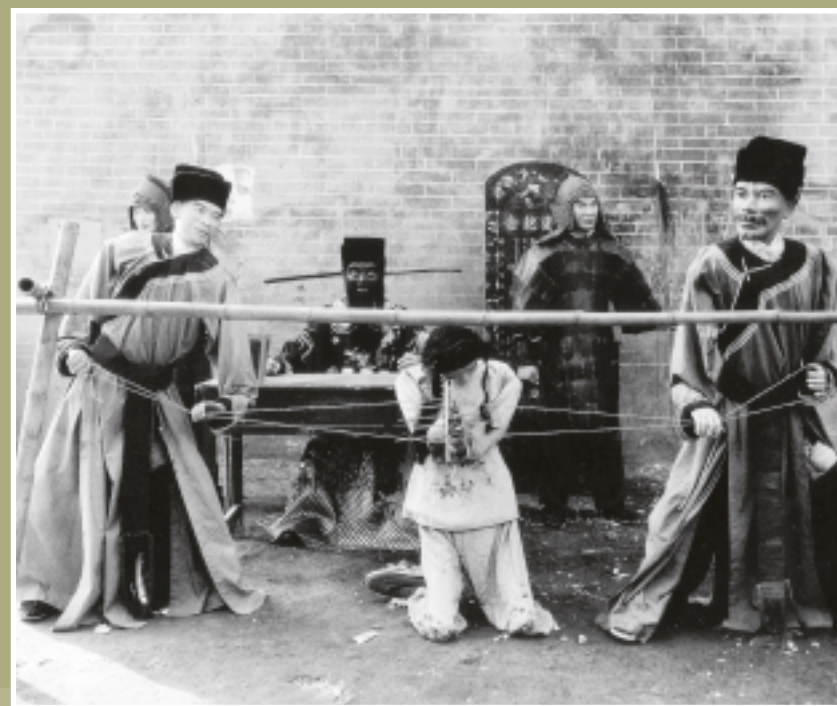
How do we continue to inspire in students, both within our walls and beyond them, a desire to make time and spiritual space for human activities other than war?

It seems to me that the task presently facing a Humanities Division such as ours is to answer these questions. For the time being, I raise these questions, only. With each coming issue of *Tableau*, I will do my best to answer them.

Sincerely,

Send us a letter! *Tableau* will be publishing select reader correspondence in a new section, beginning in Spring 2005. Write to [tableau@uchicago.edu](mailto:tableau@uchicago.edu).





# IMAGES OF THE EAST

Artistic photography has had a short and difficult history in China, yet one of tremendous productivity.

Four museums bring a comprehensive exhibition to America.

IN THE FALL OF 2000, Wu Hung, Harrie T. Vanderstappen Distinguished Service Professor of Art History at the University of Chicago, and Christopher Phillips, Senior Curator at New York City's International Center of Photography (ICP), discovered that they share a common interest. Both scholars, whose respective backgrounds are in Chinese art and the history of photography, share a "fascination with the sudden emergence of photography and video as central preoccupations of Chinese artists."

Above: Liu Zheng, *Clay Sculpture: The Punishment of the Wife Who Misbehaved, Houshentai, Henan Province*, 2000, Gelatin silver print, 14 1/2 x 14 1/2 inches. Courtesy of the artist and CourtYard Gallery, Beijing. Right: (detail) Ma Liuming, *Fen-Ma Liuming Walks on the Great Wall*, 1998, Cromogenic print, Collection JGS, Inc.







Soon, Wu Hung and Phillips were planning an unconventional exhibition that would showcase this new work in America. By fall 2002, their partnership had expanded to include the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) in Chicago and the Asia Society in New York in an extensive process of collaboration. The resulting exhibition, *Between Past and Future: New Photography and Video from China*, will be at both the University of Chicago's David and Alfred Smart Museum of Art and the MCA until January 16, 2005, after which it will travel to Seattle, then London, Berlin, and Santa Barbara, California. It includes the striking photographs that appear on these pages and a great many more.

#### Pooling Resources and Inspiration

The collaboration between the Smart Museum, ICP, Asia Society, and MCA has been both groundbreaking and fruitful, in part because the institutions brought vastly differing knowledge to the project: the ICP contributed its expertise in photography, the Asia Society its extensive resources regarding China and Asia, and the MCA its programming capabilities and audiences for contemporary art. As an educational institution within a research university, the Smart Museum has special strength in museum education and community outreach, as well as affiliations with leading scholars of art and art history.

Art museums today increasingly work together to plan, market, and display their exhibitions. "But," according to Jacqueline Terrassa, Interim Director and Education Director of the Smart Museum, "these collaborations have typically been between just two institutions, often in the same city, and usually around areas having to do with audience—marketing and education being two primary areas . . . Where this show goes further is in the fact that it . . . involves four insti-

tutions, that the curators conceptualized together a huge group show (as opposed to a solo show by an artist), and that every aspect of presenting and traveling the exhibition has been a true dialogue, a back-and-forth between institutions."

This deeper collaboration is reflected in the theme of cooperation, apparent throughout the exhibition's physical layout, and in the programming related to the exhibition. In Chicago, half of the photographs will be displayed at the Smart Museum and the other half at the MCA. Each museum will house two of the four groups of photos that comprise the exhibition. As their names suggest, each group emphasizes a different theme: *History and Memory*, *Performing the Self*, *Reimagining the Body*, and *People and Place*.

