



The Mission of RxART is to help children heal through the extraordinary power of visual art. We commission established contemporary artists to transform children's hospital settings into engaging and inspiring environments full of beauty, humor, and comfort.

***RxART produces every project at no cost to the hospitals.*** Each commissioned artist is provided with an honorarium and the opportunity to create a public work of art and the chance to transform the lives of children as they heal. RxART has completed 57 projects with 65 artists in 37 hospitals across 21 cities in the U.S. since it first launched in 2000.

**As of 2023, RxART Projects have reached more than 3,000,000 patients throughout the United States.**

To learn more about RxART's projects and how to support them, contact Diane Brown, RxART Founder & President:  
E: [diane\\_brown@rxart.net](mailto:diane_brown@rxart.net)  
P: 212-260-8797

RxART is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.  
EIN: 36-4375632



*"I hope you can see how much the addition of Takashi Murakami's artwork [adds]. We hope that no child would need to come here, but when they do, we want to reassure them that they are getting the best care. The beauty of this RxART project provides more reassurance that they are in good hands."*

Dorothy Bulas, Chief of Radiology,  
Children's National Hospital

91% of patients believed that visual art improved their hospital stay.

Cleveland Clinic Study, 2012



80% of patients undergoing chemotherapy while exposed to art believed it had positive effects on their mood.

Chelsea and Westminster Study, 2001

*"It was meaningful to get the RxART commission (for the 207-foot corridor that leads to the operating department at CHLA). It's visually quite scary, because of what it represents, for children and their parents or caretakers to have to walk down it - even if you can change it in a tiny way, and help even a few people, that's a big thing. I love art, and I believe 100% in its power, because it affects me on a daily basis. Visual art can affirm an idea, and certain elements can really help change your mindset."*

Nicolas Party, Commissioned Artist  
Children's Hospital Los Angeles

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### **RASHID JOHNSON**

Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, at Stanford  
Palo Alto, CA

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### **SHARA HUGHES**

Phoenix Children's Hospital  
Phoenix, AZ

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### **JULIA CHIANG**

SUNY Upstate Nappi Wellness Institute, Pediatric Waiting  
Syracuse, NY

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### **ANN CRAVEN**

SUNY Upstate Nappi Wellness Institute, Family  
Syracuse, NY

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### **TOMOKAZU MATSUYAMA**

SUNY Upstate Nappi Wellness Institute, International  
Syracuse, NY

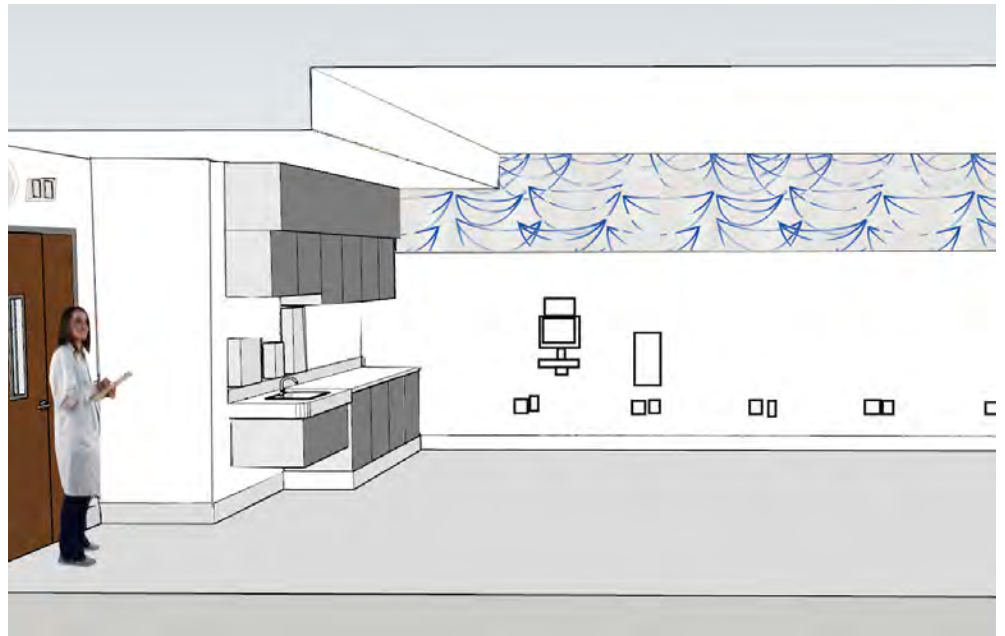
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### **HAROLD ANCART**

Primary Children's Hospital, Miller Family Campus  
Intermountain Healthcare  
Lehi, UT



Harold Ancart, Proposal detail for project



*Rashid Johnson, proposed "Seascape" imagery for G.I. Treatment Rooms, 2022*

## Project in the Pipeline

### Rashid Johnson

Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at  
Stanford  
Palo Alto, CA

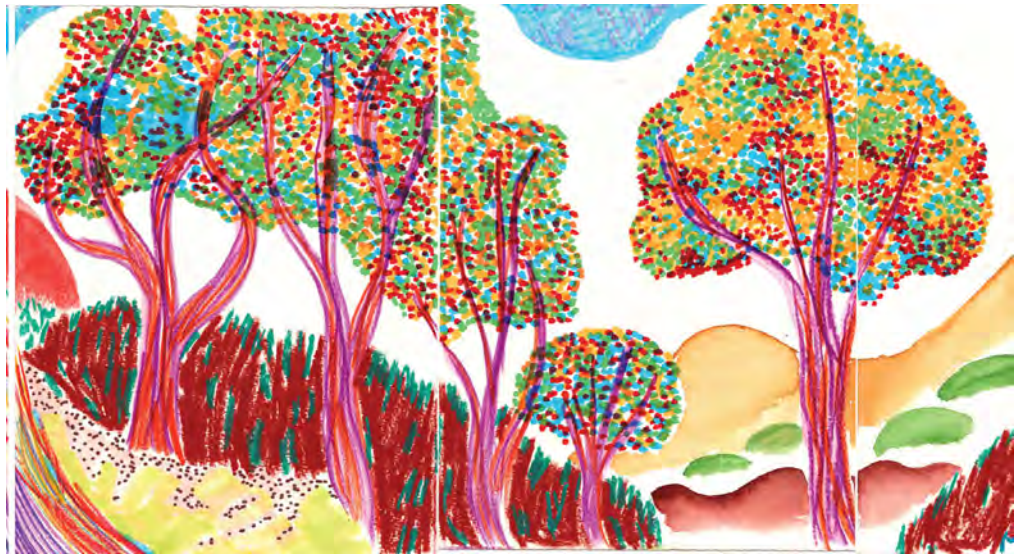
RxART is honored to be working with Rashid Johnson on a project for Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. Johnson's new blue and white "Seascape" imagery will crown the two main treatment rooms of the hospital's Gastroenterology department, where over 18,000 patients are cared for annually. Instead of focusing on the stark white walls and intense lights, patients will be able to feel transported by Johnson's calming imagery. Additionally, Johnson's kaleidoscopic "Escape" imagery will be installed in two mother and family waiting rooms and a serenity lounge that serve approximately 4,500 expectant and new mothers each year.

