

The Academy of Fine Arts of Venice and Flash Art present

Peter Halley, Heterotopia I
Curated by Gea Politi

May 8 – August 10, 2019
Opening May 7, 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm

The Academy of Fine Arts of Venice, and Flash Art magazine present Heterotopia I, an installation by Peter Halley on the occasion of the 2019 Venice Biennale.

The installation will be held in the Academy of Fine Art's exhibition space located in one of Venice's historic salt warehouses, Magazzini del Sale, no. 3, at Dorsoduro 264, Zattere.

The exhibition is curated by Gea Politi, director of Flash Art, and will run from May 8 through August 10.

Using the forty-meter-long exhibition space, Halley has assembled a sequence of eight interconnected rooms that employ digitally-printed wall murals, a varying palette of artificial lighting, and three-dimensional objects to create a hermetic, coded heterotopia – a term borrowed from Michel Foucault, who defined heterotopia as a differentiated, bordered space created for a special purpose that both mirrors and defines itself as separate from everyday spaces.

Halley has invited three artists to collaborate with him on this installation. Lauren Clay and Andrew Kuo have each created wall murals for one of the eight rooms. R.M. Fischer has constructed a large-scale, totemic sculpture which inhabits the final chamber. Additionally, original wall text was provided by writer Elena Sorokina.

Halley's installation both echoes themes present in his previous work while adding new elements of architectural pastiche specific to its setting in Venice.

The exhibition has the kind support of MSGM. Massimo Giorgetti, creative director of the brand, has conceived a capsule collection MSGM/Flash Art, available only at the Magazzini del Sale in Venice.

The set up of Heterotopia I was made by FusinaLab.

Heterotopia I

Peter Halley

“May You Live In Interesting Times”, the title of this year’s Venice Biennale, opens a discussion on the uncertain state of our times. Our “interesting times” are unclear; the word “interesting” can lead to several interpretations. These times force us to pose new questions about how we can prepare for such a precarious era. Peter Halley’s dynamic postindustrial environment creates both isolation and connection, a state of tension that mirrors our rapidly changing mediascape — a theoretical terrain that the artist has been exploring since the late 1970s.”

Gea Politi
Flash Art, Director

“Our classrooms and laboratories spring creative energy and knowledge, they are places for training and research from which the future of art originates, the direct contact with those who trace the path of art at an international level such as Peter Halley becomes a fundamental asset and having such project organized by Flash Art is a great occasion for the new generations of students to collaborate with a media and viceversa.”

Giuseppe La Bruna
Accademia di Belle Arti di Venezia, Director

Heterotopia I

Peter Halley

- The Academy of Fine Arts of Venice is one of the oldest art academies in Italy, having started its life in 1750 at the headquarters of San Marco in the “Fonteghetto de la Farina”; the first President was Giambattista Tiepolo. It is one of the most prestigious Italian academies, highly regarded for its teaching staff and research facilities. The Academy maintains a huge book collection, preserved in its Library and Historical Archive — a heritage recently computerized for better accessibility to scholars and young researchers. The Academy maintains international relations with the most respected European universities and institutions of high culture; promotes educational activities and artistic research with important European and non-European nations; and organizes exhibitions, cultural events, and conferences in collaboration with the most significant national and international cultural institutions. In addition to a headquarters of about 8,000 square meters located at the Zattere, and educational spaces on the island of San Servolo and Forte Marghera, The Academy of Fine Arts of Venice includes the Magazzino del Sale, an exhibition space of historical importance, now completely renovated, flexible, and equipped with innovative air conditioning and lighting systems.
- Peter Halley (born 1953) is a central figure in the Neo-Conceptualist movement. Since the 1980s, Peter Halley has employed the language of geometric abstraction in paintings that explore the organization of social space in the digital age. Halley is also regarded as a writer, the former publisher of INDEX magazine, and a teacher, having served as Director of Graduate Studies in Painting and Printmaking at the Yale University School of Art from 2002 to 2011. Halley lives and works in New York City.
- Gea Politi is publisher and editor-in-chief of Flash Art since 2015. Founder of the gallery Conduits in Milan in 2008, she curated personal and collective exhibitions in independent spaces and held conferences in academies, fairs and international institutions. She is also an advisor of the Ethical Fashion Initiative of the United Nations to support its work in the area of culture and identity building sectors. Lives and works in Milan.
- Flash Art is a contemporary art magazine that has outlined and coined the most significant moments in art from 1967 onwards. Today Flash Art has two editions, an Italian and an international edition, and is distributed in 87 countries. The magazine participates in the most important biennials, art fairs, and international art events. It is a point of reference for gallery owners, collectors, and academics worldwide. Flash Art maintains a robust online and social-media presence, with flagship websites www.flash-art.com and www.flash-art.it. Flash Art is directed by Gea Politi, who is also the publisher, and by Cristiano Seganfredo.
- MSGM / Massimo Giorgetti was born in Rimini in 1977. His career is heterogeneous and wide-ranging, having always been passionate about fashion, contemporary art and music. In 2009, in partnership with Paoloni Group, he founded the MSGM brand, which has in its DNA a great design tradition, blending with the new millenium’s hallmark desire for revolution. The womenswear, menswear and accessories collections are designed by Massimo Giorgetti and made entirely in Italy.

Peter Halley Heterotopia I

with works by Lauren Clay, R.M. Fischer and Andrew Kuo
curated by Gea Politi

A project by:
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Heterotopia I

Peter Halley

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