



Denver + Marfa rulegallery.com
info@rulegallery.com 303-800-6776

Jill O'Bryan: *Breathing into the Moon / Drawing on the Earth*

September 21 – November 30, 2024

Reception: Saturday, September 21, 6 to 8 pm *artist in attendance

Public Meditations: Sept 21, 4:30p and Oct 19, 4:30pm (free) - Space is limited, rsvp required info@rulegallery.com

RULE Gallery 808 Santa Fe Drive Denver, CO

(Denver, CO) RULE Gallery is thrilled to announce Jill O'Bryan's first solo exhibition with the gallery, *Breathing into the Moon / Drawing on the Earth*. A public celebration will take place on Saturday, September 21, from 6 to 8 pm with the artist in attendance and will remain on view through November 30, 2024. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 11am-5pm, and by appointment. In conjunction with the show, O'Bryan will lead two meditation events at the gallery. Attendance for these events, which will be free and open to the public, is limited and must be reserved ahead of time by RSVP to info@rulegallery.com

Jill O'Bryan's exhibition at RULE offers meditative reflections of the moon and recordings of interactions with the land, delving into our circular connection to the earth and the cosmos. O'Bryan invites viewers to contemplate unseen forces shaping our existence, mining a spirited space between the corporeal and the imagined, the universal and the personal, the literal and the intuitive. Ranging across media and using varying scales, O'Bryan invents processes of creating to explore tactile experiences of being: breathing as being touched by air, and as a corporeal repetition over time; interactions with the land in order to be held by it, and recording the resonance of this holding; and in her new series, *Breathing into the Moon*, she utilizes intuition, observation, and contemplation to explore moonlight – its presence and absence.

In one of her most deeply explored practices, O'Bryan creates land drawings, or frottages, by spreading enormous sheets of paper onto the New Mexican desert surface. Lying atop, she grinds graphite into the paper until an impression of the ground below takes form. The paper warps, bends, and tears; markings emerge and reveal the terrain below. The process is profoundly physical, recording a corporeal connection with the ground, while revealing the cracks and crevices that have formed over time. Two of these large frottages serve as anchors of the exhibition, encapsulating the physicality of O'Bryan's process.

While observing and recording the land, O'Bryan simultaneously looks up to explore experiences of the moon, Earth's closest celestial neighbor. She makes intuitive, abstract compositions using a spontaneously gestural yet carefully edited process employing gold leaf, tar, ink, and even meteorites. The materials rub, splash, cut, graft, overlay, migrate, orbit, shine, absorb, and drift, depicting O'Bryan's impressions of being awash in moonlight, while holding in mind humanity's collective viewings of the moon, now and throughout time. There is a scale relationship here – the moon has existed for all humanity. This fact is simultaneously obvious, and it has resonance. When having an intimate experience of looking at the moon, you participate in a vast history of looking, contemplating, and wondering. This concept is at the core of the *Breathing into the Moon* paintings.

Meditation is an integral part of O'Bryan's life and practice, one that she wishes to share along with her art. The two guided meditations held at the gallery during the exhibition are intended to allow participants moments of contemplation while learning about breathing techniques such as moon breathing.

Jill O'Bryan (b. 1956) holds an MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute and a Ph.D. from New York University in Aesthetic Theory and Criticism. Her work has been exhibited widely in prestigious institutions and galleries such as the National Gallery of Art Library, DC; The New Mexico Museum of Art, Santa Fe; Center for Contemporary Art, Santa Fe; The Phillips Collection, Washington DC; The Hafnarfjörður Centre of Culture and Fine Art, Iceland; Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, Washington University, St. Louis; Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers University, NJ; University of Richmond Museum; Katonah Museum of Art, NY; Margarete Roeder Gallery, New York City; Danese Gallery, New York City; and the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Esteban Vicente, Segovia, Spain. O'Bryan works and lives between Las Vegas, NM and New York, NY.