



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Office of Marketing and Communications
Press Release
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Intriguing Sculptural Installation Opens at Ramapo College

Mahwah, N.J. -- *IN ANOTHER LIFE*, an intriguing sculptural installation by Joel Weissman, opens on Wednesday, September 13 in the Kresge Gallery of the Berrie Center for Performing and Visual Arts. There will be an opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. with an artist's talk at 6 p.m. The exhibition continues through October 13.

The exhibition incorporates various materials in a sophisticated configuration of film, sculpture, photography and sound.

Weissman makes the following statement about the exhibition:

"Drawing philosophical inspiration from the book *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* by Robert M. Pirsig, *IN ANOTHER LIFE* tackles notions of place and memory and their functions within identity construction. Blending personal connections to the story with representations of Montana, the artworks make tangible the feeling of looking back on previous parts of our lives. I am constructing an analytical window into the romantic qualities of one's past narratives, questioning how we can be present, even when confronting the past. Utilizing the illusionistic qualities of particular materials, processes, and technologies, my aim is to put the viewer in an experience that transcends the more cerebral characteristics of memory, between the real and the fantastical."

Joel Weissman (BFA Montana State University, MFA Syracuse University) is an interdisciplinary artist whose projects blend more traditional approaches to art making such as bronze and iron casting, with the more contemporary practices of digital fabrication, video and street art. He has been awarded artist residencies at the Chautauqua Institute, Salem Art Works and Watershed Center for Ceramic Arts. Currently an Assistant Professor of Art (Sculpture) at Ramapo College, he also has taught at Oxbow School of Art and Syracuse University. His work has been shown nationally including galleries in New York City and spaces in New Jersey, Montana, Washington, and Pennsylvania. In conjunction with the National Conference on Contemporary Cast Iron Art and Practice, Weissman was recently selected for a curated exhibition and also presented on his work at Sloss Furnaces, a national historic landmark in Birmingham, Alabama.

This project at Ramapo is funded 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 Kresge Gallery is located in the Berrie Center for 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, please 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.

Joel Weissman, Chautauqua #2, 2017, digital photograph