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**PAINTING PERFORMANCE ARTIST EXHIBITION AT RAMAPO COLLEGE**

(MAHWAH, NJ) - Artist Stephen Keene will present an exhibition and performance "The Steve Keene Show" at Ramapo College beginning with an opening on March 27 in the Pascal Gallery on campus. There will be an opening reception on March 27 from 5 to 7 p.m. with an artist's talk at 6:30 p.m. The exhibition and performance continues on view through April 19. The artist will be working in the gallery for many of these days.

Keene produces multiple paintings on site and has been called "The Assembly-Line Picasso" by Time Magazine. His popular works sell for low prices and he makes as many as a hundred a day. For his painting performances at Ramapo College, Keene will incorporate Hudson Valley imagery and other subject matter from the region. Described as a "conceptual folk artist" he received a BFA from Virginia Commonwealth University and an MFA from Yale University. His concept of art making grew out of his friendship with musicians, and he has worked with musical acts like Silver Jews, Pavement, The Apples in Stereo, Soul Coughing, Dave Matthews Band, Merzbow and The Victoria Lucas for music album covers, video sets, stage sets and promotional posters.

He has shown his work on site at The Moore College of Art in Philadelphia, Rice University in Houston, the Museum Ludwig in Cologne, Germany, the Santa Monica Museum of Art in Los Angeles, the Linden Center for Contemporary Art in Melbourne, Australia, the Gulf Coast Museum in Florida and the Czech Centre in London. Articles on the artist have appeared in the New York Times, Billboard, Time, the LA Times, and many other publications.

"The Steve Keene Show" is presented in conjunction with the adjacent Kresge Gallery exhibition "The C of O Show," which addresses issues of originality and the artist's hand.

This program is made possible in part by 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.

Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as sixth in the Best Regional Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes mistaken for a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary academic structure, its size of

approximately 6,008 students and its pastoral setting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains on the New Jersey/New York border.

For a photo, please click on the following link:

<http://www.ramapo.edu/news/pressreleases/2013/images/keene-2.jpg>

Established in 1969, Ramapo College 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. In addition, Ramapo College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers six graduate programs as well as 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.