

Press Release
17 June 2021

ARTANGEL PRESENTS *FREQUENCIES*, A MAJOR GLOBAL PROJECT BY TURNER PRIZE-WINNING ARTIST OSCAR MURILLO

Up to 40,000 canvases by more than 100,000 school children across the world will be brought together by Turner Prize-winning artist Oscar Murillo in a major installation marking the culmination of his eight-year project *Frequencies*. The project will be presented in its entirety for the first time by Artangel at Cardinal Pole secondary school in Hackney, London, from 24 July – 30 August 2021.

Since its conception in 2013, Murillo has sent pieces of blank artist canvas to schools around the globe with the sole requirement that they be affixed to classroom desks for a term, inviting students aged 10 to 16 to freely mark, draw, scribble or write on the canvases. Over the past eight years, *Frequencies* has grown to become a vast global project involving more than 300 schools in over 30 countries, including Brazil, China, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Nepal, South Africa, Sweden, Turkey, UK, USA and many others.

The extraordinary reach of *Frequencies* will be seen for the first time with up to 40,000 canvases displayed in a large-scale installation in the sports hall at Cardinal Pole secondary school, where Murillo attended between the ages of 11 and 18, having arrived in London with his family from Colombia a year earlier.

Viewed en masse, the canvases convey the conscious and unconscious energy of young minds at their most absorbent, optimistic and conflicted. Often contributed to by several students, the canvases are densely layered with drawings, slogans, messages and motifs. The canvases feature universally recognised words and images alongside culturally specific expressions – the result of a project that is both a local and global endeavour.

Open to the public free of charge, visitors will be able to explore *Frequencies* through an immersive installation featuring the entire archive of canvas artworks and video screens showing details of the works. At the heart of the sports hall, Murillo has designed an arena where visitors can look through piles of canvases, meet and talk. Sixth formers from the school, alongside five influential Londoners, will make their own selections to create micro-exhibitions within the overall installation. *Disrupted Frequencies*, a new series of large-scale paintings by Murillo featuring multiple *Frequencies* canvases stitched together, will also be exhibited.

Oscar Murillo was born in La Paila, Colombia in 1986. He studied at the University of Westminster and the Royal College of Art, both in London. His main studio is based in north-east London. Since the onset of the pandemic in early 2020, he has been closely involved in community activism in Colombia.

Over the past decade, Murillo has become known for a practice that encompasses paintings, works on paper, sculptures, installations, actions, live events, collaborative projects, and videos. Recent solo exhibitions include 'Social Altitude', Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, Colorado, (2020) Horizontal Darkness in Search of Solidarity, Kunstverein in Hamburg, Germany, 2019-20; 'Violent Amnesia, Kettle's Yard, Cambridge, UK (2019), Oscar Murillo, Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany, 2017-18.

Frequencies has been exhibited at the 56th Venice Biennale: All the World's Futures in 2015. During 2016, it was presented at the 2nd Hangzhou Triennial of Fiber Art in China and the 3rd Aichi Triennial, Homo Faber: A Rainbow Caravan in Japan. In 2017 it was exhibited as part of Murillo's Capsule 07 exhibition at Haus der Kunst in Munich and as part of the group shows A Poet*hical Wager in MOCA Cleveland, and Fragile State at the Pinchuk Arts Centre in Kiev. In 2019, it was exhibited as a solo exhibition at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, UK and has plans to be shown as a solo show at Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan and as part of a group show titled 'The Space Between Classrooms', Swiss Institute New York, in 2021.

Frequencies

Opening 24 July 2021

Cardinal Pole Catholic School

205 Morning Lane, London E9 6LG

www.artangel.org.uk/projects/frequencies

11am – 7pm | Tues – Thurs

12pm – 8pm | Fri – Sat

12pm – 4pm | Sun + Bank holidays

FREE ENTRY

CREDITS

Oscar Murillo - Frequencies

at Cardinal Pole Catholic School, London E9

Commissioned and produced by Artangel in collaboration with Frequencies Foundation

Generously supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies

Supported by the Ampersand Foundation, The London Community Foundation, Cockayne - Grants for the Arts, and by Special Angels for *Frequencies*: Catherine Petitgas, Danny & Manizeh Rimer and David Zwirner

With thanks to Cardinal Pole Catholic School

Artangel is generously supported using public funding by [Arts Council England](#), and by the private patronage of [The Artangel International Circle](#), [Special Angels](#), and [The Company of Angels](#).



For further information contact Bolton & Quinn:

Erica Bolton or Daisy Taylor

erica@boltonquinn.com / daisy@boltonquinn.com

+44 (0)207 221 5000

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Artangel

Artangel produces and presents extraordinary art in unexpected places in London, the UK and beyond. For over 30 years Artangel has generated some of the most talked-about art of recent times, including projects with Jeremy Deller, PJ Harvey, Roger Hiorns, Michael Landy, Steve McQueen, Taryn Simon and Rachel Whiteread. *Afterness*, a new project comprising new sculpture, drawing, poetry, sound, music and video opens on site on Orford Ness, Suffolk, and online on July 1 2021. Appearing anywhere from empty prisons to underground vaults, from daytime TV to the sky at night, Artangel produces art that surprises and inspires and wouldn't be possible within the confines

of a gallery. Artangel is generously supported by Arts Council England and the private patronage of Artangel International Circle, Special Angels, Guardian Angels, and The Company of Angels. Visit artangel.org.uk.

Frequencies Foundation

Frequencies Foundation is a non-profit organisation founded by artist Oscar Murillo and led by political scientist Clara Dublanc. The Foundation supports research, develops projects and makes grants globally in the spheres of art and education, as well as being the custodian of the Frequencies archive.

Frequencies Foundation works to facilitate interaction with the archive through different approaches: photographic digitisation of the canvases; commissioning research focusing on the collection; producing exhibitions and other opportunities for public engagement. The Foundation promotes art education activities for young people and offers opportunities for participating schools and other organisations to apply for grants to develop their own projects.

About Bloomberg Connects

The Bloomberg Connects app is a free digital guide to cultural organizations around the world that makes it easy to access and engage with arts and culture from mobile devices, anytime, anywhere. The app offers the ability to learn about current exhibitions at a portfolio of participating cultural partners through dynamic content tailored to each organization. Participating collections include botanical gardens, performance venues, outdoor sculpture parks, and world class museums. Features include expert commentary, video highlights, pinch-and-zoom capability and exhibition maps. The app can be downloaded for free via Google Play or the App Store.

About Bloomberg Philanthropies

Bloomberg Philanthropies invests in 810 cities and 170 countries around the world to ensure better, longer lives for the greatest number of people. The organization focuses on five key areas for creating lasting change: Arts, Education, Environment, Government Innovation, and Public Health. Bloomberg Philanthropies encompasses all of Michael R. Bloomberg's giving, including his foundation and personal philanthropy as well as Bloomberg Associates, a pro bono consultancy that works in cities around the world. In 2020, Bloomberg Philanthropies distributed \$1.6 billion. For more information, please visit bloomberg.org or follow on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter and TikTok.