



For Immediate Release

RxArt Installation with Dan Colen at St. Mary's Healthcare System for Children

New York, NY – RxArt, the nonprofit organization that produces contemporary art installations with extraordinary artists in pediatric hospital and healthcare facilities, is pleased to announce their project with Dan Colen at St. Mary's Healthcare System for Children in Bayside, NY.

Taking inspiration from Colen's series of "confetti" paintings, his installation consists of vibrant, larger than life, hand-painted confetti, swirling across the walls and ceiling of the 2,500 square foot Activity Center at St. Mary's. Colen's confetti series works exist both as Mylar confetti adhered to canvas and as trompe l'oeil oil paintings. To achieve this effect for the RxArt project, Colen's design for the space was brought to life by hand painting every falling piece of rainbow-colored and metallic confetti.

"The beauty of this project, five years in the making, was finding a group of people who all were committed to finding a balance and engaging in all aspects of the project and its challenges with equal weight. The artistic vision and the idea of how it could function within the hospital environment were considered daily. This piece, which depicts confetti frozen in mid-air is about both the joy and the fragility of life; and it has found the perfect home at St Mary's where the children will have the opportunity to interact with it on a daily basis. Throughout the planning and execution of this project I was fortunate to work with people both in and out of the medical community, and art world who were committed to seeing this through, and who like me believe art can play a role in healing. I feel lucky and grateful to have a work of mine in such a special environment," said **Dan Colen**.

The Children's Activity Center at St. Mary's Hospital is the largest and most actively used space on this extraordinary medical campus, serving up to 300 patients, both inpatient and outpatient, on a weekly basis. The multipurpose space is used for indoor recreation all year around, school programs, art classes, talent shows, costume parties and special events such as graduation and musical performances. Colen's artwork will activate the entire space, bringing joy and inspiration to the patients as they spend time there.

Dr. Eddie Simpser, President and Chief Executive Officer of St. Mary's Healthcare System for Children said, *"At St. Mary's, we believe that the arts are essential to promoting health and well-being in children. Children with special needs can encounter artistic expression to free their imaginations from the constraints imposed by physical limitations, thereby*

improving their quality of life. We are so pleased to be partnering with RxArt on this wonderful project."

The Colen installation at St. Mary's has proven to be RxArt's most ambitious project, in both size and scope, in the history of the organization. Diane Brown, RxArt Founder and President, and Colen began conversations about this commission five years ago. RxArt is grateful to Colen for his creative vision and commitment to this project and thrilled to see his installation transform the Activity Center.

"We could not be more proud or happy to be working at St. Mary's Healthcare System for Children with Dan Colen. This project has been a labor of love by everyone involved. We are thrilled to be able to brighten the recreation room for the wonderful kids of St. Mary's," said **RxArt Founder and President, Diane Brown.**

RxArt is deeply grateful to Florence and Serge Azria for their generous support in making this project possible. RxArt would also like to thank Dan Colen's dedicated studio team, the staff of St. Mary's for their patience and cooperation in seeing the project to fruition, and to our production partners Christopher Burke Studio, Colossal Media and Lawrence Group Architects.

About RxArt

RxArt is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to help children heal through the extraordinary power of visual art. RxArt commissions exceptional contemporary artists to transform sterile healthcare facilities into engaging and inspiring environments full of beauty, humor and comfort. Projects are produced at no cost to the partner medical sites; RxArt provides and honorarium to each commissioned artist and raises the funds for production and installation. RxArt has completed more than 30 major projects in over 25 healthcare facilities through the nation. Recent projects include José Parlá at Incarnation Children's Center in Washington Heights, NYC; Walead Beshty at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center in Chicago, IL; and Rob Pruitt at St. Mary's Hospital for Children, Bayside, NY. RxArt has projects underway with Urs Fischer, Laura Owens and Sam Falls at Cedars-Sinai's Maxine Dunitz Children's Health Center, Los Angeles, CA; at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA and other locations in the United States and Canada. For further information about RxArt and the Dan Colen project, visit <https://rxart.net/projects/dan-colen-st-marys/>

About Dan Colen

Dan Colen was born in New Jersey in 1979. He lives and works in New York. His artworks are included in public institutions such as The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Dakis Joannou Collection, Athens, Greece; Hirschhorn Museum, Washington, D.C.; and Jimenez-Colon Collection, Ponce, Puerto Rico, to name a few. Colen's recent solo exhibitions include "Peanuts," Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art, Oslo (2011); "In Living Color," FLAG Art Foundation, New York (2012); "Dan Colen: The Illusion of Life," Inverleith House, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh (2013); "Help!," The Brant Foundation Art Study Center, Greenwich, Connecticut (2014); "The L...o...n...g Count," The Walter De Maria Building,

New York, (2014); "Dan Colen: Shake the Elbow," Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York (2015), "Oil Painting," Dallas Contemporary, Dallas, TX (2016), among others. His work was included in the 2006 Whitney Biennial in New York, as well as the 12^e Biennale de Lyon in 2013. For further information on Dan Colen, please contact Gagosian Gallery at press@gagosian.com.

About St. Mary's Healthcare System for Children

St. Mary's Healthcare System for Children, a not-for-profit healthcare organization committed to improving the health and quality of life for children and families with medical complexities, is the largest provider of long-term care for children with complex medical conditions in New York. St. Mary's provides a continuum of care, treating children and youth throughout the metropolitan area through a network of inpatient, home care and community programs and services, setting a standard of excellence in pediatric healthcare. For further information about St. Mary's, visit <http://stmaryskids.org/>

RxArt Contact

Diane Brown
Founder and President
diane_brown@rxart.net
212-260-8797