

Charles Ritchie

(Pineville, Kentucky, 1954- )

Lives and works in Silver Springs, Maryland

Charles Ritchie's drawings are almost all done in and around his home. For Ritchie, the physical home is place of refuge and protection from the elements, but it is also the space within which a person seeks spiritual, emotional and psychological refuge. He will often sit in front of his windows and watch the transition of light to dark, and his images are often set so that one is looking into or out of a window in his house. These window images evoke the historical place of the window in the history of art, the place where the outside world meets the security of the home. In Ritchie's work, the physical space of the home is ultimately a metaphor for the 'home' of the inner-most self, that part of Ritchie himself where he feels secure, safe, protected and able to move about freely. Obscure and subtle, these are psychological self-portraits at the deepest level.



Charles Ritchie, Self-Portrait with Night

Self-Portrait with Night: Two Panels I, 2005

Water, gouache, and graphite on fabriano paper, 5 1/8 x 11 7/8 in.



Charles Ritchie, Self-Portrait with Night III

Self-Portrait with Night III, 2000-2002

Watercolor, litho crayon, gouache, pen, ink, and graphite on fabriano paper, 5 1/8 x 11 7/8 in.



Self-Portrait with Unfinished Drawing, 2005

Watercolor, gouache, and graphite on fabriano paper, 4 x 6 in.