



Biting the hand that feeds you

Merlin Carpenter may have been questioning notions of value and authenticity when he daubed 11 pre-signed blank white canvases with provocative anti-market slogans during the packed private view of his “Intrinsic Value” exhibition at Simon Lee gallery but his actions seemed to prove that even a depressed market appreciates those who appear to be biting its feeding hand. No sooner had the artist set down his dripping brush than both the c- and the k-versions of the word Kunst were snapped up at £25,000 a pop, and as we went to press the canvases bearing the legends “Banks are Bad”; “Kunst=Kapital” and “Destroy Neo Liberals” are all firmly on reserve—although the gallery assures Jetsam not to those in the financial sector. Whether the host gallerist will add the piece that declares “Simon Lee Utter Swine” to his own collection remains to be seen.

