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THE RAGDALE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES ITS 3Arts Fellowships

July 21, 2008 – LAKE FOREST, IL – After a rigorous selection process, the Ragdale Foundation announced today the recipients of its 3Arts Fellowships for 2009.

In March of this year, Ragdale was awarded a \$30,000 grant from 3Arts to support six 3Arts Fellowships at Ragdale. Two fellowships were granted in each of the areas of music, theater and visual arts to Chicago's underrepresented artists—specifically women, people of color and artists with accessibility needs.

This year's fellows are:

- **Nicole Mitchell (Music)**
 - Mitchell is the founder of the critically acclaimed *Black Earth Ensemble* and *Black Earth Strings*. Mitchell's compositions reach across sound worlds, integrating new ideas with moments in the legacy of jazz, gospel, pop, and African percussion to create a fascinating synthesis of "postmodern jazz." With her ensembles, as a featured flutist, and as a music educator, Mitchell has been a highlight at art venues, festivals throughout Europe, the U.S. and Canada.
- **Tomeka Reid (Music)**
 - Reid is an accomplished cellist who has studied and performed nationally and internationally. Reid's work is composed with a beginning and end with space for improvisation for individuals in an ensemble. Her goal within the residency is to develop scores and use them as tools to encourage more classical cellists to explore jazz and improvised music styles in order to better absorb the dialect of the musical language.
- **Anita Chandwaney (Theater)**
 - Chandwaney is a professional theater artist who has performed in Chicago, New York, and Los Angeles. She is the founding Executive Director of Rasaka Theater Company, Chicago's first and only South-Asian American Ensemble. During her residency, she will conduct a planned re-working of her play, *Gandhi Marg*.
- **Lani Montreal (Theater)**
 - Montreal is a writer, teacher, and performer. She has penned six plays, the latest being the *Gift of Tongue*, about a young woman's journey to reclaim peace through rhythm and rhyme. Her residency plan is to re-work *Stolen*, a ten-minute play about a 40-something immigrant woman living the American dream on a borrowed identity, into a full-length play.
- **Sarah Nesbit (Visual Arts)**
 - Nesbit says of her work, "In small egg tempera landscapes, I revisit the ambiguous territory where Self and environment blur, opening up multiple interpretations. Using photographs as an aid to memory, I set out to describe long forgotten moments of my childhood and early adulthood."

- **Joyce Owens (Visual Arts)**

- Owens is a figurative artist who wants people to look beyond the outer layer of skin, and search the many levels of personality and humanity within. To look beyond the masks — the many faces we all wear. She wants people to appreciate, in particular, the range of surface appearance among African-Americans and then look longer and deeper to find the beauty, both obvious and hidden.

Fellowships to Ragdale will include two weeks of residency, uninterrupted time and space to work, and a stipend.

Ragdale is located in Arts and Crafts architect Howard Van Doren Shaw's Lake Forest country estate, just 30 miles north of Chicago. Built in 1897, the Ragdale House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1976, Shaw's granddaughter Alice Judson Hayes transformed her family's summer home into an artist's community providing time and space for artists to create important new work. Today Ragdale hosts up to 200 artists, writers, and composers each year, making it the largest interdisciplinary artist's community in the Midwest and the fourth largest in the country. Noted past residents include Jane Hamilton, Alex Kotlowitz and Audrey Niffenegger. For more information on any of Ragdale's programs or Ragdale's history, please visit www.ragdale.org or call (847) 234-1063 x. 205.

3Arts is a nonprofit grantmaking organization that supports the creative development of Chicago's underrepresented artists—specifically women, people of color, and people with disabilities working in music, theater, and visual arts—and, in doing so, aims to strengthen, enrich, and sustain the arts and our city.

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