

HAPPY LUCKY ROBERT HAMMOND



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ROBERT HAMMOND

ART SAWA DIFC
17 MARCH – 15 APRIL 2014

HAPPY LUCKY

Happy Lucky is Robert Hammond's newest iteration of his Visual Ritual conception.

Robert explores contemporary allegories through the mechanics of modern interfaces and the modern visual realm.

While most wall art is about surface, Hammond's work is intentionally about reflection. Accents of light travel across chamfered edges where metal and glass meet. Precision-engineered surfaces transform smiling faces of glass and steel into sumptuous simple motifs combined to obtain whimsical harmonies and resonances - isolating our perception to naivety, pattern, surfaces, textures and reflection and their relations. In place of brush or pencil - Robert's art is drawn with thick 5-7cm metal profiles. The materials are all glossy and reflective - polished steel is inlaid and engineered into thick acrylic - creating flush surfaces - producing compound objects 7cm deep - that make up a whole. Distilling beauty from astute simplicity, bringing order to complexity Robert's works reflect the modern urban world around us.

Elementary shapes, symbols, and smiling faces, are combined to obtain whimsical harmonies and resonances - isolating our perception to patterns, surfaces, textures and reflection and their relations

Since his emergence, Robert Hammond has transformed Pop Art, Conceptual, and Appropriation Art with craft-making and popular culture to create his own unique aesthetic. In Hammond's work the hand of the artist is always once removed, leaving his art to stand apart of human character and touch.

Robert Hammond's artworks rarely inspire passive responses, and this is one sign of the importance of his accomplishment - his art holds up a mirror to contemporary iconography, and familiar commercial aesthetics in search of an art he makes his own.





ASTEROIDS

2014, 1/1

Stainless Steel, Hi-gloss Painted Steel, Acrylic, Print

110 x 142 x 8 cm



HAPPY 15 V1.1

2014, 1/1

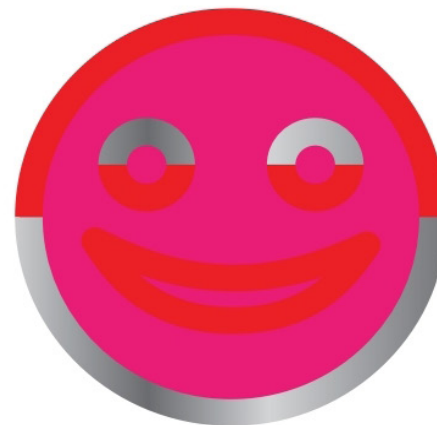
Acrylic Mirrored Stainless Steel, hi-gloss painted steel, Paint