Lucile Packard Children's Hospital is among the top 10 children's hospitals in the nation, according to the U.S. News & World Report 2021-2022 Best Children's Hospitals survey. Stanford Children's Health is the largest health care network in the Bay Area that's exclusively dedicated to pediatric and obstetric care. The hospital network provides care in more than 150 medical specialties, many of which are part of their centers of emphasis including brain & behavior, cancer, heart, orthopedics, pregnancy & newborn, pulmonary and transplant.

Rashid Johnson (b. 1977, Chicago, IL) is among an influential cadre of contemporary American artists whose work employs a wide range of media to explore themes of art history, individual and shared cultural identities, personal narratives, literature, philosophy and critical history. After studying in the photography department of the Art Institute of Chicago, Johnson's practice quickly expanded to embrace a wide range of media - including sculpture, painting, drawing, film-making and installation - yielding a complex multidisciplinary practice that incorporates diverse materials rich with symbolism and personal history. Johnson's recent solo exhibitions include Storm King Art Center; Hauser & Wirth London; Hauser & Wirth New York; Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery, Toronto; Museo Tamayo, Mexico City; and the Aspen Art Museum.

Every RxART project is made possible at no cost to our partner hospitals. The commissioned artists are provided with an honorarium and the chance to inspire children during their healing process. RxART is grateful to Hauser & Wirth for their lead support of this project and to Cynthia Zabel, Gould Art Advisory, and David Kordansky Gallery. For more information on this project, contact Megan Skidmore: [megan\\_skidmore@rxart.net](mailto:megan_skidmore@rxart.net).





Shara Hughes, 2022, Detail of Proposed Imagery for Phoenix Children's Hospital

## Project in the Pipeline

### Shara Hughes

Phoenix Children's Hospital  
Phoenix, AZ

RxART is excited to be working with Shara Hughes on a major project for Phoenix Children's Hospital. Her calming and mesmerizing landscapes will grace the walls of the hospital's central corridor and elevator bays, encompassing more than 5,300 square feet. From emergency department and helipad arrivals to inpatient and ambulatory transfers, this is the first point of entry for nearly all patients as they are admitted or routed to their care areas.

Approximately 70,000 patients will experience Hughes' RxART installation at Phoenix Children's Hospital in the years to come. The 2021-22 U.S. News & World Report's "Best Children's Hospitals," ranked Phoenix Children's Hospital for the 11th consecutive year, and the hospital has been recognized for 10 out of 10 ranked specialties, including Neonatology, Cardiology & Heart Surgery, and Neurology & Neurosurgery, among other specialties.

Shara Hughes (b. 1981, Atlanta, GA) creates paintings that are bustling with movement and life, allowing the viewer to lose oneself in her vibrantly composed vistas of nature. Hughes earned a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design and later attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. Her first major museum exhibition is on view at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis through February 2022.

Recent solo exhibitions include The Arts Club, London; the Newport Art Museum, Newport, RI; Gallery Met at the Metropolitan Opera, New York; and the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia, Atlanta, GA among many others. In May 2018 Hughes completed "Carving Out Fresh Options", a large scale mural in Boston, MA commissioned by the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy in partnership with the deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum. Her work was also included in the 2017 Whitney Biennial at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY. Hughes' work belongs to many prominent museum collections including The Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas TX; The Denver Museum of Art, Denver, CO; The High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA; The ICA Miami; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, among others. Hughes lives and works in Brooklyn NY.

Every RxART project is produced at no cost to the hospitals and each commissioned artist is provided with an honorarium. RxART is grateful to The Molly Blank Fund of the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation for generous lead support of this project and thankful for support from Dawn and David Lenhardt and The Opatrny Family Foundation. For more information on this project and how to support it, contact Megan Skidmore, Director: [megan\\_skidmore@rxart.net](mailto:megan_skidmore@rxart.net).



Julia Chiang, *Through Us Through You* (detail), 2022

## Project in the Pipeline

### Julia Chiang

SUNY Upstate Nappi Wellness Institute  
Syracuse, NY

RxART is proud to be working with Julia Chiang on a project for the new Nappi Wellness Institute at SUNY Upstate in Syracuse, NY. Julia's colorful, meditative imagery will transform the institute's Pediatric Waiting area. The wall that Julia's work will be installed on will face the reception and waiting area which the hospital anticipates will receive 54,000 annual visits.

This project will be an important hospital partnership within the comprehensive SUNY Medical system and RxART's first New York state project outside of the Tri-state area. The Nappi Wellness Institute is being designed to improve the entire patient experience and everyone's wellness, as the first WELL-Certified building in Central New York and the among the first of this type of hospital in the nation. By achieving the WELL certification, Nappi will optimize health and well-being in seven areas: air, comfort, fitness, light, mind, nourishment, and water. Nappi Wellness Institute will provide adult and pediatric primary and specialty care integrated into behavioral health care, nutrition, palliative care, and social support. As Syracuse is a sanctuary city, the hospital will serve a large refugee population, providing both healthcare and social service resource options to full families.

Julia Chiang (b. 1978 Atlantic City, New Jersey, USA) lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. She is known for her detailed paintings which take flat-colour backgrounds as a setting for an intricate web of shapes and forms, flowing in converging directions and carefully constructed through layers of paint. From an initial viewing the compositions seemingly give off the appearance of a uniform execution but upon closer study reveals the differences in transparency and definition, and at times the presence of uncertainty and chance in the painterly process. Chiang recently completed a public art mural at the Rockaway Hotel in New York and was exhibited at Frieze New York. Her work has also been shown at The Modern Institute (Glasgow), Nanzuka Gallery (Tokyo), Deitch Projects (New York), and OHWOW Gallery (Miami) among others. She has also collaborated with brands and groups such as The Standard and the former Parisian boutique colette to produce various limited edition products.

Every RxART project is made possible at no cost to our partner hospital. The commissioned artists are provided with an honorarium and the chance to inspire children during their healing process. RxART is grateful to J. Crew for their support of this project.





Ann Craven, Little Pink Horizontal Promise, Again, 2019

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## Project in the Pipeline

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### Ann Craven

SUNY Upstate Nappi Wellness Institute  
Syracuse, NY

RxART is proud to be working with Ann Craven on a project for the new Nappi Wellness Institute at SUNY Upstate in Syracuse, NY. Ann's playful and eye-catching imagery will transform the institute's Family Medicine department. The wall that Ann's work will be installed on will face the reception and waiting area which the hospital anticipates will receive 54,000 annual visits.

This project will be an important hospital partnership within the comprehensive SUNY Medical system and RxART's first New York state project outside of the Tri-state area. The Nappi Wellness Institute is being designed to improve the entire patient experience and everyone's wellness, as the first WELL-Certified building in Central New York and the among the first of this type of hospital in the nation. By achieving the WELL certification, Nappi will optimize health and well-being in seven areas: air, comfort, fitness, light, mind, nourishment, and water. Nappi Wellness Institute will provide adult and pediatric primary and specialty care integrated into behavioral health care, nutrition, palliative care, and social support. As Syracuse is a sanctuary city, the hospital will serve a large refugee population, providing both healthcare and social service resource options to full families.

