

# UTOPIA/DYSTOPIA

Mark Ritchie  
Laramie, WY



## *Imperfect Circle*

Accordion book created with printed woodcut, davey board, Indian handmade paper, and letterpress. 13" h x 36" w x 6" d (open)

### **Statement**

Dystopia is often too easy to envision and utopia an impossibility, but a fine goal. In my most recent work I find that man, when most engaged with the natural world and cognizant of being part of natural systems, is closest to existing in a utopia. In equine practice, the round pen is a place of equality and communication. Working with other horses and people together in enclosed spaces enhances non-verbal cooperative communication between the individual horse-human pairs and the larger group. *Imperfect Circle* speaks to the energy of this close-to-ideal, near-utopia.

### **Biography**

Mark Ritchie is an artist working primarily with printmaking and drawing media. He lives in Laramie and is a Professor in the Department of Art at the University of Wyoming. For the past few years his work has explored the intersection of "wild" and "domestic" and much of the work contains equine imagery.

Mark earned a BFA in Printmaking from the University of Kansas, studied in Cardiff, Wales, spent time at Peacock Printmakers in Aberdeen, Scotland, and was awarded the MFA degree in Printmaking from Indiana University. His work is exhibited nationally and internationally.

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"The practice of group equine groundwork is as close to utopia as may be possible."