

JOAKIM OJANEN



There is moments when things feel
empty and pointless, now might just
be one of those times
2020

Glazed, Ceramic
H68xW38 xD36cm



Born 1985 in Västerås Lives and works in Stockholm, Sweden

Joakim Ojanen's artwork embodies the inner child within all of us. He creates a deeply personal universe full of unique characters that automatically win the heart of the viewer with their sincerity. His paintings and ceramic sculptures capture genuine moments of human expression. When grouped together they create delicate and emotionally charged narratives. With a touch of humor, they manage to hit an intense spot in the human psyche, perhaps a subconscious yearning for adolescence; the desire to belong. Piece by piece each of Ojanen's works tells a story about finding one's way in the world and reminds us it's okay to be ourselves.

Ojanen's distinct and organic path as an artist began in Västerås, Sweden. He entered into the arts through graffiti. For him, it was a creative outlet, which intrigued his interests in other mediums of art. He learned how to create animations, short films and music videos. He also pursued drawing, publishing fanzines and organizing art shows.

These endeavors led to his enrollment in the Illustration and Graphic Design program at Konstfack, University College of Arts, Crafts and Design in Stockholm. After a couple of years, seeking a new hobby, Ojanen signed up for a ceramics open studio session outside of school. It was during these sessions that he started to make sculptures from his drawings.

Ojanen has fostered an extensive understanding of his materials. In fact, it is his relationship with paint and clay that guide him in each of his creations. He embarks on making his portrait paintings by first drawing a small sketch. Bringing it to the canvas, he aims to make his idea come alive. There is a negotiation that happens between the paint and his brush strokes. The resolution determines when each painting is complete. To start his sculptures Ojanen goes straight to the clay. Once the process is initiated he then allows it to take the lead until a finished piece emerges.





Ojanen's iconography is reminiscent of a comic book language. In pictorial terms, his artwork hints at the works of Philip Guston, Keith Haring and at times the Surrealist paintings of Salvador Dali. However Ojanen states, 'It's dangerous to look at one artist too much.' Instead, a framework of emotions structures Ojanen's introverted creative process. 'I work a lot with feelings. I would say that is the main core of my work. It's about finding the right posture, the right eyes, smile and so on, (in order) to capture something I couldn't make up in my mind. It's about trying until I get something that feels right.'

Ojanen cites music as his biggest source of inspiration – and lists his favorites as Drake, Young Thug, and Wu-Tang Clan, just to mention a few. Listening to rap while working in his studio is an integral part of his process. As he interacts and alters his materials, the artist harnesses the raw energy of his works and reflects the autobiographical lyrics in his use of narrative.

A genuine talent, it is worth spending time navigating through his profoundly sensitive universe of work.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023

Circle of Life | AISHONANZUKA | Hong Kong

2022

We've Danced For A While Now And I'm Slowly Learning Your Steps | Nanzuka Underground | Tokyo, Japan

2021

The Part You Throw Away | The Hole | New York, NY, USA

2020

A Show for the Lonely Distant Baby Souls | Richard Heller Gallery | Santa Monica, CA, USA

Drawing Attention | Larsen Warner | Stockholm, Sweden

A Day in the Woods | AISHONANZUKA | Hong Kong

2019

Second meeting is always a bit tricky, last time was so spontaneous and easy, now there's all these expectations and I'm not so good with social responsibility | Ruttkowski;68 | Paris, France

Snakebite | The Hole | Los Angeles, CA, USA

2018

Year of the Dog | Richard Heller Gallery | Santa Monica, CA, USA Where do we go from here? | Larsen Warner | Stockholm, Sweden

