

For Madmen Only

Bobby Dowler

Christopher Green

For Madmen Only

The title of this exhibition derives from the sign that hangs on the door of the Magic Theatre, the fantastic cabaret that transforms the life of the eponymous hero in Herman Hesse's *Steppenwolf*. This absurdist theatre represents an escape from the oppressive mundanity of daily life, a liberation achieved by surrender to a spirit of experiment and play.

Bobby and Christopher have been friends for ten years, and their respective practices are imbued with a kindred spirit of adventure and experiment. While their works are easily distinguishable from each other in terms of their formal qualities, they are united by their commitment to openness and ambiguity in the process of their creation. The composition of these works is not guided by the fulfilment of a pre-established aim; they are completed only when they achieve what Christopher describes as an "arrived logic".

Both of these artists are committed to the notion that artistic practice should extend into every aspect of daily experience, and each is heavily involved in cultural projects beyond the studio: Bobby's foundation of an artist's run space in Peckham ten years ago had a catalysing effect upon the area's emerging artists and he continues to be involved in publishing projects; Christopher is a co-founder of the Library of Independent Exchange, a roving reference library and events space with a permanent collection of books made available to the public. These endeavours, like this exhibition and the magic theatre to which its title refers, are conceived as spaces for free, creative, communal action.

Ben Eastham



Christopher Green, Hermann Hesse, Bobby Dowler on entering the Magic Theatre following the clearing of sordid, unsightly detritus: one Jaguar Mark 2, flea-ridden carpet, a dead cat (Peckham Library), a nest of rats, four cast iron baths, and a few kitchens...



