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**WORK BY ARTISTS WHO USE A CIRCULAR FORMAT WILL BE
FEATURED AT RAMAPO COLLEGE**

(Mahwah) – A group exhibition of artists whose work incorporates circles will be presented in the Kresge Gallery at Ramapo College of New Jersey Wednesday, March 29 and continuing through May 3. An opening reception will be held from 5 – 7 p.m. An artists' talk will begin at 6 p.m.

The exhibit was curated by Matthew Fisher and Christina Vassallo, co-founders of MatCh-Art. They selected a group of artists working in a diverse range of media to explore the circle in contemporary art. Used as a formal and conceptual device, the circle embodies infinity, which can mean external existence or endless ennui. In art and in life, the circle's perfection is a sought-after goal, but an unattainable idea. Many of the artists included in the exhibition already incorporate the circular format into their work to confront these issues, while others were challenged to work with the shape specifically for this exhibition.

Artists whose work will be included in the show are Lisa Beck, Louis Cameron, Moriah Carlson, Orly Cogan, Mark Dagley, Joel Edwards, Rob Grunder, Francis Holstrom, Sharon Horvath, Jim Houser, Jasper Johns, Chris Kasper, Laura Ledbetter, Jim Lee, Monique Luchetti, Noah Lyon, Andrew Masullo, Rob Matthews, Derick Melander, Tom Moody, Matthew Northridge, John Phillips, James Rosenthal, Savako, Randall Sellers, Mark Shetabi, Jordan Tinker, John Torreano, Alice Wu, B. Wurtz and Nami Yamamoto.

(more)

During the Italian Renaissance, the circle was considered to be a divinely inspired shape and throughout the fourteenth century the *tondo* (Italian for round) was reserved for religious icons or allegorical scenes. In neo-Platonic thought, the circle epitomized the perfectibility of man. However, circular canvases have assumed a kitschy appeal. Sensing that serious art might not be restricted to right angles and straight lines, MatCh-Art decided to investigate whether artists were making thought-provoking and engaging work with shapely objects or perimeters. This exhibition is a collection of paintings, drawings, sculptures and installations that serve as an ode to the circular form.

Artist Matthew Fisher and art writer Christina Vassallo have paired to form MatCh-Art. The duo has created several online exhibitions for their Web site and coordinated group shows for non-profit organization, galleries and art fairs. The exhibition was originally featured at the Shore Institute of the Contemporary Arts (SICA) in Long Branch, NJ.

This program is made possible in part by funds from 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 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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