

PETER HALLEY *Recent Paintings*

This exhibition presented a selection of recent paintings by the artist Peter Halley (New York, 1953), one of the most influential artists in the international art scene, who became known in the mid-nineteen eighties in New York as a promoter of the Neo-Geo movement, a reaction to the emotional nature of neo-expressionism and a resurgence of geometric abstraction. The first exhibition of this movement took place in 1987 at Documenta 8 in Kassel.

Despite the eminently formalist character of the Neo-Geo movement, in Halley's work we can remark a certain critical dimension, as well as an allusion to technology and communication networks. Thus Halley establishes a reference to space and time of our society, to the political and social landscape, and to the closed order we live in. His cool and straight forms are the plastic expression of our complex urban scenery, and of our information mechanisms through communication networks both physical and virtual. Beside the aesthetic influence implied in the contemplation of a paradigmatic city such as New York, it is considered that the writings by Michel Foucault *Surveiller et punir: Naissance de la prison* (1975), *Panopticon* (1787) by the British lawyer Jeremy Bentham and *Interaction of Colour* (1963) by Josef Albers have equally influenced the conformation of the artist iconography.

The medium format works in this exhibition show variations on the cell theme with which he began to work at the beginning of the eighties. After having explored in recent series the integration of his canvases with drawings or wall diagrams derived from digitally transformed images, in this new work he returns to the solitary canvas. Through variations in proportions and the overlaying or combination of his prisons with monochrome panels, Halley plays with the variety of effects that can be created by limited formal resources.

Peter Halley lives and works in New York. He obtained his BA from the Yale University in 1975 and his MFA from the University of New Orleans in 1978. In 1985 he had a solo exhibition at International with Monument Gallery in New York. Besides his participation in a number of group shows, such as the Venice Biennial and *Singular Forms (Sometimes Repeated): Art from 1951 to the Present* at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York in 2004, he celebrated retrospectives at the Musée d'Art Contemporain in Bordeaux; the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Kitakyushu Municipal Museum of Art in Japan, among others. In 2002 he was appointed Director of graduate studies in painting and printmaking at the Yale University School of Art.

For further information or for images, please contact us.