

## **For Immediate Release**

September 11, 2000

### ***DISTINCTIONS* EXHIBIT AT RAMAPO COLLEGE EXPLORES HOW PEOPLE IDENTITY WITH AND CONFORM TO A GROUP**

(Mahwah) -- *Distinctions*, an exhibition of works which explore different perspectives that artists use to capture the way groups of people identify with, or struggle to conform to a group, will open with a reception Thursday, September 28 at 5 p.m. in the Kresge Gallery of the Berrie Center at Ramapo College of New Jersey. An artists' talk will begin at 6 p.m. Sofia Hernandez Chong Cuy, winner of the 2000 Ramapo Curatorial Prize, which is awarded annually to a second-year graduate student at the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College, is the curator.

Jennifer Allora and Guillermo Calzadilla have been collaborating since 1995, working with photography and creating drawing installations. They participated last year in the P.S. 1 and Whitney Independent Studio programs in New York City. They are currently based in Puerto Rico. In the *Distinctions* exhibit they will be represented by a drawing installation depicting a group of people in a queue, the site and motive left undetermined. The drawing will be placed on the gallery floor and composed of un-fixed charcoal, permitting the composition to be gradually erased by viewers.

Art Club 2000 (AC2K) is made up of Patterson Beckwith, Gillian Haratani, Daniel McDonald, Shannon Pultz, Will Rollins, Sobian Spring and Craig Wadlin, who joined forces while all were students at Cooper Union in New York. *Distinctions* presents AC2K's advertisement-like photographs, which acknowledge and portray the paradox that arises when they critique the Gap's style of sameness and uniformity, while working under the premise of a collective where consensus and conformity generally occurs within the group.

Miguel Calderon graduated from the San Francisco Art Institute in 1994. That same year, he returned to his native Mexico City where he currently lives and works. Together with Yoshua Okon, a friend and collaborator, he opened "La Panaderia," one of

the first alternative exhibition spaces in Mexico. His art raises the question of whether art can awaken social awareness. He uses concepts or images from history or the entertainment field, twisting and altering them to create a type of satirical commentary. The exhibit includes *Kitty Fight*, a video produced by Calderon where he stages and tapes a fistfight between two schoolgirls.

Fran Ilich is a writer and media artist. His current endeavor is writing screenplays, producing a series of documentary films, and organizing media events with the collaboration of Cal Arts and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles. Ilich, an award-winning novelist, will create a narrative work for *Distinctions*. This work takes the form of a "script" that resulted from a two-month Internet-chat conversation between the author and Eva, the protagonist of *Ich bin Eva* (1999), his latest short-documentary film about a German rave. This new text-based work, edited in video, will be exhibited along with the film.

The exhibit runs through October 20. For more information, please call (201) 684-7147.

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