Ann Craven (b. 1967, Boston, MA) is known for her portrayals of natural subjects rendered in bright, familiar colors. Her work plays with the notion of temporality in an almost playful way, lacking excessive gravitas and instead opening itself up to spontaneity: "My paintings are a result of mere observation, experiment and chance and contain a variable that's constant and ever-changing — the moment just past." Craven's work is currently on display in the 2022 New England Triennial. Recent solo exhibitions include Hannah Hoffman Gallery (2022); Karma, New York (2021) and the Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockland, Maine (2019). Her work can also be found in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art (New York), the New Museum (New York), and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago. She lives and works between New York City and Maine.

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Tomokazu Matsuyama, Public Mural and Installation at JR SHINJUKU STATION EAST SQUARE, 2020

## Project in the Pipeline

### Tomokazu Matsuyama

SUNY Upstate Nappi Wellness Institute  
Syracuse, NY

RxART is proud to be working with Tomokazu Matsuyama on a project for the new Nappi Wellness Institute at SUNY Upstate in Syracuse, NY. Tomokazu's bright and uplifting imagery will transform the institute's International department. Tomokazu's work will be installed in an area that the hospital anticipates will receive 54,000 annual visits.

This project will be an important hospital partnership within the comprehensive SUNY Medical system and RxART's first New York state project outside of the Tri-state area. The Nappi Wellness Institute is being designed to improve the entire patient experience and everyone's wellness, as the first WELL-Certified building in Central New York and the among the first of this type of hospital in the nation. By achieving the WELL certification, Nappi will optimize health and well-being in seven areas: air, comfort, fitness, light, mind, nourishment, and water. Nappi Wellness Institute will provide adult and pediatric primary and specialty care integrated into behavioral health care, nutrition, palliative care, and social support. As Syracuse is a sanctuary city, the hospital will serve a large refugee population, providing both healthcare and social service resource options to full families.

Tomokazu Matsuyama (B. 1976, Japan) is a contemporary artist who is keenly aware of the nomadic diaspora, a community of wandering people who seek to understand their place in a world full of contrasting visual and cultural dialects. Matsuyama appropriates from a vast amount of sources ranging from fragmented snippets of pop culture to the iconography of Renaissance masters as well as centuries-old works of art. Recent exhibitions include *The Best Part About Us*, Kavi Gupta, Chicago, IL (2022); *Accountable Nature*, Long Museum West Bund, Shanghai, China (2020); *Oh Magic Night*, Hong Kong Contemporary Art (HOCA) Foundation (2017); *Palimpsest*, Rauchauer Institute at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (2013), among others. His large-scale public works can be found all over the world including in New York City, Tokyo, Los Angeles, etc. The artist lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

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Harold Ancart, Proposal detail for project

## Project in the Pipeline

### Harold Ancart

Primary Children's Hospital,  
Miller Family Campus  
Intermountain Healthcare  
Lehi, Utah

RxART is proud to work with Harold Ancart on a project for the new Primary Children's Hospital Miller Family Campus in Lehi, UT, which is part of the extensive Intermountain Healthcare System. Ancart will bring new sublime imagery depicting a variety of fish swimming in the sky to the hospital's main corridor.

Primary Children's Hospital is a not-for-profit, free-standing children's hospital providing quality healthcare for children with complex illnesses and injuries from across the United States. The Miller Family Campus will feature five floors, 66 beds, and will see an anticipated 60,000 outpatient admissions, 40,000 imaging visits, and 22,000 inpatient stays annually. Ancart's mural installation will be situated in a 68-foot corridor at the heart of the hospital near the main lobby, and directly in front of the education center, cafe, and pharmacy.

Harold Ancart (b. 1980, Brussels, Belgium) lives and works in New York. He embarks on spatial exploration in his artworks. Ancart's painted surfaces leave vibrant, colorful marks that create his dreamlike landscapes. Drawn to subjects that naturally invite contemplation - such as the horizon seen in the desert, through trees, and bodies of water - Ancart often uses these motifs to expand the language of painting.

In 2019 the Public Art Fund presented "Harold Ancart: Subliminal Standard" in Brooklyn, NY, a painted concrete handball court that allowed his work to extend beyond the canvas and asked visitors to become part of the composition and engage with the surroundings. Ancart has participated in solo and group exhibitions worldwide. His work is included in the collections of international institutions including Hirshhorn Museum, Washington, D.C.; Fondation Beyeler, Basel; The Menil Collection, Houston, TX; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA; and Whitney Museum of American Art, NY among others.

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# RxART



## **THE 2023 RXART PARTY**

HONORING  
**NINA CHANEL ABNEY & DERRICK ADAMS**

**FEBRUARY 8, 2023**  
**NINE ORCHARD, NYC**

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The 2023 RxART PARTY will be a joyous celebration of collaborating artists Nina Chanel Abney and Derrick Adams, RxART's Projects, and perseverance through the pandemic. We will honor Nina and Derrick with the RxART Inspiration Award, recognizing their uplifting installations for NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst and NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem, respectively. We invite you to save the date and join us for RxART's long-awaited PARTY, our most important fundraising event.

Contact Megan Skidmore for more information: [megan\\_skidmore@rxart.net](mailto:megan_skidmore@rxart.net) | 212.260.8797



Derrick Adams, Volume 8 sticker spread. Photo courtesy Shana Novak

## Between the Lines: An RxART Coloring Book by Contemporary Artists Volume 8

RxART's farthest reaching project is the quintessential coloring book of artist drawings, *Between the Lines: An RxART Coloring Book by Contemporary Artists*. Volume 8 includes drawings by 50 established and emerging artists and features a vibrant cover and sticker spread by Derrick Adams. The books are produced biennially and the majority are donated to pediatric patients in hospitals worldwide. Since 2005, more than 135,000 coloring books have been given to children, their siblings and staff in over 55 hospitals! A small portion of books are sold on RxART's website and in specialty retailers to raise funds to support RxART's mission of helping children heal through the power of visual art.

Volume 8 is available now. For retail orders or to inquire about hospital donations, contact Sara Robertson: [sara\\_robertson@rxart.net](mailto:sara_robertson@rxart.net).

### Participating Artists:

Derrick Adams, Dike Blair, Jordan Casteel, Jonathan Chapline, Oliver Clegg, Jane Corrigan, Timothy Curtis, Ann Craven, Alex Dordoy, Derek Fordjour, Marley Freeman, Hana Yilma Godine, Ronald Hall, Steven Harrington, Camille Henrot, Jammie Holmes, Agostino Iacurci, Elizabeth Jaeger, Young Do Jeong, Rachel Jones, Cheyenne Julien, Atsushi Kaga, Caitlin Keogh, Emma Kohlmann, Liza Lou, Dashiell Manley, Sofia Mitsola, Kristine Moran, Elizabeth Neel, Rebecca Ness, Arcmanoro Niles, MeeNa Park, Hilary Pecis, Jaye Rhee, Jamea Richmond-Edwards, Clare Rojas, Samantha Rosenwald, Leigh Ruple, Josh Sperling, Ricky Swallow, Claire Tabouret, Honor Titus, Lesley Vance, Caroline Walker, Anna Weyant, Emi Winter, Allison Zuckerman

*Between the Lines - Volume 8* was generously underwritten by the Guess?, Inc. Foundation.







