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For Immediate Release:

Date: January 1, 2015

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RULE Gallery is pleased to present the exhibition *RetroActive: Founding Spark* featuring original founding members of SPARK Gallery. SPARK, created in 1979, remains the longest running cooperative in the region, predating Pirate: Contemporary Art by just a few months. Acknowledging the 35 year history of both Co-Ops, it seemed fitting that this RULE Gallery Popup exhibition be held at Pirate: Contemporary Art. The show, which opens on Friday, January 23 from 6-10pm, will feature new and historical work by Andy Liberton, Paul Gillis, Margaret Neumann, Clark Richert, Jerry Johnson, George Woodman, Richard Kallweit, Charles Dijulio, Marilyn Nelson, Suzy Roesler, Marcia Rehn, Jane Fudge and John Fudge. The exhibition will be on view January 23 through February 8, 2015. Pirate: Contemporary Art is located at 3655 Navajo St, Denver, CO 80211. Gallery hours for this exhibition are Friday 12-10pm, Saturday – Sunday 12-5pm.

A panel discussion entitled *Early Collectives: Sparking a Revolution in Colorado*, will be held on Saturday, February 7 at 2pm at Pirate and will be free and open to the public. The discourse will focus on the influence of early cooperatives on the local contemporary art scene. Featured panelists will be Andy Liberton (SPARK), Margaret Neumann (SPARK), Clark Richert (Criss Cross), Ken Peterson (Edge), Phil Bender (Pirate) and will be moderated by Denver Art Critic, Michael Paglia. Space is limited. RSVP to info@rulegallery.com

RetroActive: Founding Spark celebrates one of the pivotal moments in the history of contemporary art in Colorado. Rising from the idea that artists should have more control over the context of creating and exhibiting their work, SPARK, and a few months later, Pirate, provided venues where collaborative experiments and personal responses to the world could be realized without commercial pressure.

Many of these artists' careers were bolstered by this increased freedom and exposure leading to recognition from pioneering gallerists such as Robin Rule who was also keen to take risks with artists and exhibitions. While the founders of SPARK may not have been intentional activists, they launched a cultural movement that has helped the area develop into the contemporary art city it is today. Thirty-five years later RULE Gallery proudly continues to represent several of these early visionaries.

RULE Gallery is located at 3254 Walnut Street, Denver, Colorado in the RINO Arts District. The gallery is open Tuesday – Saturday 12-6pm and by appointment. Our exhibition, *Required Reading*, will continue to be on view through February 8, 2015.