



The Art Market **Collecting**

Copyright keeps pictures under wraps

Melanie Gerlis

Do you have the patience and time to keep a painting wrapped in its cardboard for the next 64 years? Such is the contractual obligation to any buyer of British artist Merlin Carpenter's latest works on show at Simon Lee gallery in London.

Carpenter, no stranger to conceptual challenges, has reinterpreted a group of 28 works from the 1960s by painter John Hoyland, from whom he asked permission to reproduce them before Hoyland died in 2011 – which was not granted. Therefore, and as Carpenter sets out in each work's stringent sale agreement, "the Painting can only be unveiled on 31st December 2081 (ie 70 years from the end of the calendar year of John Hoyland's death)."

Carpenter's "After John Hoyland" works are available for \$40,000- \$70,000 each and, while it takes a leap of faith, Poppy Sebire, the gallery's associate director, believes that, whatever is happening in the outside world in 2081, it's safe to assume there will be a painting inside the wraps.

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