As Wu Hung notes in his introduction to the exhibition catalog, *Between Past and Future* "introduce[s] to American audiences a remarkable group of younger artists who are, at this point, still little known in the United States." Featuring one hundred and thirty works by sixty artists, many of whom are exhibiting for the first time in the United States, the exhibition reflects,

Left: (detail) Cang Xin, *Communication* (Series No. 2), 1999, four of twelve chromogenic prints, 19 5/8 x 15 3/4 inches. Courtesy of the artist and CourtYard Gallery, Beijing

among other things, the enthusiastic adoption of media-based art by younger Chinese artists. Often ambitious in scale and experimental in nature, works by Song Dong, Wang Gongxin, Wang Qingsong, Xing Danwen, and many others reflect a range

of highly individual responses to the unprecedented changes now taking place in China's economy, society, and culture.

The show concentrates, in Wu Hung's words, "on works that convey the complexity of . . . artists' responses to the changes in Chinese life that confront them every day." In doing so, the exhibition provides Western visitors with rare insight into the subtle dynamics that exist within Chinese culture at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

The works come out of an extremely rich movement of experimental photography that began in the mid-1990s, after a period of repression following the 1989 Tiananmen Square uprising drove most early members of the photographic art world into government administrative positions and away from the ferment of the art world. The thoughtfully selected and arranged images depict this period with a complexity and breadth that is striking in a museum setting.



#### A Late Beginning

Prior to 1979, photography in China was used and viewed almost exclusively as a vehicle for official state propaganda. By the 1990s, however, a strong community of experimental photographers—unknown or nonexistent a decade earlier—were working closely with avant-garde installation artists, performers, and painters, creating a "dynamic exchange" of ideas and inspiration, with artists freely moving among media. This period, called simply "experimental photography" (*shying xinchao*) in China, gave birth to a stunning variety of photographic and video art that pushes at boundaries long forgotten or ignored by artists in the West.

How did this shift occur? China's first amateur photo club formed when individuals on the scene photographed a series of violently repressed political demonstrations in Tiananmen Square in April of 1976. It was not long before these amateur photographers discovered how the images of brutality they had created, according to Wu Hung, "effectively evoked people's

memories of the event, and strengthened their will to pursue a better future." The powerful impact their work had on viewers inspired these individuals to pursue the artistic possibilities of the medium, which they did through formation of the club, named the April Photo Society.

While striving to develop their skills as photographers, how-

Above: Li Wei, *Mirroring: On Coal Hill*, 2000, Chromogenic print, 39 2/5 x 27 3/5 inches. Courtesy of the artist.

Left: Li Wei, *Mirroring: Tiananmen Square*, 2000, Chromogenic print, 39 2/5 x 27 3/5 inches. Courtesy of the artist.

Information for this article was drawn from Wu Hung's essay "Between Past and Future: A Brief History of Contemporary Chinese Photography," and Christopher Phillips's essay "The Great Transition: Artists' Photography and Video in China," both from the exhibition catalog *Between Past and Future: New Photography and Video from China* by Wu Hung and Christopher Phillips (David and Alfred Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago, International Center of Photography, New York, and Steidl Publishers, Göttingen, Germany, 2004).



ever, the April Photo Society members were working during a time in which it was unwise for citizens to engage the Chinese government on overtly political topics. In order to avoid persecution, these photographers shifted their focus to subjects that were more closely aligned with the Chinese art world and not with political activism. In this way, they were able to explore the evocative power of images, but to do so in the relative freedom of a setting divorced from the political conflict characteristic of their earliest project.

### The Photographic New Wave

Throughout the 1980s and into the early '90s, photo clubs, journals, and magazines flourished throughout China. As artists and photographers came into increasing contact with the Western world's long history of

The Photographic New Wave also saw an increased number of organized photographic exhibitions, which brought artistic photography to broader and broader audiences throughout China. Their shows could attract thousands of visitors, and more than one hundred photo clubs of varying size were also founded during this period. The genre of documentary photography, in particular, assumed a place of special prominence in the New Wave, as artists reflecting the influence of western documentarians like Margaret Bourke-White, Walker Evans, and Dorothea Lange once again became interested in exploring political and social issues through their cameras.

Toward the end of the 1980s, documentary photography was once again beginning to give rise to a new movement that, Wu Hung explains, had "allied itself with the burgeoning avant-garde art." The shift drew international attention, with five young photographers invited to participate in the 1988 Arles Photography Festival in France. Then, in June of 1989, the large prodemocracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square, followed by the massacre, led to years of repression, which saw avant-garde art outlawed entirely. Photography itself was once again claimed by the state as a vehicle for "official" art and for propaganda, and practicing photographers were given jobs working for the official administrators of Chinese photography. China's art world fell victim to several years of this intense political repression, which only eased midway into the next decade when experimental artists, working outside of the official art establishment, began to push, once again, up against the government's imposed boundaries of expression.