170 x100 x 6 cm/ each item: 30 cm R



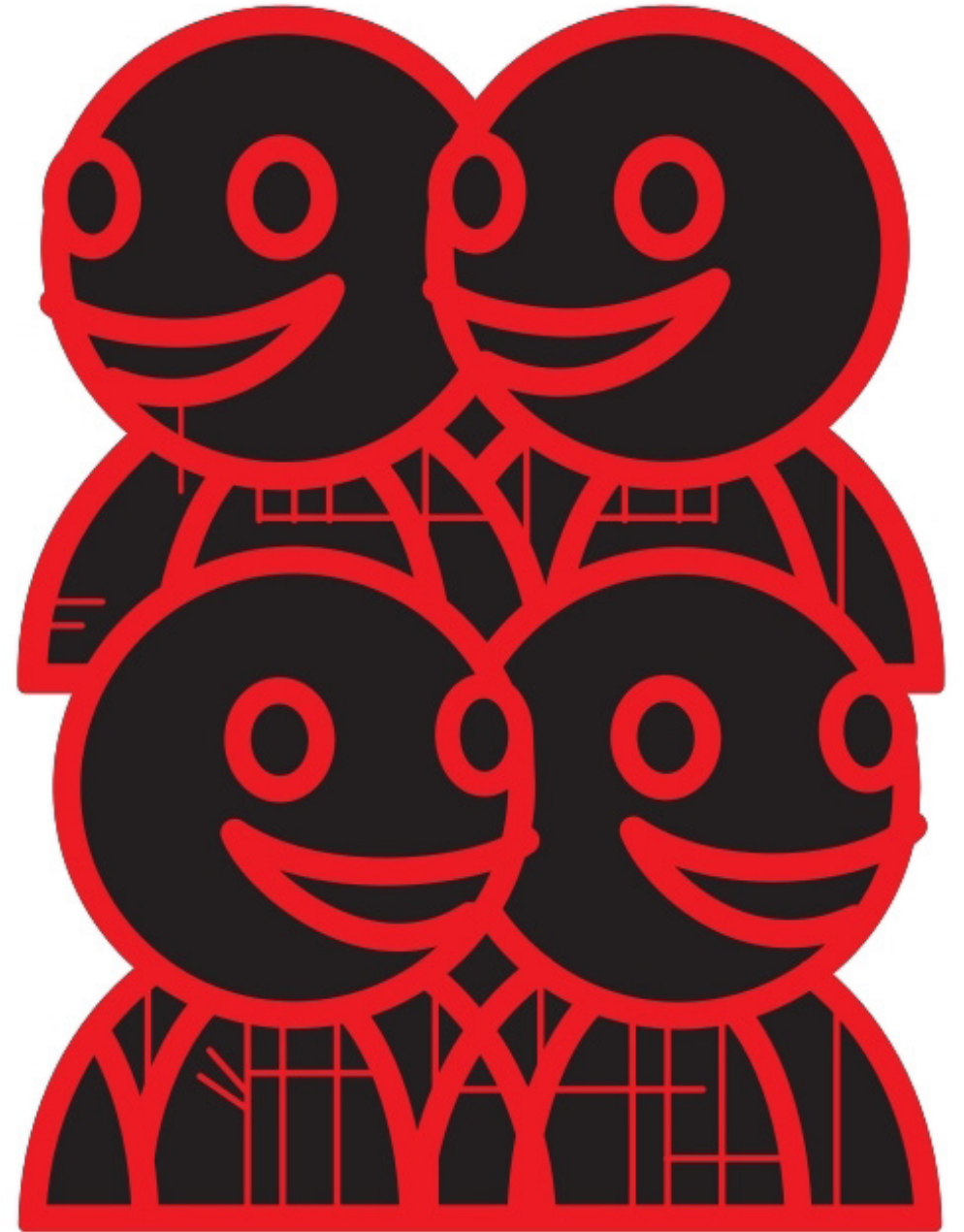
HAPPY 8 v1.1
2014, 1/1

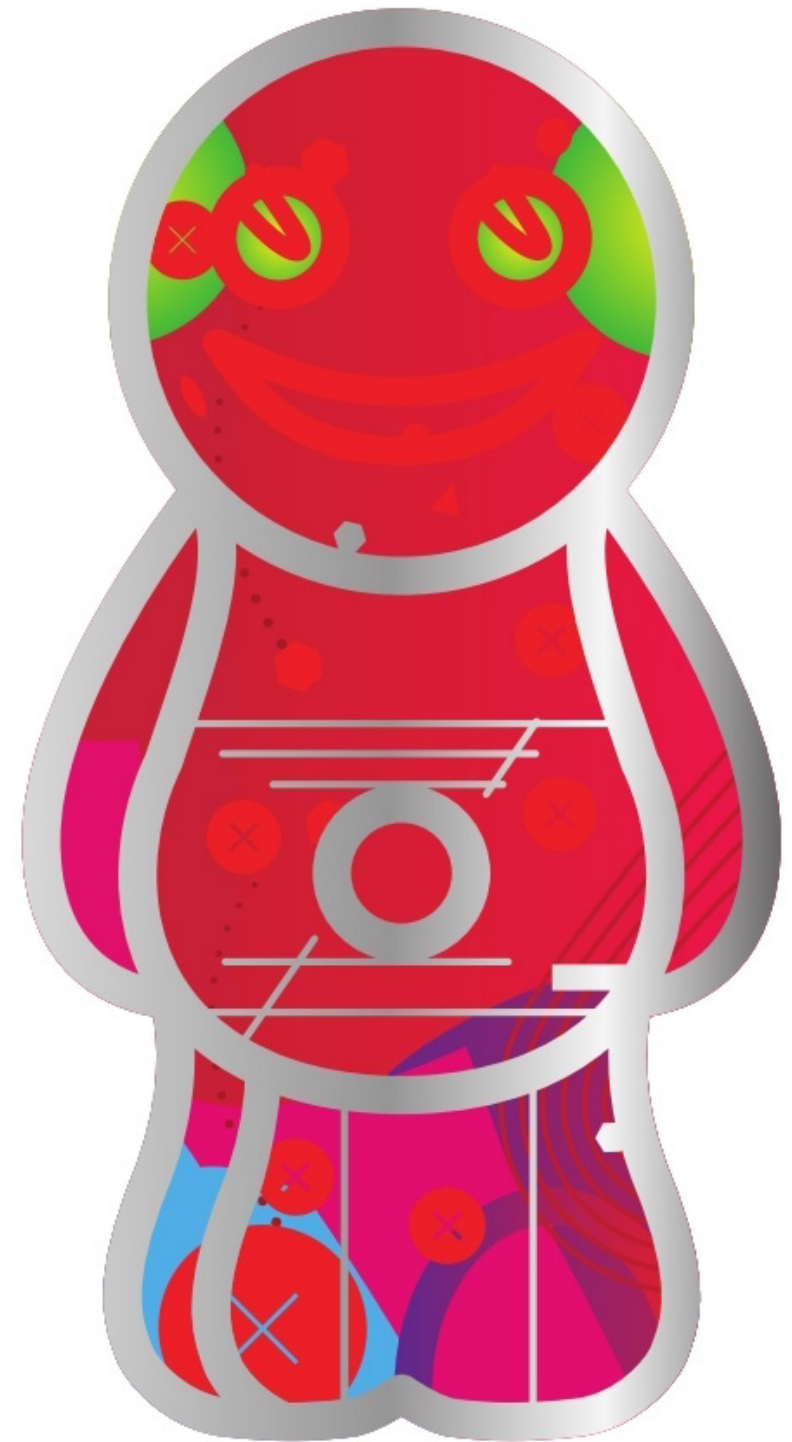
Acrylic, Mirrored Stainless Steel, hi-gloss painted steel, Print
135 x 65 x 6 cm/ each item: 30 cm R



HAPPY 6 v1.1
2014, 1/1
Acrylic, Mirrored Stainless Steel, hi-gloss painted steel, Print
65 x 100 x 6 cm/ each item: 30 cm R

THANK YOU LUCKY STARS
2014, 1/3
Acrylic, hi-gloss painted steel, Paint
75 x 100 x 6 cm





