



## RxART Completes Derrick Adams Commission for NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem Pediatric Emergency Department



Derrick Adams *How I Spend My Summer Break, 2020*. RxART installation at NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem. Photo: Kelly Marshall

New York, NY – September 17, 2020 – RxART announced the completion of a site-specific installation by artist Derrick Adams at NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem. Adams created brightly colored imagery depicting children swimming among various pool floaties such as a giraffe, unicorn, duck, flamingo, and popsicle. The wallcoverings flow throughout the six patient treatment rooms in the pediatric emergency department at NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem.

*“As an artist I find connecting with an audience through visual interpretation very fulfilling,”* Adams said. *“This project with RxART to create work that will potentially lift the spirits or ease the minds of young visitors needing urgent care at Harlem Hospital, feels purposeful in ways beyond what I could have ever imagined. I am overjoyed to be tasked with this mission.”*

*“NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem, a leading health provider in the Village of Harlem, has remained at the ready to address and anticipate the health needs of our community. We believe in the power of art in healing. This art installation in our Pediatric Emergency Department – where many of our patients enter the hospital – by the very talented artist Derrick Adams is a welcome addition to our institution’s world-renowned mural collection and a vibrant symbol of our ongoing commitment to children and their health,”* said Eboné M. Carrington, Chief Executive Officer of NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem.

In May, while New York City hospitals were still experiencing high numbers of patients with COVID-19, RxART announced a campaign to support the staff and frontline healthcare workers at NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem who dedicate their lives to caring for the community. Through the campaign, over \$7,500 was raised between May and June that was directed as a donation to the hospital. Upon learning of RxART’s donation to the hospital, Dr. Alexie Puran, Director of the hospital’s pediatric emergency department said: *“It is beautiful to know we have angels like you on our side as we continue to battle this pandemic. Human beings helping human beings. If we take away one thing from this crisis, let it be the value we have for each other as human beings and the power we can have collectively when working together.”*

RxART produces every project at no cost to the partner hospital and offers each commissioned artist an honorarium. The Derrick Adams project was made possible thanks to a generous lead grant from the William E. Weiss Foundation and major support from RxART’s Board of Directors and donors to the Harlem Campaign. This installation is RxART’s second in the pediatric emergency department at NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem, following a Keith Haring wall mural in the lobby, produced in partnership with the Keith Haring Foundation in 2018.

### **Derrick Adams**

Derrick Adams (b. 1970) is a multidisciplinary artist working in painting, paper-based collage, performance, video, sound and multimedia sculpture. His practice is rooted in the manipulation of structure and surface, and the marriage of complex and improbable forms. Through these techniques, Adams examines the connection between popular culture and the construction of self-image. Adams lives and works in New York City. Solo exhibitions of the artist’s work include shows at Hudson River Museum (2020); Luxembourg & Dayan, New York (2019); Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver (2018); Museum of Arts and Design, New York (2018); UTA Artist Space, Los Angeles (2017); Countee Cullen Library, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York (2017).

### **About RxART**

RxART employs the transformative power of art to promote healing and comfort in children. Working in close partnership with pediatric hospitals and medical professionals, RxART

commissions leading contemporary artists to create site-specific installations and uplifting interventions, infusing beauty, humor, and comfort into once sterile, intimidating environments. From murals, wall covering designs, and CT Scan wraps, to privacy curtains and hospital-grade pajamas, RxART has now completed 52 projects with 60 artists in almost 40 hospitals across 21 cities in the U.S. since it first launched in 2000. Developed at no cost to the partner hospitals, RxART has largely commissioned artists to create works of public art with a purpose, staged in often unconventional and unexpected spaces that help transform the lives of children as they heal.

### **About NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem**

NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem provides a wide range of medical, surgical, diagnostic, therapeutic, and family support services to the residents of Central Harlem, West Harlem, Washington Heights and Inwood. The Department of Pediatric Emergency Medicine at NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem provides outstanding emergency care for ill and injured infants, children and adolescents, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The dedicated pediatric emergency space, separate from the adult emergency department, cares for over 16,500 pediatric patients annually. Established in 1887, the Hospital has been providing health care services to the community for 131 years.

For more information, visit

<https://rxart.net/projects/derrick-adams-for-nyc-health-hospitals-harlem/>

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