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For Immediate Release

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Diego Rodriguez-Warner: *Iteratives*

August 4 – September 17, 2022

Reception: Thursday, August 4, 6 – 8 pm, *artist in attendance*

Gallery hours: Tuesday - Friday 12-6 pm, Sat 12-5pm

(Denver, CO) RULE Gallery is pleased to present *Iteratives*, a solo exhibition of new paintings by Diego Rodriguez-Warner that documents his pursuit of novel formal terrains and chromatic dialects. Through disciplined repetition and a heightened sensitivity to his works' internal cues and procedural revelations, the artist hones in on the portal of possibilities embodied in the living form.

Much of Rodriguez-Warner's previous output flaunts an attentionally disorienting cache of art historical figures, gestures, and imagery linked in a Möbius-stripped fever dream. Perhaps missing the trees for the forest, the audience is afforded a more visually instinctive dissection of constitutive elements in *Iteratives*. In the painting 'Turning in the Widening Whorl', spasmodic dabs of color and scaled-down geo-abstractions moor the composition as line, silhouette, and shape are gently coaxed and liberated from their humble ply medium. Pared-down figuration in 'Between the Sweet Basil and the Mint, Lola Sings' evokes musical scaffolding by which rhythmical color scales and lilting shadow play in turn activate and amplify a rhapsody of forms.

For Rodriguez-Warner's practice, the generative force of 'becoming' asserts itself along the fault lines of the unfamiliar, where habituation lies fallow and the lifeblood of spontaneous creation keeps vigil. Responding to this idea in 'Another Kind of Perfume, Not Just a Yard Wide but Omnipresent', Rodriguez-Warner has allowed a routinely disguised intermediate step used in rendering his figures—stencil taping—into view through an application of chroma-key green paint in its stead. It is an astute rejoinder to a tried-and-true technique that enstranges the work with a harmonizing beauty that is both abrupt and soft. For the artist, it is in "the admission of labor, of artifice, and the abstraction derived from the torn edges, where the figures achieve something approaching possibility."

This new body of work can be seen as an expression of Rodriguez-Warner's relentless search for the ineffable force that breathes life into an art form. Spanish poet Federico García Lorca calls this ancient animating spirit the *duende*. For the artist, the *duende* isn't found in forms, but marrow of forms. This implies snuffing out any remnants of stylistic pretense that may conceal, however poetically, a palpitating honesty and vulnerability. In *Iteratives*, Rodriguez-Warner is plowing under a fertile bed of laurel, a necessary step for rekindling aesthetic imagination, an impassioned play-drive, and an innervating voice from within.

Diego Rodriguez-Warner (Managua, Nicaragua, 1986) lives and works in Denver, CO. In 2008, he studied under the Cuban Minister for Fine Arts, Lesbia Vent Dumois, in Havana, and earned a BA from Hampshire College in 2009, and an MFA from RISD in 2013. Additionally, he is a 2013 Tobey Devan Lewis and a 2020 Joan Mitchell Fellow. Rodriguez-Warner has exhibited both nationally and internationally in New York City, Los Angeles, Miami, Marfa, Havana, and Berlin, and his work was featured in State of the Art 2020 at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR. Regionally he has exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver; the Museo De Las Americas, Denver; and the Gallery of Contemporary Art, Colorado Springs.