



RxART Welcomes Derrick Adams and David Lenhardt to the Board of Directors

New York, NY – November 17, 2021 – RxART, the nationally operating nonprofit organization that commissions outstanding contemporary artists to transform pediatric hospital settings, is pleased to announce the addition of American artist Derrick Adams and David Lenhardt, former President & CEO of PetSmart, collector, and philanthropist, to the RxART Board of Directors.

“Along with RxART’s staff and our trustees, I am delighted to welcome Derrick and David to the Board of Directors,” RxART Founder and President Diane Brown shared. *“We have had the pleasure of working with Derrick on his transformation of the pediatric emergency department at NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem, which was installed last year. He also contributed his jubilant imagery to grace the cover and stickers of RxART’s recently released volume of Between the Lines, the RxART Coloring Book, and is generously directing proceeds from his most recent print edition to support the organization.”*

“We were introduced to David Lenhardt at Frieze Los Angeles last year, just before the world as we knew it changed entirely,” continued Diane Brown. *“In the past year, he has already demonstrated leadership through his introduction to Phoenix Children’s Hospital, where we are beginning a major project with an artist who we will be excited to announce soon. Both David and Derrick will provide unique and invaluable insight that will help RxART continue to evolve and expand in impactful ways. We are incredibly happy to have them involved.”*

David Lenhardt shared, *“I am honored and excited to join the RxART board. RxART’s mission combines two passions of mine – art and children’s health. This is such a wonderful cause where art can positively influence kids who are going through tough times medically. RxART is so uniquely positioned to make an impact on their lives through art – that’s why it is such an honor to be involved in this leadership role.”*

The RxART Board of Directors also includes Neil Blumenthal, Co-Founder and Co-CEO, Warby Parker; Diane Brown, Founder and President, RxArt; Glori Cohen, Art Advisor and Collector; Michael Laven, Technology Entrepreneur; Nancy Olnick, Co-Founder, Magazzino Italian Art Foundation; TJ Parker, Co-Founder & CEO, PillPack; Rob Pruitt, Artist; Chris Salgado, CEO of Chipican, Sofia Vergara & Cantabria Labs; and Cynthia Zabel, Head of Business Development North America, The Fine Art Group.

Derrick Adams

Derrick Adams (b. 1970, Baltimore, MD) is a Brooklyn, New York-based artist whose critically admired work spans painting, collage, sculpture, performance, video, and sound installations. His multidisciplinary practice engages the ways in which individuals’ ideals, aspirations, and personae become attached to specific objects, colors, textures, symbols, and

ideologies. His work probes the influence of popular culture on the formation of self-image, and the relationship between man and monument as they coexist and embody one another. Adams is also deeply immersed in questions of how Black experiences intersect with art history, American iconography, and consumerism. Most notably in his Floater series, he portrays Black people at leisure, positing that respite itself is a political act when embraced by Black communities. The radicality of this position has materialized in Adams' work across his *Deconstruction Worker*, *Figure in the Urban Landscape*, and *Beauty World* series.

Adams received his MFA from Columbia University and BFA from Pratt Institute. He is an alumnus of the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture and the Marie Walsh Sharpe Art Foundation Space Program and was the recipient of Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Residency, a Gordon Parks Foundation Fellowship, a Joyce Alexander Wein Artist Prize, and a Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award. RxART commissioned Adams to create uplifting imagery that was installed throughout the **Pediatric Emergency Department Treatment Rooms at NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem in 2020**. Some of his pool floatie imagery also graces the cover and sticker spread of *Between the Lines: An RxART Coloring Book by Contemporary Artists – Volume 8*.

The artist's work will be the subject of *Derrick Adams: LOOKS* at the Cleveland Art Museum (2021-2022) and has been the subject of solo exhibitions at institutions such as The Momentary, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville (2021); SCAD FASH Museum of Fashion + Film, Savannah (2020–2021); Hudson River Museum, Yonkers (2020); Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg (2020); The Gallery in Baltimore City Hall (2019); and the Museum of Arts and Design, New York (2018). The artist has mounted public installations commissioned by the Milwaukee Museum of Art, *On Site: Derrick Adams*, a multimedia wall mural and sculptural installation (2021-ongoing), and through MTA Arts & Design at the Nostrand Avenue LIRR Station, Brooklyn (2020–ongoing). His art resides in the collections of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; The Studio Museum in Harlem; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; and the Birmingham Museum of Art, among many others. He has recently established an artist program and residency in his hometown of Baltimore called *The Last Resort*.

David K. Lenhardt

Lenhardt is the former President & CEO of PetSmart, the largest US retailer of pet food, supplies, and services. He joined PetSmart in October, 2000, as senior vice president of Services, Strategic Planning and Business Development and was in multiple senior leadership positions over the next eleven years. In June 2013, he was named chief executive officer and in April 2014 he was named president and chief executive officer. Lenhardt led the strategic review process of PetSmart in 2014, resulting in the sale of PetSmart to BC Partners for \$8.7B, representing the highest equity valuation in the history of the company and the largest retail LBO in US history. Lenhardt stepped down as CEO in March, 2015 upon the closing of the transaction.

Lenhardt and his wife Dawn are avid collectors of contemporary art. He is the Vice Chair of the Phoenix Art Museum board and also serves on the Whitney Museum of American Art's National Paintings and Sculpture Committee. Additionally, he currently serves on the board of directors for Casey's General Stores, The Michaels Companies, Dogtopia Enterprises, and Phoenix Children's Hospital. Lenhardt has a BA in Government, Magna Cum Laude, from Cornell University and an MBA from The Amos Tuck School of Business Administration at Dartmouth College.

About RxART

The mission of RxART is to help children heal through the extraordinary power of visual art. RxART commissions leading contemporary artists to transform children's hospital settings into engaging and inspiring healing environments full of beauty, humor, and comfort. From murals, wall covering designs, and CT Scan wraps, to privacy curtains and hospital-grade pajamas, RxART has now completed 53 projects with 63 artists in 36 hospitals across 20 cities in the U.S. Since it first launched in 2000. Every project is produced at no cost to the partner hospitals and every commissioned artist is provided with an honorarium and the chance to inspire children during their medical journey. RxART also operates as a registered charity in Canada.

For more information, visit www.rxart.net

Press Contact

Megan Skidmore: megan_skidmore@rxart.net | 212-260-8797