### Experimental Photography

Photography was eventually reclaimed by these experimental artists, who, eager for a fresh medium and determined to remain apart from the entrenched, "official" photography establishment, continued associating with artists who worked with paint, ink, and other media. China's growing position of prominence in the international art world helped these artists look externally for support instead of relying on local markets. Their new-found, relatively independent status allowed the burst of creative activity that, by 2000, had inspired both Wu Hung and Christopher Phillips to begin imagining how to bring them to America.

*Between Past and Future: New Photography and Video from China* is the first exhibition in North America to systematically consider the outpouring of photographic art in China since the mid-1990s. The show will be running simultaneously at the Smart Museum and at Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art from October 2, 2004 until January 16, 2005. □

Above: Huang Yan, *Chinese Landscape—Tattoo*, 1999, Chromogenic print, 31 1/2 x 39 3/8 inches. Collection Artur Walther.

achievement in art photography, their work became deeply influenced by the wide assortment of Western techniques, trends, and aesthetics being made available to them. Yet it did not take long for these photographers to adapt what they were learning into their own unique styles, in a movement that is now known as the Photographic New Wave (*shying xinzhao*).



These pages contain images from both the Smart Museum of Art's and the Museum of Contemporary Art's sections of the exhibition.

**ALAN GEWIRTH**, Edward Carson Waller Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus in the Department of Philosophy, who was renowned for his successful rationalist challenge to the Golden Rule, died on May 9, 2004, of cancer. His career at the University of Chicago had spanned over sixty years.

In 1997, Gewirth became a charter member of the board of the University's Human Rights Program, for which he developed and taught its primary course, *Human Rights I: Philosophical Foundations*. He has been the subject of five books, several doctoral dissertations, some 150 journal articles, essays, and reviews both in the United States and abroad. He was a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and

Sciences, President of the American Philosophical Association, Western Division (1973–1974), and President of the American Society for Political and Legal Philosophy (1983–1984). He received numerous prizes and awards, including two Rockefeller Foundation Fellowships, two National Endowment for the Humanities Senior Fellowships, and a Guggenheim Fellowship.

"He brought the rigor of philosophical argument to the justification of human rights," said Martha Nussbaum, the Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor in the Law School, the Divinity School, and Philosophy. "By connecting human rights to the very possibility of human agency, he helped people from many different fields understand why rights are so important, and why social and economic rights must be included alongside civil and political rights." □

ALAN GEWIRTH

1912–2004

## in memoriam

**ALBERT M. HAYES**, Professor Emeritus in English, died July 14, 2004 at his home in Hyde Park. He was 94. He had been an active member of the Hyde Park community since 1943, when he came to teach humanities to undergraduates in the College at the University of Chicago.

Hayes was warmly recognized by colleagues and students alike as a dedicated teacher of English literature. In 1948, he was awarded the Quantrell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. Under a Fulbright grant, Hayes spent the year 1955–1956 with his family at the University of the Philippines in Manila, creating a humanities program similar to the University of Chicago's. In 1969, he became the University Registrar, making him one of the last faculty members to assume full-time administrative duties within the University. He continued in this capacity,

while still teaching occasionally, until he retired in 1978.

Throughout his career, Hayes was deeply involved with the Hyde Park neighborhood; he was a founding member of the Harper Court Foundation, a non-profit organization that established a space where small businesses could continue to serve the community after urban renewal had displaced them.

The family requests that memorial gifts be sent to the Ragdale Foundation, 1260 North Green Bay Road, Lake Forest, Illinois 60045, or the First Unitarian Church of Chicago, 5650 South Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60637. □

ALBERT M. HAYES

1909–2004

**KARL JOACHIM WEINTRAUB** (A.B. '49, A.M. '52, Ph.D. '57), Thomas E. Donnelley Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus in History, former Dean of the Humanities, and Chair of the Committee on the History of Culture, who also taught in the Committee on Social Thought and in the College, died on March 25, 2004, in Bernard Mitchell Hospital at the University of Chicago at the age of 79. Karl "Jock" Weintraub spent nearly sixty years of his life at the University of Chicago as a student, a professor, and an inspiring mentor to generations of students.

"I can't think of anyone whose death means as much of a loss of knowledge to the world," said Wayne Booth, the George Pullman M. Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus in English Language and Literature at the University. "He knew and had thought about everything—politics, literature, religion, and just about everything else. His work was terribly important to me and others. His work on Goethe was the best job on Goethe I know. He also did

work on various forms of individuality."

On campus, Weintraub was esteemed at least as highly for his inspirational skill and commitment as a teacher. "An ever-so-wonderful aspect of my half century at this University," he said at one time, "is that it allowed me to teach its excellent students. I have done my share of committee work and other administrative work when asked to do it. I have tried to teach through writing books—but the special reward and satisfaction has always been to work with live students in the classroom, trying, as best I could and albeit only by small degrees, to bring them face to face with fascinating human realities, to improve their skills, to sharpen their judgment, to refine their taste, and to develop a sense of proportion in them. Nothing else quite compares to the challenge of furthering their sense of being responsible heirs."

Memorial gifts for Karl Weintraub may be sent to the Karl Joachim Weintraub Memorial Endowment at the University of Chicago Library, Attention: Director of Development, 1100 East 57th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637–1596. □

KARL JOACHIM  
WEINTRAUB

1925–2004

AS POLITICAL CANDIDATES clashed on topics ranging from war to marriage, abortion to unemployment, the question of what qualities constitute good leadership has dominated the American media this fall. Is intellectualism or resoluteness a more important quality? When, if ever, is it appropriate for leaders to change their minds?

