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**(Denver, CO)** RULE Gallery is pleased to present *Grounded*, a group exhibition featuring Adam Fowler, M. Benjamin Herndon, James William Murray, and Jill O'Bryan. The show will be presented at RULE Gallery, located at 808 Santa Fe Dr. Denver, CO and will open with a public reception on November 8 from 6-9pm, and will be on view through December 21, 2019.

*Grounded* brings together a process-oriented group of artists utilizing graphite as a principal medium in their practice. Connected through an overarching meditative focus in their work, each has developed a visceral language, embedding marked breaths into paper, burnishing silvery tones into canvas or wood, or meticulously cutting away space between each hand drawn line. Together the artists demonstrate a grounded quietude, developing varying layered elements imbued with monochromatic shifts from subtle greys to rich charcoal blacks, ultimately obscuring the familiar medium of graphite itself.

Adam Fowler begins every piece by carefully mapping out its construction, determining the motifs, densities and rhythm each completed work will ultimately have. Fowler's process is dichotomous, with the quick and expressive pencil marks counterbalanced by the meticulous process of cutting away the excess negative space between each line by hand. The final compositions present a laborious multilayered drawing, concealing the beginning and end of each layer to become a dynamic, almost hyper-dimensional webbing of accumulated graphite gestures.

M. Benjamin Herndon's reductive work is quiet and contemplative. Through his process-intensive materiality and subtle geometric imagery, form emerges from the surface rather than being imposed upon it. Using graphite emulsified in handmade paints, Herndon carefully polishes his paintings' surfaces and then layers on lines of silverpoint to develop abstract compositions with tonal ranges from near black to bright silver, depending on the viewer's location with respect to the light. This spatial relationship allows areas within the work to appear and disappear, inviting viewers to change their perspective and discover gradient compositions formerly unseen.

James William Murray's artistic practice explores questions of corporeality, materiality and sensuality through interplay and experimentations across various media. On view at RULE are Murray's latest sculptures; wooden stretcher bars layered with a mix of pulverized graphite and a fluid binder developed by the artist. These works are carefully hand-burnished in a deeply involved and tender practice, pushing the graphite mixture into the surfaces while allowing for the underlying identity of the wood grain to show through. The final forms are bound together with the cotton t-shirts Murray wears while working. The clothing absorbs the loose graphite dust and evolves from white to dark gray, bringing in a component of human closeness to the hard geometric forms.

Jill O'Bryan's drawing practice fuses body-driven intuition with premeditated sequential repetition. In her series of *Breath Drawings*, O'Bryan synchronously performs a single graphite stroke for every breath she takes, archiving each inhale and exhale by matching hand movements to the breath's duration and depth. This disciplined process saturates the paper with thousands of small, gridded, compressed marks that become deeply embedded in the paper's surface to the point of textural fraying. By translating the body's rhythms into her work, O'Bryan evokes calmness and universal connectivity, inviting a sense of entrancement within the gradations of her layered mark making.

The works exhibited at RULE are at once audacious as well as hushed. Utilizing humble materials, each artist carves their own dual space, moving between stillness and action. *Grounded* offers a space to pause and reset oneself in the now while also allowing for moments of discovery.

**Adam Fowler** (b. 1979) lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. Adam Fowler was born in Fairfax, VA and received his BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, in 2001. Fowler's work has been featured in numerous solo and group exhibitions throughout the United States, including the Daum Museum of Contemporary Art, Sedalia, MO; The Museum of Arts and Design, NYC; and The Drawing Center, NYC. Fowler has been the recipient of numerous awards and grants including the New York Foundation for the Arts, Fellowship in Drawing; The Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, New York, NY; and the Young Artist Program Grant, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Washington, DC. His work can be found in numerous private and corporate collections throughout the U.S.

**M. Benjamin Herndon** (b. 1985) lives and works in Providence, RI. Herndon was born in Quincy, CA and received his BFA from the School of Visual Arts, NYC in 2012, and an MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2016. His work has been exhibited internationally, including Beijing, China, Tokyo, Japan, and nationally in New York, Jersey City, NJ; Marfa, TX, and Minneapolis, MN; among others. Herndon has been awarded residencies and fellowships at the Tamarind Institute, Vermont Studio Center, Marble House, the RISD Graduate Division Fellowship and the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation.

**James William Murray** (b. 1988) lives and works in Brighton, UK. He received an MA in photography from the University of Brighton in 2015 and has exhibited in the UK and internationally. His work is in the collection of the Hellenic Centre For Photography and private collections throughout Europe. In 2017 he co-founded the studio and project space Niagara Falls Projects (NFP) in Brighton UK where he continues to curate contemporary art projects. In 2018 he was selected for the Sussex Open Commission to produce new work. In 2019 he was selected for an artist residency at Towner Gallery UK.

**Jill O'Bryan** (b. 1956) received her BA from Macalester College, St. Paul, Minnesota (1978) and her MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute, California (1990). She completed her PhD in the Department of Art and Art Professions at NYU in 2000. O'Bryan was one of the first recipients of the Marie Walsh Sharpe Space Program Fellowship. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, including in Philadelphia, PA, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Esteban Vicente, Segovia, Spain; Katonah Museum of Art, Katonah, New York; Danese Gallery, New York; Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ and University of Richmond Museums, Richmond, VA. Her work is in multiple private collections worldwide including the Sally and Wynn Kramarsky collection in NYC. O'Bryan is also active as a writer. She lives and works in New York City and Las Vegas, NM.

**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)