RACE, SPORTS, AND VANDERBILT: 1966–1970

September 23–December 8, 2016

You are cordially invited to attend the opening reception on Friday, September 23, from 5 to 8 p.m. in Cohen Memorial Hall. A panel discussion will take place at 6 p.m. with George Hill, vice chancellor for diversity, equity, and inclusion; Andrew Maraniss, author of Strong Inside: Perry Wallace and the Collision of Race and Sports in the South; Martin Rapisarda, exhibition curator and associate dean of the College of Arts and Science; and David Williams, vice chancellor for athletics.

The late 1960s at Vanderbilt, now fifty years in the past, remains a period that is recalled with a variety of interpretations—some accurate, some highly selective, some inaccurate—by those who lived through it. Race, Sports, and Vanderbilt: 1966–1970 highlights artifacts, photographs, texts, video, and voice—the material culture of this time on the Vanderbilt campus and in the Nashville community. The exhibition is part of an annual partnership with the Ingram Commons Reading, in which the incoming first-year class participates over the summer. This year’s book, Strong Inside: Perry Wallace and the Collision of Race and Sports in the South by Andrew Maraniss, tells an important story about race, athletics, and Vanderbilt University, providing the social and cultural context for Vanderbilt in the late sixties.

Through the exhibition, those who lived through the sixties can converse with Vanderbilt students on the civil rights movement as it engaged the Vanderbilt community then. Sports and the racial integration of SEC teams were one way this struggle came to the fore. The exhibition seeks only to provide a glimpse into this history and will concentrate on how it played out on Vanderbilt’s campus, with the goal of providing our campus community and greater Nashville the opportunity to discuss these issues anew in the gallery and at related special events.

Race, Sports, and Vanderbilt: 1966–1970 is organized by the Vanderbilt University Fine Arts Gallery and is curated by Martin Rapisarda, associate dean of the College of Arts and Science. This exhibition is co-sponsored by Vanderbilt Athletics, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, the College of Arts and Science, and The Ingram Commons. Exhibition material and advice have been provided by Andrew Maraniss, Dr. Roosevelt Noble, David Williams and Rod Williamson of Vanderbilt Athletics, Dr. George Hill, Dr. Andrea Churchill, Teresa Gray of Vanderbilt University Library Special Collections, Beth Gille of the Nashville Public Library, the Tennessean, and the Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center at Vanderbilt. The gallery extends special thanks to all the individuals and organizations who have made this exhibition possible.

For further information, please visit vanderbilt.edu/gallery