

DoubleTake

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THE ART OF SCIENCE

Or, consider the work of Gary Schneider, who has made a self-portrait from the photographic imprint of his hand, an image carrying the forensic markers of fingerprints, the outline of the hand, the residue of sweat and heat, by which we could determine the artist's unique identity much as we would by examining his chromosomes, hair, dental X rays, blood, or semen. Schneider's work explores the ways in which scientific discovery informs our understanding of ourselves as unique individuals even as it underscores our base humanity.

This hand—Schneider's hand—is the hand of both the artist and the scientist. It recalls for us the hand of the patient, the researcher, and the physician. It carries in its form and in its conception a trace individuality that lies beneath its seemingly universal anonymity. The more we know of one another, the deeper we delve into the mysteries of the human body, the more we might indeed wonder at the spirit that arises from this marvelous encryption data—and the more we might consider the instructive truths that lie within us all.—THE EDITORS