2017

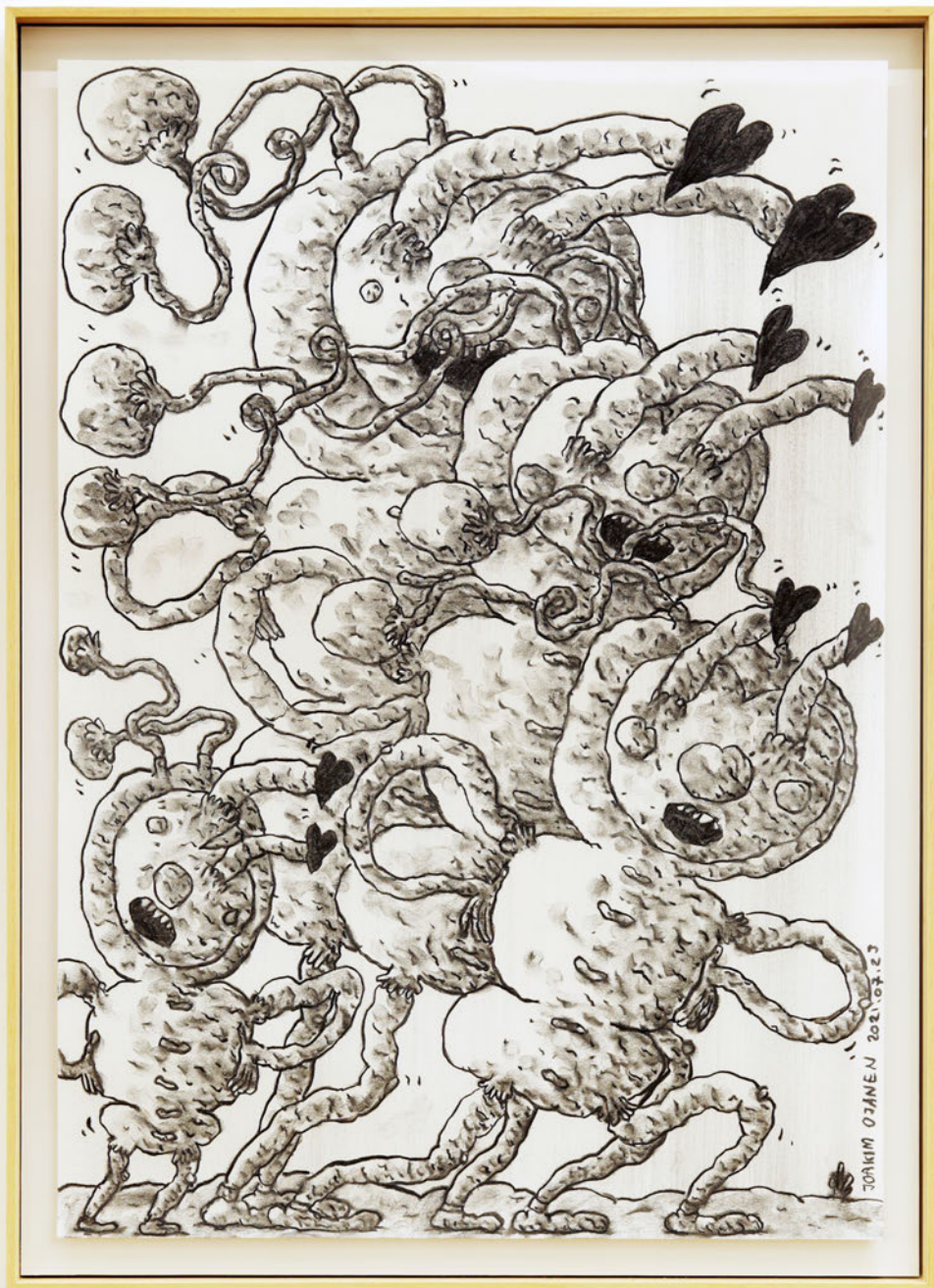
Anthropocene | Ruttkowski;68 | Cologne, Germany Interrupted Boredom | Galerie Lefebvre & fils | Paris, France

