



BERLIN
GALERIE ISABELLA
CZARNOWSKA

MARKUS DOBELI

● This presentation of work by the Düsseldorf-trained Swiss artist, curated by Ory Dessau, was dominated by three large-scale, untitled paintings. Each was given an entire room in the gallery, underscoring what Dessau terms “a basic quality of Markus Döbeli’s practice—that of absolute singularity, irregularity, and irreplaceability. A work by Döbeli is like an event.” Flooding thinned-out washes of acrylic paint across the canvas, he creates mesmerizing fields of color that call to mind the transmutation of liquid into gas. The earliest painting here, from 1989, displays the strongest interest in form and sold early in the exhibition’s run; in the latest,

from 2011, shapes are largely sublimated. The showstopper was a monochrome canvas from 1999—which is entering an important German private collection—displaying a sinuous red line that surges across its width and drips down the surface. These were priced at €50,000 (\$56,000); a few rare, small-scale works were also placed with Swiss and Belgian buyers for €15,000 (\$16,800). Although Döbeli, who has been featured in solo exhibitions at the Kunstmuseum Winterthur and Kunstmuseum Luzern, is still little known outside the region, the gallery noted curatorial interest and a forthcoming feature in the art magazine *Parkett*.

Untitled, 2011. Acrylic on canvas,
8¾ x 12½ ft.