

PRESS RELEASE  
THE CARTIN  
COLLECTION

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Ars Libri  
500 Harrison Ave., Boston // 617.357.5212

Friday April 3 – Sunday May 31 2009

Opening Reception Friday April 3, 5-8pm

HRS  
Monday-Friday 9:00-6:00  
Saturday 11:00-5:00

THE CARTIN COLLECTION @ ARS LIBRI  
THE SEVENTH SET OF SIX EXHIBITIONS

CHARLES RITCHIE

(Hartford and Boston, March 15, 2009) // The seventh of an ongoing series of exhibitions in a unique partnership between The Cartin Collection of Hartford and Ars Libri in Boston features five works by Washington DC-based artist Charles Ritchie.

Charles Ritchie's drawings are almost all done in and around his home, drawings that show Ritchie to be the consummate student of light. For Ritchie, an associate curator of prints and drawings at the National Gallery in Washington, the home is the frame, the canvas, the subject and the set. Yet while his ability to catch the movement of light as it transforms materials an space is alchemical, but it is his skill at recording the true emotion of a scene as opposed to a simple romance of light.

On the one hand, the framing mechanism of working almost exclusively from inside his home, and often from the same table, forces Ritchie into a level of observation and patience than a more furtive relationship to scene and subject would produce. Like Morandi, the exhaustive, time-crushing ritual of drawing the same space in an infinite series of drawings results in the slow but steady emergence of a kind of ur-drawing, a meta-Ritchie formed from the mixing of all the daily instances. On the other hand, sitting safely inside the home, looking out, remaining behind the doors and windows of the *domos*, also serves as a kind of monastic conceit, giving the refuge needed for unimpeded, undetected observation of the world outside.

#### ABOUT THE CARTIN COLLECTION

The Cartin Collection is a collection of 2,400 contemporary and modern artworks by over four hundred artists and is based in Hartford, CT.

The Collection produces exhibitions from work in the collection, as well as organizing artists' projects. These projects have taken place in Hartford, New London, New York, Miami, Paris, and Berlin and have taken place in a range of spaces, including museums, empty retail & warehouse spaces and alternative non-profit spaces.

For examples of these projects, see [www.cartincollection.com](http://www.cartincollection.com)

#### ABOUT ARS LIBRI

Ars Libri maintains the largest stock in America of rare and out-of-print books on art. Founded in 1976, it has an international reputation as a source for scholars, collectors, artists, and everyone else with an interest in the visual arts. Ars Libri covers all periods and all fields of art history, from antiquity to the present, including architecture, archaeology, photography, and the decorative arts.

# the cartin collection

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ritch-06-04

**Charles Ritchie**

(Pineville, Kentucky, 11-21-1954 - )

*Three Inch Suite II: Astronomical Chart*

2004-2005

watercolor and graphite on fabriano paper

3 1/8 in. x 3 in. (7.94 cm x 7.62 cm)

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# the cartin collection

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ritch-06-03

**Charles Ritchie**

(Pineville, Kentucky, 11-21-1954 - )

*Self-Portrait with Unfinished Drawing*

2005

watercolor, gouache, and graphite on fabriano

11 7/8 in. x 14 7/8 in. (30.16 cm x 37.78 cm)

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# the cartin collection

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ritch-09-01

**Charles Ritchie**

(Pineville, Kentucky, 1954 - )

*Erased Self-Portrait*

1983

watercolor, graphite and pen on fabriano

11 in. x 14 in. (27.94 cm x 35.56 cm)

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# the cartin collection

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ritch-09-02

**Charles Ritchie**  
(Pineville, Kentucky, 1954 - )

*Light through Porch*

1981

Pen, ink, graphite and wash on Fabriano paper

14 in. x 11 in. (35.56 cm x 27.94 cm)

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# the cartin collection

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ritch-09-03

**Charles Ritchie**  
(Pineville, Kentucky, 1954 - )

*Dark Rocker*

1988

Watercolor, Graphite, pen and ink on  
14 in. x 11 in. (35.56 cm x 27.94 cm)

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