CENTURY OF LUCLK 2.137

2014, 1 / 1

Acrylic, Mirrored Stainless Steel, hi-gloss painted steel, Print

72 x 137 x 8 cm



CENTURY OF LUCLK 2.137

2014, 1 / 1

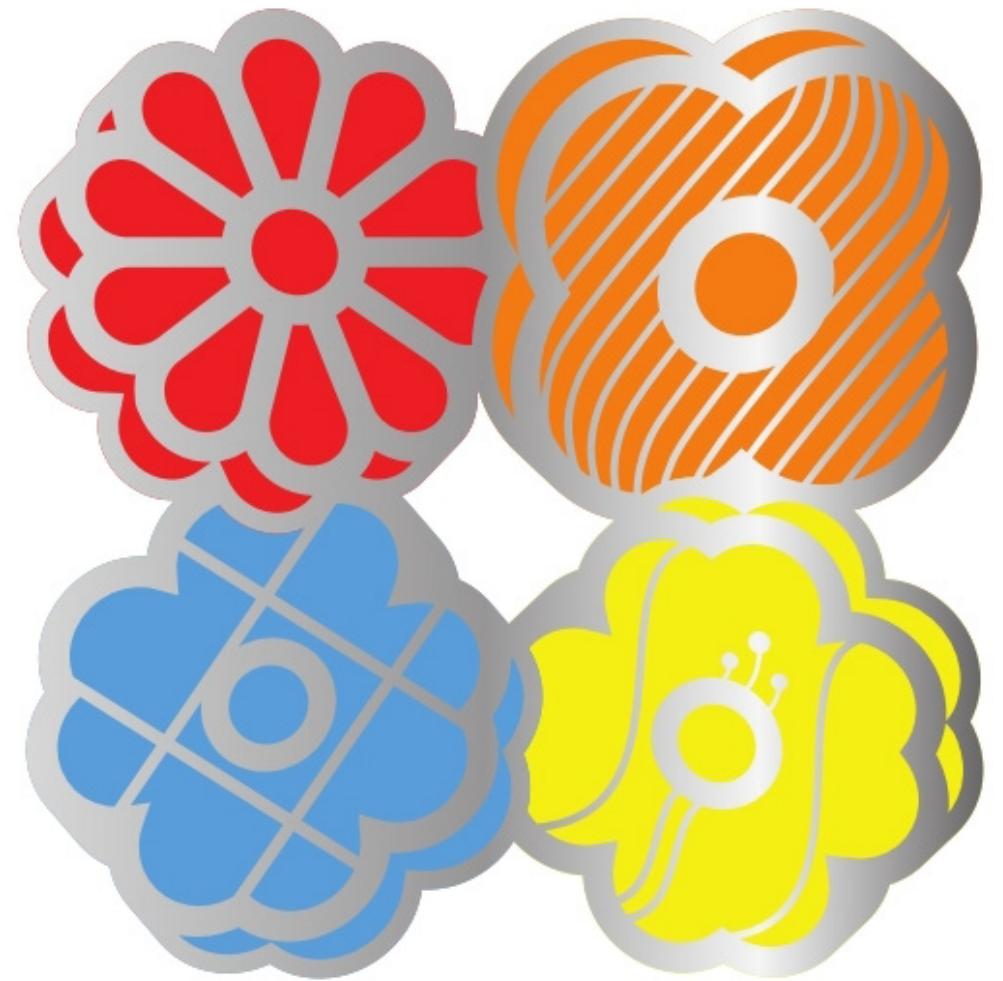
Acrylic, Mirrored Stainless Steel, hi-gloss painted steel, Print

72 x 137 x 8 cm



FOUR LEAF CLOVER 1.111
2014, 1/1

Mirrored Stainless Steel, Hi-gloss Painted Steel, Urethane Paint
101 X 111x 8 cm



FOUR LEAF CLOVER 2.90
2014, 1/1

Mirrored Stainless Steel, Hi-gloss Painted Steel, Urethane Paint
90 x 90 x 6 cm



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BIG FLOWERS NO.2
2014, 1/1
Acrylic, Mirrored Stainless Steel, Paint
150 x 195 x 8 cm



BIG FLOWERS NO.3
2014, 3 of 1
Acrylic, Mirrored Stainless Steel, Paint
94 x 122 x 8 cm

Question & Answer:

How were you first exposed to art? (Through family, school, etc)
I was introduced at school at around the age of 13 - where we were given clay from which to create anything we wanted - from there I also learned to paint. My parents both encouraged me.

Tell us about your educational background, as well as your personal background (Where were you born, grew up, lived etc)
My parents both Lebanese moved to England in 1962, I was born and raised in Windsor, just outside of London. I studied Fine Art at St Martins and WSCAD

What was your first exhibition and where?
My first solo Exhibition was at the SMO gallery in Beirut in 2012

What is the inspiration behind your Work?
My current motivation revolves around interacting with the way we physically see, and how we respond emotionally to the visual. I believe one can directly stimulate the eye using line, illusion, pattern, and reflection.

