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Ramapo Exhibition Explores Environmental Issues

(MAHWAH, NJ) - An art exhibition exploring environmental concerns "It's the End of the World as We Know it (and I Feel Fine)" opens at Ramapo College on January 30 in the Kresge and Pascal galleries on campus. There will be an opening reception on January 30 from 5 to 7 p.m. Artist and curator's talks begin at 6 p.m. The exhibition continues through March 6. Additional programs will be announced.

The somewhat ironic title is taken from a 1987 song by the band R.E.M. The 14 artists on view explore contemporary views of nature and habitat expressed through paintings and drawings of the landscape. They envision the natural world in relationship to pressing environmental issues such as climate change, industrial pollution, loss of habitat, consumption of natural resources and human-caused disasters. Whether imagined or literal, the images in this exhibition directly confront feelings of shock and even despair at the forces of such radical changes taking place on our planet.

Exhibiting artists include George Booruji, Adam Cvijanovic, Peter Edlund, Joy Garnett, Kimberley Hart, Eve Andree Laramée, Sarah McCoubrey, Jason Middlebrook, Aviva Rahmani, Lisa Sanditz, Charlotte Schulz, Eva Strubel, Sarah Trigg and Marion Wilson.

According to exhibition curator Amy Lipton, "Artists often have a prophetic role, and throughout history they have alerted us to problems that are unforeseen or overlooked. The artists in this exhibition attempt to meet the challenges of the new ecological imperative by bringing attention to the need for protection, preservation, and action. Using realism, fantasy or process as a source for imagination and transformation, they seek to create an awareness of loss and beauty in the marginal, the overused and the threatened."

Lipton is an independent curator and co-director of ecoartspace, a non-profit organization that creates opportunities for addressing environmental issues through the arts. Formerly a New York City gallerist, she has organized exhibitions in museums, galleries, sculpture parks, environmental centers and in the public realm. Her writing has appeared in numerous books and publications, and she frequently lectures on art and environmental issues. Recent and past projects include "BiodiverCITY," a public art project in Washington, DC in 2012; "Nurturing Nature" at Concordia College in Bronxville, NY; "Ecovention" at the Contemporary Art Center in Cincinnati, OH; "Imaging the River" at the Hudson River Museum in Yonkers, NY; and "E.P.A., Environmental Performance Actions" at Exit Art in New York City.

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 Kresge and Pascal galleries are located in the Berrie Center for Performing and Visual Arts at Ramapo College. Hours are Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 1 to 5 p.m. and Wednesday, 1 to 7 p.m. For more information call 201.684-7147.

For a photo, please click on this link:

<http://www.ramapo.edu/news/pressreleases/2013/images/JoyG-China-Yangtse-Three-Gorges-Project--River-2.tif>

For cutlines, please click on this link:

<http://www.ramapo.edu/news/pressreleases/2013/docs/joy-garnett.doc>

Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as sixth 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.