



Over the Influence Presents

Rosson Crow

Heartbreak Hotel

7 August to 10 September 2022



Rosson Crow, *Visual Aura at the Lotus Pond*, 2022, Acrylic, spray paint, photo transfer, and oil on canvas, 198.1 by 167.6cm, 78 by 66 in, Photo courtesy of the Artist and Over the Influence

**Over the Influence Los Angeles is thrilled to welcome you to *Heartbreak Hotel*, a hallucinatory dream sequence of new paintings by Rosson Crow. An allegory of reimagined Americana, the exhibition will be on view from 7 August to 10 September, 2022.**

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The artist presents vignettes of past tragedies with entirely different outcomes. Many works reference the early 21st Century American West; rather than a roadside monument off highway 101 marking where James Dean fatefully crashed on September 30th 1955, Crow's *James Dean Car Wash* encapsulates the site in the sprawling California desert where the late actor lives to set up a hallucinatory carwash experience. Travelers may slowly cruise through on a dreamy conveyor, past a series of synchronized machines, as spinning soapy hula skirts and dangling tentacles brush past. Crow's revisionist compositions range from the deeply historical *House of Jealous Lovers*, depicting the 1544 parlor room where all of King Henry the VIII's wives are living together at the same time, to the ultra-contemporary; *The Deciders*, a claustrophobic cacophony of all male U.S Presidents peering out in judgement as they decide your fate; a poignant response to the overturning of *Rove v Wade*.

Each uniquely surreal and saturated, Crow's neon-maximalist recreations are distinctly American. The exhibition title, *Heartbreak Hotel* quotes the legendary single from American rockabilly heartthrob turned tragedy, Elvis Presley. As such, the works are alternately joyous and menacing as they are exuberant and anxious. The bright, brash colors and lush candy-coated surfaces allure the viewer to immerse themselves in the paintings while simultaneously offering a portal that conflates past and present, steeped in a nostalgic, yet sinister atmosphere.

Signaling a melancholic connection to time, Crow's chromatic palette of acidulous, fluorescent hues appear almost "faded" in places. Created with spray paint, photographic transfers, drips, transparencies and gradients, the materials not only add texture and depth to the surfaces, but reinforce connotations of 1960s memorabilia and vintage postcards as mere shadows of the "California Dream."

The artist continues to play at contradictions, depicting anachronistic scenes filled with spatial confusion. Resuscitated places are superimposed with ornamental and artificial details that collapse time and oscillate between utopia and dystopia. Visions of excess, vanity and hubris are countered with elegiac tokens such as the soda cans, antique fragmented statuettes, posters and tabloids.

The paintings depict a paradise blown up, a cosmos turned upside down. At a time when the planet is threatened by massive overconsumption, overabundance, and over-saturation *Heartbreak Hotel* is emblematic of the surreal nightmare of modern existence; layered and strange, riddled with anxiety, inheriting a dream world and destroying it.



## Artist Bio

Los Angeles-based artist Rosson Crow densely layers her surfaces with acrylic, spray paint, xeroxed photo-transfers, oil, and enamel juxtaposing images and icons from various eras. Her subjects are often presented as discarded artifacts strewn through densely populated interiors or acid-washed landscapes, exploring an interest in how historic events are viewed differently over time. To decipher Crow's works means to find the dichotomies within her compositions – man and nature, past and present - and ponder the symbiotic relationships between them.

Rosson Crow was born in 1982 in Dallas, Texas. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the School of Visual Arts in 2004 and a Master of Fine Arts from Yale University in 2006. Crow lives and works in Los Angeles, CA, USA.

Crow's solo gallery exhibitions include Honor Fraser Gallery in Los Angeles, Galerie Nathalie Obadia in Paris, Deitch Projects NYC, White Cube in London, and the Hole in NYC. One-person exhibitions of her work have been presented at MOCA Tuscon (2018), Musée Régional d'Art Contemporain de Sérignan, France (2014); Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, OH (2010); and the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Fort Worth, TX (2009). Rosson's work has been included in thematic exhibitions such as Contemporary Magic: A Tarot Deck Art Project, The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, PA (2011); Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK (2010); Le Meilleur des Mondes, Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean, Luxembourg, Luxembourg (2010); New York Minute, Macro Future Museum, Rome, Italy (2009); and Out of Storage I -- Painters Choose from the Collection, Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean, Luxembourg, Luxembourg (2008).

## Exhibition Dates

7 August to 10 September 2022

## Location

Over the Influence LA  
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