

NARRATIVES OF THE POSSIBLE



Mark E. Ritchie, Exhibit Curator

Laramie, Wyoming

Unlikely Circle: One

“This work acknowledges the origin of tumbleweed in the American West. Redness underlies this layered woodcut imagery.”

Accordion folded book with pamphlet stitch; Japanese Paper, handmade paper, woodcut, inkjet print.

(On exhibit but not pictured: *Unlikely Circle: Three*)

Artist's Statement

Much of my work in recent years is an exploration of the “wild” and “domestic” and the interplay of the plants, animals and humans in the American West. “Unlikely Circle” is a series of poems that have initiated these artist books. The cover paper is produced from tumbleweed harvested from in front of my neighbor’s garage, the woodcut portraits are of tumbleweed collected from fences near the stable where my horses reside, and the poems have developed from lived experiences.

The tumbleweed is a quiet entrance to the beauty, realities and complexities of living and being in the contentemporary American West.

Biography

Mark received the B.F.A. degree from the University of Kansas in 1986 and was awarded the M.F.A. degree in Printmaking from Indiana University in 1990. He now resides in the windy solitude of Laramie, Wyoming where he teaches printmaking at the University of Wyoming and exhibits nationally and internationally.

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