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## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Other Fictions**

March 19 – April 24, 2021

Joseph Coniff, Sandra Elkind, Julie Henson, Wes Kennedy, George P. Perez, and Sandy Skoglund

(Denver, CO) RULE Gallery is pleased to present *Other Fictions*, a group exhibition featuring Joseph Coniff, Sandra Elkind, Julie Henson, Wes Kennedy, George P. Perez, and Sandy Skoglund as part of Colorado's Month of Photography programming. A timed-entry reception will be held Friday, March 19, from 5-8p and will be on view to the public from March 19 – April 24, 2021. Gallery hours are Tues - Friday 12-6p, Sat 12-5p with CDC COVID-19 guidelines in place.

There are endless ways to create a photograph. From snapshots to staged scenes, *Other Fictions* examines processes and theoretical approaches used to create an image. One such method known as the "Directorial Mode" of photography gained popularity as a style that further revealed the photographer's machinations with the resulting images often referred to as "fictions." Together, the artists presented in this exhibition explore the capacity of their medium and, ultimately, the potential to communicate the very real aspects of our world.

Joseph Coniff and George P. Perez often incorporate found images into their work to discuss the historical development of objects and social systems. In his latest series, Joseph Coniff sources advertising shots of rose bouquets from a florist and reworks them to question the cultural importance we place on objects of exchange. George P. Perez is also interested in manipulating found photographs. Perez alters their connections to familiar narratives by cutting them down, rubbing off details, and reorienting them, ultimately forming an entirely new piece with new memories and associations.

Wes Kennedy's darkroom prints were created in the late 80s during a time when the AIDS epidemic was at its height. His theatrical and deeply emotional black and white collages confront our own primal fears and societal concerns. In Julie Henson's large-scale sculptural pieces, she meditates on the glitz that often distracts from the painful aspects of our world by taking female celebrities out of their original contexts. What remains is the satin, fringe, and gestures that created the star and revealed that celebrity is constructed and not inherent.

*Other Fictions* also explores the physical constructions that photographers create as stage sets for their images, such as Sandy Skoglund's *Winter*, an entirely built environment composed of 3D printed figures and dreamy blue snowflakes. Skoglund creates new worlds altogether out of everyday materials that confront the liminal aspects of natural and artificial and order versus chaos. Sandra Elkind's practice also utilizes built environments to compose photographic images. Using intricately made maquettes, Elkind creates scenes that simulate a specific childhood recollection to discuss the inherent connections between memory, objects, and photography. From stage sets to digital manipulations, the artists presented in this exhibition reveal the myriad of photographic processes that can be used to create very real "fictions."

**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



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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 historical art movements to a broader audience. For more information, [visitwww.rulegallery.com](http://www.rulegallery.com)

**Joseph Coniff** (b.1981) received an MFA from the University of Delaware, Newark and a BFA from Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design. His work has been included in New American Paintings, Creative Quarterly, Studio Visit Magazine, and Vogue Espana, among others. Coniff's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally in Denver, Marfa, New York, Los Angeles, Philadelphia and Berlin. His work can be found in the New Collection as well as many private homes.

**Sandra Elkind** (b. 1975) received her BFA in photography from Metropolitan State College of Denver in 2008, and went on to receive her MFA in Fine Art Photography from Parsons in New York City in 2010. Elkind has shown nationally and internationally with notable exhibitions at 571 Projects in Chelsea, NY, the San Diego Art Institute, Brooks Museum of Art Memphis, TN, and the Center for Visual Arts, Denver, CO.

**Julie Henson** (b. 1983) lives and works in Los Angeles. Henson received her MFA in from California College of the Arts in 2011. Henson has had solo exhibitions at Anat Ebgi, Los Angeles, the Columbia Museum of Art, South Carolina, Yes Ma'am Projects, Denver, and SPRING/BREAK Art Show in New York with the Buffalo Institute of Contemporary Art.

**Wes Kennedy** (1957 – 1993) was an experimental photographer living and working in Denver. Kennedy viewed his works as focused on the social changes and political confusion that shape and direct the future of American society. Much of Kennedy's work reflects his experiences within the LGBTQ+ community during the 1980s and his battle with AIDS. Kennedy's work is in multiple private collections and in the permanent collection at the Denver Art Museum.

**George P. Perez** (b. 1987) received a BFA (Cum Laude) in 2014 from the University of Colorado, Boulder. Perez is a Redline artist alum (2014-2016), was an Artist in Residence at The Denver Children's Museum in 2018, and a recent recipient of the Octopus Initiative MCA Denver Grant. He currently is a Photo-Facilitator with Working Assumptions based out of Berkeley, CA and an artist in M12.

**Sandy Skoglund** (b.1946) studied studio art and art history at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts from 1964-68. She received her M.A. from the University of Iowa in 1969 where she studied filmmaking, intaglio printmaking, and multimedia art, and in 1971 completed her M.F.A. in painting in 1972. She has exhibited at the Centre Pompidou, Paris (2016), McNay Art Museum (2015/2021), Art Gallery of Ontario (2015), The Morgan Library (2014), Whitney Museum of American Art (2002), Museum of Contemporary Art, Bordeaux (1993), Aspen Art Museum (1992), and the Minneapolis Institute of Art (1982), among others. Her work is held in the permanent collections of the Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO; Brooklyn Museum of Art, NY; Centre Georges Pompidou, France; Chicago Art Institute Museum, IL; Fondation Nationale d'Art Contemporain (FNAC), France; Groninger Museum, The Netherlands; J. Paul Getty Museum, CA; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, CA; McNay Art Museum, TX; Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY; Mjellby Museum, Sweden; MOCA Korea; MCA, CA; Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal, Canada; The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, MO; Whitney Museum of American Art, NY; and Yale University Gallery, CT, among others.