2016

What a Time to be Alive :(| Richard Heller Gallery | Santa Monica, CA Ebelingmuseet | Torshälla Eskilstuna | Sweden



This is the dance that freeze time and i wanna dance it with you, 2020, Oil on canvas, H160xW140 xD3cm



GROUP EXHIBITIONS (selected)

2023

The Cuteness Factor | Ludwig Museum of Contemporary Art | Budapest, Hungary
Art Unlocked | Side X Side Gallery | San Francisco, CA, USA
Storage Wars | The Hole | Los Angeles, CA, USA
Assemble! | Nanzuka 2G | Tokyo, Japan
Into the Vortex | The Pit | Palm Springs, CA, USA

2022

Kick Off | Die Horia | Athens, Greece
The Iconic Edition | Lorin Gallery | Los Angeles, CA, USA
New Construction | The Hole | Los Angeles, CA, USA

2021

Hollywood Road | AISHONANZUKA | Hong Kong
WOP | WOAW Gallery | Hong Kong

2020

HYBRIDS | CFHILL | Stockholm, Sweden
Extra Time | PLUS-ONE Gallery | Antwerp, Belgium
Friends Non Show | Dio Horia | Athens, Greece

2019

Paper View | The Hole | New York, NY, USA
Carry On | The Hole | Basel, Switzerland
Clayborn | Galerie Lefebvre & fils | Paris, France

2018

Aftermath | Setareh Gallery | Düsseldorf, Germany
A Tree Falls in the Woods | FMLY, Hashimoto Contemporary | San Francisco, CA, USA

2017

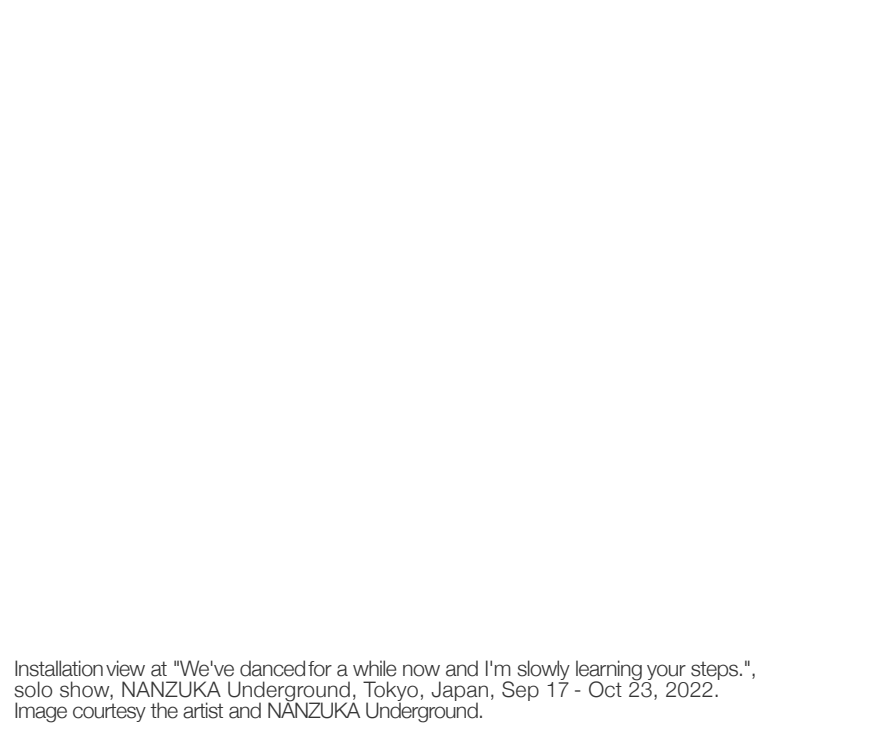
Beheaded | Richard Heller Gallery | Santa Monica, CA, USA
Joakim Ojanen and Ryan Travis Christian | The Hole | New York, NY, USA

2016

Mixed Pickles 1 | Ruttkowski;68 | Cologne, Germany
Booby Trap | The Hole | New York, NY

Installation view at "THE CUTENESS FACTOR", group show, Ludwig Museum of Contemporary Art, Budapest, Hungary, Jun 23 - Nov 12 2023. Image courtesy the artist and Ludwig Museum of Contemporary Art. Photo by Dávid BIRO.