What are the messages you convey through your art?
I don't have messages - my art is about bringing about visual stimulation and pleasure

Tell us about this (current exhibition) : HAPPY LUCKY
Happy lucky is a continuation of my exploration into the aesthetic I have established for myself, where in place of brush or pencil - my art is drawn with thick 5-7cm metal profiles. The materials are all glossy and reflective - polished steel is inlaid and engineered into thick acrylic - creating flush surfaces - producing compound objects 7cm deep - that make up a whole.

While most wall art is about surface, my work is intentionally about reflection. Accents of light travel across chamfered edges where metal and glass meet. Precision-engineered surfaces transform smiling faces of glass and steel into sumptuous simple motifs combined to obtain whimsical harmonies and resonances. The idea of luck is introduced by way of popular symbols pertaining to luckiness

How did you select the works for this exhibition?
When I start to work, I establish a general set of strong ideas that I believe will have resonance - then I work toward making them exceptional. Inevitably they end up having a common theme - which only then requires a pertinent title as a whole

When you choose works for a show in Dubai, are they different than works for the shows in another country? Different than for shows elsewhere

No, when it comes to how we physically see and what stimulates us - we are the same everywhere. Dubai is a special place however - it is now firmly established as a global major point of reference - one which I as an artist am greatly motivated to want to be a part of and contribute to.

As you appropriate icons from local, regional, and international contexts. Do you envision these having different meanings/ messages in each context?

I try and make my work as free of geographical reference as possible - which is a real challenge. I don't want viewers to have an emotional response to things from across geographic boundaries - these only get in way of what I am trying to do - ie interact with the way we physically see,

How do you envision your future of art? If so how will it be accomplished?

I look forward to increasing my output - as I have many more ideas than I have time to produce.



ROBERT HAMMOND

Born in 1968, born in the UK of Lebanese decent, lives and works Beirut.

Robert studied Fine Art at St. Martins and WSCAD in the UK. Robert's early works are painterly compositions in the neo-expressionist tradition. Robert's latest works bring-forth new materials coupled with a new aesthetic, entitled visual ritual.

Intelligent and bright, with a powerful and rich sense of the visual - in a short time Robert Hammond has become one of the most and newest exciting artists around. He has developed an extremely personal style that has tempered facility, virtuosity and surprise. Robert Hammond's work exhibits a sense of order - interfaces that signal with an assortment of visual qualities he makes his own.

In his wall sculptures, large cartoon faces and figures, outlined by thick curved metal profiles - contain montaged imagery behind polished glass surfaces. At first whimsical and cute - on second look you are peering through these figures into pulsating montages of dripping paint, concentric line patterns and smeared chalk. At play is a marriage of optical patterns, corrugated space and unfocused images. It is in the playful mastery of lines where the power of his art lies. His works are essentially metal line drawings, extruded into the 3rd dimension - at times concentric, converging and diverging, at times kaleidoscopic.

Robert's art is about strengthening our perception to everyday images, textures and reflection, emphasizing their curious properties by singling them out and playing them off against one another. His compositions are deliberate, sparing, virtuosic and concise - cool and without context. One can't ignore the reflective quality of his works. Deliberately highly reflective - the art jumps beyond the surface - shining back to the viewer, testing the viewer's retina.

Robert's works overall exhibit a visual bravado mixed with new visual lucidities - that bring facility and whimsy to large bright and powerful compositions

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2012 "FLOWER POWER", Art Sawa, Dubai , UAE

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 2013 "Abu Dhabi Art Fair", Art Sawa Booth, Saadiyat Cultural District, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2013 "Art13 London Art Fair", Art Sawa Booth at Olympia, Kensington, London
- 2012 Beirut Art fair, Biel, Hall2, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2012 "Overture" Miami Art Fair, Art Sawa booth, Miami, U.S.A

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