



Denver + Marfa rulegallery.com
info@rulegallery.com 303-800-6776

For Immediate Release:

Date: September 15, 2018

Contact: Valerie Santerli, RULE Gallery, (303) 800-6776, pr@rulegallery.com

(Denver, CO) RULE Gallery is pleased to present *Frame of Reference*, a group show of artists whose work bridges the space between personal experience, history and individual roles within society; melding their internal and external worlds. This exhibition features Rowdy Dugan, Mark Fitzsimmons, Erica Green, Renluka Maharaj, and Shelby Rahe at its Denver, CO gallery, located at 530 Santa Fe Dr. It will open with a public reception on September 28, from 6-9pm, and will be on view September 28 through November 10, 2018.

Frame of Reference explores the psychological boundaries and interfaces in which people layer their realities to better gauge their place within the world. For the artists, the praxis each employs to translate this, either by accumulating self-assurance or shedding the same, stems from awareness of their vulnerabilities and their willingness to expose them. Works included range from photographs by two artists examining the disruption of their cultural landscapes to videos by two others detailing their inner conflicts as they seek to establish support systems. The final piece is a site-specific fiber installation evoking the unending process of rebuilding oneself. In effect, the exhibition intends to provide an invisible perceptual guide with which, through observation of each contemplative and directional work, we may discover the nature of our own *Frame of Reference*.

Based in Marfa, TX, **Rowdy Dugan** (b. 1980) is a documentary and lifestyle photographer who started his career as a filmmaker. Working primarily in analogue, Dugan's photographs are either part of a visual narrative or moments of isolated lyricism, contemplating human activity through portraiture and landscape views. Dugan has photographed advertising campaigns for Stetson, captured portraits of artists in residence at the Chinati Foundation, as well as documentary work for Ballroom Marfa; his work has been featured in Texas Monthly and 360 West Magazine.

Mark Fitzsimmons (b. 1983) is a Denver based interdisciplinary artist, working primarily with painting, sculpture and spatially engaging mediums. Having previously exploited material to create and ease tension, using delicate forms as media for twisted and contorted ideals, Fitzsimmons' practice is now heavily performance-based. In June, 2018, Fitzsimmons travelled 22 miles by foot around Denver's Civic Center Park and the Colorado State Capitol Building, carrying a 60-pound weighted American Flag. Fitzsimmons was Honorably Discharged from the Army in 2014 and holds a BFA from the Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design in Fine Art. His work has been included in solo shows at CORE Art Space Annex and Dateline, with group shows in Pirate Contemporary, Birdseed Collective and RULE Gallery.

Erica Green (b. 1980) is an artist working with fiber-based installations, she lives and works in Boulder, CO. Erica received a Bachelor of Fine Arts with an emphasis in Ceramics from the University of Nebraska and completed a two-year post-baccalaureate program in Ceramics at the University of Colorado. Her work has varied from clay sculpture to thread drawings to fiber installations. She has exhibited work locally and nationally and has participated in several artist residencies around the country.

Born in Trinidad, West Indies, **Renluka Maharaj** (b. 1966) moved to New York City as a child. Her work investigates this bisecting of place through the usage of photography, installations and personal narratives. References to Hindu iconography, displacement and colonialism are themes that run throughout her work. Maharaj completed her BFA at the University of Colorado Boulder and her MFA at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago where she received the Barbara De Genevieve Scholarship. Her works are in the collections of the Art Institute of Chicago, Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago, Joan Flasch artist book collection, Los Angeles Center for Digital Art and special collections at the University of Colorado Boulder as well as numerous private collections.

Shelby Rahe (b.1991) born in Cincinnati, OH, currently works out of her studio in Montrose, CO. In most recent work, Rahe has explored the physical components of cathartic release through sculpture and video performance. Rahe graduated from Boston University in 2013 with a Bachelor of Science in Advertising. She moved from Boston to New York City to pursue a career in Advertising Sales. Her interest in fashion and creative advertising led to internships at Teen Vogue and W Magazine, and a position at Rolling Stone. After living in New York City she then moved to Berlin to work and study German. Rahe moved to Denver to study studio art at Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design; she has since shown work in galleries on campus and the surrounding 40 West Art District.