

The New York Times Style Magazine : 'Can you match these artists with their childhood works?', by Kat Harriman and Gay Gassmann, August 27th, 2015

Can You Match These Artists With Their Childhood Works?

By KAT HARRIMAN and GAY GASSMANN AUG. 27, 2015

Memorialized on refrigerators, enshrined in albums and entombed in attics, childhood art offers a small window into our former selves. A ticklish, sometimes embarrassing trip down memory lane, these early works, of varying skill and vision, often feel prophetic — especially when it comes to those wide-eyed individuals who turn art-making into a career. While artists like John Baldessari and Richard Prince have gone to infamous lengths to obliterate their archives, others have retained these pieces as personal artifacts. In a new series for T, artists pair a piece of their past with the present.

JOHAN CRETEN





It's a match!

While the sculptor Johan Creten, born in Belgium in 1963, is credited with introducing ceramics into the contemporary art lexicon alongside figures like Lucio Fontana, Creten began his career as a painter. "I would paint on the town's marketplace on a small easel. I remember it made me cope with images of Vietnam. I could not totally understand the injustice, the pain," says Creten, whose upcoming solo exhibition of blooming stoneware busts, "God is a Stranger," is heavily influenced by the subversive sex appeal of Marcel Broodthaers' sculptures of mussels and classical renderings of the female form. The title of the show "is not far away from my preoccupations at that time," he says.