# humanism



DON M. RANDEL

PRESIDENT AND TRUSTEE

OF THE UNIVERSITY, PROFESSOR IN

THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

AND THE COLLEGE

A professor of philosophy in my college days remarked that, if asked on an examination to write an essay in response to a question about X or Y, it is never wrong begin with “That depends on what you mean by X or Y.” Well, in asking about the relationship between Humanism and Leadership, it depends on what you mean by Humanism and Leadership. Humanism often enough seems to mean reading old books and stuffing in some number of facts from them that can be replayed on command. And in this election year, Leadership has been so over-discussed that it has come to mean very little at all beyond who can get his (yes, his) gun out of the holster faster and shoot on the basis of as little thought as possible.

Not surprisingly, I believe that each of these terms ought to mean a great deal more, and that they ought to have a great deal to do with one another. I begin by insisting that Humanism is not merely a question of what one knows but is, even more importantly, a question of how one goes about knowing and evaluating what one knows so as to be able to alter and expand it as life unfolds. Of course, these two questions are not mutually exclusive, for much of what we know of old books is about how we ought to go about knowing. In that sense, the best reason for continuing to read old books, and new ones too,

is not so as to be able merely to recite them and by this method appear to be educated. The best reason is to draw from them what might make one a better reader of any and all books and indeed a better reader of the text of life. Humanism, then, is not a passively antiquarian devotion but an active effort to discover what gives life meaning and how one might best secure the greatest meaning for one’s life going forward.

We think everyone ought to have read Thucydides’s *The Peloponnesian War*, but not primarily so as to be able to say that there is such a book and that the war in question took place between certain parties, at a certain time, in certain places, and with certain outcomes. We read Thucydides to learn how we might want to think about war in general and how we might in the future engage friends and foes alike. Lest anyone doubt the relevance of this book today, let me quote a bit of Pericles’s funeral oration: “We do not think that there is an incompatibility between words and deeds; the worst thing is to rush into action before the consequences have been properly debated.”

Similarly, Leadership ought to be not only about what the alleged or aspiring leader knows but also about how such a person goes about knowing, what such a person thinks is worth

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“IN THIS ELECTION YEAR, Leadership . . . has come to mean . . . who can get his (yes, his) gun out of the holster faster and shoot on the basis of as little thought as possible.”

Does humanism have a place in 21st century leadership? The essays below, written by two Chicago humanists who occupy prominent leadership roles at the University, explore these questions in depth, as the writers look to their own experiences in humanism, and in leadership, for answers.

# & leadership



DANIELLE ALLEN

DEAN OF THE HUMANITIES, PROFESSOR

IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS,

THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL THOUGHT,

AND THE COLLEGE

Does an education in the Humanities turn out different sorts of leaders than training in other disciplines?

A small anecdote might give us *entrée* to the question.

This past June I attended an Aspen Institute Executive Seminar, the main purpose of which was to expose business executives to humanistic texts ranging from Sophocles and Aristotle to Confucius and Mencius to Rousseau, Horace Mann, and Martin Luther King, Jr. As our seminar leaders said in introducing the week, the purpose was a Chicago-style education based on the University’s famous core curriculum, drawing not on great books, however, but great paragraphs.

Despite that avowal, we had plenty of homework: reading that did include whole books and also occasional exercises. One such was to draw a picture, to be shared with the group, of our take on leadership. We were not supposed to use any words.

Out of the roughly twenty of us, I was one of three who actually drew a picture of an ideal leader, that is, of a person. Everyone else drew a version of an organizational chart (some pyramids, some sets of overlapping circles, one geodesic dome). And they had plenty of words on their charts, whereas I actually got by pretty well

without them. Do I catch a glimpse of my humanist background here?

Whereas most of the others had answered the question, What is the relationship of a leader to other members of his or her organization? I had answered the questions, What kind of person is the good leader? What does a good leader know and how does he or she interact with people in rapidly shifting circumstances? My colleagues had presented static plans; I had opted for a person prepared to adapt to circumstance.

Two features of my image especially set it apart, in my mind, from those of my peers: as I had depicted him/her, my leader had a sense of historicity and high attunement to the importance of language to leadership.

My leader held in his/her right hand a stack of books: Herodotus, Thucydides, Machiavelli, and Hobbes. These are the books from which I have learned to attend to the diversity of human opinion across communities and, almost more importantly, across time. They are not the only books from which one might learn this lesson, and I disagree with many of these authors’ prescriptions for how one should handle this diversity. Nonetheless, a strong sense of how much the world has changed between the times of Plato and Confucius and the present means

*Continued on page 10*

“I’M ALWAYS A LITTLE SUSPICIOUS when I hear someone say, “Well, that’s just how the world is.”



**RANDEL**—Continued from page 8

knowing, and thus how such a person is likely to decide on a course of action. What we ought to ask leaders, then, is what they will bring to bear on whatever decisions they will make, for clearly we cannot imagine the specifics of everything they may be asked to decide. One will not easily come up with a better one-word answer to that question than Humanism, in the deeper sense that I describe.

