

**PRESS RELEASE
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Melissa Carroll: Recurrence

Andrea Rosen Gallery 2
August 22, 2013, 6 to 9 pm

New York City (August 2013) Andrea Rosen Gallery 2 is proud to host Melissa Carroll's powerful and revealing watercolor series *Recurrence*, a group of paintings created during the artist's ongoing cancer treatment. The exhibition features 15 self-portraits that capture Carroll in various physical and emotional states throughout her illness. Also on display are three intimate portraits of fellow cancer patients with whom the artist formed a close bond during chemotherapy.

The exhibited self-portraits mark the evolution of Carroll's practice into a means of introspection: "Before diagnosis, I mainly painted portraits of friends, but feelings of alienation encouraged me to produce works that would express the reality of my new life. It has been daunting but also very liberating." Despite the extremely personal nature of the work, Melissa hopes these paintings speak to others facing a similar battle: "I want these images to show other cancer patients, locked to an IV pump, that they are not alone in their struggle for survival."

Born in Ireland and raised in New Hampshire, Melissa Carroll moved to New York after obtaining her BFA at Massachusetts College of Art in 2007. From 2008 to 2011 she worked as a painting assistant to Francesco Clemente. In 2011, at the age of 28, she was diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma, a rare type of bone cancer. In January of this year, six weeks after completing a year of chemotherapy, radiation and multiple surgeries, she suffered a relapse. Melissa is currently receiving treatment at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York. She works from the hospital and from her home in Brooklyn.

The exhibition is presented by Ricardo Kugelmas and generously hosted by Andrea Rosen.

Andrea Rosen Gallery 2 is located at 544 West 24th Street, New York, NY

The artist would like to thank Andrea Rosen and the staff of the gallery, Barry Frier and Baobab Frames, John Berens, Kaitlyn Gilliland, Ricardo Kugelmas and her parents, Paul and Cecelia Carroll.