



ARTS

First Friday Focus

Lori Hill's First Friday Hit List

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Gallery Joe

In what could be considered a gallery-size blockbuster show, Gallery Joe presents a retrospective of artist Charles Ritchie's 30-year career. "From the Inside Looking Out" is a collection of mostly small works (about 4 by 6 inches). Since 1977, the artist has kept journals filled with drawings, notations, watercolor studies — he's up to 131. The journals also include records of dreams from which he draws later inspiration. Ritchie's recent work now includes inscribed texts on drawings. He records notes on the work adjacent to the images, which evolve and often become illegible by the time he finishes. For these Ritchie has focused on his workspace, a table filled with the implements of his trade and the light of the room reflected hazily in the multipaned window. Some of these will be on view, along with older works that have never before been exhibited. Ritchie is slow and deliberate; much of his art was created over long intervals in which he considered precisely the perspective for each "looking out." You could spend hours wondering how Ritchie got just the right angle for his "Kitchen Doorway" studies, showing a low-lit, shadowy interior that takes viewers just as far as they want to go from one room to another. *Through Dec. 20, 302 Arch St., 215-592-7752, galleryjoe.com.*