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MR POOL Inc


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(Boulder, CO) RULE Gallery is pleased to present a pop-up solo exhibition of work by Martha Hughes entitled *Pools & Gardens* at Mr. Pool in Boulder, Colorado. Hughes lives in Marfa, TX and this will be her second exhibition with the gallery. The show will open with a public reception on Saturday, August 18, 2018, from 6-9pm, and will be on view August 18 – November 3, 2018. Mr. Pool is located at 2347 South Street, Boulder, CO 80302. Their hours are 9am-5pm, Monday through Friday and 10am-4pm on Saturdays.

Martha Hughes's *Pools & Gardens* exhibition combines two distinct bodies of work, each addressing similar topics but with markedly different approaches. Hughes' hard edge, color block paintings of pools, paired with her gestural drawings of gardens, demonstrate her wide range of ability, vocabulary and scale all while she continues to produce thematic conceptual content.

Her paintings are carefully developed scenes of romanticized interiors and landscapes: views inspired by magazine spreads with overly staged photographs of impossibly pristine, impeccably beautiful houses, gardens, and pools. Hughes has stripped these down to their barest colors, distorting angles and proportions to fabricate the momentary uneasiness one can unexpectedly feel in familiar spaces. The flat, hard-edges are complimented by obvious brushstrokes, giving the work a sense of being both carefully made and personally handcrafted.

Paralleling these geometric scenes are lush, impressionistic, watercolor and colored pencil drawings of private and public gardens. Hughes creates intimate slices of perfectly landscaped spaces that allure the viewer with a dreamy sense of hope and peace. These highly planned and cultivated manmade grottos also act as staged environments, asking us to become aware of our impacts as we move through the landscape.

In both series, Hughes uses the environments humans create for themselves as a way to consider the lives we live. Whether they are naturalistic or minimalist, comforting or disorienting, her constructed surroundings challenge us to find a meaningful relationship with the natural world.

About: Martha Hughes received a BFA in Studio Art from the University of Texas at Austin. Her work has been included in numerous solo and group shows across the USA including exhibitions in New York, Texas, New Mexico and Colorado. Hughes works in a variety of mediums including painting, drawing, photography, and computer-based media. The artist has resided in Marfa, Texas, since 2004.

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

Mr. Pool Inc., founded by Terry Seidel in 1978, is committed to providing quality pools and spas and outstanding support to the Boulder community and surrounding areas. Through years of service and steady growth, Mr. Pool, Inc. now includes a design and construction department, service department, maintenance department, and retail showroom. In cooperation with RULE Gallery our showroom also proudly features many extraordinary local and national artists. For more information, visit www.mrpoolinc.com