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**The Fall 2012 Senior Thesis Exhibition Opens at Ramapo College**

(MAHWAH, NJ)- The Berrie Center Art Galleries and the Visual Arts Faculty of Ramapo College of New Jersey are pleased to announce the opening of the Fall 2012 Senior Thesis Exhibition "Ephemera" which is curated by Assistant Professor of Art Jackie Skrzynski. The five graduating seniors represent the Photography, Drawing and Painting concentrations. The exhibition runs from Tuesday, December 18 through Friday, December 21. The opening reception is Tuesday, December 18 from 5 to 7 p.m. Gallery hours are Tuesday and Wednesday from 1 to 7 p.m.; Thursday and Friday from 1 to 5 p.m.

The exhibition will include a variety of works that describe aspects of fleeting cultural, personal and natural experience. Each artist demonstrates an urge to translate a historically impermanent moment, whether they describe fashion, the self, family or nature.

Anna Ritcher '12, from Mahwah, NJ, makes large-scale ink drawings that combine images from her family history with transferred obituary notices from local newspapers. Both haunting and wonderfully tender, her drawings remind viewers of the unrelenting passage of time. Using a handmade book format, Ritcher alludes to family photo albums and the role family histories play in shaping our sense of identity and personal ethnography.

Brittany Dillon '12, from West Orange, NJ, uses the photographic composite to describe the complexity of emotional states she confronts each day. The duality of the two portraits superimposed on top of one another requires the viewer to literally see contradicting expressions at the same time. Experienced this way, her portraits both enhance and confound ideas of portrait as documentation.

Ilinka Vangelovska '12, from Paterson, NJ makes paintings that describe her experience of bridging two cultures, that of her parents and that of her peers. Her work explores identity through interpretations of family photographs and cultural iconography. Vangelovska's beautifully rendered oil paintings collapse space in much the same way as she collapses cultural difference. Her narratives pay homage to memory, heritage and pluralism.

Deshauna Dunn, from Minehill, NJ, makes photographs that mimic contemporary media such as magazine covers and advertisements. Her work uses humor to question assumptions consumers make that perpetuate their own status within the marketplace. Using friends and family as models, Dunn alerts the viewer to her intent through patently absurd captions and graphics.

Julianne Collins, from Hohokus, NJ, discovers unacknowledged beauty through her large-scale photographs and projections of small fragments of surfaces. Collins finds inspiration in the effects of weather on her subjects. Her images can be read as aerial views of landscapes and weather systems before one realizes that they are, in fact the tiny cracks, crevices and stains of concrete walls. Collins's installation recalls the romantic idea of the sublime experience in nature.

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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.