

## PRESS RELEASE

### **MARKUS LINNENBRINK – so here's what you gonna do 11 September – 27 October 2012**

Markus Linnenbrink's second solo show at *ftc*. Berlin focuses almost exclusively on the series *Photo Drips* (2010 onward). In recent years Linnenbrink has attained a great deal of renown for his striped paintings in both Europe and the United States.

Epoxy resin mixed with color pigments runs vertically in fine lines down the wooden support, and in the *Photo Drips* the stripes are set against a background made up of personal photographs from the artist's environment.

A few years ago Linnenbrink discovered old photographs taken during his father's trips around the United States in the 1970s. They served as the initial inspiration for him to use photos as the background for his drip paintings, which, until then, had been purely abstract. The effect is distinctly more diverse. Although the previous works were already fascinating—thanks to their shimmering, colorful stripes, the hardened drips of epoxy resin running parallel to each other and intermingling, and the way that the abstract background (mostly spray paint) shone through—still, enthusiasm for the interplay of color and perfection was increased by the puzzling, object-like quality of the photographs beneath. The paintings now alternate between concrete and abstract art, uniting photography and art in a unique way.

Depending on the thickness of the drips, viewers can recognize the outlines of houses, views of cities, and American urban scenes from the 1970s and 2010s. In this way important historical evidence is mixed with current photographs. Fascinated by New York, a city where he has lived for almost ten years, and by the old pictures of American cities—street scenes, buildings and places that no longer exist, Linnenbrink provides evidence of the history of the United States, of New York, and his own life. The longer one looks at the paintings the easier it becomes to see the big picture, as well as the details in the photos. Still, the viewer does not always manage to put together all of the "pieces." The mystery behind the photographs must not and ought not to be completely solved; sometimes it vanishes entirely behind the curtain of epoxy resin stripes, or, depending on each viewer's own context, it can reveal its own new story. In addition to the paintings described above, two large sculptures will also be shown. Although each is made of layered epoxy resin, their forms are very distinct from each other. One sculpture is rectangular, low, and long, while the other is voluminous and organic in form. Both works impressively complement the multifaceted, material qualities of epoxy resin.

*Markus Linnenbrink born 1961 in Dortmund, Germany.  
He lives and works in Brooklyn, New York, USA.*