

UPITM

2005

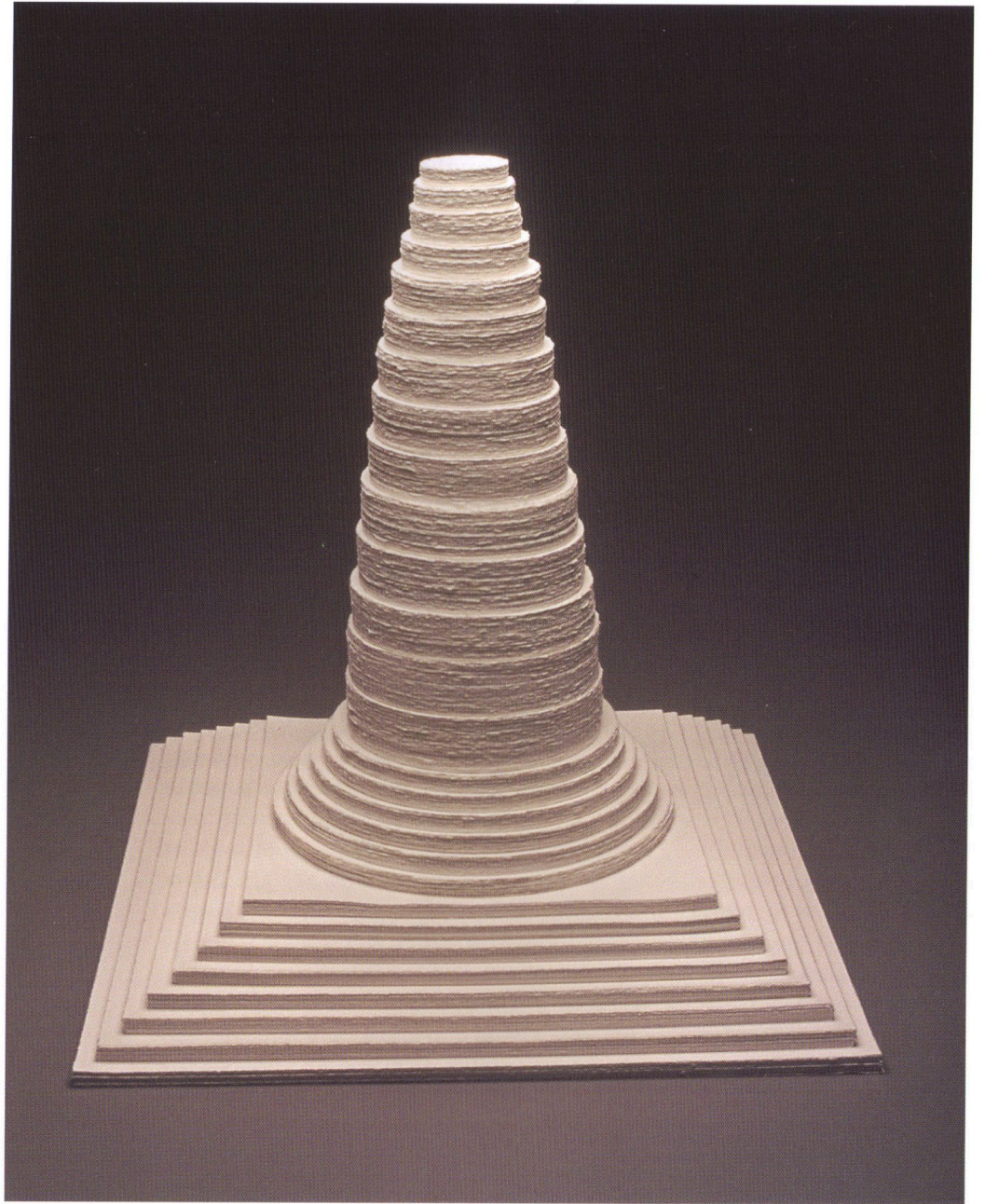
Randy Toy

Randy Toy
Whiteology (1215), 2005
Hand-torn, unfixed monotype
18" x 18" x 18"

44

From a distance, Randy Toy's innovative piece *Whiteology* (1215) appears to be a solid object of a peculiarly soft substance that has been formed on a lathe. Closer inspection reveals that the strange object, whose shape vaguely suggests the stepped temple of some ancient, Middle Eastern culture, is actually a construction, composed of hundreds of sheets of paper stacked one on top of the other. The softness of the surface is due to deckle edges, which, it turns out, result from the artist's process of hand-tearing into its proper shape each individual sheet. Still, the visual information does not entirely add up. For paper, the whiteness is unusually matt and pure, and the stack possesses an anomalous density that is as much felt as seen; Toy has printed each sheet of paper with a solid surface of white ink, and, in order to maintain uniformity to the edges, has done so with a press modified such that the sheets are printed after being torn. Why print white paper white? The answer may have something to do with Toy's desire to have his works "embody the time it takes to make them," or perhaps the artist's "parallel disposition to Buddhist logic." Toy's acute sensitivity to the subtleties of visual information has produced a hybrid combination of print and object that creates a category of its own. *Whiteology* and other of the artist's highly saturated monochrome constructed pieces force a reassessment of any printed representation of a Minimalist shape that previously has been defined as a "Minimalist print." Whether stacked or presented in other ways, Toy's hybrid paper-objects are among the few prints to embody what it means to be Minimalist.

Randy Toy was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia. In 1995, he earned the B.F.A. degree at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, where he is scheduled to complete the M.F.A. degree in 2006. His work has been exhibited at the Museum of the City of Skopje, Skopje, Republic of Macedonia, L'Atelier Circulaire, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, Middle Street Gallery, Washington, Virginia, and, in Richmond, at QUIRK, Main Art Gallery, and Plant Zero.



1018