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Exhibit by Mexican Master Folk Painter at Ramapo College

(MAHWAH, NJ) – “Marcial Camilo Ayala” will open in the Pascal Gallery at Ramapo College of New Jersey on Thursday, November 5 and continue on view through December 9.

The exhibition of paintings by Marcial Camilo Ayala features dream-like landscapes, village scenes, and imagery drawn from other sources. The artist is from the Guerrero region of Mexico, where he is the best-known practitioner of amate painting, a technique in which artists paint on a bark surface. His connection with Ramapo College dates back to the late Ramapo donor Selden Rodman’s writings which introduced his work to a US audience.

The Ramapo exhibition consists of selections from the Thompson Collection at Ramapo College combined with private collection loans. The Thompson Collection was given to Ramapo College by noted folk art collectors Maurice and Linda Thompson of Connecticut. A significant number of other works on view are from the private collection of economics professor and New York Times columnist Dr. Tyler Cowen of Virginia. Cowen is the author of the book “Markets and Cultural Voices” which evaluates several Mexican amate artists in the context of globalization.

In late 2009, Ramapo College received a valuable gift of eight early paintings by the artist from collector Larry Kent in California. Several of these important works will be included in the exhibition.

Marcial Camilo Ayala’s paintings are in the collections of numerous major museums including the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico and the Smithsonian. The National Museum of the American Indian on the Mall in Washington, D.C. has a permanent display of his works.

Concurrently, works by related Mexican artists will be presented in two other exhibitions on the Ramapo College campus: the Potter Library Galleries and the Selden Rodman Gallery of Popular Arts in B Wing.

A preview reception will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 4, and a talk by Dr. Tyler Cowen is scheduled for 6 p.m.

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 Pascal 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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