Nina Chanel Abney, "Fun #1" 2022, installation for NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst. Photo: Nicholas Knight.

## Recent Projects

### Nina Chanel Abney

NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst  
Queens, New York

RxART is proud to have worked with Nina Chanel Abney on a project for the Pediatric Ambulatory Clinic at NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst. Abney created a whole world of brightly colored patterns, happy characters and interlocking graphics to provide a positive distraction for the patients and their families as they wait to receive critical care.

NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst provides services for approximately 15,000 pediatric and adolescent patients annually. Founded in 1882, the hospital is located in perhaps the most ethnically diverse community in the world (Elmhurst, Queens) with immigrants from 112 different countries. It is designated as a "Baby-Friendly" Hospital by Baby-Friendly USA, an initiative of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund. Over 2,200 babies are delivered at the hospital each year. The hospital has 44 maternity beds, 30 neonatal beds and 22 Pediatric



Before photo of waiting area.

Nina Chanel Abney (b. 1982) paints in a bold graphic style with a brilliantly colored palette, creating powerful narratives and emblematic scenes on canvas, buildings and museum walls. Abney addresses the injustices of our time in compositions densely populated with abstracted, symbolic figures and shapes seducing the viewer while gradually revealing some of the most serious subjects of our time - racial inequality and gender discrimination among other topical themes. Recent solo exhibitions of the artist's work include the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston (2019); Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2018); The Modern, Fort Worth (2018); The Nasher Museum of Art at Duke, Durham (2017). Abney lives and works in Jersey City, NJ.

Every RxART project is made possible at no cost to our partner hospitals. The commissioned artists are provided with an honorarium and the chance to inspire children during their healing process. RxART is deeply grateful to Agnes Gund and Glori Cohen for their support for this project.



Nina Chanel Abney, "Fun #1" 2022, installation for NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst. Photo: Nicholas Knight.

## NINA CHANEL ABNEY

### NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst

Queens, New York







The Haas Brothers, Detail of sculpture, "Tree to Be Me," 2022, installed at Children's National Hospital.

## Recent Projects

### The Haas Brothers

Children's National Hospital  
Washington, DC

RxART is honored to have worked with The Haas Brothers on a project for Children's National Hospital in Washington, DC. The Haas Brothers created a large, vibrantly colored sculpture that welcomes visitors into the hospital's newly renovated entrance. The nearly 220,000 patients cared for each year at Children's National are now greeted by The Haas Brothers' 14-foot marble and beaded palm tree and its multi-colored resident monkey. The monkey hanging from the sculpture was beaded by the Haas Sisters in Cape Town, South Africa and the intricate leaves of the tree was created by the Haas Sisters of Lost Hills in California's Central Valley. The Haas Brothers' project is RxART's fourth installation at the hospital and the organization's first sculpture project. Children's National has been designated three times in a row as a Magnet® hospital, demonstrating the highest standards of nursing and patient care delivery.



Rendering of new lobby entrance to hospital

Simon and Nikolai Haas (b. 1984) are fraternal twin brothers whose work lives outside of traditional artistic boundaries and hierarchies, creating a playful world that merges art, design, fashion, and film. Their work has been presented in solo exhibitions at SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, GA (2021); The Bass Museum of Art, Miami, FL (2018); and UTA Artist Space, Los Angeles, CA (2017). Their work is held in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Rhode Island School of Design Museum. They live and work in Los Angeles.

Every RxART project is made possible at no cost to our partner hospitals. The commissioned artists are provided with an honorarium and the chance to inspire children during their healing process. RxART is deeply grateful to the Rallis Foundation for lead underwriting of this project and thanks Betsee Isenberg and Citizens of Humanity for their support.



The Haas Brothers, Details of "Tree To Be Me," 2022 Installation

## THE HAAS BROTHERS

Children's National  
Hospital

Washington, DC







Nicolas Party, "Trees for Children". Installed at Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

**2020-2021**

## Completed Projects

**Nicolas Party**

Children's Hospital Los Angeles,  
Los Angeles, CA, 2021

**Takashi Murakami**

Children's National Hospital,  
Washington, DC, 2020

**Urs Fischer x FIGS PJ Project**

Children's Hospital Los Angeles,  
Los Angeles, CA, 2021

**Derrick Adams**

NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem,  
New York, NY, 2020

**Jonas Wood**

Children's National Hospital  
*Emergency Department*  
Washington, DC, 2020

**Jonas Wood**

Children's National Hospital  
*Pediatric Intensive Care Unit*  
Washington, DC, 2020



©Takashi Murakami/ Kaikai Kiki Co., Ltd., All rights reserved. CT/PET Scan Suite at Children's National Hospital in Washington, DC. Photo by Kenson Noel.



*Rob Pruitt Installation at CHOC Children's*

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**2018-2019**

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## Completed Projects

**Rob Pruitt**

CHOC Children's,  
Orange, CA, 2019

**Ann Craven**

The Chadwick Center at Rady Children's  
Hospital, San Diego, CA, 2019

**Keith Haring Foundation**

NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem,  
New York, NY, 2018

**Daniel Heidkamp**

NYU Langone Radiology,  
New York, NY, 2018

**William Wegman**

Hurley Medical Center,  
Flint, MI, 2018



*Ann Craven Installation at The Chadwick Center at Rady Children's Hospital*





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

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**2016-2017**

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## Completed Projects

**Sam Falls, Urs Fischer and  
Laura Owens**

Cedars-Sinai Maxine Dunitz Children's  
Health Center, Los Angeles, CA, 2017

**Ed Ruscha**

Children's Hospital Los Angeles,  
Los Angeles, CA, 2017

**Dan Colen**

St. Mary's Healthcare System for  
Children, Bayside, NY, 2017

**Alexis Rockman**

Montgomery County Outpatient Center,  
Children's National Health System,  
Rockville, MD, 2017

**José Parlá**

Incarnation Children's Center,  
New York, NY, 2016

**Ryan McGinness**

Children's Hospital of the King's  
Daughters, Virginia Beach, VA, 2016

**Walead Beshty**

Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical  
Center, Chicago, IL, 2016



*Ed Ruscha at Children's Hospital Los Angeles.*





*Jeff Koons Installation at Advocate Children's Hospital*

**2008-2014**

## Selected Projects

**Rob Pruitt**

St. Mary's Hospital for Children,  
Bayside, NY, 2014

**Assume Vivid Astro Focus**

La Clinica del Barrio,  
New York, NY, 2014

**Kenny Scharf**

Kings County Hospital,  
Brooklyn, NY, 2013

**Keith Haring Foundation**

La Rabida Children's Hospital,  
Chicago, IL, 2013

**Laura Owens, Chris Martin and Others**

Metropolitan Hospital,  
New York, NY, 2013

**Trenton Doyle Hancock and**

**Jason Middlebrook**

Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital,  
Houston, TX, 2012

**James Welling**

Emory University Hospital,  
Atlanta, GA, 2012

**George Condo and Others**

Metropolitan Hospital,  
New York, NY, 2012

**Jeff Koons**

Advocate Children's Hospital  
Oak Lawn, IL, 2010

**Rob Pruitt and Will Cotton**

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital  
Memphis, TN, 2008



*Kenny Scharf installing his mural at Kings County Hospital*

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## Board of Directors

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Artist

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Founder and President, RxART, Inc.

