Art Collection Resource Guide
Rockland Community College

Rockland Community College is home to an eclectic collection of art. Some works stir the senses, some stimulate the imagination, and all enrich the experience for those who visit our campus. The many artworks that enhance RCC’s interior and exterior landscape offer a broad array of sculptures, paintings, photography and other exciting visual elements.

The generosity of donors, the many talented artists of the Hudson Valley, and the Rockland County Legislature’s commitment to art and the community, make RCC fortunate in being able to provide a home for a growing collection of important art. Spanning and reflecting a range of local and national history, our artwork ranges from pastoral local scenes from days long ago to a sculpture that incorporates fragments of the World Trade Center.

Art enhances the aesthetic and intellectual experience of students, faculty, and visitors, and enriches the spirit, inviting all to enjoy the natural beauty of our campus and the many creative artistic expressions offered throughout campus.
Art in Public Places

Three outstanding sculptures at RCC were made possible through Rockland County’s Art in Public Places (AIPP) program and enliven several of the College’s outdoor spaces. Through the Percent for Art Law, passed in 1986, the County devotes one percent of the bonded capital cost of government construction projects to fund public art. Rockland was one of the first places in New York State outside of New York City to enact this law and Emily Harvey, Chair of RCC’s Art Department, is also a member of the Rockland County AIPP. Committee members are drawn from local experts in the fields of art, art history, architecture and design. Harriet Cornell, Chairwoman of the Rockland County Legislature, was an original sponsor of the Percent for Art Law, and included these words in its Preamble:

“...a public art program is one of the finest contributions a government can make to its citizens since it provides the community with a unique identity, civic pride and thought-provoking cultural landmarks, as well as a sense of community cohesion.”
“It is fitting that a county – which is home to artists, writers, musicians, actors, dancers and those who work in all fields related to arts and arts education – should create a public art program to create access to and encourage participation in the arts by all.”

—Harriet Cornell, Chairwoman, Rockland County Legislature
Interior

Stephen Antonakos, Trilogy, A Sculpture in Three Parts, 2006

This neon sculpture by internationally renowned artist, Stephen Antonakos (1926-2013), was installed in March 2007 in the Cultural Arts Center. The sculpture consists of a bright green “wave” positioned above the entrance door; a red circle, seven feet in diameter and suspended from the highest beam of the Atrium; and a stabilizing green horizontal line at the back of the Atrium. The site-specific work was designed to serve as a visual counterpoint to the architectural elements inside and outside the building. The brilliant geometric forms, in intense complementary colors, create a focal point to enliven the exterior and interior of the vast two-level space. Antonakos, a Greek-born New York artist, was celebrated for his innovative work with neon at sites around the world. He died in August 2013 at age 86.

Trilogy is currently dismounted, with re-installation planned for late Fall 2013.
Exterior

Harry Roseman, *Four Houses*

Installed in May 1996, *Four Houses* features four brick-and-mortar houses, measuring 4 feet high, by 3.5 feet wide, and 5 feet deep. The houses are located throughout the Courtyard area behind the Cultural Arts Center.

Each miniature structure was rendered in a unique and distinct color, to echo the buildings in closest proximity. Meant to convey an embracing sense of home and hearth, the houses are a symbol of participation in a nurturing community as an extension of home. Though metaphorical in concept, they are real structures and their scale lends them particular value as novel and convenient sitting areas.

Roseman has been an art professor at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie since 1981. He has produced many major commissioned public sculptures, including *Subway Wall*, which resides in the NYC subway system, and *Curtain Wall* at JFK Airport. He received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2013.
Gillian Jagger, *The Gnomon*

An homage to Stonehenge, this sculpture was designed and situated so as to mark the December 21 winter solstice each year. Installed on the Fieldhouse lawn in September 1993, *The Gnomon* was the first AIPP structure installed at RCC. The sculpture consists of four slabs of limestone cut into two vertical, triangular shapes that are 11 feet high by 5 feet wide. It was named for the Greek word for the part of a sundial that casts the shadow; the origin of that meaning derives from “one who knows.” The stones of the sculpture describe a perfect “V” shape, with the angle perfectly aligned to frame the last view of the setting sun and capturing those last brilliant rays on that day of shortest light. Jagger taught art at Pratt Institute for 40 years and retired in 2007.
Other Exterior Sculptures

**Eric David Laxman, Spirit Rising, 2012**

This steel-and-marble structure forms the centerpiece of the 9/11 Memorial Garden in the Academic Quad. Designed as a place of quiet reflection, the garden was dedicated in September 2012, the 11th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. The inspiring sculpture incorporates four steel-beam fragments from the fallen towers of the World Trade Center (fragments donated by the Port Authority of NY/NJ).

