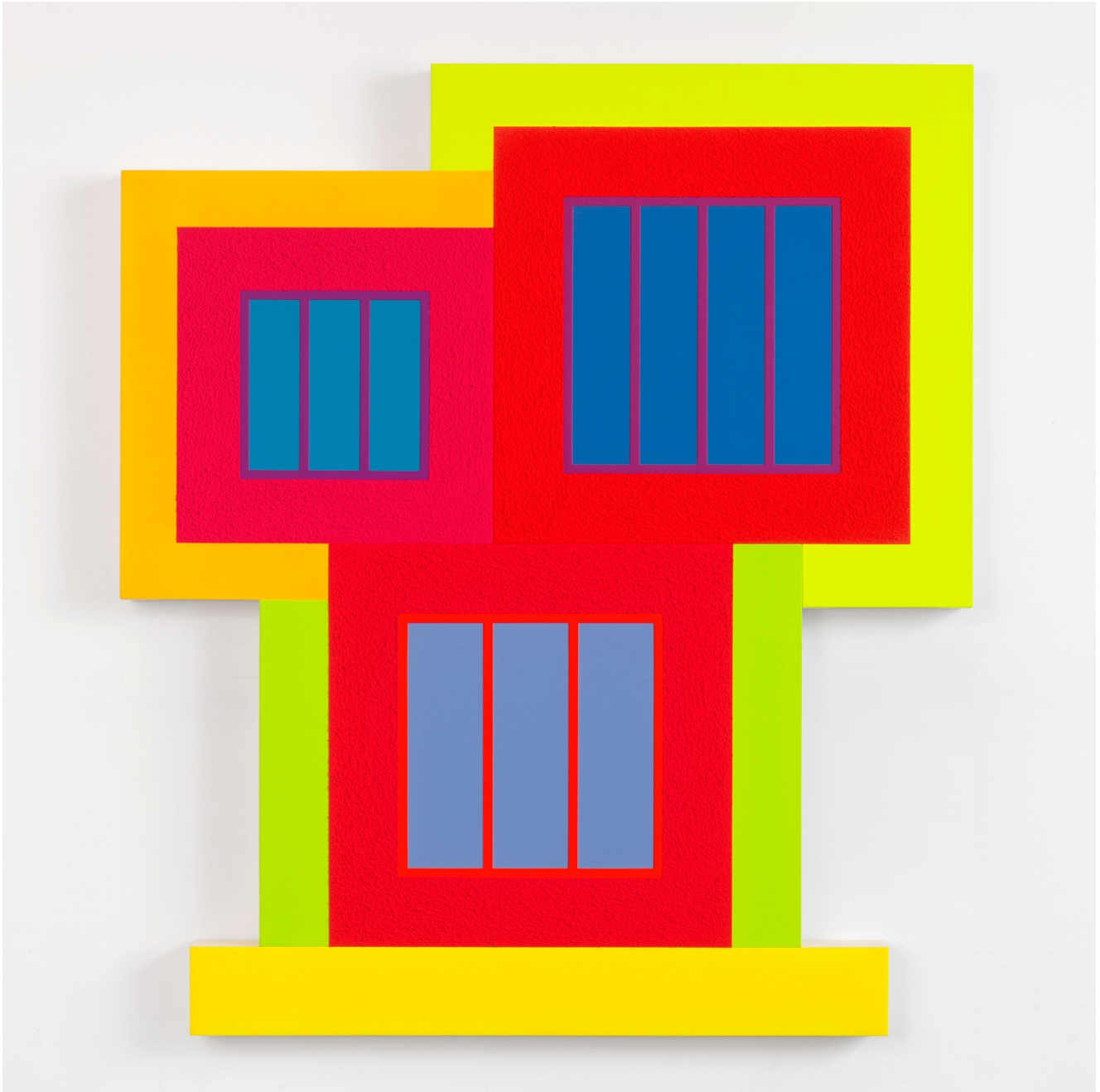


Modern Art

Peter Halley

New Paintings

Modern Art Helmet Row
30 September – 5 November 2022



Crush, 2022

Modern Art

Modern Art is pleased to announce an exhibition of new work by Peter Halley at its Helmet Row gallery. This is Halley's second solo exhibition with Modern Art.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, Peter Halley's paintings and extensive writings about the ever-growing digitisation of cultural, artistic, and social life established him as a leading figure of the Neo-Conceptualist movement in New York City. In his paintings and writings, Halley described the increasingly isolated built environment through his uniquely invented language of 'cells', 'prisons' and 'conduits'. These central motifs were a means of thinking through the French Post-Structuralist ideas of Michel Foucault and Jean Baudrillard – among others – in relation to digital technology and capitalism. The gridded forms of Halley's paintings reference not only the societal structures of the urban grid and the expansion of its underlying network of information technologies, but also the legacies of minimalist painting with which Halley grew up. It was during this period of the 1980s, while re-evaluating some of the inherited traditions of modernism, that Halley began to use synthetic colours and materials such as Day-Glo paint and Roll-a-Tex, which continue to characterise his work to this day. Alongside his teaching, painting and writing, in 1996, Halley founded *index* magazine, which was a further locus of his contribution to critical discourse around contemporary culture.

Halley's exhibition at Modern Art comprises a group of new shaped-canvas paintings that Halley has been evolving over the past several years. Building on his well-developed language of cells, prisons and conduits, these new shaped-canvas paintings further elaborate a relationship between two-dimensional and three-dimensional space in relation to the built environment. While remaining faithful to his painterly vocabulary and chosen materials: acrylic, Roll-a-Tex, and fluorescent Roll-a-Tex on canvas, Halley's new works mark a departure from his paintings from the 1980s which assumed rectangular forms. The shapes of Halley's new canvas surfaces are defined through the painted geometric compositions, associative of another dimension – perhaps an architectural plan, or a circuitry board – while the works continue to inhabit a point of contradiction between pure, rationalist geometry and playful, irreverent colour and texture.

Peter Halley was born in 1953 in New York City, where he continues to live and work. He received his BA from Yale University in 1975 and his MFA from the University of New Orleans in 1978, remaining in New Orleans until 1980. Halley's work has been the subject of solo exhibitions at l'Accademia di Belle Arti di Venezia, Venice, Italy (2019); Lever House, New York (2018); Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt (2016); Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara (2015); Musée d'art moderne Saint Étienne Métropole, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes (2014); Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown (1999); Museum of Modern Art, New York (1997); Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas (1995), Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (1992); Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid (1992); and CAPC Musée d'Art Contemporain Bordeaux (1991). Halley's work has been included in recent group exhibitions at museums such as Centre Pompidou, Paris (2018); Musée des Beaux-Arts, Rennes (2018); Guggenheim, Bilbao (2017); Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (2017); Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna (2016); Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2015); Whitechapel Gallery, London (2015); Hamburger Bahnhof Museum für Gegenwart, Berlin (2014); and New Museum, New York (2013). Peter Halley has written on art and culture throughout his career, and is recognised for his longstanding role as publisher of *index* magazine. Throughout his career has taught at numerous universities including Columbia University, UCLA, and Yale University School of Art, where he was made endowed chair, Leffingwell Professor of Painting, in 2010.

In April 2023, Halley will open a major historical exhibition at Mudam Luxembourg titled *Peter Halley: Paintings from the 1980s*.

For more information, please contact Alex Glover (alexander@modernart.net)



Incantation, 2022