

# The New York Times

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## **Gary Hume**

### **Paintings**

*Matthew Marks Gallery*

*522 West 22d Street*

*Chelsea*

*Through June 28*

Luscious color, in improbable combinations, is all in these big, slick paintings by Gary Hume, who lives and works in England. The dozen paintings here — flora, fauna and portraits — are done in a kind of chic posterish shorthand that treats detail as *de trop*.

“Cerith,” a portrait, for instance, presents a close-cropped woman’s head in silver with blue hair, on a bright yellow ground. Her blank face sports only the crudely sketched outlines of two yellow eyes. A round pink button hovers at the lobe of one ear.

“Peacock” is no more than two placements of brightly colored plumage stripes on a shiny black ground. Between them, scarcely discernible in black-on-black, sits what might be the bird itself. The face in “Whistler” is evoked only by two olive-green hands cupped to a green-lipped mouth, with a pair of green-and-white eyes outlined above it. We are left to conjure the rest of the face from the dark green ground, which also bears yellow lettering and a few green leaves above the face.

Mr. Hume is a highly skilled brush wielder, clever at producing textural and other surface effects. His work has the depth of a reflecting pool, but the colors are to die.

GRACE GLUECK