Installation view at "We've danced for a while now and I'm slowly learning your steps.", solo show, NANZUKA Underground, Tokyo, Japan, Sep 17 - Oct 23, 2022. Image courtesy the artist and NANZUKA Underground.



Installation view at "The Part You Throw Away", solo show, The Hole, New York, NY, USA, Nov 18, 2021 - Jan 02, 2022. Image courtesy the artist and The Hole.



Installation view at "The Part You Throw Away", solo show, Västerås Konstmuseum, Västerås, Sweden. Apr 17 - Sep 26, 2021.
Image courtesy the artist and Västerås Konstmuseum. Photo by Valdemar Asp.



Installation view at "A Day in the Woods", solo show, AISHONANZUKA, Hong Kong, Feb 15 - Mar 14, 2020.



Installation view at "Where do we go from here?", solo show, Larsen Warner, Stockholm, Sweden, Aug 23 - Oct 6, 2018. Image courtesy the artist and Larsen Warner.

Installation view at "Interrupted Boredom", solo show, Lefebvre&Fils, Paris, France, Feb 21 - Mar 18, 2017. Image courtesy the artist and Lefebvre &Fils.

PUBLIC PROJECTS

2021 Symbios Människan & Naturen, Östra Sjukhuset, Göteborg, Sweden

2020 Tidsresenärens, Ägirgatan/Notuddsallén, for The City of Västerås, Sweden