Glori Cohen  
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Artist

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## Testimonials

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*"NYC H+H/Elmhurst is thrilled to have a unique and immersive art experience for our smallest patients and their families in the Pediatric Primary Care Clinic courtesy of RxART and Nina Chanel Abney. [Nina's] large-scale waiting room artwork is a feast for the eyes! The faces, symbols and phrases painted using bright, primary colors appeal to young children and invite a playful and welcoming healthcare environment for them. We are ecstatic that this art treasure is now available for our patients, staff and employees to see and experience."*

Amy Harris, Associate Executive Director  
for Ambulatory Care Services at New York  
City Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst.

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*"We love the RxART Coloring Books. My older population, along with parents, light up when I offer them something developmentally appropriate and geared toward their age. I have found it helpful for those in pain, really needing distraction, and even for those parents that need a step away from the bedside. I set up a mother with one, as she just needed a break. She dove right in and didn't look up for quite awhile."*

Jessica Parise  
Child Life Supervisor  
Hospital for Special Surgery  
New York, NY

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*"The (children) are enjoying the fun and comfort the art brings them. Since the installation of the artwork we've had little patients actually ask to enter their hospital room!"*

Jennifer Underhill  
Assistant Nurse Manager of Pediatrics at  
Cedars-Sinai, Los Angeles, CA.

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*"Having art on the ceiling can be very helpful to our young patients. A fourteen year old patient can focus on the entire area and let her imagination take her away during a painful procedure. A three year old can create his own pictures using the shapes and colors he sees when he's getting a lengthy transfusion. As nurses we are trained to help our patients manage their pain using more than medication. We use deep breathing, guided imagery, play and distraction and that's how our colorful rooms help us achieve this important goal in our patients' healing journey."*

Stephanie Faloon  
Nurse at Cedars-Sinai  
Department of Pediatrics  
Los Angeles, CA

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*"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 partner with RxART on this wonderful project with Dan Colen."*

Dr. Eddie Simpson  
President and CEO  
St. Mary's Healthcare System for Children,  
Bayside, NY

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*"All of the services absolutely love the coloring books! You should sleep well knowing that you have made 1000 patients living in San Francisco much, much happier (and their doctors and nurses happier, too)."*

Dr. Christina Mangurian  
Department of Psychiatry  
San Francisco General Hospital

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*"Our NICU parents seek out their RxART Coloring Books to ease the stresses they have during their baby's NICU journey. Whether the nurses are putting in another IV, or the baby is being taken to surgery, the therapeutic nature of coloring the art in the book allows NICU parents a brief mental reprieve. The RxART Coloring Book also allows young siblings of a NICU baby to have something for themselves and an outlet just to 'be a kid' and color."*

Elizabeth Simonton Freeman  
Co-Founder and CEO of ICU Baby  
Miami, FL

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*"I hope my artwork will take kids' thoughts outside the rooms they are in. I want to remind them that there is a vast, wonderful world waiting for them."*

Sam Falls, Artist  
RxArt Project at Cedars-Sinai  
Los Angeles, CA





111 Michigan Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20010-2916  
ChildrensNational.org

November 10, 2020

Ms. Diane Brown  
President  
RxART  
208 Forsyth Street  
New York, NY 10002-1330

Dear Diane,

It is my sincere pleasure to thank you, once again, for the RxART Foundation's unwavering dedication to children's health. All of us at Children's National Hospital are so appreciative of your generous investments in the transformation of our CT/PET Scan Suite and the new privacy curtains for our Emergency Department. We remain deeply grateful for our partnership and humbled by your steadfast commitment to our mission.

As you know, Children's National believes that healing our patients means treating the whole child, not just their physical injury or illness. The world-class artwork you have brought into our Radiology and Emergency Departments will allow us to create powerful moments that help children find their resiliency and regain a sense of control and joy in scary situations. I know you will agree that the truly extraordinary public response to the Murakami artwork further reinforces the impact this work can have on patients and their families.

Thank you, as well, for your patience and understanding as we navigated these projects during this challenging time for us all. Your commitment to this incredible work is inspiring, and we cannot thank you enough for continuing to bring such beauty into our hospital at a critical moment in our history.

I am eager for you to be able to see these transformed spaces first-hand, as soon as it is safe to do. Until then, I wish you and your family good health in the days and weeks ahead.

Warm regards,

DeAnn Marshall, MHA  
President  
Children's National Hospital Foundation

# RxART

## CULTURED

### Thelma Golden and Nina Chanel Abney Celebrate the Artist's RxART Project at The Rockaway Hotel + Spa

September 19, 2022  
By Chloe Gorman



Nina Chanel Abney and Thelma Golden. Photo courtesy BFA

Cultured, Michi Jigarjian, and RxART gathered a crowd of art lovers at The Rockaway Hotel + Spa on September 16 for celebratory cocktails and a conversation honoring artist Nina Chanel Abney's newly finished installation for the pediatric wing at Elmhurst Hospital in Queens, New York.

On the evening of September 16, a joyful crowd of artists, art aficionados, and patrons mingled at the indoor-outdoor rooftop of the Rockaway Hotel + Spa in Queens, New York, ready to toast to New York-based artist Nina Chanel Abney. Michi Jigarjian, RxART, and Cultured joined forces on that last Friday night of summer to host the celebration in honor of Abney's inspiring work at the Pediatric Ambulatory Clinic at NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst in Elmhurst, Queens. While spicy margaritas and palomas were shaken behind the bar and hors d'oeuvres from The Cradle—a Rockaway local favorite for West African cuisine—were passed by servers, anticipation built for the evening's main event, a conversation between Abney and Thelma Golden, director and chief curator of The Studio Museum in Harlem, about the artist's symbolic work and recent public art projects.

Arriving at the hotel via ferry, subway, or taxis, guests were greeted by Abney's vibrant graphics—a selection of images from her RxART project adorn the windowed façade of The Rockaway Hotel + Spa and will remain on view through the fall. RxART partnered with designers from Ralph Appelbaum Associates to transform Abney's spirited artwork into wallcoverings and vinyl stickers for both Elmhurst Hospital and the hotel. On the roof of the hotel, the atmosphere buzzed as guests including Derrick Adams, Joeonna Bellorado-Samuels, Diane Brown, Atiya Butler, Nina Faustine, Laini Madhubuti, Michelle Trotter, Megan Skidmore, Jasmine Wahi, and Warren Winegar socialized over cocktails and light bites.

When Golden and Abney took to the stage, the audience was rapt in attention as the pair discussed the RxART project's significance in Abney's body of work, as well as her mantra to make art available to all through public commissions.

With its community-driven and arts-focused initiatives, the Rockaway Hotel + Spa proved to be the perfect venue to host the celebration with Cultured, Michi Jigarjian, and RxART, a mission-based arts initiative that helps heal and uplift children through the power of visual art. Artists are offered an honorarium for their work, but the meaningful projects come at no cost to the hospitals, and help to foster a joyous and restorative environment.

