



**RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**Office of Marketing and Communications**  
**Press Release**  
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## **Renowned Japanese American Artist to Speak at Ramapo College**

MAHWAH, N.J. -- Renowned Japanese American artist Tomokazu Matsuyama will speak in the Adler Theater, in the Berrie Center for Performing and Visual Arts at Ramapo College of New Jersey, on Thursday, April 13 at 3 p.m. Matsuyama's work is currently featured in the College's Kresge Gallery exhibition *Forms and Effects: Ukiyo-e to Anime* which continues on view through April 21. The artist will talk about his innovative work and Japanese culture. Admission is free and open to the public.

Tomokazu Matsuyama was born in Japan in 1976, and currently lives and works in New York. He received his MFA in Communications Design from the Pratt Institute, New York. Matsuyama's important exhibitions include the Japan Society, New York; Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts; the Katzen Arts Center at American University, Washington, D.C.; and the Museum of Contemporary Art Museum, Sydney, Australia, among others. His works are in the permanent collections of Asian Art Museum, San Francisco; the Royal Family, Dubai, UAE; the Standard Hotel (Andre Balazs Group), the Cosmopolitan Hotel Group, Microsoft Collection and more. His most recent major exhibitions included *Oh Magic Night* at the Hong Kong Contemporary Art Foundation in 2017. In August 2014 he was awarded the Harbour City Gallery Public Art Commission in Hong Kong.

Matsuyama's work responds to his own bi-cultural experience of growing up between Japan and America by bringing together aspects of both Eastern and Western aesthetic systems. His practice repositions traditional icons within a broader global context in order to create a distinctive style that resists cultural categorization and embodies what the artist refers to as the "struggle of reckoning the familiar local with the familiar global." By raising questions of national and individual identity through the formal qualities and subject matter of his paintings, Matsuyama examines the "natural chaos" of our social environments and challenges viewers to confront their own conceptions of cultural homogeneity.

Matsuyama is influenced by a variety of subjects, including Japanese art from the Edo and Meiji eras, classical Greek and Roman statuary, French Renaissance painting, post-war contemporary art, and the visual language of global, popular culture as embodied by mass-produced commodities.

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.