



**RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**Office of Marketing and Communications**  
**Press Release**  
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## **Paintings by Matt Austin go on view at Ramapo College**

Mahwah, N.J. -- *Matt Austin*, a one-person exhibition of paintings, opens on Wednesday, February 1, in the Pascal Gallery of the Berrie Center for Performing and Visual Arts. There will be an opening reception from 5-7 p.m., with an artist's talk at 6:45 p.m. The exhibition continues through March 3.

Austin's paintings are imbued with a playful yet rapt attention to detail, perspective and light. A horizon can be found in many of his works, inspired by his love of the vistas from his childhood, spent on the flat plains of the Midwest. He is well known for his use of casein paint and 23 karat gold leaf, whether in murals, paintings, or hand carved objects and sculpture. The paintings in the show include a series of camouflage dazzle ships\* and seascapes, as well as birds and nature inspired by the Chinoiserie murals of the early 18<sup>th</sup> Century and the European "Japonisme" movement of the late 1870's.

Born in to a family of muralists, illustrators and painters, Austin honed his craft as an artist after spending many years involved in art installation at the Yale Center for British Art. He has followed his curiosity since 1971 and when not in his studio, he can be found at the Metropolitan Museum of Art or climbing hills on his road racing bicycle.

\*Dazzle camouflage, also known as razzle dazzle (USA) or dazzle painting, was a family of ship camouflage used in World War 1, and to a lesser extent in World War II and afterwards.

This project is supported in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. The Pascal Gallery is located in the Berrie Center for the Performing and Visual Arts on the Ramapo College campus. Gallery hours are Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 1 to 5 p.m. and Wednesday from 1 to 7 p.m.

For more information, contact Sydney Jenkins at 201-684-7147.

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the top in the Best Regional Public Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes viewed as a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique

interdisciplinary academic structure, its size of approximately 6,000 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 eight 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.