

FSW To Host World's Most Prolific Painter

Florida SouthWestern (FSW) State College will present Steve KEENE: 57 Miles or 455 Furlongs – a newly commissioned, site-specific installation at the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery by the “World’s Most Prolific Painter” from April 12 to June 9. A public opening and reception will be held on Thursday, April 12 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Dubbed the “Assembly-Line Picasso” by *Time* magazine (when his work was featured in 1997) and having created more than 300,000 paintings over the last 35 years, Keene is a Yale University-educated, Brooklyn-based artist who believes in mass-producing hand-painted artworks.

Like his exhibition *The Miracle Half-Mile* at the Santa Monica Museum of Art in 2000 (where Keene completed more than 10,000 pictures over the two-month run of the show), the internationally-acclaimed painter will be working on-site at the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery for two-weeks prior to his opening. Inspired by Rauschenberg’s self-contained retrospective *The ¼ Mile*



Steve Keene at work

photo provided

or 2 Furlong Piece (which was world-premiered in three sections at the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery from 1983 to 1986), Keene estimates that his exhaustive output since the 1990s (if paintings

were placed side-by-side) would extend more than 57 miles (or 455 furlongs) in length.

Famous among indie-rock fans for designing album covers for bands

including Pavement and The Apples in Stereo, Keene has painted instruments, video and concert stage sets, as well as promotional and tour posters for the likes of Soul Coughing, Merzbow, The Klezmatics and the Dave Matthews Band. In addition to features on National Public Radio and in the pages of *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *LA Weekly*, *Filter* and *Spin* magazines, the artist has had major solo exhibitions at Moore College of Art in Philadelphia, Rice University in Houston, the Museum Ludwig in Cologne, Germany, the Linden Centre for Contemporary Art in Melbourne, Australia and the Czech Centre in London. Yet, at a monumental and continuous 8 by 200 feet in length, the painter’s planned installation for Steve KEENE: 57 Miles or 455 Furlongs at the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery at FSW will be one of his most ambitious and immersive projects to date.

This exhibition is made possible by the generous support of the Stanton Storer Embrace the Arts Foundation and The Beaches of Fort Myers and Sanibel.

Bob Rauschenberg Gallery at FSW is located at 8099 College Parkway in Fort Myers. For more information, call 489-9313 or visit www.RauschenbergGallery.com.✧