

“Projects 86: Gert and Uwe Tobias”

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Museum of Modern Art, through Feb 25 (see Museums)

The creation of art usually occurs in the theater of the ego. For Gert and Uwe Tobias, the process is a bit different. The Romanian heritage of these twin brothers and collaborators is often cited in reference to their fairy-tale imagery, but the special circumstance of fabricating an identity in tandem is equally important to their work.

The brothers experiment liberally with different processes. However, unlike the disjointed exquisite corpses of the Surrealists (where artists would add to a group drawing, often without seeing what had come before), the brothers' endeavors appear to spring from a single hand. It's particularly impressive that they achieve this seamlessness across a wide range of media (from woodcuts to ceramics), content (from figurative to abstract) and execution (from sloppy to extremely precise).

Small ceramics on pedestals in the center of the space, for instance, possess the crudeness of primary-



school attempts at making Mom a new mug. Drawings made with a typewriter, on the other hand, are delicately beautiful, minutely detailed compositions built from single key strokes.

The installation format of this highly attractive, outsider-like art allows the pieces to complement each other the way a longtime couple complement each other in conversation. Perhaps the image that best encapsulates the Tobiases, then, is the woodcut directly to the left of the show's entrance: a mechanized creature with one head and two hearts.—*T.J. Carlin*

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