2015 Väntrum, Mini Maria, Kaverös äng 5, for The City of Gothenburg, Sweden

2010 Landskapsmålning, Tensta Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden

AWARDS and GRANTS

2019 Carl Axel Valéns Konststipendium

2018 Konstnärnämnden, Internationellt kulturutbyte och resebidrag

2017 Konstakademien, Jenny Lind stipendium

2016 Konstnärnämnden, Internationellt kulturutbyte och resebidrag

2015 Konstnärnämnden – Working grant – the Swedish Arts Grants Committee

Stockholm Stad Kulturstipendium, Bildkonst

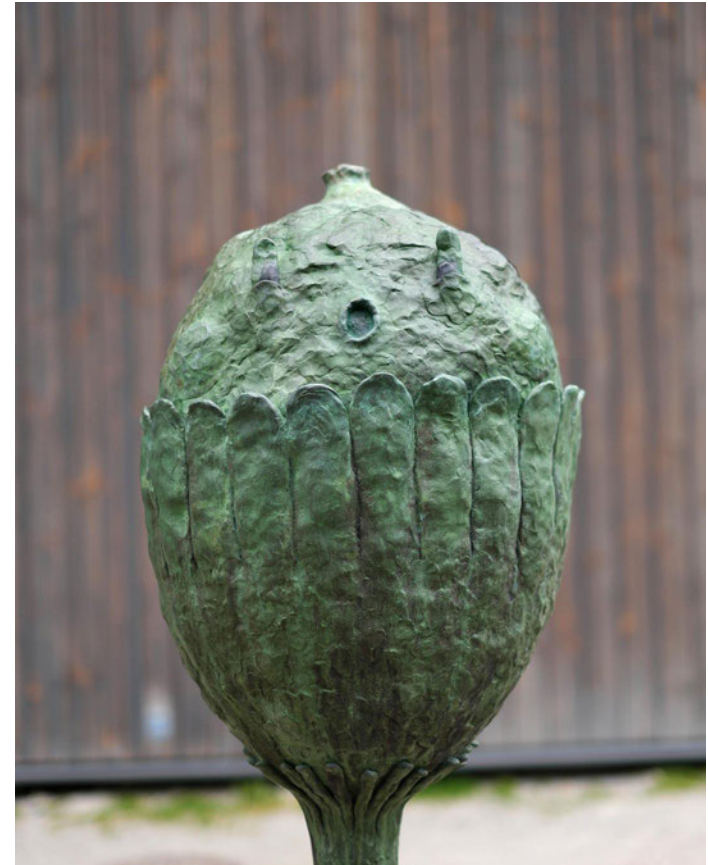
Konstakademien, E. Sääfs stipendium

Konstnärnämnden, Internationellt kulturutbyte och resebidrag

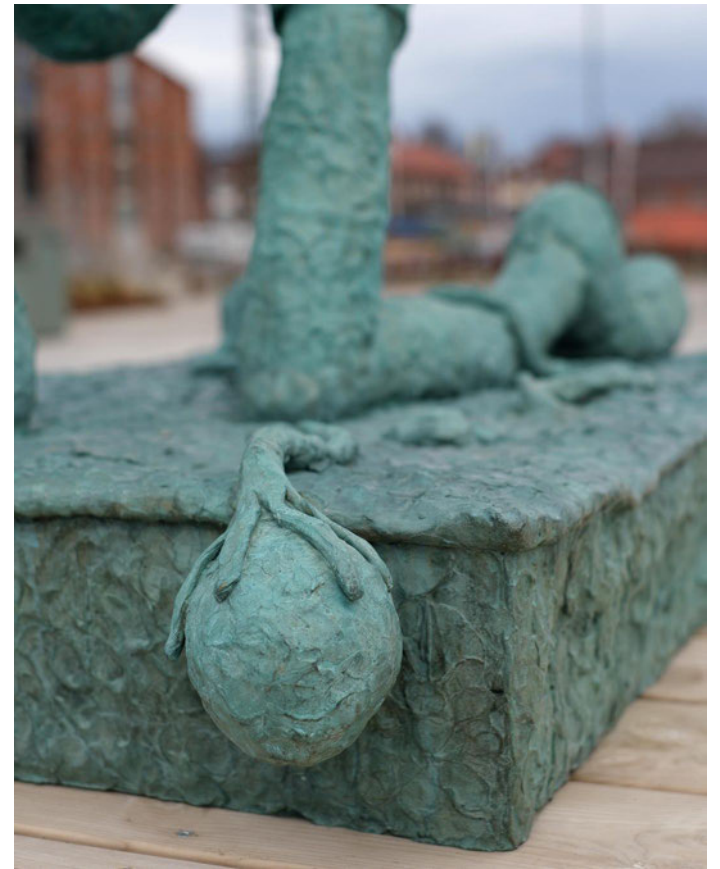
2013 Västerås Stad Kulturstipendium

2010 Gefeldts & Reeves Stiftelse





Joakim Ojanen's public art sculpture at Västerås, Sweden. Images courtesy the artist.



Joakim Ojanen's latest public art **An Ode to Mälaren** at Västerås, Sweden. Images courtesy the artist.



Joakim Ojanen's work at Life Is Beautiful Music & Art Festival 2018. Image courtesy the artist and JUSTKIDS.

Field Trip, 2016, ceramics, dimensions variable
Installationview at Phoebus 10, Stockholm, Sweden. Image courtesy of Axfast.