Exhibition View

For Madmen Only
2013



Bobby Dowler

Painting-Object_ (10.01.13)
Paint, objects, canvas, wood
91 x 81 cm, 2013



Christopher Green

A river, not a loser

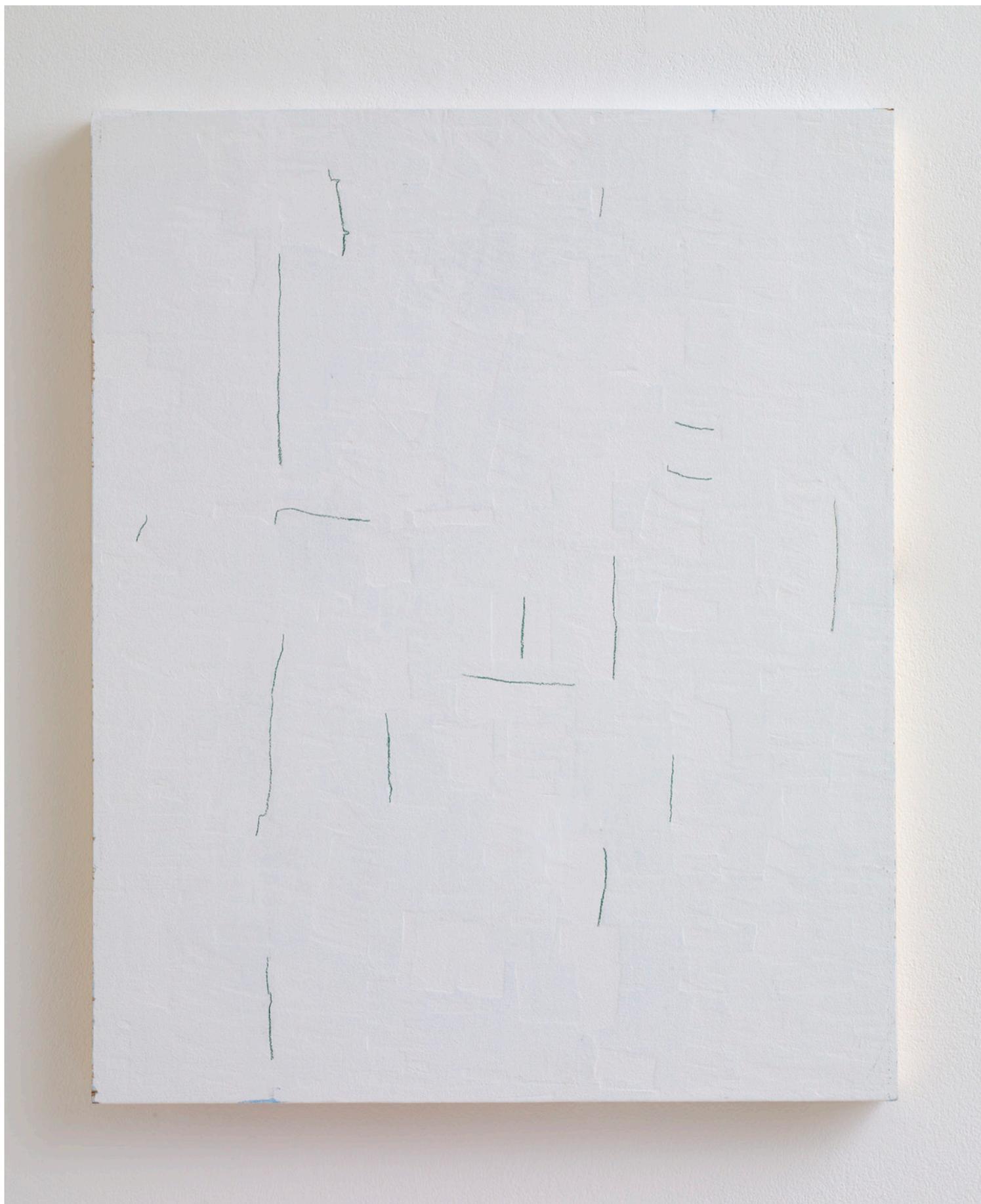
Enamel, linseed oil on birch panel

30 x 22 x 1.8 cm, 2012



Christopher Green

A river, not a loser
Detail



Christopher Green

Dance this mess around

Gesso, emulsion, oil, acrylic, and watercolour pencil

on birch plywood board

58.8 x 50 x 3 cm, 2012



Christopher Green

Dance this mess around
Detail



Exhibition View

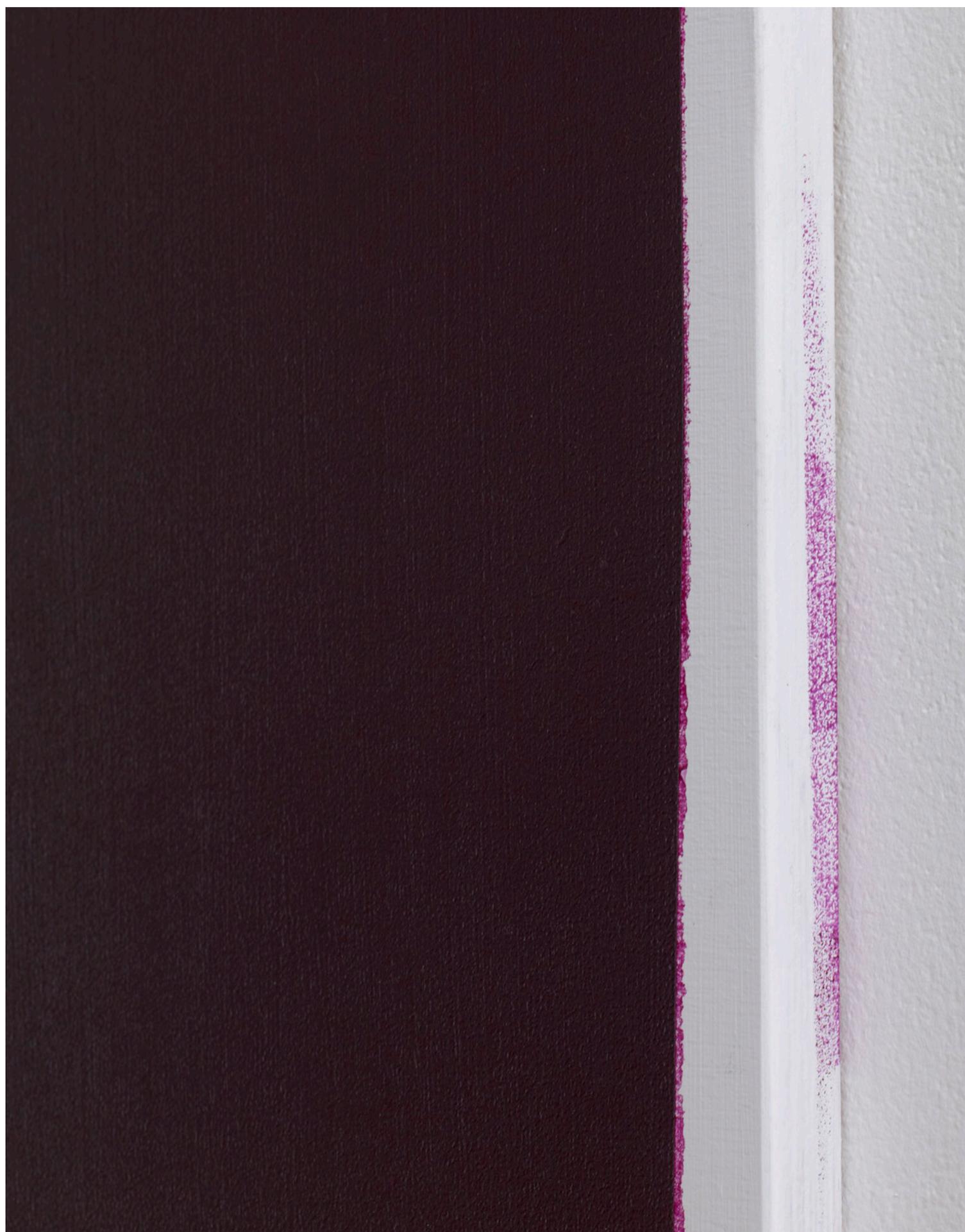
For Madmen Only
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Christopher Green

