

LOT #

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Image courtesy of the artist and Ancient & Modern
Photograph by Modern Activity

Paul Johnson

Owl, 2012

ESTIMATE

£3,000 – £5,000

SIZE

60 × 24 × 25 cm

MATERIAL

Wood, paper

PAUL JOHNSON'S work ranges from collage to large-scale sculptural pieces in a practice that is labour-intensive, time-consuming and hermetic. Johnson is best known for his intricately assembled paper 'mosaics' in which the images he creates are first drawn, then photographed, then photocopied and then cut into jigsaw-like pieces: 'each element is hand-cut, hand coloured and then interlocked back into itself.' Johnson explains. 'The whole surface is completely flat, and they operate as if they are paintings. My work is very lovingly handcrafted and labour-intensive, and I think about them as almost something that a monk from the Middle Ages would make, they have a devotional or possible religious quality to them.' He thinks of his subjects as a fictional family of passive performers 'turned away, slightly switched off as if other things are happening to them and they are not in control of themselves.'

Represented by Ancient & Modern, London

- 1972 Born in London
Lives and works in London
- 1996 BA (Hons) Fine Art, Painting,
Glasgow School of Art
- 2003 MA Fine Art, Royal Academy, London

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 *Frame*, (solo presentation) Frieze Art Fair
BigMinis, CAPC Contemporary Art Museum,
Bordeaux, France
- 2010 *The Armory Show*, New York, solo presentation,
Ancient & Modern · *Newspeak: British Art Now*,
Saatchi Gallery, London
- 2009 *Collider*, Margini arte contemporanea, Massa, Italy
Ascension into Unselfishness, Ancient & Modern,
London (solo) · *When We're Gonna Destroy
Everything*, One in the Other, London