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Little Monastery

Jacob Feige

March 26 – May 22, 2021

Public Reception, Sat. April 24, 5-8p | artist in attendance

(Marfa, TX) RULE Gallery is pleased to present *Little Monastery*, a solo exhibition of work by Jacob Feige. The show will be on view from March 26 through May 22, 2021, at our Marfa location, 204 E San Antonio St, Marfa TX, 79843. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 11 am – 5 pm. With public and staff safety in mind, all visitors must wear masks and observe social distancing guidelines during their time in the gallery. A reception, with timed entry, will be held Saturday, April 24, from 5-8p with the artist in attendance.

Jacob Feige has spent his career exploring the messiness, disorganization, and paradox of consciousness, inventing many different techniques to combine figurative and abstract art in singular pieces that express the contradictory nature of the human experience, where the inside and outside worlds are in constant flux. The works in *Little Monastery* are his latest approach and come from a 2018 residency on the island of Cyprus where he found a new source of inspiration in the highly abstracted Byzantine tradition of image-making. The icons and frescos he saw in the churches there, many 500 to 1000 years old, are full of imagery and symbolism that is largely mysterious to current secular eyes. They immediately became a source of potent abstraction and symbolic language for Feige.

Feige's resultant creations follow the Byzantine icons' forms; many are two-sided works mounted on stands meant to be seen in the round. All of them, including the more traditional wall paintings, depict scenes created through the blending of exotic imagery and the everyday items in Feige's near orbit. He takes the idea even further, building out relief on the surfaces that mirrors the deterioration of the ancient works themselves. Adding to the experience of discovery in the exhibition, the gallery will play audio field records of one of Feige's compatriots in Cyprus, Amy Papalexandrou, an archaeologist and member of the Princeton-Cyprus Archaeological Expedition to Polis-Chrysochous. *Little Monastery* is a blending of old and new, ethereal and mundane, and a journey into what it means to be human.

Jacob Feige (b. 1979, Albany, NY) received his MFA in painting from the Cranbrook Academy of Art and his BFA from Carnegie Mellon. He has exhibited widely in the United States and abroad, including exhibitions in New York, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Beijing, China, Seoul, South Korea, and Worcester, UK, among others. Reviews of Feige's work have been published in Artforum, Frieze, Time Out New York, the Los Angeles Times, artreview.com, and the Rocky Mountain News. His paintings are included in *Painting Abstraction*, the Phaidon anthology of abstract painting. RULE Gallery has been exhibiting Feige since 2008 in Denver, CO. He was raised in Denver and is currently Associate Professor of Art, Stockton University, New Jersey. He lives and works in the Philadelphia area.

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