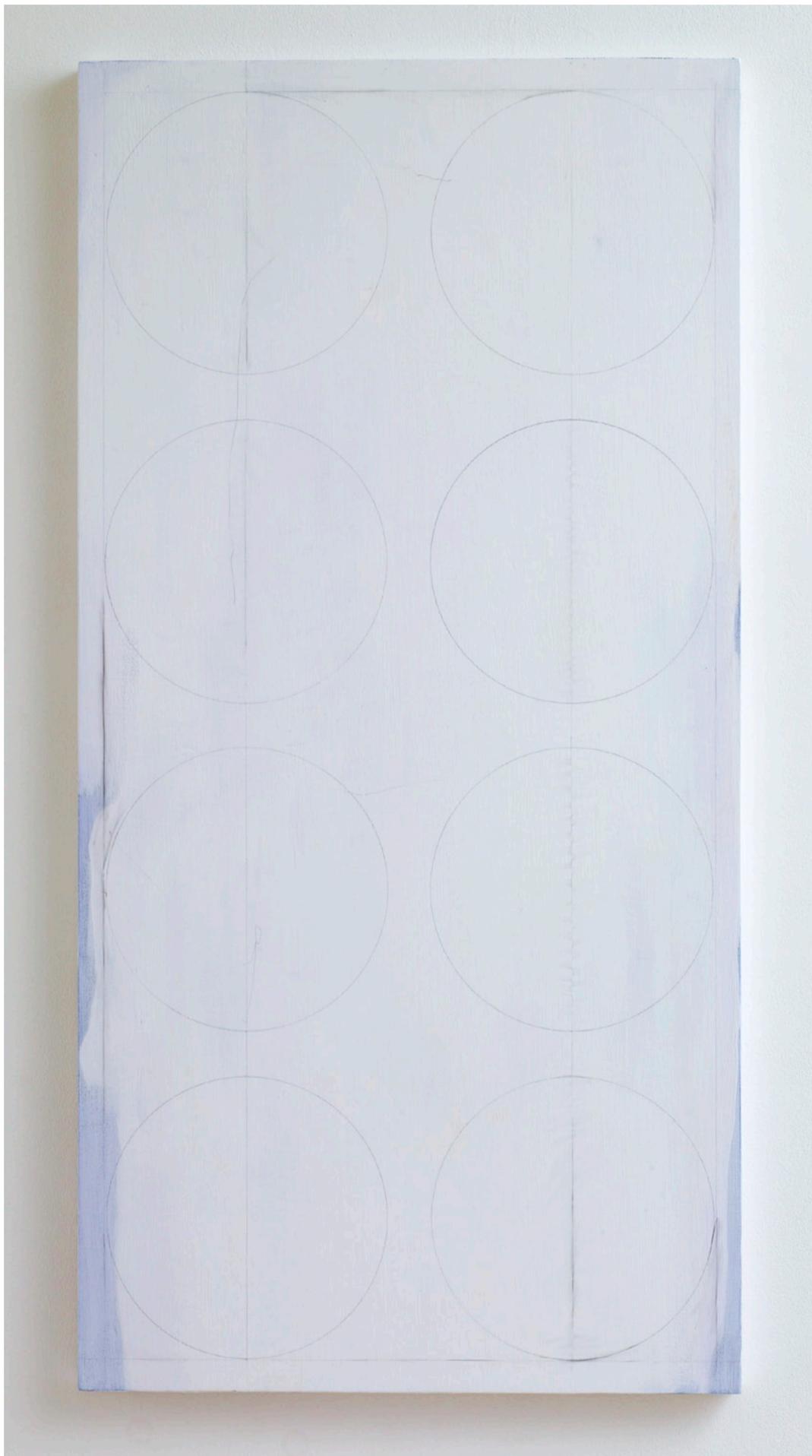
Untitled

Gesso and acrylic on birch plywood board
40 x 30 x 1.8 cm, 2012



Christopher Green

Untitled
Detail



Christopher Green

For the most part exceptional (H.A.J.M.A)
Acrylic, brush, gesso, graphite on birch plywood
board
118 x 59 x 3 cm, 2012



Christopher Green

For the most part exceptional (H.A.J.M.A)
Detail



Exhibition View

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Bobby Dowler

Painting-Object_ (01.12.12)
Paint, objects, canvas, wood
64 x 53 cm, 2012



Exhibition View

For Madmen Only
2013



Bobby Dowler

Painting-Object_ (01.11.12)
Paint, objects, canvas, wood
76.5 x 62 cm, 2012

All dimensions height by width by depth

Photography courtesy of Stephen White &
Damian Griffiths for Hannah Barry Gallery

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21 February - 17 March 2013

Hannah Barry Gallery
110 New Bond St London