The New York Times

Can You Match These Artists With Their Childhood Works?

By KAT HERRIMAN 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.

Test your curatorial chops by correctly guessing which work each artist created as a child. Works can be guessed in any order.

DEBORAH KASS





It's a match!

I never sketched myself, so this must have been a requirement for college applications," says the 63-year old painter Deborah Kass, whose feminist-minded work toys with the ad-inspired conventions of postwar artists like Ed Ruscha (among her best-known works is a series of subversive self-protraits inspired by Andy Warhol's celebrity prints). "When I got into art school, my teacher at the time told me, 'Not everyone is from New York.' It took me years to figure out that it was a compliment. I was in the body of a suburban child, but I've always been an artist."

Produced By Scott Blumenthal, Alastair Coote, Rodrigo De Benito Sanz, Sylvia Rupani-Smith and Alexandria Symond