COLLECTIONS

Magasin III | Stockholm | Sweden

Colección Solo | Madrid, Spain

Statens Konstråd (Public Art Agency Sweden) | Stockholm, Sweden

The Bunker Artspace | Palm Beach, FL, USA

Västerås Art Museum | Västerås, Sweden

Eskilstuna Art Museum | Eskilstuna, Sweden

Åberg Museum | Bålsta, Sweden

Frans Masereel Centrum | Kasterlee, Belgium

The City of Gothenburg | Sweden

The City of Linköping | Sweden

The City of Eskilstuna | Sweden

The City of Östersund | Sweden

The City of Katrineholm | Sweden

County Council of Gävleborg | Sweden

Värmdö municipality | Sweden

The Ryerson & Burnham Libraries | Art Institute of Chicago, IL, USA

Ståhl Collection | Norrköping, Sweden

EDITIONS

SPENDING THE DAY ON A STONE (Pink)
2023
Carved and polished Portuguese Pink and
Guatemalan Green marble sculpture with
cast bronze details
17.3 x 9.8 x 7.1in
Collaborated with Avant Arte





HEARTBREAKER (Red / Blue / Purple)
2022
Mould-blown, hand-sculpted glass sculpture
with polished, cast brass base
11.8 x 6.7 x 7.9 in
COA Edition of 30
Collaborated with Avant Arte



HURRY UP, TIME TO PANIC!

2021

Bronze Three-toned patina, screen printed custom wood box

Signed and numbered

18.5 x 10.23 in

Edition of 12 + 4 AP

Collaborated with Case Studyo

PUTTING MY FOOT DOWN (OCTOPUS ON HEAD)

2021

Bronze sculpture Green patina, Signed and numbered certificate
of authenticity Wood screen printed box

13.77 x 7.48 x 3.93 in

Edition of 3 + 2 A.P

Collaborated with Case Studyo



Lill-Lörda
2021
Hand-blown glass
9.48 x 9.48 x 6.88 in
Edition of 25
Collaborated with Avant Arte



A FRIEND FOR RAINY DAYS
2020

Bronze sculpture, Signed and numbered COA Custom
made screen printed wood box
3.5 x 3.15 in
Edition of 20 + 4 A.P
Collaborated with Case Studyo





A DAY IN THE WOODS
2020
Paint on wood
15.25 x 8 x 5.25 in
Edition of 20
Collaborated with AISHONANZUKA



TIME TRAVELLER
2020
Bronze sculpture with two-toned patina, Signed and numbered
certificate of authenticity Wood screen printed box
21 x 65 x 3 in
Edition of 12 + 4 AP
Collaborated with Case Studyo



Boy with BFF Riding in the Wind
2019
bronze
15.25 x 8 x 5.25 in
Edition of 8 + 4 A.P
Collaborated with Case Studyo



THE NOSE PLAYER
2016
bronze, green/blue patinated
8.66 in tall
Edition of 8 + 4 A.P
Collaborated with Case Studyo

