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Above Beyond

Martha Hughes

April 22 – June 4, 2022

Reception: Friday, April 22, 6-8 pm

(Denver, CO) RULE Gallery is pleased to present, *Above Beyond*, an exhibition of new works by Martha Hughes at our Denver location at 808 Santa Fe Drive. A public reception will be held Friday, April 22, from 6-8pm with the artist in attendance. The show will be on view from April 22 – June 4, 2022. Gallery hours are Tuesday - Friday 12-6 pm, Sat 12-5 pm.

In her latest series of large-scale oil paintings, Martha Hughes utilizes vibrant color combinations and asymmetrical forms to envelop the viewer, creating new spaces, perspectives, and narratives. Meticulous brushstrokes of explosive yellows, greens, blues, and pinks reverberate against the hard lines, edges, and angles of geometric shapes. Color and form are in constant conversation, creating a complex tension between exterior and interior, lightness and weight, play and precision, independence and coexistence.

Frank Stella said that abstraction "could have a geometry that had a narrative impact." In Hughes's work, this narrative is about space, perspective, and presence. In some paintings, large angular forms sit askew on the canvas as if we are gazing at the skyline of a new imagined city at dawn. In others, lines and planes create a room for us where we can be at home warming ourselves in a sunbeam.

In Hughes's words, these are unhurried paintings; her intensive process includes thousands of small brushstrokes for each canvas. Her practice reflects elements of care work—tending a garden, raising a child, being a friend. Painted in this way, the work speaks against deadlines, against instantaneity. The work in *Above Beyond* relates new stories about new places, each not limited by the boundary of a canvas, and all are welcome to listen.

Martha Hughes received a BFA in Studio Art from the University of Texas at Austin. Her work has been included in numerous solo and group shows across the USA, including exhibitions in New York, Los Angeles, Houston, Dallas, New Orleans, Austin, Santa Fe, NM, and Denver, CO. Hughes' art can be found in several public and private collections around the world, including the Lannan Foundation, Santa Fe, NM and the Sybaris Collection, Mexico City. Hughes works in various mediums, including painting, drawing, photography, and computer-based media. The artist has resided in Marfa, Texas, since 2004.

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 <http://www.rulegallery.com/>