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For Immediate
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On the Wall: Edie Fake

March 29, 2023 – September 30, 2023

PCG's Reilly Gallery,
Smith Center for the Arts

MEDIA CONTACT:

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Opening Events:

Wednesday, March 29th
5pm: In-Gallery Artist Talk
6–7pm: Public Reception

On the Wall is PCG's annual commission of large-scale artworks applied directly to the walls of Reilly Gallery. As part of an interdisciplinary initiative at the College to explore and develop new scholarship on the rich traditions of the mural format, American artist, illustrator, author, and trans activist Edie Fake transforms the gallery with his signature kaleidoscopic color and pattern.

Having grown up queer and trans in a Catholic household, Fake finds solace in spaces where one can hold and reflect upon complexity. For *On the Wall*, he combines visual inspiration culled from visits to the hermitages of Catholic monks and also by his own home in the desert. With assistance from students and staff at PCG, the artist renders a multitude of geometric patterns directly on the gallery walls and furniture in latex paint, black marker, and reflective vinyl. The result is a room-sized mural with custom-designed "reflection pools" that facilitate contemplation and introspection.

To create this temple-like total artwork, Fake uses the imaginative power of what he calls "ecstatic architecture". He says "it's a visualization of something that is unbuilt but has the potential to be realized. I draw what I draw to push these things into existence." Both familiar and abstract, Fake's vision prompts viewers to consider how they can move imaginary structures and aspirational worlds into reality.

On the Wall: Edie Fake is the artist's first solo exhibition in New England. It is organized by Jamilee Lacy, Executive Director of Frye Art Museum, and former Director & Chief Curator of PCG.

Lead support for the exhibition is generously provided by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Additional funding is provided by Providence College's Office of Academic Affairs and Eric "Pete" Peterson (PC '86) and Theresa Cairns Peterson (PC '89). In-kind support provided by Providence College's Department of Art and Art History.



Edie Fake, *Affordable Housing for Trans Elders* (detail) for the Art Wall at Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, 2019

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Providence College Galleries—
Hunt-Cavanagh Gallery at
Hunt-Cavanagh Hall
—Reilly Gallery at
the Smith Center for the Arts
Providence College

Public Entrance:
212 Huxley Avenue
Providence, RI, 02918

Open Hours (During
Exhibitions)
Mon–Sat, 11am–6pm



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ABOUT THE ARTIST

Edie Fake (b. 1980, Evanston, IL) makes multi-media work—drawings, paintings, installations, comics, books, and zines—and has exhibited in solo shows at Berkeley Art Museum and Film Archive; Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse; and at The Drawing Center, Broadway Gallery, and Marlborough Gallery, all in New York City. He has also recently exhibited publications, paintings, and a large wall installation in *Chicago Comics: 1960s to Now* at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago. Fake’s work is held in the collections of the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum, Columbus; Des Moines Art Center, Iowa; RISD Museum, Providence; KADIST, San Francisco; Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, Kansas; and the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, California. He was on the first recipients of Printed Matter’s Awards for Artists and his Gaylord Phoenix collection of comics won the 2011 Ignatz Award for Outstanding Graphic Novel. His work has been written about and featured in *Artforum*, *Art in America*, *New York Times*, *The Paris Review*, *Art News*, *Art 21*, *Juxtapoz Magazine*, *Hyperallergic*, *The Comics Journal*, and *The Los Angeles Review of Books*. Fake received a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2002 and currently lives and works in Twentynine Palms, California.

ABOUT PROVIDENCE COLLEGE GALLERIES

Providence College Galleries [PCG] is committed entirely to museum-quality presentations of the art and artists of our time. PCG showcases contemporary art to advance Providence College’s mission to cultivate “aesthetic appreciation, and understanding of the natural world, other cultures, and diverse traditions” while promoting “the common good and service of neighbors near and far.”

PCG operates within two exhibition spaces, on a multi-platform website, across the College’s campus, and within the public sphere throughout the city of Providence. PCG’s activities include collecting and commissioning art, organizing exhibitions and public art displays, publishing texts, hosting artist residencies, presenting public programs and events, and advocating for local artists and art communities. PCG supports the educational, service, and community-oriented goals of the College by showing how and why artists are vital forces in shaping contemporary culture.

For more information about PCG, visit pcgalleries.providence.edu.