

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **EXHIBITION BY ARTIST JENNIFER DUDLEY AT RAMAPO COLLEGE**

(Mahwah) – *The Analyst*, an exhibition of new work by artist Jennifer Dudley, will open Wednesday, February 6 in the Berrie Center's Pascal Gallery on the campus of Ramapo College of New Jersey. The exhibition will continue through March 7. The opening reception will be held February 6 from 5-7 p.m. and an artist's talk will begin at 6:30 p.m. An artist lecture will be given on March 5 at 5:30 p.m. in the Pascal Gallery.

*The Analyst* couples a double portrait painting and a psychoanalyst's couch. The painting, *Portrait of the Artist and Jane Austen*, depicts a scene taken from director Ang Lee's film adaptation of Jane Austen's novel *Sense and Sensibility*.

The exhibit is representative of Dudley's varied working process. The starkness of the painting and the psychoanalyst's couch has the impact of the viewer making a deeply intimate connection to the painting.

In *Portrait of the Artist and Jane Austen*, the film's two starring characters have been replaced. In their stead is a portrait of the artist fully absorbed in anguish and directing the emotion to a fictional representation of Austen, whose gaze is turned outward toward the viewer. The painting faces an analyst's couch, which invites the viewer to inhabit the space of the psychoanalyzed patient and to view the painting from this position.

Dudley's reincarnation of Austen's fiction prods ideas about character identification and emotional authenticity, and questions our culture's complicated relationship with history and authorship. The viewer of *The Analyst* is invited to participate in a similarly generative act by occupying the space of the psychoanalyzed patient on the analyst's couch.

Jennifer Dudley was a visiting professor of Painting and Drawing at Ramapo College in the fall 2007 semester as a CAA Geraldine R. Dodge Fellow. Dudley received

her BFA from the University of Georgia in 1998, her MFA from Yale University in 2005, and attended Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in 2006. Recent projects include participation in *Vision Request*, organized by Andrea Zittel, and the organization of *Ad Hoc Vox*, a series of panel discussions and lectures on a wide range of topics in the arts that have taken place at galleries throughout New York City. Dudley currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

This program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Pascal Gallery is located in the Berrie Center for Performing and Visual Arts at Ramapo College. Hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 1 to 5 p.m. and Wednesday, 1 to 7 p.m. For more information, call 201.684.7147.

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