

# RYDER RICHARDS



ROSWELL ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

Roswell Museum and Art Center February 22 - April 7, 2013



# C O N F L I C T E D

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“But inordinate ambitions are the soul of every patriotism, and the possibility of violent death the soul of all romance.”

~William James,  
*The Moral Equivalent of War*,  
1906

“Men of God and men of war have strange affinities.”

~Cormac McCarthy,  
*Blood Meridian*, 1985

**Ryder Richards**, born and raised in Roswell until the age of 16, has returned to Roswell as a RAIr fellow. Since receiving a Masters Degree in Fine Arts from Texas Christian University he has taught art and directed art galleries. Currently gallery director and professor for Richland College in Dallas, Richards curates exhibitions, writes art reviews, and participates in several collaborative art groups as a part of his arts practice.

In the dubious effort to culture himself, Richards has traveled to Europe several times studying classical architecture and the art of various “old masters.” While retaining his affinity for these influences he has become increasingly interested in the “Culture of Honor” found in the Southwest. The works in *Conflicted* combine elements of art and myth, decorative rifle engravings, and environmental structures as the possible purveyors of cultural disposition.

While in Roswell Richards opened *The Cube*, an art gallery built inside his studio. Curating exhibits into the space for monthly art openings has provided an outlet for his curatorial disposition while offering a chance to engage in communal conversation.



Above: *Coercion I*, 2012, gunpowder, pigment, paper, 30”x22”

Cover: *Coercion*, 2012, gunpowder, pigment, acrylic, wood, 70”x60”x14”

Inside: *Complicit*, 2012, gunpowder, pigment, acrylic, wood, 96”x48”x48”

*Many heartfelt thanks to exhibition patrons  
Ben and Lacy Beasley, Damon Richards, and Nola Richards.*

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*The Roswell Artist-in-Residence Program was established in 1967 to provide professional studio artists with the unique opportunity to concentrate on their work in a supportive, collegial environment for periods of up to one year. This “gift of time” allows artists to work without distraction in an effort to break new ground and focus on individual goals. The Roswell Artist-in-Residence Program serves as a contemporary counterpoint to the traditional arts of the southwest, reinforces the Program’s interest in strengthening the vitality of art in New Mexico and has been a catalyst in broadening community understanding of modern art.*

The Gift of Time is provided by the  
Roswell Artist-in-Residence Foundation  
P. O. Box 1, Roswell, NM 88202

[www.rair.org](http://www.rair.org)

**RMAC**  
ROSWELL MUSEUM AND ART CENTER

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