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**Ground-Breaking Haitian Art Exhibition Opens at Ramapo College**

(MAHWAH, NJ) – “Haitian Art Excerpts: From Renaissance to Diaspora” a ground-breaking exhibition of Haitian art opens in the Kresge Gallery in the Berrie Center on Wednesday, March 23 and continues through April 27. An opening reception will be held on March 23 from 5 through 7 p.m. with informal talks by artists and collectors beginning at 5:45 p.m.

This unusual show combines older works from “The Haitian Renaissance,” which have been loaned from prestigious private collections with pieces by contemporary artists. Great masters on view include Georges Liataud, Philomé Obin, Castera Bazile, and Rigaud Benoit. Contemporary artists include Constant, Edouard Duval-Carrié, Phyllis Galembo, Paul Gardère, André Juste and Vladimir Cybil Charlier, Emmanuel Merisier, Pascale Monnin, Daniel Morel, Max Romain, Val-Inc, and Frantz Zephirin.

“This is the first exhibition I know of which presents such a fertile mix of classical Haitian and more recent art,” said Art Galleries Director Sydney Jenkins. “A variety of media are included ranging from delicately crafted paintings, to beaded costumes, to sound art. The word excerpts in the title acknowledges that this show is not in any way comprehensive, and represents only a small part of a much larger story.”

On Sunday, April 3, the College will host a Haitian Community Open House from 2 to 5 p.m. with free admission and food and entertainment. At 2:30 p.m. Randall Morris will speak about Haitian art in the Kresge Gallery.

Ramapo College is the home of the largest academic collection of Haitian art in the United States, housed in the Selden Rodman Gallery of Popular Arts.

This project is supported in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Schomburg Visiting Scholars Fund. Gallery hours are Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 1 through 5 p.m. and Wednesday 1 p.m. through 7 p.m. For more information, contact Sydney Jenkins at 201-684-7147.

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as fourth in the Best Regional Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include nursing and social work, and as courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers four graduate programs and

articulated programs with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, New York Chiropractic College, New York University College of Dentistry, SUNY State College of Optometry and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.

Undergraduate students choose to concentrate their studies in one of five schools with more than 700 course offerings and 40 academic programs. Ramapo College boasts an average student/faculty ratio of 18:1 and average class size of 23, affording students the opportunity to develop close ties to the College's exceptional faculty.