



Denver + Marfa rulegallery.com  
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## **For Immediate Release**

Date: February 19, 2019

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**(Marfa, TX)** RULE Gallery is pleased to present *Super Automatic*, a group exhibition of work by Samuel Boehm, Leah Howell and Gretchen Marie Schaeffer curated by Joseph Coniff at our Marfa, Texas location. The show opens with a public reception on Saturday, March 2, 2019, from 6-9pm, and will be on view March 2 through April 20, 2019. RULE Gallery is located at 204 E. San Antonio St., Marfa, TX.

*Super Automatic* focuses on the ubiquitous, everyday object; items that are often overlooked, understated, or virtually invisible. The paintings of Samuel Boehm feature discarded materials found on the street as well as vintage iconography he sees while moving through the city. Employing a muted color palette, he accumulates layers of paint like overlaid histories, producing a relief like quality on the surface of his works. Gretchen Marie Schaeffer's pieces impersonate elements existing in nature. Her hyper-realistic rock sculptures are created through an armature and Papier-mâché process and meticulously painted; challenging the viewer's perception of what is natural and what is manufactured. Leah Howell's ceramic creations draw from familiar celebratory items like party favors, candy sprinkles and confetti. Her unglazed, colored porcelain works elevate that which is temporary, disposable and often swept away. All three artists situate themselves at the intersection of the permanent and impermanent. Through their labor driven practices they create archival works inspired by the mundane, drawing attention to the relationship we have with the objects that surround us.

**Samuel Boehm** (b. 1982) received his MFA from the University of Delaware, Newark in 2017 and his BFA in 2014 from West Virginia University, Morgantown. His work has been exhibited in group and solo shows nationally and internationally, including Morgan Lehman, New York City; The Delaware Contemporary, Wilmington, DE; Monongalia Arts Center, Morgantown, WV; Kunstraum Tapir, Berlin, Germany. Boehm currently lives and works in NYC.

**Leah Howell** (b. 1980) received her BFA in ceramics from the University of Colorado in 2005. She lives and works in Eugene, Oregon where she is a Graduate Teaching Fellow and MFA candidate (Spring 2019) at the University of Oregon. Her work has been exhibited in solo exhibitions throughout Oregon including Disjecta Contemporary Art Center among others. Additionally she has participated in group shows across the US including Oregon, Tennessee, and Colorado.



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**Gretchen Marie Schaeffer** (b. 1982) lives and works in Denver, Colorado. She holds a bachelor degree in English Literature and Visual Arts from Regis University. Schaefer currently works at Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design as the Visiting Artist, Scholar, and Designer (VASD) Program Director where she has hosted Miranda July, Judy Chicago, Andrea Zittel, Cécile B. Evans, Sondra Perry, and Dario Robleto, among many others. She serves on the Artist Research Committee at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver and is on the Board of Tilt West, a non-profit dedicated to fostering critical dialog in art and culture in Colorado.

Exhibitions of her work include group and solo shows in Colorado at the CU Boulder Museum of Art, the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, RedLine Contemporary Art Center and a collaborative project with the contemporary ballet company Wonderbound. Public talks include “Expert Talk” with Conor King at the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art and a presentation at the College Advisory Committee of the Denver Art Museum’s 20th Annual Symposium in Art and Art History for which she received the William Becker, S.J. Award for Outstanding Paper in Art History.

#### **About the Curator:**

**Joseph Coniff** (b. 1981) received an MFA in 2016 from the University of Delaware, Newark and a BFA from Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design in 2011. His work has been included in New American Paintings, Creative Quarterly, Studio Visit Magazine, and Vogue Espana among others. Coniff has been called one of Denver’s most notable emerging artists and has received numerous awards and recognition in the Denver press. He has completed residencies and guest lectures in Wassaic, NY; Santa Fe NM; Berlin, Germany; and at Black Cube, Denver, CO. Coniff’s work has been exhibited nationally and internationally in Denver, Marfa, New York, Los Angeles, Philadelphia and Berlin and is in numerous public, business and private collections nationally and internationally.

**RULE Gallery**, founded in 1991, has locations in Denver, CO and Marfa, TX. RULE represents emerging and mid-career contemporary artists and artist estates, with a focus on fostering investigative art practices while developing artists’ long-term careers. Outside their robust in-house exhibition schedule, RULE coordinates programming in prominent institutions and non-traditional settings, expanding community engagement with the work. In addition, the gallery actively endeavors to bring greater recognition of the region’s historic art movements to a broader audience. For more information, visit [www.rulegallery.com](http://www.rulegallery.com)