Laxman is a local artist with a studio and home in Rockland County. The garden also includes colorful ceramic tiles created by local artist **Cathy McErlean-Goddard**, spelling out “Love One Other.” The concept and design for the garden were developed by **Page Simon**, Professor of Art at RCC.
Model to Monument

Ten student sculptures now grace RCC’s campus thanks to the “Model to Monument: Creating Art for Public Spaces” (M2M) program at the Art Students League of New York, directed by sculptor Greg Wyatt, who grew up in Rockland and leads the M2M program. Wyatt suggested RCC as the location for long-term loans of the student sculptures. Student work is selected each year for display in Manhattan’s Riverside Park and other NYC locations, but as each year’s new student work is developed, the work is loaned to new locations. Five sculptures were installed on campus in 2012 and five more in 2013.
Brucker Hall, front lawn:

Elizabeth Allison, *River Gazers*

Allston Chapman, *Looking Up*

John Balsamo, *The New Age*
Academic Quad, back lawn:

Matthew White, *Seiren*

Noa Shay, *Wish*
Behind the Courtyard:

Renata Pugh, *Coalescence*

Behind the Library:

Robert Franzone, *Red Arches*
Bookstore entrance:

**Olga Rudenko, Existence Within – Parts 1 + 2**

Behind the Fieldhouse pool:

**Michael Cloud Hirschfeld, Hardcovers**
Additional Exterior Sculptures

Informally known as Book Reader, a green gargoyle-like figure faces passersby on College Road from atop the mound hill near the South exit. The Book Reader is one of the oldest artworks on campus. Artist unknown.

Two red steel geometric sculptures, one on the front lawn of Brucker Hall and another located between the Cultural Arts Center and the Student Union are by the artist Michael Finkelstein.
Interior Sculptures

ROTUNDA

Two small bronze works by Greg Wyatt stand on pedestals in the Library rotunda: a model of Wyatt’s *The Price of Freedom*, installed at Arlington National Cemetery; and a miniature version of Wyatt’s bronze monument *Macbeth*, which is located in Shakespeare’s Great Garden Sculpture Trail in Stratford-upon-Avon, England. Wyatt, a representational sculptor who works primarily in cast bronze, was raised in the Rockland village of Grand View-on-Hudson and is the son of painter William Stanley Wyatt.
LIBRARY -
FOURTH FLOOR
(SECOND FLOOR ABOVE
ENTRANCE)

Juan Nickford, Nana, Brass and Nickel Silver, 1984

A member of the Sculptors Guild, Nickford (1925-2001) was a member of the RCC art faculty, and holds the title of Professor Emeritus of Art at City College, CUNY. He also taught at the University of Hartford and Smith College. His work has been shown at the Whitney Museum and the Metropolitan Museum in New York, the Los Angeles County Museum, Fordham University and Lever House, among other venues. Nickford studied at the University of Havana School of Architecture.
Robert Burghardt

A self-taught artist, Burghardt’s watercolor paintings of RCC’s early campus were drawn from firsthand knowledge; he was a founding faculty member in 1959 and saw the College’s transformation from a forlorn site that previously housed Rockland’s indigent population to the current 175-acre, thriving multi-building campus. His circa-1960 panorama of the campus, complete with scroll listing founding members, hangs in Brucker Hall, the College’s administration building, as does his 1962 rendition of that building. Brucker Hall has a long history of service to the County, with its elegant architecture once serving as the County’s Almshouse. Among Burghardt’s other paintings are several pastoral scenes, including one of the Barn, which served as the early home for RCC’s theatrical productions.

