



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Y:ART GALLERY & FINE GIFTS

# RUTH PETTUS

MAY 1 - JUNE 1, 2019



Y:ART Gallery is pleased to announce a solo exhibition of work by Ruth Pettus. Pettus is a respected element of Baltimore's vibrant art scene who has enjoyed a passionate, devoted local following for her expressive, extraordinary works. This retrospective of the artist is an unprecedented gathering of her work; an impressive collection of mostly large scale art, not quite abstract, but driven by the suggestion of form rather than an obvious declaration of the theme. The Opening Reception will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2019 from 6-9pm.

Ruth Pettus has a long history of depicting men in her paintings. These men are often large and looming, indistinct but imbued with character. They are the main focus of many of Pettus' works, often shown walking or standing on a obscure background. They are faceless, vacant, without expression; because Pettus decided that faces are unnecessary for the purpose of these paintings. The men depicted in these works are simplified, quiet subjects, utilizing a limited color palette, but each with their own very powerful presence.

Pettus started as an abstractionist, and this style is carried into her more recent paintings. Through the evolution of her technique, subjects were discovered and given shape, while remaining vague and suggestive. Although the focus of each work is nebulous, Pettus is able to represent the significance of human connection through the emotional experience of the viewer. Each reaction is personal and unique to the individual.

We will be joined by Ruth Pettus for an Artist Talk on Saturday, May 25 from 4-6pm.

### **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

**RUTH PETTUS** was born in 1957 in Lower Hutt, New Zealand. She spent her childhood in London, England and Canberra, Australia. Her mother was English; her father an American foreign-service officer. She attended the University of Sydney for one year before moving to the United States. At the age of 19, Ruth departed for Greece, where she drew landscapes and people in the villages. She returned to the US five months later to study at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington, DC. In 1980 she moved to Baltimore, Maryland where she still lives today.

Throughout her career, Pettus has not only shown extensively throughout Maryland, but has had solo exhibitions in Russia, Spain and Ireland.

### **AWARDS, PUBLICATIONS AND RESIDENCIES**

2018 (accepted 2017) Tyrone Guthrie, Annaghmakerrig, Newbliss, Ireland

2016 Arte Studio. Ginastrelle, Asissi Italy

2010 Rochefort-sur-Terre, Klots Artist Residency

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2009 *DE PASO* - Exhibition catalog

1997 State Arts Council - Individual Artist Award *A Stately Heritage* Selections from the University of Maryland Artists Collection

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Y:ART is a contemporary gallery established in 2015 by Julia Yensho. It provides a forum for the art and culture of our time by presenting network and ideas through curatorial practice, artist representation, and by encouraging artistic collection. Y:ART Gallery is in the forefront of a new and exciting renaissance in Baltimore's Highlandtown Arts District. The gallery has been responsible for many important solo and group exhibitions that have launched and sustained the careers of featured local and regional artists. Public programming within the gallery consists of artist talks and expert lectures on current exhibitions; all free and open to the public. Y:ART's gallery store features over 70 local and regional artisans who specialize in handcrafted fine art gifts including: jewelry, pottery, glass, wood, textiles and metal work. The walls are covered with extraordinary unique artworks and sculptural

pieces that would impress any collector. This unique space is open for artist showings and workshops, and the gallery is also available as a venue for private functions or social gatherings.

For interviews with the artists, additional images, and general inquiries, please contact the gallery at 443-928-2272 or [yartgallery3402@gmail.com](mailto:yartgallery3402@gmail.com)

Y:ART Gallery & Fine Gifts

3402 Gough Street

Baltimore, MD 21224

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