



Julie Roberts, *Girls Painting (The Life Room)*, 2006, Oil on linen, 53 1/8 x 53 1/8 x 2 1/8 in. (135 x 135 x 5.5 cm), Courtesy of the artist and Andréhn-Schiptjenko. +46 8 612 00 75

JULIE ROBERTS

ARTIST TO WATCH

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A painter, Roberts was born in North Wales and currently lives and works in Glasgow. She graduated from the Wrexham School of Art in Wales in 1984, and subsequently studied at St. Martins School of Art in London before graduating with an MFA from the Glasgow School of Art in 1989. It was here that the artist was exposed to and influenced by the work of female conceptual artists like Barbara Kruger and Jenny Holzer. Roberts is known for her highly stylized paintings that combine household scenery with a cartoon sensibility. Her earlier works depict unpopulated landscapes and homey interiors floating in the center of monochromatic backgrounds. Her more recent paintings depict a range of vintage domesticity. The works are the result of extensive research into her subject matter; she often frequents historical archives, scouring documents and photographs for source materials, using found imagery as the basis of her portraits and still-lives. Known for her neutral and straightforward rendering of these domestic events, the artist portrays each scene with a flat

sensibility that makes her subjects seem more like puppets or dolls than anything else. Roberts plies her craft with an eye for the decorative, embellishing each scene with rings, bubbles and lines. The result is a tense fragility that suggests a level of turbulence beneath the artist's peaceful tableaux. Though her compositions are bolstered with academic research and historical detail, the artist's emotional sensitivity transcends mere documentation, shedding new light into long forgotten hallways. Roberts has exhibited internationally at the Tate St. Ives, Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow, Gallery of Contemporary Art, Lisbon, Hayward Gallery, London, and Sean Kelly Gallery in New York. Her work is in a number of public collections, including the Hirshhorn Museum, Fonds National d'Art Contemporain, Arts Council Collection, London, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, and Scottish Arts Council Collection. She is represented by Andréhn-Schiptjenko in Stockholm. –HH