Burghardt taught mathematics, physics and engineering drawing at RCC and became chairman of the Math department before retiring in 1988. He died in 2002.
William Stanley Wyatt

More than a dozen of Stanley Wyatt’s paintings have been donated to RCC, and many are displayed along the stairwells of the Library. Wyatt’s work is influenced by Impressionism and Cubism. He was a longtime resident of Rockland County, residing in Grand View-on-Hudson for many years, and was the father of world renowned sculptor Greg Wyatt. After retiring from a long career at Columbia University, Stanley Wyatt taught art at RCC in 1979-80. William Stanley Wyatt passed away in 2004.
Alan Levine

Alan Levine’s abstract paintings hang in several buildings on campus, including the Technology Center, Brucker Hall, the Library, the Student Union and the Cultural Arts Center. He donated about 40 of his original works to the College.
Other Paintings

Interior spaces of the campus are enhanced by a variety of paintings by additional artists. Among those works are the following:

BRUCKER HALL — FIRST FLOOR

*Portrait of Daniel T. Brucker*, the building’s namesake and an original trustee of the College. Artist unknown.
Robert Liberace, Portrait of William Baitzel, 2010

Robert Liberace is an acclaimed portrait painter, best known for the movement and draftsmanship of his figure work. Liberace is a recipient of the Portrait Society of America’s Grand Prize Award in their annual International Portrait Competition. His mother, Maire, is a longtime speech and philosophy professor at RCC. Liberace composed this portrait of a former member of the RCC automotive technology faculty before an audience during the College’s 50th anniversary celebration.
BRUCKER HALL — SECOND FLOOR
(PRESIDENT’S SUITE)

J.E. Costigan

Untitled, Oil on canvas, undated

J.E. Costigan (1888-1972) is a celebrated American artist who produced in his 50-year career about 500 oils, 250 watercolors, 400 drawings, as well as etchings, lithographs and other works. Costigan taught at the Art Students League and in his Orangeburg home. In 1928, he was made an Academician to the National Academy of Design. He was honored with a retrospective of his work at the Smithsonian Institution in 1968.
Bill Cobb, *Lonely Farm* and *Deserted Old Barn*.

Cobb was an original trustee of the College.
Complementing the previous sculptures and paintings are the many works by RCC faculty and staff that further enliven the rooms and gathering spaces on campus. Among them are:

**Painting**

**LIBRARY**

*Manonce Celestine*, Library staff  
*Freedom*, 2012, mixed media on canvas  
*Courtyard View*, 2007, acrylic on canvas

*Andrea Geller*, adjunct faculty,  
*Art, Floating I*, 2008, oil on canvas
Photography

BRUCKER HALL

Collette Fournier, adjunct faculty

Gnomon Sculpture at Sunset, 2000

Winter Scene, 2005

Several of Fournier’s photographs of campus life also hang in the Faculty Dining Room.

John Scheslinger, Professor of Art,

Untitled, c. 2001, toned gelatin silver print

John Beerman, Untitled, undated

TECHNOLOGY CENTER

One of four photos by Page Simon, Professor of Art, of Ground Zero artifacts incorporated in the 9/11 Memorial Garden sculpture, Spirit Rising.

Also by Prof. Simon, in Brucker Hall:

The Gnomon on the Equinox, 2006

Student Union

Home to a rotating exhibit of photographs that were donated to the Art Department by Leo Wagner, a prominent collector of fine arts photography.
Student art work is displayed in changing exhibitions on campus in the Technology Center, the Student Union and various spaces in the Cultural Arts Center. Twice a year a juried selection of outstanding student work is shown at the SUNY Art Gallery and New York State Museum in Albany with support from the Student Government Association. RCC student work is also regularly selected for the Best of SUNY summer exhibition and the SUNY-wide competition to exhibit at Governor Cuomo’s office in Washington, D.C., annually. Lena Hyun, adjunct faculty, Art, curates the annual SUNY shows and coordinates art exhibits on campus.
Student work selected for display in Governor Cuomo’s Washington, DC, office:

2012-2013

a. Jennifer Murphy, Untitled, gelatin silver print, 2012
b. Takashi Okamoto, Shatter, digital print, 2012
c. Reid Parsekian, Montage, digital print, 2012

2013-14

Duong Do

Untitled, acrylic sheet painting, 2013
Untitled, digital illustration, 2013

Annie Filippone

Untitled, digital print, 2012
Untitled, digital print, 2013

Jean-Carlos Valme

The Light Within, digital photograph, 2012
Obstacles, digital collage, 2013

Exhibit space is used by campus groups for other rotating art displays that change periodically. These include various heritage month exhibits; framed artwork by RCC computer graphics and graphic design students in the Technology Center; and student artwork in the Cultural Arts Center.
Rockland Community College

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Rockland Community College
145 College Road
Suffern, NY 10901
845-574-4000

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