We ought to want our leaders, whether in government or in any organization, to have the qualities of mind that Humanism represents and promotes. This does not entail a belief that the future will conform in every respect to the past. But it does entail a belief that one can learn from the past and from other people who have, even in the remote past, tried to think about difficult and complicated matters. It entails an understanding

**DANIELLE ALLEN** I consider not earth, not air, not fire, not water, but language to be the basic element of the human world. This means that every word uttered shifts the structure of our world, perhaps slightly, perhaps significantly.

**ALLEN**—Continued from page 9

that I constantly carry with me the notion that the world could be otherwise than it is. I believe this helps me ferret out places where change is possible or necessary and keeps me from taking accidents of history as natural features of our world. I'm always a little suspicious when I hear someone say, "Well, that's just how the world is." I think humanists, in general, regardless of their discipline, learn to the core how different the world has been in different times and places, and therefore how changeable it is. I would like all my leaders to appreciate this lesson.

My image had a second distinguishing feature. My leader had very large eyes and very large ears and a very small mouth. This was my way of representing that leaders have to take in as much information as possible, listen to their colleagues in their institution, and speak sparingly and carefully. Most humanists study words, and even my colleagues in musicology (!) understand that at

that others may perfectly reasonably think differently from oneself. It requires a subtle ear with which to comprehend a diversity of voices and to understand the ways in which the so-called facts are often a function of the language in which they are advanced.

Our colleague Bob Richards [Morris Fishbein Professor in the History of Science and Medicine] writes of a group of nineteenth-century German philosophers as follows: "Thought, they believed, does not dance naked in the mind, in logically pure abstraction; rather, it must come imaginatively and emotionally dressed." We ought to want leaders who are talented students of that dress and its relationship to abstraction. Humanism cultivates just such talent, for it comprehends a broad range of ways of knowing, from the rigor of philosophical argument to the lessons about people and life itself that are best learned through imaginative literature and the arts.

the end of the day our worlds are built not out of bricks and mortar, not out of office buildings, homes, churches, schools, and the buildings that house governments, but out of the concepts, the ideas, with which we determine how to organize our lives in the first place. We have to have the idea of a church or a school before we can build one. The ideas may grow out of practices we have of praying or teaching, but those practices, too, feed off of and cannot be separated from concepts, from words.

I consider not earth, not air, not fire, not water, but language to be the basic element of the human world. This means that every word uttered shifts the structure of our world, perhaps slightly, perhaps significantly. In the former category falls most of the chit-chat that serves as ambient noise around me now as I write here in a Borders café. In the latter category fall words like, "All men are created equal."

A leader who understands the power of language recognizes that each of her speech-acts helps establish the contours within

Of course a leader must act. But that is in a way the easy part. The real question is, On what basis will he or she act, and will action issue from a quality of mind likely to command our assent? I do not wish to suggest for a moment that only humanists have this quality of mind or even that all of them do. A profound humanism has characterized very many of our greatest scientists and professionals. (Simultaneously, humanism ought to imply a quality of mind deeply curious about the natural world.) Whatever their background, however, we ought to be nervous about any leader with whom we cannot quite bring ourselves to associate the term *Humanism*.

So what is a music historian doing trying to lead a great university? I have many facetious answers and metaphors. One is that every musician must early on learn how to count. But perhaps as important as anything is to try to bring to the job a good ear. □

which the members of her organization will try to carry out their work. She recognizes, too, that with her speech she can shift those contours.

There is a reason our greatest leaders have also been our greatest wordsmiths: Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Jr. Each of these men weighed his words in order to judge what seeds would be planted by them. Each knew a world could grow from seeds as small as a few words. Each strove to take full responsibility for the pattern of a future world that would live already *in ovo* in their words.

The texture of their speeches and writings reveals years of reading in philosophy, religion, history, and literature. Each was a humanist. Perhaps those three are good evidence for how humanism makes a difference to leaders: providing a belief in the possibility of change and a conviction that change is best effected through words carefully chosen, even when, for most of one's community, persuasion has given way to war. □

## new humanities faculty



**KELLY AUSTIN** (Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles, 2004), Assistant Professor in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures and the College, recently completed a dissertation entitled "Poetic Traditions in the Americas: Pablo Neruda's Translations and Translators." Her work uses material evidence of literary cross-currents in the Americas—translations, collections, and correspondence—to illustrate the creative choices of poets and translators against a backdrop of changing cultural and political practices and expectations, and to trace the evolution of literary institutions that build national and international literary canons.

**ORIT BASHKIN** (Ph.D., Princeton University, 2004), Assistant Professor in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, recently completed a dissertation entitled "Intellectuals in Monarchic Iraq—1921–1941—Ideology, Language and Education," in which she surveys Iraq's broad spectrum of literary production to understand the complex and varied nature of Iraq's intelligentsia, and in particular how the concept of the "intellectual" as an agent committed to changing society and civilizing its subaltern classes emerged along with the construction of the Iraqi public sphere. She has taught at Princeton University and at Tel Aviv University and published articles in the *Journal of Semitic Studies* and the *Arab Studies Journal*, among other Publications.

