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(Denver CO) RULE Gallery is pleased to present *Exotic Escape*, a solo exhibition of new works by Jillian Kay FitzMaurice. The show will open with a public reception at its Denver location on Friday June 29 from 6-9pm, and will be on view from June 29 through August 11, 2018

In *Exotic Escape*, Jillian Kay FitzMaurice explores the idea of an oasis that allures the mind, but when reached is exposed to be only a mirage. Using collage, drawing, video and installation she creates distorted views of paradise that represent the search for an external solution to one's internal problems. FitzMaurice looks at a fundamental idea of the human condition, that people often desperately want to find something better than what they are given. The artist depicts the answer by utilizing nostalgic, familiar and tranquil images of palm trees. FitzMaurice not only calls back to the great desert oasis of old, but also evokes the Hollywood dream that has appeared in the last century. These symbols hint at the opulence and glamour associated with a life of ease – a place where most want to find themselves in. Between intoxicating episodes of reality TV and addictive scrolling through Social Media, we pass over these images of clear skies adorned with palm trees like a subconscious oasis.

This is merely an illusion, though. The waves, blurs, tears and cuts make these images distorted and dreamlike. The Hollywood dream is a paradise lost, and having not achieved happiness, we turn to screens, substances and self-indulgence as the obtainable means of escape. Yet in FitzMaurice's work, utopia is still there, seemingly just in reach – leaving you longing for this distant idea of perfection.

Jillian Kay FitzMaurice (b. 1988) is an artist and poet currently living in Denver, Colorado. She received her BFA in Drawing from the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design in 2011 and has studied abroad at the Burren College of Art in Ballyvaughn, Ireland. She has shown in group and solo exhibitions in Denver, Milwaukee, Anacortes, WA and Ballyvaughn Ireland. Her work is in collections throughout the United States, Ireland and Great Britain.

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