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530 Santa Fe Drive, Denver CO 80204 (hours: Tues – Fri 12-6p, Sat 12-5p)

(Denver CO) RULE Gallery is pleased to present *Adorned*, a solo exhibition of new work by Jason DeMarte. This will be the artist's fourth solo exhibition at the gallery. The show will open with a public reception at its Denver location on Thursday, May 3, 2018, from 6-9pm, and will be on view from May 3 through June 16, 2018.

Jason DeMarte's artistic practice has, for several years, examined humanity's conflicting tendencies to idealize nature while continuously searching to improve upon it. By composing fictional tableaux, the work speaks to our uneasy obsession with beauty and excess and our preoccupation with sugarcoating perfection. Drawing from the romanticism of the Hudson River School and deepening his palette, DeMarte's latest body of work increases the sense of overt indulgence while darkening the deeper subtext. Caterpillars and moths raised by the artist are stand-ins for the viewer and intermingle with flora evincing the onset of decay to bring a clearer sense of mortality often missing in our consumer-centric world. By photographing each subject individually multiple times, DeMarte is able to present a full depth-of-field in sharp focus, heightening both the sense of hyperrealism and surrealism. All of this is done to evoke an initial sense of seduction, beauty and awe that is subtly undermined the longer one engages with each piece, inviting the viewer to consider the way an adorned life gives way to greater meaning.

Jason DeMarte (b. 1973) is a tenured professor of photography at Eastern Michigan University. He received his B.F.A. in Photography from Colorado State University and his M.F.A. in Photography from the University of Oregon. DeMarte's work has been exhibited in galleries and museums, both nationally and internationally and has appeared in journals, textbooks and publications including features in; Vice, Hyperallergic, Featureshoot, Crave Online, Photograph Magazine, Juxtapoz, Hi-Fructose, Photo District News, British Journal of Photography, the Black Warrior Review, and the Oxford American, among others. Exhibitions include shows at the Denver Botanic Gardens, The Detroit Center for Contemporary Photography, RedLine, Denver, CO, Seidel City in Boulder, CO, The Ft Wayne Museum of Art among others. Select solo exhibitions include RULE Gallery in Denver CO and Marfa, TX, Wessell Synman Gallery in Cape Town South Africa, Richard Levy Gallery in Albuquerque, NM among others. DeMarte was awarded the Garry B. Fritz image-maker award at the Society of Photographic Education conference in Atlanta Georgia and currently has work included in the Midwest Photographers Project at the Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago, IL. His work can be found in the permanent collection of SAKS Fifth Ave, Museum of Outdoor Arts, Englewood, CO, Los Angeles Center for Digital Art, Los Angeles, CA., and the Fort Collins Colorado Historical Museum in addition to numerous private collections.

RULE Gallery has exhibited contemporary abstract and conceptual works, including paintings, sculpture, photography, and works on paper, by both established and emerging artists since 1991. The gallery has locations in Denver, Colorado, and Marfa, Texas. For more information, visit www.rulegallery.com.