**JONATHAN BEERE** (Ph.D., Princeton University, 2003), Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy and the College, recently completed a dissertation entitled "The Primacy of Active Being: An Interpretation of Aristotle's *Metaphysics IX*" in which he interprets Aristotle's theories of *being actively (energeiai on)* and *being potentially (dunamai on)* in Book IX of the *Metaphysics* as superseding the dichotomy, discussed most fully Plato's *Sophist*, between Gods and Giants. He is a graduate of the College and a Rhodes Scholar.

**RAUL CORONADO, JR.** (Ph.D., Stanford University, 2004), Assistant Professor in the Department of English and the College, recently completed his dissertation, "Competing American Modernities: Politics, Writing and the Making of U.S.–Mexican Literary Culture," in which he argues that the history of nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century Chicano/a literature must be situated in a transnational context, between the literary and cultural histories of the U.S. and Mexico. He has published articles in the *Chicana/o Cultural Studies Reader*, and *Aztlân: The Journal of Chicano/a Studies* and won the 2003–2004 Stanford Humanities Center Geballe Dissertation Prize Fellowship.

**FRANCES FERGUSON** (Ph.D., Yale University, 1973), George M. Pullman Professor in the Department of English and the College, comes to Chicago after sixteen years at Johns Hopkins University, where she was Mary Elizabeth Garrett Professor of Arts and Sciences and Chair of the Department of English. She has previously taught at the University of California, Berkeley and has held numerous visiting faculty positions. She has published three books, including this year's *Pornography, the Theory: What Utilitarianism Did to Action*, and dozens of articles and reviews. She belongs to numerous professional associations and committees and is a founding member on the editorial board of *Representations*. She is currently at work on a project trying to identify the difference that Locke, Rousseau, Kant, and Bentham's work on children and education made to their accounts of modern democratic political liberalism.

**KOTOKA SUZUKI** (D.M.A. Stanford, 1999), Assistant Professor in the Department of Music and the College, is a composer focusing on both multimedia and instrumental practices. Her works have been featured internationally by performers such as the Arditti String Quartet, Continuum, Ensemble Moderne, and Earplay Ensemble, as well as at numerous international festivals. At present, she is engaged in a new work commissioned by the Deutsche Akademische Austausch Dienst and the Technical University of Berlin for an interactive sound and video installation. She is collaborating on this project with Claudia Rohmoser and Thomas Seelig. Her other upcoming projects include a sound installation for a four-month-long portrait exhibition of Ann-Sofi Siden at the Modern Museum (Stockholm, Sweden) and a string orchestra commissioned by the Amadeus Chamber Orchestra (Poland).

Daniel and Margaret Burland both received Ph.D.s from the Division of the Humanities in 1998. Since then, they have followed radically different career paths: she as an Assistant Professor at Dartmouth College, and he in the United States Army, working as a medic in Afghanistan.

# far afield

**DANIEL BURLAND** I enlisted in the U.S. Army in March of 2000 at the age of thirty-one, two years after completing a Ph.D in Comparative Literature at the University of Chicago. In the spirit of George Orwell, I joined because I saw it as “the only conceivable thing to do.” I volunteered to be a medic. I volunteered again for Airborne (parachutist) training. I began teaching myself Serbo-Croatian. I was preparing myself to deploy to the Balkans to prevent war crimes.

I was deployed to Afghanistan with the 82nd Airborne Division from December of 2002 to July of 2003. I volunteered to be deployed to a small armed camp called a Forward Operating Base (or FOB) in the mountains of Afghanistan near the Pakistani border. I was in charge of a squad of medics. Our mission was to work under the guidance of a small team of doctors to provide medical care not only to military casualties but also, under certain conditions, to Afghani civilians.

Our situation, so far forward of the other American forces, was complex. My superiors came to depend on me (in conjunction with civil affairs personnel) to interact with Afghani interpreters, militiamen, patients, and family members of patients. My enthusiasm for this task made me unpopular with one officer. “Why

“It didn’t matter how well people knew Dan:

**MARGARET BURLAND** I left the University of Chicago in 1998 with a new Ph.D in Romance Languages and Literatures. I was one of the lucky ones, going straight from graduate school into a tenure-track job at Dartmouth College. Dan and I had deliberately staggered our graduation dates and our job searches so that I would finish in the spring and he in the fall: our specialties were so similar that we wanted to avoid competing for the same academic positions. Everything about our future plans was still so uncertain then that we hadn’t taken the step into marriage yet, not wanting to contemplate commuting between two far-flung jobs with the children we already longed to have. It was a strange feeling to move away from Chicago without Dan, but I spent so much time at work that first fall that I wouldn’t have been good company to him anyway. Teaching French language and literature at Dartmouth was everything I had hoped it would be—the students were smart and responsive, and my fellow professors were surprisingly warm and unpretentious. I didn’t want to disappoint anyone at this wonderful place, and most days it was simply second nature to me to think about work every waking hour.

By the time Dan and I were married in February

do you like the Hajis?” he said, “All they care about is their religion.” I said, “Sir, all I care about is mine.”

