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Contact: Anna Farneski; afarnesk@ramapo.edu / (201) 684.6844

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TEN-YEAR SURVEY OF WORK BY MARGARET MURPHY  
OPENS AT RAMAPO COLLEGE

(MAHWAH, NJ) – “Margaret Murphy, A Ten-Year Survey: Decoding the Marketplace, Coupons, Dollar Stores and eBay” goes on view in the Kresge Gallery at the Berrie Center for Performing and Visual Arts, Ramapo College of New Jersey on March 28 and continues on view through May 2. An opening reception will be held on March 28 from 5 through 7 p.m. with a talk by the artist at 6 p.m.

Curated by Midori Yoshimoto, Ph.D and organized by New Jersey City University Galleries, this exhibition will feature approximately 40 works in various media including pieces from “The Tarot Card Series” (1997-2000), “Henna Hands Series” (2001), “The Sweet 16 Series” (2005-2007), “The Parlor Paintings” (2006-2007), “Celebration” (2008-2009), and “The Fragments Series” (2010).

A contemporary painter who creates works that have universal appeal, Murphy finds inspiration in everyday life. Her vibrant paintings of mass produced objects represent her reflections on consumerism, religion, and gender roles. Using a variety of materials, including watercolor, acrylic, digital print, silkscreen, and collage, Murphy’s works address public and private concerns, fake versus real, more-more-more, and photographic and illusionistic space. Her color schemes are playful and varied, ranging from a single color field to a Victorian wallpaper pattern.

Margaret Murphy holds a Master’s in Fine Arts degree in painting from Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University, and a Bachelor’s of Science degree from Towson State University. She has been the recipient of numerous awards including a Pollock Krasner Foundation Grant, a New Jersey State Arts Council Fellowship in Painting, a MacDowell Colony residency and travel award, two Geraldine R. Dodge Fellowships, a Puffin Foundation Grant, and a Change Inc. grant. Articles about her work have been published in The New York Times, New American Painting, The Star Ledger, The Philadelphia Inquirer, and The Jersey Journal, and on line at AretInfo.com, Artblog, Art Fag City, and Park Place Magazine. She was also featured on the PBS program “State of the Art.”

The exhibition is accompanied by a color catalogue with essays by Midori Yoshimoto and Rocio Aranda-Alvarado.

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 Sydney Jenkins at 201.864-7147.

For an image, click here:

<http://www.ramapo.edu/news/pressreleases/2012/images/10sweet16bricemarden.tif>

Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as fifth in the Best Regional Universities North category for public institutions, 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 five 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.