



## Meticulous Rants

The Daily Pic: William Powhida ponders art-world folly.

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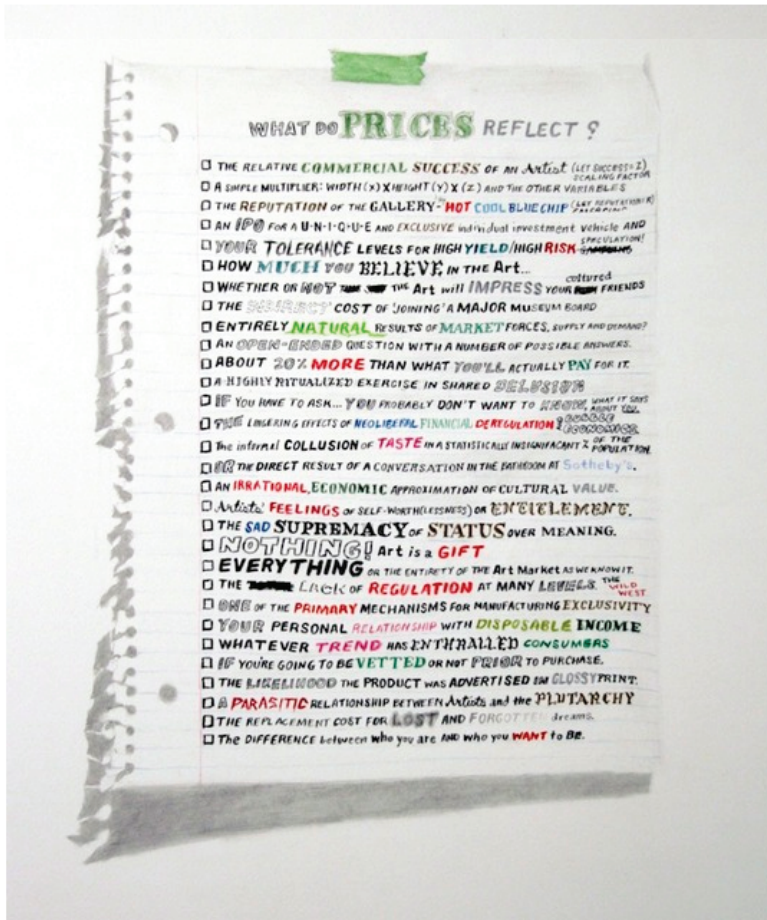
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by **Blake Gopnik**



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William Powhida's "What Do Prices Reflect". (Courtesy Postmasters Gallery, New York)

William Powhida's "What Do Prices Reflect," one of the many meticulous drawings in his current solo at Postmasters gallery in New York. (Click on the image to enlarge it.) It's easy to see Powhida's works as off-the-cuff ranting at art-world mechanics, except for one thing: He pours such energy into their making. This sheet isn't a pile of throw-away jottings; it's a precisely rendered trompe-l'oeil picture of such jottings. And if you take the time to read Powhida's observations, they are often carefully researched and deeply thought-through. Of course, there's the added twist that, by making precious hand-made objects, and showing them in a commercial gallery, Powhida's participating in the same system he's taking jabs at. Based on my previous contact with his work, I guarantee that he's well aware of that contradiction, and is even reveling in it.

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