With the support of patrons Glori Cohen and Agnes Gund, the RxART project at Elmhurst Hospital was made possible. Much of Abney's work highlights representation in contemporary culture, and Elmhurst, Queens is the most ethnically diverse community in the world. Drawing on the artist's artistic language of abstraction and color, the installation is an inclusive reflection of its community, and provides the children and families the powerful emotional support that art can bring.



# RxART

## SURFACE

### Why Hospitals Will Start Resembling Parks and Museums

August 3, 2022



Nicolas Party for Children's Hospital Los Angeles. Photo courtesy RxART and CHLA

**What's Happening:** The Stavros Niarchos Foundation has announced an ambitious proposal to build three state-of-the-art hospitals designed by Renzo Piano throughout Greece—the latest in a wave of organizations aiming to make stark healthcare spaces feel more human.

**The Download:** The past couple decades haven't been kind to Greece's healthcare system, with the ongoing pandemic putting major strains on a system that was already stretched thin from the country's financial crisis of the mid-2000s. If one needs major treatment that requires specialized healthcare, like brain surgery or for pediatric cancer, their best bet is to travel to Athens. Medical facilities elsewhere in the country have struggled to upgrade their systems, can only handle certain types of treatments, and are in dire need of a refresh.

This will change in 2025, when the country will unveil three state-of-the-art hospitals in Komotini, Thessaloniki, and Sparta that feature sustainable design elements and spaces specifically tailored for patient wellness. The \$750 million project will be funded by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Health Initiative, which enlisted Pritzker Prize winner Renzo Piano to design each hospital.

Similar in shape and design, the three facilities will feature two long buildings surrounded by verdant landscapes and healing gardens, and designed with flexible floor plans that can quickly adapt to the changing demands of modern healthcare. Each structure is equipped with rooftop photovoltaics—a major plus in Greece's hot, dry summers considering that hospitals need to run 24/7 and are prone to high energy consumption.

The three hospitals look much different than typical healthcare facilities, which evoke images of sterile, white-walled spaces outfitted with scary-looking machinery. Nonprofits like RxART are breathing life into these stark medical spaces by tapping blue-chip artists to make fantastical installations that soothe

the nerves. (The latest came from Nicolas Party, whose magical forest mural makes the journey down a busy corridor at Children's Hospital Los Angeles much less tense.) Though advocates differ on what hospital-ready art should look like, designers are embracing the idea that beautiful environments can stave off fear, adding whimsical touches like vibrant colors, slides, pools, and forested play areas to medical spaces to ease the mood.

Like the hospitals underway in Greece, most new medical facilities are starting to incorporate natural light, views of greenery in patient rooms, and outdoor gardens. The increase dovetails with oft-cited research by environmental psychologist Roger Ulrich, who demonstrated that gazing at a garden can shorten recovery times from surgeries.

In his study, patients with bedside windows overlooking leafy trees healed, on average, a day faster and needed much less pain medication. He found that even three to five minutes spent gazing at nature reduced anger, stress, and blood pressure, and that medical staff could benefit from the "emotional lift" of spending some time outdoors during the hectic workday.

**In Their Own Words:** "The big idea is bringing a sense of humanity back to caring for people," Mark Carroll, partner at Renzo Piano Building Workshop, tells Fast Company. "They're three templates for a modern hospital. The thinking [is that it's] a modern hospital for Greece, but in the end it's a modern hospital for Europe or the world."

**Surface Says:** One day we'll look back fondly at the days when bad hospital design made us all sicker.

# RxART

## SURFACE

### How Artists Are Bringing a Dose of Fantasy to Children's Hospitals

March 23, 2022

By Ryan Waddoups



Nicolas Party for Children's Hospital Los Angeles. Photo courtesy RxART and CHLA

Before today, patients at Children's Hospital Los Angeles were often wheeled down a frightening, starkly lit corridor while en route to the Operating Department. Now, the journey along the 207-foot-long hallway has been made brighter with visuals of a lush, magical forest thanks to Swiss artist Nicolas Party, whose audacious sense of color and flair for the uncanny has captivated the art world's attention and landed him solo exhibitions at Xavier Hufkens and Hauser & Wirth. The nonprofit RxART enlisted Party to create a calming pathway for patients, parents, and doctors to pass through. Given that the hospital provides 16,500 surgeries per year for local children, creating a calming environment was paramount.

"It's been a privilege to think about how artwork can make a difference in the context of a children's hospital," Party says. "The colorful forest I painted for this long corridor will hopefully do a little to make this experience a bit more tolerable. Working on the project in such a charged environment has been challenging because artists usually work in spaces fully devoted to host art. The use of the corridor makes the creation of artwork difficult and has to be handled with care and respect, always keeping in mind who will be seeing the work every day—hospital staff and patients."

RxART has been breathing life into antiseptic medical spaces since 2000, when founder and former gallerist Diane Brown needed a CAT scan and found herself anxious and daydreaming of paintings covering the walls to soothe her nerves. "When I got to the room, it was cold, it was super unpleasant, and I really wanted to get out," Brown told *The Guardian*. "My only escape was in my imagination."

She soon launched RxART with a well-received trial run at a research hospital at Rockefeller University, which asked her to bring on more works. Since then, RxART has commissioned 50 installations at more than 35 hospitals across North America, often by major names like Takashi Murakami, Jeff Koons,

Derrick Adams, and the Haas Brothers with their own distinct visual languages. A few years back, RxART started focusing exclusively on children's hospitals, with Brown describing the approach as "stealth education" that she hopes will also galvanize an interest in art following each patient's stay.

RxART's rise dovetails with recent research about the benefits of art therapy in treating mental health conditions, including anxiety, depression, and phobias. "When we engage in art-making, it helps the neurological system relax," says Margaret Carlock Russo, president of the American Art Therapy Association. "Brain chemical levels will decrease and bring about relaxation for many people, which also helps the nervous system calm down." RxART's success suggests that simply being in the proximity of art elicits a similar positive response. Architects and designers are also catching on to the idea that beautiful environments can be an antidote to fear, with some incorporating whimsical touches like vibrant colors, slides, pools, and forested play areas into medical spaces to help ease the mood.

Given the research behind art's positive effect on mental health and cognitive functions, not only do we endorse the expansion of these types of programs in children's hospitals, we can't help but wonder what type of impact they could have on other pivotal areas of society such as public schools, prisons, and the government.



## Art in America

### Coloring in Quarantine

By Jacoba Urist  
October 5, 2021



Still from Rashid Johnson's RxART #ColoringFromHome Video, 2020

Within days of Governor Andrew Cuomo's March 2020 PAUSE Order closing schools and nonessential businesses across New York State, the nonprofit RxArt—an organization that commissions art installations for pediatric medical settings—launched a series of daily online drawing sessions hosted by contemporary artists. Artists working with RxArt transform places fraught with anxiety into immersive, playful environments, among them a suite of inpatient rooms at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles whose walls and ceiling Urs Fischer covered in whimsical designs, and the entrance lobby of the Children's National Hospital in Washington, D.C., that features a brightly colored monkey atop a 14-foot-tall beaded palm tree by the Haas Brothers. Since 2006, RxArt has also produced a series of coloring books (an eighth issue is forthcoming this fall) with contributions from artists. The books are distributed free to children's hospitals and to the families of kids undergoing treatment.

