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RAMAPO COLLEGE VISUAL ARTS FACULTY AND STAFF TO EXHIBIT NEWS WORKS OF PHOTOS, PAINTINGS AND FILMS

(Mahwah) – “Addendum,” an exhibit featuring work in photography, painting and film by visual arts faculty and staff of Ramapo College of New Jersey, will open in the Pascal Gallery Friday, April 1 and continue through May 6. A reception and artists’ talks are scheduled from 5 – 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 6. “Addendum” showcases the work of faculty and staff who have come to Ramapo College since the last faculty show held in 2004.

Joe Ballweg, an adjunct professor of visual arts, will show colorful paintings inspired by Native American totem poles, Aztec sculpture and Byzantine icons. “I’m attracted to the frontality, or confrontation, these art works create and I wanted that for my paintings,” said the artist.

Michael Chovan-Dalton, an adjunct professor of visual arts, will exhibit black and white photos from a series titled “Bridges.” The artist said, “New York City's border crossings are a work in progress. They are in constant flux, being replanned, relandscaped and remapped. My photographs are attempts to pause at these crossings and consider what defines these areas, what role they play in our journey and what happens when we stand in the threshold for a moment and contemplate where we are.”

Eric Sung, photography lab supervisor at Ramapo College, will present selections from “*Umma* and Father,” a series of photographs about Korean immigration to the United States. *Umma* is a Korean word for mother. Sung’s subjects are interracial

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couples and their children. Many of the women depicted are wives of American soldiers who had been stationed in South Korea during the Korean War. “These Korean wives have long been considered an ignoble group by other Koreans,” said Sung, “mainly because of their marriage to an ‘outsider.’” The photographer said the most difficult part of the project was gaining the trust of his subjects. “There were many more who refused to be photographed because they didn’t want to become iconic of ‘War Brides.’”

Lydia Viscardi, an adjunct professor of visual arts, has created sculptures of birds and related mixed media. “The bird series,” the artist noted, “addresses a basic need to transcend the stuff of every day existence, to receive and respond to impressions deeply, and to come to terms with mortality.” The artist often uses transparency in reference to the fragility of life and the elusive nature of the emotions: love, fear, joy, sadness and loneliness.

There will also be a screening of *Waterlilies*, written and directed by Mark Shogren, a visiting assistant professor of film, on Friday, April 8 at 5 p.m. in the H-Wing Auditorium on the College campus. Shogren calls his 2004 film an Appalachian fable. Set in the coal mining region of Southern Ohio in the mythological past, *Waterlilies* follows the journey of two outsider detectives as they search for a missing girl. He will also be screening several other short works.

The Pascal Gallery is located in the Berrie Center for the Performing and Visual Arts at Ramapo College. Gallery hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 1 to 5 p.m. and Wednesday, 1 to 7 p.m. For more information, call 201.684.7147.

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