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Ramapo College Professor Shows Photographs of Angkor Wat

(MAHWAH, NJ) – “Warner Wada” a haunting one-person exhibition of photographs of Angkor Wat and other ruins opens in the Pascal Gallery in the Berrie Center on Wednesday, March 23 and continues through April 27. An opening reception will be held on March 23 from 5 through 7 p.m. with an artist’s talk in the gallery at 6:30 p.m.

These compelling works continue interests which began when, as an undergraduate art and architecture major, Wada became interested in Pre-Columbian Mayan and Incan architecture; the physicality of trapezoidal interiors, intricate stonework and dramatic locations. During a memorable spring break he traveled to photograph the Mayan “ruinas” at Palenque and Uxmal, Quintana Roo, Mexico. Later he traveled to Tikal, Guatemala; and Machu Picchu, Peru. A number of these black and white prints are included in the exhibition.

Several decades later, Wada began experimenting with a pinhole photography using tintype and paper negative processes. In 2010, he went to the famous ruins of Angkor Wat in Cambodia to produce the pinhole-based series on view at Ramapo. According to the artist: “At Angkor, my exposures were often several minutes long, a conspicuous presence amidst the many digital SLR shutterbugs. Due to the weight of my equipment, the equatorial sun and subtropic humidity, I was limited to six exposures per day ... I would carefully survey the various sites, select my three photographic vantage points and return to shoot exposures. Photoshop and the newest series of Epson inkjet printers brought this 19th century process into its’ present state, 42 x 52” prints on mold-made 100% cotton paper. The photographs were then hand sewn (using those pinholes again) on heavy black rag drawing paper.”

Wada is a Professor of Painting who has taught at Ramapo College since 1975. He received his Bachelor of Fine Art and Architecture from Yale University, and his Master in Fine Art in Painting and Photography from the Art Institute of Chicago.

This project is supported by a grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. Gallery hours are Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 1 through 5 p.m. and Wednesday 1 through 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 fourth in the Best Regional Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey 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, and as courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers four graduate programs and articulated programs with the University of Medicine and Dentistry 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.

Undergraduate students choose to concentrate their studies in one of five schools with more than 700 course offerings and 40 academic programs. Ramapo College boasts an average student/faculty ratio of 18:1 and average class size of 23, affording students the opportunity to develop close ties to the College's exceptional faculty.