

Waddington Galleries

PRESS RELEASE

WORKS ON PAPER BY PETER HALLEY

11 Cork Street, London W1S 3LT

Exhibition dates: 24 January – 17 February 2001

Exhibition hours: Monday – Friday 10am – 5.30pm Saturday 10am – 1pm

Waddington Galleries will present an exhibition of recent works on paper by the American artist Peter Halley. The compositions are digitally manipulated then printed on computer paper and painted by hand. Many are formative studies from which Halley's paintings are realised in his signature pearlescent, Day-Glo and metallic paint. In place of the mechanical precision of his paintings the works on paper reveal a more direct and spontaneous approach to Halley's working process.

Halley's starting point is a conception of geometry as a metaphor for society. The elements of his visual language are rectangular 'cell' units, linked by linear 'conduits', which in their complex diagrammatic structures are metaphors for aspects of the urban environment.

The cell was originally conceived as a prison, as a critique or parody of idealist, formalist modernism. For Halley the motif of the cell has meanings that range from architectural spaces to its virtual application in cellular telephones and computers.

Peter Halley was born in New York (1953). He studied at Yale University, where he gained his BA (1975), and at the University of New Orleans (MFA, 1978). He returned to New York to live in 1980 where his first solo exhibition was held at International with Monument (1985). Since then he has exhibited widely in solo and group exhibitions. Museum surveys include Museum Haus Esters, Krefeld, Germany (1989), capc Musée d'art contemporain de Bordeaux (1991), Museum of Modern Art, New York (1997) and Kitakyushu Municipal Museum of Art, Japan (1998). Installations have been exhibited at Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Paris (1995), the University of Buffalo, New York (1997), Museum Folkwang, Essen (1998) and Waddington Galleries (1999). His published critical writings include two collections of essays from the 1980s and 1990s.

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