



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Office of Marketing and Communications
Press Release
February 19, 2019

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Exhibition Questioning Public Art Opens at Ramapo College

MAHWAH, N.J. - *!!!Public Art???*, a changing, multi-disciplinary exhibition exploring and questioning public art, opens on Wednesday, February 27, in the Kresge Gallery of the Berrie Center for Performing and Visual Arts at Ramapo College. There will be an opening reception from 5-7 p.m. with a curator and artists' talk at 6 p.m. The exhibition features a striking number of diverse educational events and performances, and continues on view through April 19.

Featured artists include: Shamell Bell, Bread and Puppet Theater (represented in video form), Peter A. Campbell, The DS Institute (Caitlin Foley, Misha Rabinovich, and Zach Dunn), Lady Pink, Lori Merhige, mObstudio at VCUarts, Francesca Scafuto and Terra Vandergaw, Matthew Shain, Gregory Sholette, and Howard Skril.

According to Director of the Art Galleries and exhibition curator Sydney O. Jenkins, "This exhibition delves into the huge topic of Public Art by focusing on a few areas that are ripe for investigation: monuments, graffiti/murals, performative and political/social activist work, and the Percent for Art type of publicly funded art. From the mural installation by legendary street artist Lady Pink, to Matthew Shain's 'Post-Monument' photographs about Confederate statues, to Shamell Bell's street dance activism, the exhibition provides both vivid aesthetic experiences and fertile opportunities for inquiry."

Several works will be presented outside the Berrie Center on the campus grounds. Some pieces will be more ephemeral or not on view for the entire run of the exhibition.

A partial roster of events includes:

Empowering Women Artists: A Talk by Street Artist Lady Pink, March 6, 4:30 p.m. Kresge Gallery

Art as Social Action: A Talk by Gregory Sholette, March 14, 1:30 p.m., Kresge Gallery

Performances, Peter A. Campbell, April 10 and 11, Kresge Gallery

Panel Discussion: *Disruptive Blackness: Public Art and Choreographies of Power*, April 3, 3 p.m., Kresge Gallery

Street Dance Activism Workshop by UCLA Choreographer/Activist Shamell Bell: April 4, 1 p.m., Ramapo Arch

Performance/Workshop: *The Body as Gaia*, Francesca Scafuto and Terra Vandergaw, April 18 and 19, location TBA

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 1-5 p.m. and Wednesday from 1-7 p.m.

Ramapo College is closed for major holidays and for the week of March 18 due to Spring Break.

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

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Ramapo College of New Jersey is the state's premier public liberal arts college and is committed to academic excellence through interdisciplinary and experiential learning, and international and intercultural understanding. The College is ranked #1 among New Jersey public institutions by College Choice, and is recognized as a top college by *U.S. News & World Report*, *Kiplinger's*, Princeton Review and *Money* magazine, among others. Ramapo College is also distinguished as a Career Development College of Distinction by CollegesofDistinction.com, boasts the best campus housing in New Jersey on Niche.com, and is designated a "Military Friendly College" in Victoria Media's *Guide to Military Friendly Schools*.

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 business, education, nursing and social work. In addition, the College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels, and offers graduate programs leading to master's degrees in Accounting, Business Administration, Educational Technology, Educational Leadership, Nursing, Social Work and Special Education.