

DETAILS

Hugh Scott-Douglas: "8 Emerging Artists to Watch Right Now"

Written by Maxwell Williams

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AGE: 27

MEDIUM: Labyrinthine .installations that include large laser-printed canvases deconstructing the language of currency

BONA FIDES: In the collections of the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and Francois Pinault; auction sales above \$80,000.

BACKSTORY: Born in England and raised in Canada, Scott-Douglas came of age in the tiny Toronto art scene, where he cofounded the influential Tomorrow Gallery. "I'm very envious of how, at such a young age, Hugh is so clued in to the workings of the art world," says the Japanese artist Takashi Murakami. "It was unimaginable for me at his age." Scott-Douglas' early canvases were made with old photographic techniques, but the recent output is thoroughly modern: enlarged fragments of \$100 bills and torn-up checks, high-priced watches, and other commodities. The focus on currency and consumer culture is interesting (some might say confrontational), given who is collecting his work. "I find his intellectual games highly inspirational," Murakami says. How does Scott-Douglas see it? "I don't think you'll find that anything I've written is *actively* promoting a leftist agenda, but it's something that I spend almost all my time reading about," he explains. "There's a hint of it in my last press release that talks about a Lenin quote: 'The capitalists will sell us the rope with which we will hang them.'"