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**Solo Exhibitions by Rachel Livedalen and Ryan Goolsby
Open Saturday, August 27th at Erin Cluley Gallery**

[Dallas, Texas – August 8, 2022] **ERIN CLULEY GALLERY** is pleased to announce two upcoming and concurrent solo exhibitions: *THE CHORUS* by Fort Worth based artist Rachel Livedalen, and *CONTROL* by Dallas based artist Ryan Goolsby. The exhibitions will be on view August 27th through October 1st, 2022 at the gallery's main location, 150 Manufacturing Street, Suite 210. An opening reception will be held on August 27th, from 5 – 8 PM with the artists in attendance. The gallery is open weekly Wednesday through Saturday, 12 – 5 PM and by appointment.

Rachel Livedalen's work considers representations of femininity throughout the aesthetics of pop culture, consumer products, and the art historic canon. Often juxtaposing academic texts and objects from art history with marks inspired by representations of contemporary "girl" culture, the artist combines two realms that are often kept strictly separate due to society's hierarchal perception of importance. By referencing this historic visual imagery alongside the cultural ephemera from her adolescence (such as stickers, makeup palettes, ephemeral trinkets, or doodle-like drawings), she shifts the focus of a previously male-centric field while simultaneously questioning the role of privilege in how arbitrary value is assigned.

Rachel Livedalen's practice, strongly influenced by the printmaking discipline, uses a combination of process-based methods of making, such as screenprinting, stenciling, and airbrushing. Relying heavily on printed imagery, the artist investigates the universality and socialist nature of reproducible images while acknowledging its function within consumerism culture. Livedalen's subversion of this imagery also serves as a self-consideration of how she consumes and desires this imagery knowing it is steeped in gender stereotypes and therefore perpetuates a narrow view of femininity.

Through grids, catalogs, or book indices and notations, her newer work also explores the organizational structures frequently used to understand complex ideas like history, art, and notions of beauty. These referenced structures mirror their real-world counterpart's tendency to hold a misleading sense of order and an unfulfilled attempt to find understanding.

THE CHORUS will feature a suite of new paintings to be accompanied by a display of artist books. Two of the books are digitally printed and editioned for wider distribution, while one is handmade by the artist.

Ryan Goolsby creates geometric sculptures, both free standing and wall mounted, made from common building materials taken from the environment. Through these sculptures, he organizes and amplifies patterns found in nature, such as the concentric or coaxial circles that occur within the wood with which he sculpts. In doing so, the artist experiments with his personal desire to manipulate nature and push it towards near perfection, accompanied by the eventual relent in the face of an unattainable goal.

Goolsby's work employs both digital technologies and traditional art practices to explore ideas of geometric form and structure in his search for meaning within everyday objects. Influenced by his background in photography, the artist translates his previous mode of making from candid documentation into a kind of recording through object abstraction. Now, instead of photographing his subjects (such as guard rails, radiators, and manhole covers), Goolsby plucks them out of their environment so that he may transform them into something new. Stripped from their context, he then distills the objects into investigative studies of shape and color.

Through abstraction, Goolsby's subjects open up to possibility, asking to be reimagined as purposeful entities. Becoming emblems, tools of communication, and existential icons, these objects can be interpreted as a form of societal language or as future remnants of contemporary life. Yet at their core they are still stationary items, simply "things" onto which we project our own desire for meaning and reason. This ultimate duality in the work thus echoes one of existence— the push and pull between being something and nothing... between purpose and futility.

CONTROL will be the artist's first solo exhibition with the gallery.

About the Artists

RACHEL LIVEDALEN's creative practice explores representations of girls, women, and femininity through the lens of art history, visual culture, and commodification. She earned her MFA in Printmaking from the University of Iowa in 2014 and her BA from the University of Virginia. Rachel is currently an Associate Professor at Texas Christian University and heads the printmaking area.

Her work has been supported by residencies at the Kala Art Institute, A&H Museums-Maitland, and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts as well as by the artist program at Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia. Her work has been exhibited in recent solo exhibitions throughout Philadelphia, Dallas, Austin, and Ft. Lauderdale, and is included in exhibitions internationally in Canada and Portugal as well as the Mulvane Art Museum, the Bradbury Art Museum, and the Amarillo Museum of Art. Rachel is represented by Erin Cluley Gallery in Dallas, TX and lives and works in Fort Worth, TX.

RYAN GOOLSBY is an artist and fabricator based in Dallas, TX. His work employs both digital technologies and traditional art practices to explore ideas of form, structure, and the search for meaning in everyday objects and signs.

Goolsby has a B.F.A. in photography from the University of North Texas (2001), and an MFA in sculpture from Texas Christian University (2014). He has exhibited at the Dallas Museum of Art, Liliana Bloch Gallery (Dallas), The Power Station (Dallas), and Fort Worth Contemporary Arts, among others. His work is held in the collections of UT Southwestern Medical Center and Mercedes Benz.

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About Erin Cluley Gallery

Erin Cluley Gallery is a contemporary art gallery representing emerging, mid-career, and established artists from Dallas and the United States. The gallery presents a provocative program of artists working in both traditional and alternative forms including painting, sculpture, new media, photography, sculptural installation, and public intervention.

In 2014, Erin Cluley Gallery ignited a creative movement in West Dallas acting as a hub for visual arts and community engagement. After nearly five years on Fabrication Street, the gallery has moved its operation to Riverbend – a development in Dallas' Design District celebrating the intersection between culture and commerce.

In April 2021, Cluley opened Cluley Projects – a satellite location in West Dallas acting as an incubator space focusing on regional artists and providing a platform for discovery and mentorship.

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