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For Immediate Release

Clark Richert: Richert Space

Opening Reception: Friday, December 13, 6-8p

On view: December 13, 2024 – February 15, 2025

RULE Gallery, 808 Santa Fe Drive, Denver, CO

(Denver, CO) – RULE Gallery proudly presents *Richert Space*, a solo exhibition of paintings, drawings and prints by artist and polymath Clark Richert (1941–2021). A public reception opens the exhibition on Friday, December 13, from 6 to 8 pm; and will be on view through February 15, 2025. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 11am–5pm, and by appointment.

Richert Space builds a narrative that intertwines structural systems and human connection, offering a meditation on the many ways he explored this fundamental element of existence. It includes some of the artist's most iconic works, along with smaller works never before seen in public.

Central to the show is *The True Story of the Quasicrystal*, a visually arresting masterwork that engages viewers in Richert's imagined studio, a space filled with his interests, from polyhedral forms and structural lattices to Richert-Penrose Tiling and the golden ratio. Through a window we glimpse Drop City, the artist-built community he helped co-found in the mid-1960s in Trinidad, CO. The inclusion of the human figure invites reflection on the intersections between the personal and the mathematical. The painting articulates an overarching view of Richert's mind, transforming principles into an environment that feels both expansive and introspective. Other works in the exhibition explore themes such as subatomic quarks, the Snelsonian model of the atom, and Richert's own analytical methods for categorizing and understanding the subjects he pursued.

Similar underlying structures are examined in Richert's prints, where he uses computational tools to explore the beauty of non-repeating patterns and higher-dimensional forms. With their symmetry-breaking arrangements and an array of vibrant hues, these prints fill in the interstices of the artist's ideas, investigating higher-dimensional possibilities within a two-dimensional framework and challenging our perception of space itself.

Three large, grid-based drawings capture the process-oriented rigor behind the artist's vision. With meticulous attention to detail, they depict complex breakdowns of molecular-level material lattices and polyhedral subdivisions designed to maximize dense matter packing alongside coffee stains and other marks, showing the hand and life of an artist who saw all of it as essential to his work. These drawings serve as blueprints for broader inquiries into the intersections of art, science, and philosophy. Delicate, gridded, and intricate, these sketches serve as bridges between mathematical inspirations and visual outcomes.

A pioneer in community building, pattern painting, and structural abstraction, Richert dedicated his career to uncovering the hidden universal patterns that shape our understanding of space, order, and our place within it. Together, these works reveal a unified thread in Richert's practice: his fascination with the structures that underpin both natural and constructed realities. His use of quasicrystals, which defy periodicity while adhering to mathematical order, embodies a broader inquiry into how clarity and order can emerge from seeming chaos. Richert's work invites viewers to explore the boundaries of perception, encouraging them to contemplate how these patterns inform both the cosmos and the self, bringing them into Richert Space.



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Clark Richert (1941-2021) was born in Wichita, KS. He earned his BFA from the University of Kansas in 1963 and his MFA from the University of Colorado in 1972. He is one of four founding members of Drop City (Trinidad, CO, 1965), considered the first counterculture artist's community in the US. Over the past 50 years, Richert has exhibited widely in galleries and institutions across the world, including the Walker Art Center of Minneapolis; The Denver Art Museum; Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver; the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, AZ; The Kirkland Museum, Denver; The Museum of Modern Art, Vienna Austria; the Neues Museum, Nuremberg Germany; The Biennial of the Americas, Denver; Berkley Art Museum, CA; RedLine Contemporary Art Center, Denver; the Cranbrook Art Museum, MI; among many others. In 2019, Richert was given a dual career retrospective staged at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver, and the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art. In addition to public and corporate commissions, his work can be found in the collections of the Smithsonian Museum; LACMA; Nelson-Atkins Museum; Denver Art Museum; Kirkland Museum; University of Colorado, Boulder; University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas; Amoco, Container Corporation of America, as well as many prominent private collections.

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.