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“BOUNDLESS DISCOURSE” OPENS AT RAMAPO COLLEGE

(MAHWAH, NJ) – “Boundless Discourse” opens in the Kresge Gallery at Ramapo College on Wednesday, March 24 and continues through April 28.

Presented in conjunction with “Mystical Imagination: The Art of Haitian Master Hector Hyppolite,” which continues on view through April 21, the exhibition presents the work of seven artists from the Caribbean, mostly from Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Sharing the native region of Hector Hyppolite and its context, the works of these artists also reflect on narratives that address the close relationship between myth and reality, history and the present, between the personal and the universal.

“Boundless Discourse” features 23 works in diverse media including painting, soft sculpture, watercolor, video, and drawing. Artists in the exhibition have exhibited widely and include Elia Alba, Nicole Awai, Firelei Baez, V. Cybil Charlier, Nayda Collazo-Llorens, Rejin Leys, and Vickie Pierre. They all live and work in New York City or Miami, and were either born in the Caribbean or are the children of immigrant parents.

By presenting a variety of media in works that consider some of the same kinds of themes seen in the work of Hector Hyppolite, “Boundless Discourse” illustrates how these dialogues continue to be relevant to contemporary artistic production.

“The exhibition addresses everyday life, (trans) national history and politics, or icons of spirituality and legends,” said Guest Curator Rocio Aranda-Alvarado. “The legacy of feminism, personal and family history, education, formal issues, and the experience of existing between multiple places are all present in the imagery.”

Expectations about the body and social realities are explored in the works of Nicole Awai and Elia Alba. Mythology, history and the environment are examined in the works of Rejin Leys and Firelei Baez. The relationship between maps and reality, topography and memory or between a grid and real life, for example, is raised in works by V. Cybil Charlier and Nayda Collazo-Llorens.

An opening reception will be held Wednesday, March 24, from 5 to 7 p.m. with artists’ talks at 6 p.m. A panel discussion will be presented at 4 p.m. in the Adler Theater. Gallery hours are Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 1-5 p.m. and Wednesday from 1-7 p.m.

For more information about the show call Sydney Jenkins, director of the Art Galleries, at 201-684-7147.

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