



For Immediate Release

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August 13, 2012

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### **TCNJ Celebrates the Career of Artist and Professor Bruce Rigby**

The opening fall exhibition at TCNJ's Art Gallery is *Bruce Rigby: Recent Work*, a show of more than thirty works of art presented in celebration of Rigby's 41 years of teaching at The College of New Jersey. Rigby, who will retire in December 2012, has anchored the College's studio art program since 1972 and has guided and inspired generations of art students. The exhibition of his work will be on view from September 5 through October 11, with the opening reception on Wednesday, September 5 from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m.

As Dr. Lee Ann Riccardi, chair of TCNJ's Department of Art and Art History, has noted, "Bruce defines the ideal first professor: an exacting and demanding teacher with an unwavering good nature, sense of humor, energy, enthusiasm, and sensitivity. Whether working with beginning students unsure about the direction their careers should take, or with advanced students who need serious critique, he has been dedicated to enabling their personal and artistic development."

The TCNJ exhibition highlights Rigby's work from the past ten years, including his mixed media paintings—*Wall Series*—and his digital ink-jet print series—*Earthly Endeavors*. As he explains, "I am intrigued by what I call the *unintentional aesthetic*—visual records made without intent for permanence or public viewing. I combine these images with human-made

symbols and objects, which reflect the influence of natural wear and tear. My artwork is intended to be enjoyed as a positive aesthetic experience and to evoke pleasure in the relationships of colors, textures, shapes, and perhaps even a personal association with an object, time or place.

Rigby has maintained an active artistic practice during his four decades teaching at TCNJ. His work has been featured in more than 185 exhibitions nationwide, including 20 one-person shows. His paintings are in the collections of the New Jersey State Museum, Trenton City Museum, and numerous corporate collections.

On Friday, September 14, Rigby will talk about his career in special public lecture: *An Artist's Journey*. The lecture will be at 11:30 a.m. in the Mayo Concert Hall, Music Building, and is being presented as part of the School of the Arts and Communication's Friday Brown Bag lecture and performance series.

TCNJ Art Gallery is located in the Arts and Interactive Multimedia Building (AIMM) on the campus at 2000 Pennington Road in Ewing. Gallery hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 12:00 to 7:00 p.m. and Sunday from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public. Exhibitions at TCNJ are funded in part by the Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission through funding from the Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information about exhibitions and programs at the TCNJ Art Gallery and for directions and parking, visit [tcnj.edu/artgallery](http://tcnj.edu/artgallery) or call 609-771-2633.

Image captions: Bruce Rigby, *Wall Series: Ten*, 2002, mixed media on wood, 40 x 40 in. TCNJ Art Collection / Bruce Rigby, *Wall Series: Self Portrait*, 2006, archival ink-jet print on canvas, 19 ¾ x 15 ½ in., collection of the artist / Bruce Rigby, *Wall Series: 45*, 2009, mixed media on wood, 39 x 41 in., TCNJ Art Collection

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