The group of interpreters who worked for us and lived outside of the FOB were deeply religious men. Therefore, they had a profound commitment to reality, and it was in this spirit that I was instructed in Pashto. My text was a thirty-page pamphlet that had been printed, at Pakistani and American expense, during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan for the instruction of Pashto-speaking refugee children in Pakistan. The book was designed to teach everything in thirty pages; the economy of the book inspires me still. Most of the book was organized around the Pashto alphabet. Each page introduces the next letter in the alphabet, uses the letter in a word, and then uses the word in two or three model sentences that teach vital lessons. The letter “PE” teaches that cleanliness is good, and that we must keep our clothes clean. The letter “KHE” teaches that we are all creatures of God. The letter “JEEN” teaches us that Jihad is obligatory. We learn also that we must not pick flowers from the lawn and that

when he stopped doing academic work and began doing military work, he became a ‘soldier’ and I became an ‘Army wife.’”

2000, I had behaved this way for long enough to have realized that the workaholic lifestyle was psychologically unsustainable for me. Marrying Dan meant being a person with a family, not just a professional title. The people who loved us were glad to hear that we hadn’t given up on our dream to marry and have children, but they were somewhat shocked to discover that our dedication to this dream had convinced us to go forward with it under circumstances even more challenging than the two-professor commuter marriage we had once dreaded. Two weeks before our wedding, Dan turned down a tenure-track job in Arkansas; two weeks after our wedding, he left for Army Basic Training. But how can you allow yourself to become an Army wife? I heard variations on this protest over and over from the people around me. It didn’t matter how well these people knew Dan: when he stopped doing academic work and began doing military work, he became a “soldier” and I became an “Army wife.” We would both learn that daily life beneath these labels is a burden, above all because the Army itself often expresses the same wary distaste for enlisted soldiers and

the Russians are infidels. Line drawings of flow-ers and AK-47 rifles accompany the lessons. If we had only thirty pages to preserve and rebuild American culture, I wonder what such a book would contain. I have already forgotten the Pashto alphabet. I would be hard pressed to say five sentences in Pashto now, but I did absorb some of the moral lessons of that brilliant primer. After all, I had dedicated and compassionate teachers. They showed me respect because they considered me a scholar as they are scholars.

Our medical team once treated an Afghani family for blast injuries. A little boy had brought home a small land mine to show his parents. His father tried to take it away from him, and the mine detonated. Mines are designed to mutilate, not kill, and the doctors saved the lives of the family members. Over time, as the medics performed the monotonous follow-up care for the family members, we gave them nicknames based on their missing body parts: “eyes-boy,” “hands-guy,” “face-girl.” The mother and one daughter were essentially uninjured, but their burden must now be great. Many Afghanis

believe that it is better to lose a family member than to be burdened with an amputee. I had learned a few sentences of Pashto, but it fell upon the interpreters to explain to the mother the extent of her family’s injuries.

I am safely home now. I received an e-mail not too long ago from Baz, one of the interpreters. He befriended me at the FOB and was one of my most dedicated teachers. I was a diligent student. Baz complimented me in the e-mail he sent: he told me that he hopes I return to Afghanistan some day as a teacher and that he might be my student. I am sure that the interpreters always knew that I was not one of them. Inevitably, I received an order to cease socializing with them. I carried it out without letting my friends know I had no choice in the matter. Such was my duty. Part of my job in Afghanistan was triage: I learned how to send people away. I now live again inside the protective wall of American civilian life, and my friend Baz lives outside, because he has no other choice. I am home now, and so is Baz.

was treating serious injuries routinely enough to no longer be shocked by them, that his position was under periodic rocket attack but that so far the unknown attackers’ aim had been bad. During the lead-up to the war in Iraq, reports about Afghanistan on National Public Radio became rare and frustratingly vague. I knew that if Dan were killed, a soldier in uniform would come to my house to inform me, and one morning, when the radio was reporting “renewed clashes in eastern Afghanistan,” a soldier in uniform walked by my house. He was probably an ROTC student who had parked his car in a neighboring Dartmouth lot, but the ache in my heart when I saw him made me realize that I had developed a subconscious habit of scanning the landscape for a bearer of bad news. Our family was lucky: Dan returned in one piece after eight months and was released from the Army at the end of his scheduled enlistment. In today’s military, with its repeated deployments and involuntary extensions of enlistment, our happy ending would sound like a fairy tale to many families who have already received bad news over and over, with no end in sight.



## the honor roll

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#### Gifts in Memoriam

The Division offers special thanks to all those whose gifts honored the memory of individuals during the 2003-2004 year.

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Ralph Shapey

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John Gould Whaley  
in memory of Karen Landahl

#### David Kadlec Memorial

Gifts in memory of David Kadlec, AM '90, PhD '94, will provide fellowship support for graduate students in the Humanities Division.

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## The University of Chicago Presents

For tickets and additional concert information call 773-702-8068, or visit <http://chicagopresents.uchicago.edu>. Concerts performed in Mandel Hall unless otherwise noted.

