

## For Immediate Release

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### WORKS FROM CATHERINE OPIE'S *DOMESTIC* SERIES ARE ON EXHIBIT AT RAMAPO COLLEGE

(Mahwah) -- Lesbian couples in domestic situations comprise the one-person exhibition by celebrated photographer and Yale University professor Catherine Opie opening Thursday, September 28 in the Pascal Gallery of the Berrie Center at Ramapo College of New Jersey. An opening reception is scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m.; the artist will present a slide lecture at 6:30 p.m. in the Adler Theater. This exhibit is presented in conjunction with the fall semester lecture series, *The Ins and Outs of Sexual Politics*, scheduled on Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Curator Sydney Jenkins, Ramapo's gallery director, was all set to present the same Opie works shown in a recent exhibition at Gorney Bravin + Lee in Manhattan. There was just one problem: After he selected the show, major museums such as the Walker Art Center and the Guggenheim bought most of the prints in the *Domestic* series. In addition, a retrospective is being organized in London, leaving few photographs available for the Ramapo exhibit. With assistance from the Gorney Bravin + Lee Gallery and the artist, Jenkins assembled the Ramapo show from other sources including private collectors in other states. The Ramapo exhibit will include seven of the 40-by-50-inch photographs.

Opie created the *Domestic* series during a several months-long documentary expedition around the U.S. She visited lesbian acquaintances and photographed them at home doing everyday things. "By calling the suite of photographs 'Domestic,' Opie seems to suggest that at issue is both a sense of being at home and a certain domestication or taming," says Nico Israel in the summer 2000 issue of *Artforum*. Holland Cotter, writing in *The New York Times*, noted, "A few years ago, it probably would have been difficult to make a series like 'Domestic' without drawing hard contrasts between ordinariness and otherness. That Ms. Opie keeps both elements subtly active in her new

pictures may say something about the current cultural climate; it certainly says a lot for the work of this versatile and politically acute artist."

One of Opie's photographs graces the cover and inside pages of the new Rizzoli book, *Lesbian Art in America: A Contemporary History*, edited by Christopher Lyon. Her work has been exhibited in museums and galleries in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago as well as in England, Switzerland, Germany and Japan. Her images are in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art and Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

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

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