As "safer at home" and "shelter in place" orders went into effect across the country, the organization's live Instagram drawing sessions with contributing artists like Jeffrey Gibson, Andrew Brischler, Katherine Bernhardt, Rashid Johnson, Marcel Dzama—and sometimes their children—offered many people a creative outlet. RxArt enabled free downloads of artist-designed pages from its previous coloring books, and participants could share their colored pages using the #coloringfromhome hashtag. As RxArt founder and executive director Diane Brown explained, the quarantine coloring sessions, which ran through the end of April 2020, were like therapeutic studio visits for a public struggling with the mental health challenges of stress and isolation.

Professional artists as well found catharsis in art-making during the pandemic. For Brooklyn-based painter Brischler, the art world suddenly stopped in its tracks. "In an instant, art-making became completely therapeutic," he recalls of quarantine.

"It became purely a way of understanding my internal world and the world around me, and just making things I wanted to look at to make me feel better and bring me pleasure in a nightmarish environment." Brischler is known for both abstract and text-based artwork imbued with what he calls "low register" twentieth-century pop-culture references to the movies, music, and television shows that shepherded him through his middle and high school years. "Depression and anxiety are just part of who I am," he says. It was particularly hard during the first weeks of the pandemic, he adds, to contend with the contrast between the pandemic's enormous scale and how small and limited our lives became.

At the time, Brischler was confined to 500 square foot apartment in SoHo. His "Breathe In, Breathe Out" series, a group of seven abstract colored-pencil-and-graphite drawings made over eight weeks, became a meditative exercise enabling him to channel his anxiety into something concrete that he then shared on Instagram. "I started drawing a spiral motif that I found pre-Covid. I really needed to keep my hand moving to banish a lot of these really scary thoughts during the day," he explains. "During Covid, we were all torn open, in these small, little bubbles, but we were desperate to feel connected to people."

## Los Angeles Daily News

### Nonprofit RxART delivers art therapy to Southern California after a long wait

March 14, 2021  
By Jane Greenstein



Detail from Nicolas Party, "Trees for Children" which was just installed along a 207-foot corridor at Children's Hospital Los Angeles as the latest project by the New York-based nonprofit RxART. (Courtesy of Nicolas Party)

A hospital may be the last place you'd expect to see an inspiring piece of art. But Diane Brown, the founder and president of RxART, thinks differently: She's spent the last two decades enlisting a cadre of leading contemporary artists to change that perception. The latest project Brown's nonprofit organization, whose mandate is to "help children heal through the extraordinary power of visual art," is a mural by Swiss art star Nicolas Party. It occupies the long 207-foot corridor of Children's Hospital of Los Angeles (CHLA).

According to a statement from Chuck Pickering, VP, Facilities & Support Services at CHLA, "The RxART installation will reside in a corridor that will provide a positive, healing environment for thousands of patients, families and CHLA team members each year." Originally slated to be unveiled last spring before the pandemic hit, Party's mural "Trees for Children" is printed on a vinyl wall covering much like wallpaper. CHLA said the mural was installed this morning, March 14, when there was minimal activity in the corridor.

According to Brown, the unintended delay gave Party, whose paintings have sold for more than \$1 million dollars at auction, time to fine tune the mural. "He's so committed to this project," said Brown, a former gallerist and curator, in a recent interview. The artist used gouache, an opaque paint that has a matte finish, to create work that transforms the corridor leading to the operating room. The mural depicts a candy-colored forest, complete with brightly colored trees against a pink sky. "Nicolas' work is so whimsical and joyful," said Brown in a phone interview. "It's going to be absolute joy walking down the corridor."

Party's work is the fourth project RxART has mounted during the pandemic, including a Takashi Murakami project at Children's National Hospital in Washington, D.C., Brown said. It's also the latest RxART work to occupy the interiors of Southern California hospitals, including Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC). CHLA is already the beneficiary of RxART's projects, housing a few of Los Angeles icon Ed Ruscha's "Mountain Prints" series.

Party, who, like Brown, is New York-based, says he is thrilled to work with RxART. "They do incredible projects with artists who I really admire," he said in a phone interview last year.

The lure for the artists to work with RxART is simple: Make something that will help children. Party, 40, who began as a street artist, is known for creating environments with saturated brightly colored pastels, including homages to classical art. Some of the works featured in "Sottobusco", his show last year at Los Angeles gallery Hauser & Wirth, featured a dark forest environment populated by trees, a recurring motif in his work. These also populate "Trees for Children" which was conceived with the understanding that it would not be viewed head-on but perhaps just in glimpses.

"It's really one of those subjects and elements of nature that will always be used (in art)," he said, referring to the tree imagery. "They have this incredible power in terms of meaning and symbols. He mused that "If we're still here in a couple of centuries it will still be one of the elements being painted." Part of his decision to use gouache to paint the mural was paying tribute to how many children, including himself, are introduced to art through the popular Caran d'Ache Gouache Studio paint sets.

Brown said since the pandemic hit, RxART has continued to work on projects including hosting virtual studio tours with Party and other prominent artists. Last year, a partnership with Los Angeles-based medical apparel company FIGS produced 2500 each of masks designed by Dan Colen, Pruitt, and Ann Craven. This summer, patients at CHLA will also be the recipients of another RxART donation: 1,000 pairs of pajamas produced by FIGS and designed by Urs Fischer, another renowned Swiss artist. This is part of the "PJ Project" which aims to make an annual donation of a new line of pajamas to select hospitals nationwide.



## 'Our work is about joy': the artists redesigning hospitals for kids

March 3, 2021

By Anna Rahmanan



Derrick Adams Installation at NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem, 2020.

The power of art in connection to wellness has been chronicled for decades with countless studies showing that any sort of creative expression can help maintain immune systems while elevating moods, reducing stress and blood pressure. Not-for-profit system of hospitals Intermountain Healthcare goes one step further, positing that the relationship between the fields runs even deeper, claiming that "research shows that patients who are exposed to art during a hospital stay actually heal quicker and have a better overall experience."

Diane Brown's idea to establish an organization tasking artists of all calibers to transform hospitals into beautiful art destinations should, therefore, come as no surprise. For the last 20 years, RxArt has been adorning children's hospital rooms with designs aimed to ease each patient's hospital stay. Since its inception, the non-profit has worked with over 60 artists across 40 different hospitals in the US and it is now looking to incorporate in Canada as a charity while also having conversations about potential involvement with British medical institutions.

As the organization's president, Brown recalls the inspiration behind the group by reminiscing on her own hospital stay in February of 2000. "I had some health issues and had to have a CAT scan," she said to the Guardian. "When I got to the room, it was cold, it was super unpleasant and I really wanted to get out. My only escape was in my imagination: I imagined a painting going across the ceiling of the room." Following her test, Brown – who had already built a career in the art world as a curator and gallery owner – started contemplating potential ways to turn her daydreaming into a reality.

