

# Peter Halley

Peter Halley was born September 24, 1953, in New York. He began his formal training at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, which he attended from 1967 to 1971. While there, he read Josef Albers's *Interaction of Color*, which would influence Halley throughout his career. Halley had spent a year in New Orleans in 1973, where he was inspired by the non-Western influences of the city. In 1976, the artist graduated from Yale University, New Haven, with a degree in art history. Halley moved to New Orleans again in 1976 and received an M.F.A. from the University of New Orleans in 1978. He had his first solo exhibition at the Contemporary Art Center in New Orleans that same year.

In 1980, Halley moved back to New York and had his first solo exhibition in New York at P.S. 122. At this time, Halley was drawn to the pop themes and social issues addressed in New Wave music and used it as a model for his art. In the early 1980s, Halley began writing for *Arts Magazine* and became involved in contemporary theory. *Peter Halley: Collected Essays 1981–1987* was published in 1988. Inspired by Jean Baudrillard's theory of simulation, Halley's own philosophy became the basis for Neo-Geometric Conceptualism, a term associated with the work of Halley, Ashley Bickerton, and Jeff Koons.

Halley became involved with the East Village gallery International in 1984, with Monument. With the support of the gallery, Halley's career began to take off. In 1986, an exhibition of the Neo-Geo artists at the Sonnabend Gallery, New York, heralded the group's growing success. By 1989, the artist's career was well-established, and he was exhibiting with prominent galleries in the United States and Europe.

Around this time, Halley began to be more experimental with color. An exhibition of Halley's paintings was shown at the Museum Haus Esters, Krefeld, Germany, Maison de la Culture et de la Communication de Saint-Etienne, and Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, in 1989. In 1991–92, a retrospective exhibition of Halley's work toured Europe, traveling to the Musée d'Art Contemporain, Bordeaux; Musée d'Art Contemporain, Lausanne; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid; and Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam. In 1992, the artist had his first solo exhibition at a United States museum at the Des Moines Art Center.

Since the mid-1990s, Halley has produced site-specific installations for exhibitions and as permanent public works. These projects have been realized at the State University of New York, Buffalo (1998), the city library in Usera, Spain (2002), the Banco Suisso d'Italia Art Collection, Turin (2003), and the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport in Texas (2005). In 2008, he completed a large permanent installation for the Gallatin School at New York University.



Halley has also written on art and culture throughout his career. His early essays, which address post-structuralism, post-modernism, and the digital revolution of the 1980s, have been anthologized in two books of collected writings. In 2001, he received the Frank Jewett Mather Award from the College Art Association in the U.S. for his critical writing. From 1996 to 2006, Peter Halley published *index magazine*, which featured in-depth interviews with creative people. He has taught at Columbia University, UCLA, and the School of Visual Arts. Since 2002, Halley has been the Director of Graduate Studies in Painting and Printmaking at the Yale University School of Art.

Galerie Thomas Modern exclusively represents Peter Halley in Germany for many years and has presented his works in a number of one-person and group exhibitions. Following on from the exhibition of his 'Prisons' and 'Cells' in autumn 2011 at Galerie Thomas Modern, which attracted wide attention, the gallery exhibited Peter Halley's latest works directly from his New York studio in summer 2014. Most recently Peter Halley was presented through Galerie Thomas Modern with a large wall installation at Art Basel Unlimited and a solo exhibition, both in 2016, and with an exhibition of his early gouaches in 2018.

The latest museum exhibitions with works by Peter Halley were the exhibition "America is Hard to See" at the Whitney Museum of American Art, a one-person exhibition at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art and a large installation in the rotunda of the Schirn Kunsthalle in Frankfurt.

Most recently Peter Halley presented his project "Heterotopia", a large installation during this year's Venice Biennial.

Peter Halley lives and works in New York.