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**Montclair Art Collection Opens at Ramapo College**

(MAHWAH, NJ) – “A Journey into the Spirit World: Selections From the Heloise and Martin Ruskin Collection,” an exhibition of works from an important Montclair, New Jersey collection opens in the Pascal Gallery at Ramapo College in the Berrie Center on Wednesday, February 1 and continues on view through March 2. An opening reception will be held on February 1 from 5-7 p.m. with a collector’s talk at 6:30 p.m.

The Ruskin’s art collecting began when Heloise purchased a sculpture by Andre Dimanche, considered to be one of the fathers of Haitian sculpture, during her first trip to Haiti in 1972. In addition to notable Haitian masters, the Ruskin Collection has grown to include pieces by self-taught and folk artists from many other countries including Jamaica, Ghana, Peru, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Belize, and Venezuela. While their collection is diverse, it has been noted that the Ruskins tend to focus on three-dimensional works.

The exhibition was organized and designed by Steven Perry, Dean of the School of Contemporary Arts.

This project is supported in part 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 Wednesdays 1 through 7 p.m. For more information contact Robert Modafferi at 201.684.7099.

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as sixth in the Best Regional Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes mistaken for a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary academic structure, its size of approximately 6,008 students and its pastoral setting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains on the New Jersey/New York border.

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 nursing and social work. In addition, Ramapo College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers six graduate

programs as well as 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.