PUBLICATIONS

Joakim Ojanen: The Part You Throw Away

2021

Size: 243 x 345 mm

Pages: 96

Text: David Pagel

Interview: Katrin Ingelstedt

Book design: Aron Kullander-Östling

Publisher: Västerås museer

Weight: 929 gr

ISBN 13: 9789198698305

The Part You Throw Away

Joakim Ojanen





Joakim Ojanen: Next to Daisy's, on Top of the Laundry
2022

Size: 210 x 210 mm

Pages: 224

Edition: 400 copies

Illustration: 227 colour

Text: Jakob Ojanen

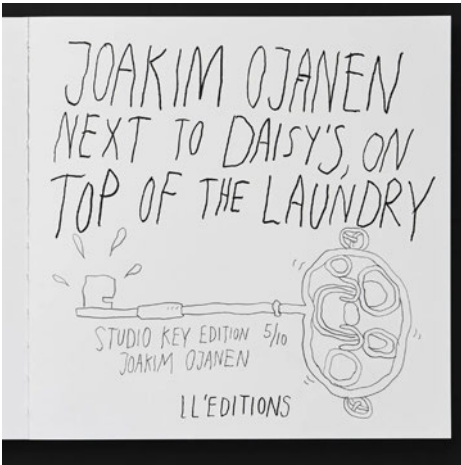
Book design: Lundgren + Lindqvist

Printing: KOPA

Publisher: LL 'Editions

Weight: 728 gr

ISBN: 9789198767254



Joakim Ojanen: A Show for the Lonely Distant Baby Souls
2020

Limited Edition, Numbered
Published by Richard Heller Gallery





Joakim Ojanen: Charcoal Drawings
07.20.2018- 12.05.2020

2020

Size: 270 x 345 mm

Pages: 104

Edition: 2nd edition

Illustration: in colour

Book Design: IPMOS Books

Printing: in Latvia

Publisher: IPMOS Books

Weight: 1189 gr

ISBN: 9789151958132



JOAKIM OJANEN
CHARCOAL DRAWINGS 07.02.2018 - 12.05.2020



Joakim Ojanen
2018
Size: 110 x 180 mm
Pages: 133
Illustration: in colour & b/w
Text: Nina Hemmingsson
Printing: Livonia
Publisher: Orosdi-Back
Weight: 179 gr
ISBN: 9789188629395

Joakim Ojanen: What A Time To Be Alive :(
2016
Pages: 60
Edition: 300 copies
Text: Laura Mylott Manning
Publisher: & Pens Press
Collaborated with Richard Heller Gallery



2022

The Art-Form, Issue 06, JOAKIM OJANEN COVER.

2021

Dagens Nyheter, Myllrande menageri av lekfulla figurer, April 29.

2020

Hypebeast Magazine, Joakim Ojanen Welcomes You to His Fever Dream, April 21.

Hypebeast, Joakim Ojanen Crafts Quirky Ceramic Sculptures & Paintings for First Asia Show, Feb 13.

2019

Artblog, Joakim Ojanen's anxiety-ridden characters, sexualized undertones, at The Hole NYC, March 14.

2018

Los Angeles Times, David Pagel, Review: With 'Year of the Dog,' artist Joakim Ojanen crafts imaginary creatures full of real drama, July 25.

ARTANDCAKE, Genie Davis, Review: Barking Up the Right Tree: Joakim Ojanen – Year of the Dog, July 25.

Art Now LA, Jody Zellen, Review: Joakim Ojanen: Year of the Dog, High Art That Makes You Smile, July 6.

Juxtapoz Magazine, Joakim Ojanen: Year of the Dog, Joakim Ojanen Explores the Child in All of Us in New Show @ Richard Heller Gallery, June 25.

Paper Magazine, Justin Moran, The Swedish Artist Making Creepy, Comedic Sculptures, March 30.

2017

Juxtapoz Magazine, Sasha Bogojev, Merry Melancholy, Comedic Sculptures.

Ravelin, Matilda Dahlgren, Joakim Ojanen at The Journal Gallery's Tennis Elbow.

Art Maze Mag, Christina Nafziger, Strange Yet Relatable and Lovable Ceramic Characters by Joakim Ojanen.

Hi Fructose, Andy Smith, Joakim Ojanen's Playful, Ageless Characters, December 22.

Wall Street International Magazine, Joakim Ojanen, December 9.

Hyperallergic, Edward M. Gómez, Dallas Art Fair Review: At the 2017 Dallas Art Fair, Big Ambitions and the Big Mo, April 8.

It's Nice That, Lucy Bourton, The expressive paintings and sculptures of Joakim Ojanen, January 10.

The Hundreds, Zio, The Secret Life of Joakim Ojanen's Art, January 6.

2016

Cool Hunting, Karen Day, Miami Art Week 2016: Creature Keepers - Animated sculptures that kept us on our toes at the fairs this year, December 9.

Los Angeles Times, David Pagel, Joakim Ojanen: Innocence and melancholy, sculpted into old souls and teary dogs, July 5.

Elephant, Emily Steer, 5 Questions with Joakim Ojanen, July.

Artillery Magazine, Jody Zellen, Joakim Ojanen, July 20.

Artillery Magazine, Eve Wood, Pick of the Week, July 7.

Bibliography



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ROBY DWI ANTONO GRACE WEAVER

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