

MARUANI MERCIER

Peter Halley: Black Light
September 7 – October 21, 2023
Avenue Louise 430, Brussels 1050

In the early 1980s, Peter Halley established a distinct visual language consisting of cells, conduits, and prisons that he has continued to explore throughout his career. The seemingly limitless possibilities of these elements are present in *Black Light*, where interlocking canvases combine to create off-balance, precarious structures.

With the predominant use of the colour black, Halley expands on ideas established by Malevich and Albers, exploring both black's symbolic and ideological meaning as well as the colour's nuanced range of depth and materiality. The various shades of black are then set off by flashes of neon pinks, reds, and electric blues, reflecting our unpredictable and changing world.

Peter Halley was born in New York in 1953. He studied first at Yale University and then at the University of New Orleans where he received his MFA. A prolific colourist, he is also a respected art critic and theorist, revered for his essays and as the publisher of the magazine INDEX, which featured interviews of people in a wide range of creative fields. His paintings are found in collections worldwide including MoMA, New York, the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Tate Modern, London, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid, and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, among many others. Halley is currently the subject of a major retrospective at the MUDAM Luxembourg focused on his formative works from the 1980s.

Black Light is the second of two exhibitions by Halley this year, marking the artist's more than 20-year relationship with the gallery.

Happening concurrently is Halley's first museum survey of his 1980s work in over thirty years entitled *Peter Halley. Conduits: Paintings from the 1980s* taking place at the MUDAM in Luxembourg. Drawing extensively on Halley's critical writing, interviews and unpublished notes it seeks to re-evaluate this early work and its subjects of alienation, isolation, confinement and connectivity within the context of its production. The exhibition reflects upon both the artistic and critical landscape of New York in the 1980s and a period of social history shaped by economic expansion and collapse, nuclear threat and the AIDS epidemic. MARUANI MERCIER is pleased to have loaned two works to this exhibition.

Taking place at the gallery's Brussels location at Avenue Louise 430, the exhibition runs from September 7 to October 21, 2023. **A public opening will take place on September 7th as part of Brussels Gallery Weekend from 17:00 – 21:00.**

For more information or to request additional images, please contact press@maruanimercier.com.

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Monday to Saturday, 11:00 – 18:00
(or by appointment)

Public Opening:
September 7th, 2023, 17 – 21h
(Brussels Gallery Weekend Event)