



**RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**Office of Marketing and Communications**  
**Press Release**  
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## **Alternative Photographs of Women from the Ramapough Lenape Nation on View at Ramapo College**

MAHWAH, N.J. -- *The Women of the Ramapough Lenape Nation*, an exhibition by Lisa Levart, opens on Thursday, March 1, in the [Potter Library Gallery](#) at Ramapo College. There will be an opening reception from 3 to 5 p.m. The exhibition continues on view through April 30.

On March 7, the artist and the women portrayed will offer a panel discussion/visual talk from 6:30-8 p.m. in Friends Hall. A work-in-progress, documentary film about the project by Myles Aronowitz will be screened as well.

Lisa Levart has been creating alternative photographic portraits of women embodying poetic myths for well over a decade. This exhibition is a creative collaboration between the artist and women from the Ramapough Lenape Nation to uncover long forgotten Lenape myths. Using these re-remembered sacred stories as a foundation, artist Lisa Levart uses a technique of collaging image layers -- metal, wood, water and concrete -- into the images and then individually hand painting them with an encaustic medium of Beeswax and Damar Resin. The applied wax alters the final images, blending contemporary and ancient portraiture across the expanse of time.

The artist states the following about her work:

“It is my belief that when we reach back into the early myths and stories of all cultures, we often have more similarities than differences. By sharing these contemporary re-interpretations of the First Nations’ mythology, I hope that viewers will gain a deeper mindfulness of our collective heritage, as well as an appreciation for the different traditions that have had an impact on the Hudson Valley. The goal of this project is to

reflect our unique community, bring more awareness and visibility to the indigenous women of the land we all call home and serve as an agent of change.”

Levart’s work has been shown in numerous galleries and public venues including the Luna Stage Theater, SOHO Photo, The Hopper House, Alternative Museum, Burden Gallery, Art in General, Rockland Center for the Arts, Pomona Cultural Arts Center, SOHO20, Edwin Zollar Gallery at Penn State University, the Kiek de Kok Photography Museum in Talinn, Estonia, and is in the collection of the 9/11 Memorial Museum in NYC.

This project is made possible with funds from the DeCentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and administered by the Arts Council of Rockland. The Potter Library Gallery is located on the main floor of the Library on the Ramapo College campus. Gallery hours can be found at <https://www.ramapo.edu/library/library-hours/>

For more information, please contact Sydney Jenkins at 201-684-7147. Photo: Lisa Levart

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Ramapo College of New Jersey is the state's premier public liberal arts college. Ranked among the top colleges in the region by College Choice and recognized by, among others, U.S. News & World Report, Princeton Review, Colleges of Distinction and, also designated by Victory Media as a "Military Friendly College," Ramapo College is committed to academic excellence through interdisciplinary and experiential learning, and international and intercultural understanding.

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 business, education, nursing and social work. In addition, the College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels, and offers graduate programs leading to degrees in Accounting, Business Administration, Educational Technology, Educational Leadership, Nursing, Social Work and Special Education.