

# MODERN PAINTERS



# ARTISTS TO WATCH



ANN HAMILTON  
PER KIRKEBY  
GÜNTHER UECKER  
TARYN SIMON  
BILL VIOLA

DECEMBER 2012

\$9.95US/CAN

12



71896-6116





*Finger (VI)*, 2012.  
Marble,  
6½ x 29½ x 9 in.

# TOBY CHRISTIAN

Born 1983, Lincolnshire, U.K. Lives in London.



Christian addresses the nature of objects, the burden of art history, and exhibition conventions that have become familiar to the point of invisibility. His early works include empty plinths painted in various shades of white to look dramatically lit, and non-monumental items—like snowballs—carved in marble. In his 2012 “Life Room” series, the artist traces the positions of models posing on a slab of foam as if for a life drawing session. The resulting lines mingle with accidental stains and marks to map an absent body whose memory saturates the support like an afterimage.

Over the last couple of years, Christian has started using words as a medium, “writing from the point of view of making sculpture,” he says. His texts draw on the legacy of semantic poetry and the works of Stefan Themerson, Alain Robbe-Grillet, and Francis Ponge. Although concerned with the world’s physical makeup, the texts flirt with the hermetic, obscuring the objects they supposedly describe. Christian often jots notes on chalkboards as he goes along, later erasing them to create serendipitous abstractions he describes as “post-event images.” Process and product collide.