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Richard Kallweit: Early Works

June 1 – July 29, 2023

Reception: June 1 from 6-8pm

RULE Gallery 808 Santa Fe Drive Denver, CO

(Denver, CO) RULE Gallery is pleased to present *Richard Kallweit: Early Works*, a solo exhibition of Kallweit's mathematical-based paintings, drawings, and sculptures produced during the 1970s and 1980s. A public reception will be held on Thursday, June 1, from 6-8pm at the gallery located at 808 Santa Fe Drive in Denver and will be on view through July 29, 2023.

Richard Kallweit emerged from a small, pioneering generation of counter-culture artists associated with the establishment of Drop City; the first noted artist-run community in the US, founded in Trinidad, CO, in the mid-'60s. Inspired by the architectural ideas of Buckminster Fuller, 'Droppers' constructed rudimentary domes and zonahedra as live spaces using geometric panels and worked synergistically to create experimental artistic innovation. It was during this time that Kallweit's early fascination and engagement with structure, mathematics, and pattern-based art progressed into a lifelong examination of the profound relationships between mathematics and visual art.

Highly structured within the grid and deeply embedded within the structure of fractals, the paintings, sculptures, and drawings on view grapple with the delicate balance between rigid systems and the organic emergence of natural phenomena from logical sequences. His artwork often feels as if they are creating themselves, revealing a rigorous network of repeating, never-ending patterns and geometrical structures that evoke a dizzying sense of complex layers of marks and patterns. Through scrutiny and contemplation, Kallweit's work allows viewers to engage with the underlying elegance and inherent order found within mathematical concepts.

Early Works investigates the arrangement of space units, highlighting mathematical concepts such as cubic packing, fractals, tessellations, symmetry, and growth patterns. These ideas serve as the foundation for Kallweit's work, incorporating established mathematical principles as well as artists' own original concepts. The exhibition invites viewers to consider the profound interconnections between mathematics, visual art, and the natural world and showcases Kallweit's lifelong dedication to uncovering the attraction and complexity inherent in both disciplines.

Richard Kallweit (b. 1943; New York City, NY) lives and works in Bethany, CT. Kallweit received his B.F.A. and M.F.A. from the University of Colorado, Boulder, in 1965 and 1974, respectively. He was a founding member of *Drop City* (1965), one of the first counter-culture artist communities recognized in the country, as well as a co-founder of *Criss-Cross* in 1974, an artist's cooperative whose primary focus was the interaction of the arts with math and scientific concepts and an extension of the principles of *Drop City*. Through 1980, this collective published an avant-garde periodical titled *Criss-Cross Art Communications* and sponsored exhibitions and conferences nationwide focused on issues surrounding pattern and structure. Kallweit's group and solo gallery exhibitions span the last 50 years, including the E.A.T. Exhibition at the Brooklyn Museum in 1968. In 2011-12 he was included in the exhibition WEST OF CENTER, shown at the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, AZ, among many other institutions. Additionally, he was featured at the Walker Art Center of Minneapolis in a group exhibition entitled *Hippie Modernism: The Struggle for Utopia*. His work is in the collection of the Kirkland Museum of Fine and Decorative Art in Denver, along with numerous private collections across the country.