

“Art+Auction’s 50 Next Most Collectible Artists, From Tomma Abts to Hector Zamora,”
Art+Auction, June 2012.

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BY ART+AUCTION | JUNE 19, 2012

Adam McEwen



Over the last decade, the British-born McEwen has developed a diverse conceptual practice that centers on issues of depiction and veracity. There are paintings that rework common signage (“Sorry We’re Closed” became “Fuck Off We’re Dead”), large canvases with bits of chewed gum applied in the crater patterns left after World War II bombings, and sculptures of everyday objects carved from blocks of compressed graphite. “Every work is very precise,” notes McEwen’s Brussels dealer, Rodolphe Janssen. “People don’t realize the gum paintings take months to make.” The graphite sculptures, which range in size and subject from a light bulb to a drinking fountain, may have the most enduring appeal. A few years ago they could be had for \$14,000 to \$58,000, but prices have doubled since then. A large wall panel sold

at Art Brussels in April for \$125,000, and demand is just as strong on this side of the Atlantic, where concurrent shows last fall at Gagosian in Los Angeles and Marianne Boesky, in New York, both sold out.

<http://www.blouinartinfo.com/news/story/808857/artauctions-50-next-most-collectible-artists-from-tomma-abts>