

Artist: Charlotte Houette

Exhibition title: Magic Colour

Venue: New Low, Los Angeles, CA

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New Low is pleased to present *Magic Colour*, an exhibition of new works by Charlotte Houette.

For many years, Houette's wall works have featured a window, a door, a portal, or a passageway. I always read this as some joke about painting, a sort of in-your-faceness about "creating worlds," as opposed to responding to a real world, as photography and sculpture tend to do. Yet when I first encountered the work, I didn't even consider them paintings, rather they were sculptures that hung on the wall - dollhouse parts, excavation remains, habitat for humanity supplies.

But over the last years, Houette has gone all-in on painting. Ever a contrarian, Houette's commitment to painting appears as neither figurative nor expressionistic abstraction, but instead as hard-edged, psychedelic, geometric abstraction (read as: Op-Art). Where once a literal window might have appeared in her wall-hung rectangles, now a panel, akin to a children's book, sits where moveable slats reveal another image, or pattern, or colour combination through this created interior space. In terms of a kinship with kids' stuff, wonder remains, but naivité does not - they're eerie, pointed, and often (literally) pretty twisted.

For this latest, and potentially last series of the moveable panel paintings, Houette has given us five of the trippiest, most super-charged, fluorescent works to date. But rather than day-glo, the colours are actually inspired by Magic Changing Markers (Hamley's brand, specifically), a novelty art making medium for children, where a "magic", "white" marker changes the shade of the original markers' pigments. Similarly, Houette's central panels of canvas also change, albeit mechanically, but maintaining a magic in their own making. Eschewing expectations, these works' "windows" are also the first non-rectilinear ones to feature in the work, adding another layer of bizarro perspective, à la Hanna Barbera. The result is poppy, pleasing, jarring and potentially nauseating.

Charlotte Houette (b. 1983, Chambray-lès-Tours, France) is a Scorpio Sun, Taurus Moon and Virgo Rising. Recent exhibitions include High Art, Paris/Arles (solo) and Fondation Vincent Van Gogh (group). *Magic Colour* is her first solo exhibition in the United States. She lives and works in Paris.

List of works:

1. File name: 01_New Low_Charlotte Houette_7648.jpeg
Charlotte Houette, *Magic Colour*, 2024, installation view
2. File name: 02_New Low_Charlotte Houette_7643.jpeg
Charlotte Houette, *Magic Colour*, 2024, installation view
3. File name: 03_New Low_Charlotte Houette_7636.jpeg
Charlotte Houette, *Magic Colour*, 2024, installation view
4. File name: 04_New Low_Charlotte Houette_7632.jpeg
Charlotte Houette, *Magic Colour*, 2024, installation view
5. File name: 05_New Low_Charlotte Houette_7626.jpeg
Charlotte Houette, *Magic Colour*, 2024, installation view
6. File name: 06_New Low_Charlotte Houette_7619.jpeg
Charlotte Houette, *Magic Colour*, 2024, installation view
7. File name: 07_New Low_Charlotte Houette_7599.jpeg
Charlotte Houette, *Mind mice/yellow*, 2024, Flashe on canvas, with board, 75 x 60 cm
8. File name: 08_New Low_Charlotte Houette_7600.jpeg
Charlotte Houette, *Mind mice/yellow* (detail), 2024, Flashe on canvas, with board, 75 x 60 cm
9. File name: 09_New Low_Charlotte Houette_7592.jpeg
Charlotte Houette, *Secret egg/blue*, 2024, Flashe on canvas, with board, 75 x 60 cm
10. File name: 10_New Low_Charlotte Houette_7593.jpeg
Charlotte Houette, *Secret egg/blue* (detail), 2024, Flashe on canvas, with board, 75 x 60 cm
11. File name: 11_New Low_Charlotte Houette_7578.jpeg
Charlotte Houette, *Lucky ones/green*, 2024, Flashe on canvas, with board, 75 x 60 cm
12. File name: 12_New Low_Charlotte Houette_7580.jpeg
Charlotte Houette, *Lucky ones/green* (detail), 2024, Flashe on canvas, with board, 75 x 60 cm
13. File name: 13_New Low_Charlotte Houette_7603.jpeg
Charlotte Houette, *Long night/green*, 2024, Flashe on canvas, with board, 75 x 60 cm

14. File name: 14_New Low_Charlotte Houette_7604.jpeg
Charlotte Houette, *Long night/green* (detail), 2024, Flashe on canvas, with board, 75 x 60 cm

15. File name: 15_New Low_Charlotte Houette_7609.jpeg
Charlotte Houette, *God died/orange*, 2024, Flashe on canvas, with board, 75 x 60 cm

16. File name: 16_New Low_Charlotte Houette_7611.jpeg
Charlotte Houette, *God died/orange* (detail), 2024, Flashe on canvas, with board, 75 x 60 cm