

Jennifer Vanderpool
In/Wetlands
Cy-Fair College
Cypress, Texas
October - November 2004

Artist explores interior, exterior relationships

■ Paper sculptures of birds, insects to be unveiled at Cy-Fair College

By BILL BRESLIN
CHRONICLE CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of little critters are about to invade the Cy-Fair College campus.

Paper sculptures — or origami — of birds, butterflies, cicadas, dragonflies and turtles will be exhibited inside and outside the college center, 9191 Barker-Cypress Road in Cypress, from Wednesday to Nov. 17.

The exhibit, the brainchild of artist Jennifer Vanderpool, is titled "In/Wetlands."

"The exhibit is light-hearted," Vanderpool said. "The images are playful, artistic and imaginary."

She is interested in exterior and interior relationships.

The exterior phase of the presentation will be near the center of the campus. She will build a landscape utilizing stones and water that will serve as the backdrop for her origami creatures, she said.

Inside, paper birds and insects will hang from a glass wall in such a manner that it will appear they are flying, Vanderpool said. Also, six photographs will be displayed.

Vanderpool said she photographed her art in a real reflecting pool garden.

"It's a portrait of the origami," she said. "It's a close-up of the creatures and the vegetation around them."

The entire exhibit at Cy-Fair College is "site specific,"



PREPARING FOR AN EXHIBIT: Artist Jennifer Vanderpool prepares for the outdoor portion of her exhibit for Cy-Fair College. "In/Wetlands" will be presented from Wednesday to Nov. 17 at the college.

COURTESY OF JENNIFER VANDERPOOL

Vanderpool said. When the exhibit is over, the contents will be sent back to Vanderpool.

"I don't know what I'll do with them," she said.

Vanderpool's origami pieces are made out of maps of Texas.

She uses origami because it is "representational, but ab-

stract," she said.

Vanderpool, 33, was born in Ohio and lives in Los Angeles.

She said she has three master's degrees: one in fine arts from the University of California at Santa Barbara, one in art education from Ohio State University and one in art history

from Emory University in Georgia.

She has displayed her artwork all over the country, including Brooklyn, Atlanta, Los Angeles and Columbus, Ohio. Vanderpool also has an exhibit scheduled during March in the Kalmar Kost Museum in Swe-

den, she said.

Troy Huechtker, associate professor of art at Cy-Fair College, said that he met Vanderpool while attending graduate school at Santa Barbara.

"I wanted our students to see art that's deemed experimental and challenging," Huechtker

WANT TO GO?

■ **What:** "In/Wetlands," paper sculptures — or origami — of birds, butterflies, cicadas, dragonflies and turtles will be exhibited inside and outside the college center, by artist Jennifer Vanderpool.

■ **Where:** Cy-Fair College center, 9191 Barker-Cypress Road in Cypress

■ **When:** Wednesday-Nov. 17

said. "Also, that they can make art that doesn't fit in a frame."

Colin Gardner, associate professor of critical and interdisciplinary media at UC Santa Barbara, said he first met Vanderpool when she was earning her master's in fine arts.

Formerly his student, Vanderpool now teaches in the same department as he does, Gardner said.

"I think she's superb and very talented," he said.

One of the things Gardner appreciates most about Vanderpool's work is her use of inside/outside relationships, he said.

He also admires the "sociological approach" in her work — the way she expresses social classes and hierarchies, Gardner said.

Vanderpool said her visit to the Cy-Fair College campus will be her first trip to Texas and she is "really excited about it."

She said she has done one other exhibit in the past that had a similar theme.

In 2000, she exhibited an imaginary abstract environment of the Okefenokee Swamp, "Displaced," in an Atlanta gallery.