

## For Immediate Release

August 31, 1999

### ***THE ORDER OF THINGS AND AN EXHIBIT OF EAST ASIAN ART OPEN AT RAMAPO COLLEGE GALLERIES***

(Mahwah) -- An exhibition that explores the question, "What is it that makes a collection?" will open simultaneously with selections from an actual collection Wednesday, September 15 in the Kresge and Pascal galleries at Ramapo College of New Jersey. *The Order of Things* features artists Mark Winetrout, Georgina Starr, Moyra Davey and Jason Simon; all were chosen by Denise Markonish, winner of this year's Ramapo Curatorial Prize. Asian Art From the Collection of Andre Z. Pascal and Gregory Z. Bukstein will be exhibited in the adjacent gallery. Both shows open with a reception at 5 p.m., followed by a talk at 5:30 by East Asian scholar Richard Pegg, and at 6 p.m. by *The Order of Things* curator and artists. Both exhibitions continue through October 15, with public hours Monday through Friday from 1 to 5 p.m. The galleries are located in the newly completed Berrie Center for Performing and Visual Arts.

Moyra Davey and Jason Simon examine their own collections through object and photography. In *The Order of Things* the two have created a collaborative project that combines both of their previous explorations as well as the objects within their home. They recently have been interested in the increase of media-based collecting venues such as the Internet's ebay.com and television's *Antiques Roadshow*. The result of this interest is the couple's *Ebay (1-70)*, a series of three grids each containing 35 photographs of singular objects in the artists' home and collections. By photographing and isolating objects in their collections, Davey and Simon stage a mock-auction situation in which their belongings are the stars. Through this process, the couple open up their collection to the public, yet fracture its cohesiveness by isolating each element and removing it from the whole.

Mark Winetrout's work usually takes the form of small microcosms in insect storage boxes. Each box is a world all on its own, yet it exists within a universe of like

counterparts. However, for this exhibition Winetroutr's boxes have exploded. The installation spills over in an examination of the excess of objects in the world of collecting. Winetroutr uses mostly natural materials, all of which are found objects. The artist then creates a web of connections, linking the objects together through physical as well as imposed mental attributes. The result is a set of tangents stretching across the installation that brings a new light to the mundacity of objects in the natural world.

Georgina Starr's work, *The Nine Collections of the Seventh Museum* was done during the artist's residency at The Hague. The title refers to the revolving museum project (the seventh in the area), and the collections that Starr created and categorized in her hotel room at the time. Central to *The Nine Collections* is the Junior Collection, in which Starr fashioned a doll/alter ego in her own image from scraps found in her landlady's home. Junior, as an alter ego, restores in Starr a sense of belonging, as well as creating order in a foreign surrounding through the identification with one's fictional self. Thus, Starr makes use of the acts of collecting and the creation of systems of order within the collection in an intensely personal way, so as to bring to the viewers of her work the artist's life and her experiences.

The Andre Z. Pascal and Gregory Z. Bukstein Collection was acquired over several decades beginning in the 1960s. Reflecting the enthusiasm and passions of Western travelers inspired by the arts of East Asia, the collection encompasses a wide range of materials, including jade, bronze, and ivory along with a variety of types of objects such as ceramics, paintings, and textiles. The exhibition focuses on a selection of some 20 Chinese and Japanese objects including embroidered textiles, figure paintings, modern oil paintings, and Japanese prints.

Several themes are depicted in the Chinese textiles, which are beautifully embroidered in polychrome silk floss and couched gold thread. There is a pair of hangings created for a married couple, embellished with the character for double happiness and pairs of birds, both representative of newlywed conjugal bliss. And there is a pair of horizontal narrative scenes depicting probably young scholars and beautiful palace ladies. The pair of hangings with lush fruits and flowers, emblems of abundance and good fortune, is distinguished by a high technical quality with a wide variety of stitch work that creates the complex designs.

For more information about this exhibit or to request the fall cultural arts schedule, please call (201) 684-7050.

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