"I started asking artists, curators, critics and collectors: do you think I could put museum quality art in hospitals, not charge the hospital but still pay the artists?," she recalls. At first met with skepticism, Brown was eventually able to secure the program a three-month trial run at Rockefeller University in New York City, a research hospital with a relatively small number of inpatients.

"It was a success," she says. "And they asked if I could do more." Although initially aimed at tackling spaces all throughout hospitals, a few years ago the nonprofit's board decided to focus on wings and rooms dedicated exclusively to kids. RxArt's core team is only made up of just three staff members, in addition to the advisory board that helps with securing potential hospital spaces and artist selections.

Among the relatively long list of projects that RxArt has worked on is Derrick Adams' series of treatment rooms in the pediatric emergency department at NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem. Derrick opted to cover each wall with playful and colorful designs like doughnuts and swimmers.

There's also the visually striking work of Takashi Murakami for the CT/PET scan suite at Children's National Hospital in Washington, DC. The artist came up with a vibrant design marked by clouds and flowers that then turned into a wrap to be placed around the scanner, plus wall coverings throughout the entire room. "One little boy said that he was getting CAT scans regularly and he was so afraid," says Brown about Murakami's project. "He said that [the first time he walked into the newly designed room], the smiling flowers made him happy."

Other heartwarming reactions include that of a 9-year-old girl who was getting a CT scan at CHOC Children's in Orange, California. Afraid she would be "swallowed up by the machine," by Brown's own telling, the young felt at ease after noticing the picture of bird on top of a machine, part of artist Rob Pruitt's installation. Although each hospital ultimately picks an artist to work with, the RxArt staff thinks hard about candidates. "We try to find an artist that matches the situation, the demographic, the site," explains Brown. "There are some artists that work on a really big scale and you don't want to give them a tiny little wall. Others' work is more intimate so you don't want to give them a 200-foot-long corridor." The nonprofit also gives each artist free rein in terms of a design plan.



(Continued) The organization's methodology most recently coupled brothers Nikolai and Simon Haas with the Children's National Hospital in Washington, where Murakami's work is also featured. "As artists, we're super privileged to have our jobs and do what we want to do and make good money and it's very important for us to be able to give back," says Nikolai. "So doing something with people like RxArt is very rewarding and kind of the whole reason for our practice."

The duo is also working on the non-profit's first sculpture installation for the site. "We are making a big beaded tree that is loosely based on a Sumerian tree and has a monkey sitting in it," explains Simon. The brothers enlisted the help of two groups of women, one based in South Africa and the other in central California, to actually make the beads needed to build the sculpture. "Our work is about joy and building a connection between people and objects, so we think it's an ideal setting for that," says Simon.

Perhaps most remarkably given the span of their work and their filing as a 501 c3, RxArt actually pays each artist. To do so, the staff sets up events and projects throughout the year – from studio visits to published coloring books and more. Needless to say, given a pandemic that has made it impossible for people to organize any sort of live get-together, the non-profit has had to slightly pivot its efforts to include Instagram live sessions that kids could join also and other attempts at productive creativity.

"Covid has made it clear that our work is more important than ever," says Brown, mentioning the uptick in hospital stays all around the world.

On a more practical level, given each medical building's increased traffic, the installation of various art pieces has had to stall in the past few months. Although designed by the selected artists, each composition gets digitally reproduced on wallpaper that then gets installed on walls by fabricators ("Murals aren't practical,"

explains Brown, "because hospital walls move and change). The various fabricators were able to get back into their workshops by May and, just a month or so later, new projects were already being put up. As for timing, Brown reveals that, in normal times, the process – from the initial reach-out to the actual installation – lasts about 12 months.

"I am just imagining myself sitting in the hospital waiting and looking at that thing," says Simon Haas. "If you can look at [our] sculpture and be joyful or sit and wonder about how it was made, that's a great portion of taking your mind off what you're in the hospital for."

# RxART

## METROPOLIS

### RxART Transforms Hospital Interiors with Colorful Art Works

November 20, 2020

By Osman Can Yerebakan



Photo: Kenson Noel/ © Takashi Murakami / Kaikai Kiki Co., Ltd. All Rights Reserved

During a hospital visit over two decades ago, RxART founder and executive director Diane Brown realized the clinical environment only added to her anxiety. “I wanted to get out of that cold starkly white room, but my only possible escape was through my imagination,” she shares with Metropolis. To calm her nerves, she imagined an immersive Matthew Ritchie painting was covering the ceiling, and by the time her CT scan was over, she felt like she had been somewhere else.

It was then that Brown decided to do this for other people, whether or not they have similar knowledge of art. “I would have to [create] something more concrete,” she says about founding RxART, a nonprofit that commissions contemporary art installations for children’s hospitals. The organization has overseen the production of over 50 installations at more than 35 hospitals across the United States and Canada. Brown notes that each site has its own architectural character as well as the type of “medical and patient demographic” which helps inform her decision on which artist is right for which hospital. “[Each artist] understands our mission and commits to stimulating the imaginations of children and teenagers without comprising their work.”

After completing projects with artists such as Rob Pruitt, Nicolas Party, Ed Ruscha, Ann Craven, Laura Owens, and Jeff Koons, the organization has most recently tapped Takashi Murakami, Derrick Adams, and Jonas Wood. Each name is widely known for his signature visual and narrative language, which have been adapted to prioritize children’s comfort. Adams, who is accustomed to presenting work at unconventional venues, has brought his pool party to six treatment rooms in the Pediatric Emergency Department at NYC Health + Hospitals in Harlem. Custom-made wallpaper manufacturer Magic Murals translated his deep blue paintings of a poolside scene into a series of wallcoverings. The artist was surprised by his brushstrokes’ flattened tactility as they appear

in the digital rendering—he hopes patients will be inspired to reach out and touch them.

Conceptualizing his whimsy installation for the CT/PET Scan Suite at Children’s National Hospital in Washington, D.C, during the pandemic prompted Murakami to approach the project with even more empathy. “My staff and I felt very close to those who suffer from illness, which allowed us to see things from the patients’ points of view,” the artist says. In addition to Magic Murals, Comfort Health Solutions, a design company specialized in interiors and products for hospitals, stepped in to wrap the scanner and walls with Murakami’s smiling flowers and puffy clouds, turning the uncomfortable experience of a full-body scan into an otherworldly journey. The project left a deep impression on the artist who notes that he created it “with a prayer-like wish for the hardship in medical settings to be alleviated.”

Wood’s transformation of privacy curtains at the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Children’s National Hospital in Washington, D.C., was a two-year project, due to the intricate process of aligning his images on two sides of the curtain both for patients and staff. Produced by global manufacturer Designtex, the curtains are adorned with the artist’s joyful illustrations. The depictions of flowers, animals, fruits, and dinosaurs have since been helpful for nurses with calming anxious patients by having them concentrate on the illustrations.

Brown finds the art, and the responses to it, uplifting: “A toddler who was afraid that the CT scanner would swallow her is now less afraid of the process,” she says. She adds that the organization’s mission is “Stealth education.” She hopes that the colorful environments encourage patients to continue to seek healing through art. “Ideally, they will be sufficiently interested enough to continue to explore visual art once they leave the hospital.”