



**RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**Office of Communications and Public Relations**  
**Press Release**  
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## ***Fire and Ice* Exhibition Opens at Ramapo College**

MAHWAH, N.J. – *Fire and Ice*, an exhibition of photographs by Alan Friedman and Douglas Levere, will go on view in the Kresge Gallery at Ramapo College on Wednesday, March 23. There will be an opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. with an artists' talk at 6 p.m. The exhibition continues through April 22.

*Fire and Ice* is a collaborative exhibition by renowned solar photographer Alan Friedman and photomicrographer Douglas Levere. For this exhibition, Friedman's telescopic photographs of the sun's surface – which reveal the undulating, almost painterly topography – have been paired with Levere's microscopic studies of snowflakes, exposing the hidden architecture of these tiny and delicate natural wonders.

While at first a seemingly obvious contrast, there is juxtaposition of vision that occurs through their respective practices – Friedman's suns become almost cellular and Levere's snowflakes inherit the stature of skyscrapers. Both structures are, in actuality, held together by the most delicate balance of physical law. Through large-scale photographic prints, this massive celestial body and these diminutive structures become equalized.

Friedman and Levere note:

*The volume of the earth could hold more than 50 octillion (50,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000) snow crystals. The sun could contain a million earths. Yet from our vantage point on Earth, they appear, as if by magic, the same size. A snowflake can be as large as the nail on your pinky. That same fingernail held at arm's length is wide enough to completely cover the disk of the sun. Both are everyday subjects in our conversation yet hidden from sight – too small to see with the naked eye, too powerful to allow even the quickest glance.*

*Through the use of telephoto lenses to get closer and filters to temper brightness our photographs permit the viewer to experience what is invisible in day to day life. The details of our subjects are rendered with accuracy – color and composition are selected to better express structure and to impart emotion. Through our collaboration and the juxtaposition of scale and form we hope to illuminate some of the drama and poetry that is found in the natural world around us.*

Alan Friedman is an artist and avid astrophotographer who lives and works in Buffalo, N.Y. His photographs of the sun have been featured on NASA's Astronomy Picture of the Day and exhibited at Palm Court Gallery, Bates College Museum of Art, photo-eye Gallery, Astronomy Photographer of the Year at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, and the international touring exhibition *From Earth to the Universe*. His work and processing techniques have been the subject of a TED talk and interviews on MSNBC's TODAY show, among others.

Douglas Levere is an artist and photographer living in Amherst, N.Y. His work has been published in *The New Yorker*, *The Buffalo News* and many other blogs and online publications. From 1997-2002, Levere created New York Changing, one of the first urban re-photography projects, culminating in a book and exhibit at the Museum of the City of New York. Levere began his commercial photography career in New York City focused on newsmakers, celebrities and architecture, working for advertising, corporate and editorial clients. His images have appeared in *Newsweek*, *People*, *Business Week*, *Life*, *New York Times*, *Forbes*, and *Fortune*, among others. He currently works at the University of Buffalo as a photographer for University Communications.

This project is funded 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 Kresge Gallery is located in the Berrie Center for Performing and Visual Arts. Gallery hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 1 to 5 p.m. and Wednesday from 1 to 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 fifth in the Best Regional Public 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 6,000 students and its pastoral setting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains on the New Jersey/New York border.

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 eight graduate programs as well as articulated programs with Rutgers, The State University 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.