



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Office of Communications and Public Relations

Press Release

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**WOVEN TREASURES EXHIBITION OPENS AT RAMAPO COLLEGE OF
NEW JERSEY ON NOVEMBER 12, 2014**

(MAHWAH, NJ) – *Woven Treasures: Selections from the Collection of Ira and Rebecca Spar* opens in the Pascal Gallery at Ramapo College of New Jersey on Wednesday, November 12, 2014 and continues through December 12, 2014. An opening reception will be held on November 12 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. with a collector's talk at 6 p.m.

The exhibition features a variety of art including costumes from Provence, santons (dolls) and ethnic hats and textiles from Asia and Africa.

“We have travelled all over the Near East, North Africa and Southern France in search of hand-crafted textiles and have purchased works by women and men whose creativity has so captured our imagination,” said Ira Spar. “The presence of their work has brought constant joy to our home.”

Costumes from Provence feature fully dressed manikins wearing traditional village and town costumes from the period of the French Revolution to the mid-19th century. Also on display are 21 santons (little saints) created by the award winning French santonnier, Simone Jouglas in the 1940s. Her creations feature Provence villagers dressed in 18th century French fabrics with painted expressive facial features. Ethnic hats and textiles on view include a wide range of tribal headdresses from Africa and colorful hats from the oasis cities of Central Asia.

Ira Spar is a professor of ancient studies in the Salameno School of Humanities and Global Studies at Ramapo College of New Jersey and a research assyriologist in the Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Rebecca Spar is an education and disability rights attorney with Cole, Schotz, Meisel, Forman and Leonard in Hackensack, N.J.

The Pascal Gallery is located in the Berrie Center for Performing and Visual Arts. Pascal Gallery hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. This program is supported 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.

For more information, contact Sydney Jenkins, director of art galleries, at (201) 684-7147 or sjenkins@ramapo.edu. Visit the galleries online at www.ramapo.edu/berriecenter/art-galleries/.

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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 seven graduate programs as well as articulated programs with Rutgers, The State University 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.