### Chamber Music Series

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 8pm  
Netherlands Wind Ensemble

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 8pm  
Kalichstein/Laredo/Robinson Trio  
with Mathieu Dufour, flute

Howard Mayer Brown  
International Early Music Series

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 8pm  
Sequentia, Ensemble  
for Medieval Music  
Benjamin Bagby, director

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 8pm  
Le Concert des Nations  
Jordi Savall, director

Artist-in-Residence Series  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 7:30pm  
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 8 pm  
Pacifica String Quartet



Dominic McGill, *Project for a New American Century*, 2003, graphite on paper, installation view

### Regents Park Discovery Concerts

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 7:30pm  
Pianist Christopher O'Riley  
Plays Radiohead

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 7:30pm  
Miro Quartet,  
with Christopher O'Reilly, piano

Additional Concerts  
THURSDAYS, OCTOBER 7-  
DECEMBER 2, 12:15pm  
Thursday Noontime Concert Series  
Fulton Recital Hall

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 8pm  
University Chamber Orchestra  
Autumn Quarter Concert  
Fulton Recital Hall

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 8pm  
Jazz X-tet: Autumn Quarter Concert  
Fulton Recital Hall

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 8pm  
University Chorus: Handel's Messiah  
Rockefeller Memorial Chapel

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 8pm  
University Symphony Orchestra:  
Autumn Quarter Concert

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 5pm  
Motet Choir: Advent Vespers  
Rockefeller Memorial Chapel

### Court Theatre

50th Anniversary Season  
NOVEMBER 18-DECEMBER 26  
The Importance of Being Earnest  
by Oscar Wilde  
Directed by Charles Newell

FEBRUARY 3-FEBRUARY 27  
Quartet  
by Heiner Müller  
Edited and Translated by  
Carl Weber  
Directed by JoAnne Akalaitis  
Performed at the Museum of  
Contemporary Art

MARCH 24-APRIL 24  
Travesties  
by Tom Stoppard  
Directed by Charles Newell

### Smart Museum of Art

SEPTEMBER 7-JANUARY 2  
Medieval Art and Medievalisms

OCTOBER 2-JANUARY 16  
Between Past and Present:  
New Photography and  
Video from China

FEBRUARY 3-MAY 15  
Paper Museums: The Reproductive  
Print in Europe, 1500-1800

WINTER 2005  
Jacque Callot and the Etched Series

### Renaissance Society

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 2004  
Democracy in America

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 2005  
Su-Mei Tse

MARCH-APRIL, 2005  
Yutake Sone



WHAT'S NEW

This winter, the University of Chicago Library's Special Collections Research Center had the opportunity to expand its sports writing collection with the addition of Taschen Books' *G.O.A.T.: A Tribute to Muhammad Ali*, which was generously donated by Humanities Visiting Committee member and Division of the Humanities alumnus Anthony Maramarco (Ph.D. '77). "I wanted to buy it for myself," said Maramarco "but it wouldn't fit on my bookshelf." It is without a doubt the heaviest hot pink book owned by the University.

## greatest of all time

TASCHEN BOOKS' G.O.A.T. A TRIBUTE TO MUHAMMAD ALI



The 780-page collector's edition of *G.O.A.T.* (which, for those not in the know, stands for "Greatest Of All Time") measures 26 inches by 27 inches and weighs in at 75 pounds. The \$3,000.00 book is, according to the German magazine *Der Spiegel*, "the biggest, heaviest, most radiant thing ever printed—Ali's last victory." It comes in a white silk-covered box and is bound in pink leather—to match the color of Ali's first Cadillac—by the official bindery of the Vatican,

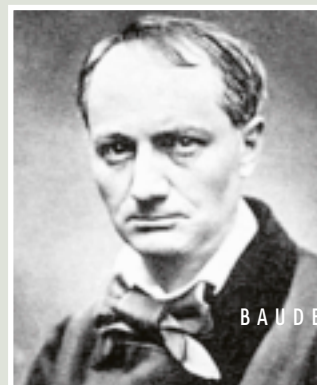
"I am America. I am the part you won't recognize, but get used to me. Black, confident, cocky—my name, not yours. My religion, not yours. My goals, my own. Get used to me."

—Muhammad Ali

which otherwise specializes in producing elaborately decorated and oversized editions of the Koran and the Bible.

Seeing this book for the first time, one is tempted to laugh in amazement. (Are the rumors of radioactive material buried under the Regenstein true . . .?) "I guess it's not designed for people to read," said one confused viewer. Its makers at Taschen have thrown off proportion so wildly as to make the book unusable in its traditional sense, while overwhelming in its presence. As much a monument as a book, *G.O.A.T.* testifies, in an age of virtual everything, to the physical power of actual books. As a result, its impact is as daring and entirely outside of the expected as Muhammad Ali himself.

FRANKE INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES



BAUDELAIRE

### Chicago Humanities Forum

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 5:15-6:00pm

A Poem by Baudelaire:

"The Revolution of 1848 in France"

Françoise Meltzer, Professor, Departments of Comparative Literature, Romance Languages and Literatures, Divinity School and the College

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 5:15-6:00pm

A Conversation on Jazz

Travis Jackson, Associate Professor of American Music in the Department of Music and the College with pianist, vocalist, and songwriter Patricia Barber

For reservations, please call 773-702-8274, or email [franke-humanities@uchicago.edu](mailto:franke-humanities@uchicago.edu) 5:15-6 pm, Gleacher Center, 450 North Cityfront Plaza, Room 621

### Conference

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, MARCH 4-6

**The Spirit Within: Inspiration, Possession and Disease in the Ancient Mediterranean World**  
Franke Institute for the Humanities,  
1100 East 57th Street, JRL S-118

### Lecture

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

**The City in Italian Literature and Culture**

Janet Smarr, Professor in the Department of Theatre, University of California, San Diego

1010 East 59th Street Chicago, Illinois 60637

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