

Flash Art

NEW YORK

Jonas Wood



It's clear from the authority with which he lays down impasto oil paint that 30 year-old American Jonas Wood understands the medium. His paintings are intentionally crude rather than faux naïf. Most of the works are derived from photographs that have

personal significance — of interiors of his family home, or from press shots of famous athletes — but the final renditions are several steps removed from the original images, made awkward through generations of sketches cut and pasted into cubist collages and re-drawn until the primary references are masticated and an informed paint-by-the-numbers type narrative style emerges. He doesn't employ chiaroscuro, and planes are emphasized without relying on hard-edge slickness. He leans towards painterliness, but glazing and other more sublime approaches are not broached. Wood's impatience with prosaic technique indicates a sophisticated intelligence and ambition; his youthful enthusiasm for methodology is the work's most winning attribute.

— Christopher Chambers

Jonas Wood, *Bullets*, 2007. Oil on linen, 183 x 132 cm. Courtesy Anton Kern Gallery, New York.