

Rocky Mountain News

Group shows refresh galleries

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Galleries are places that can defy logic: homes for art and education, mom-and-pop retail operations, nagging business challenges - all of the above.

But a group show, especially one well-chosen and installed, can serve all of those attributes with more finesse than sweat. Something old, something new works for more than weddings. And it is how three spaces here round out the summer.

At Rule Gallery, Robin Rule has, as usual, turned her sharp eye to work that operates on many levels, from minimal or geometric to nearly over-the-top material that proves unforgettable.

Viewers should approach this exhibition with thanks. Rule rescued a work from Mary Ehrin's 2003 MFA show at the University of Colorado from back-room-forgotten status; it is a striking interpretation of the word featherbed, which demonstrates the artist's imagination and craftsmanship.

Rule also is showing rare two-dimensional work by Andy Libertone (untitled pieces in metallic ink on paper that stress shape and composition), new paintings by Dale Chisman (two small canvases from the "Pillow" series that introduces a new set of forms into Chisman's non-representational vocabulary), a clever video piece (The Folded Ocean) by Scott Johnson, more ceramic sculpture by Jeff Starr (including the new Blue Bong), and a found-object piece by David Brady that begs to be installed in a big, bland home near you.

In short, it is a smart show and a stylish presentation.



Mary Ehrin, *Chambre d'Amour*, 2003, crystals, steel, satin cushion with ostrich feathers, 13 x 8.5 feet.