

VISIONAIRE

5 Artists We Want Raf Simons to Work With

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Finally Raf Simons is announced as the new chief creative officer of Calvin Klein and once again the rumor mill has proven right. For those familiar with Simons and Klein, it is a match made in heaven: both designers have mastered the art of minimalism. And although Klein's über sexy approach seemingly doesn't match Simons's arty ways, Simons' latest collection for his eponymous label proved that he does sexy very well. The 48-year-old Belgian implemented photos of the late, revolutionary American photographer Robert Mapplethorpe (whose explicit work was once at the end of an obscenity lawsuit due to 100 narrow-minded congress men).

Simons is the protagonist of straddling the border between art and fashion. He has previously collaborated (or been inspired by) with several artists. The list includes Sterling Ruby (whom he not only created a whole collection with for his namesake label, but also notoriously included in his first haute couture collection for Dior as documented in the film *Dior and I*), Brian Calvin, Pablo Picasso, Peter Saville, Peter de Potter, Keith Haring, Simon Periton, Andy Warhol, Jim Lambie, and surely many more. But what artists should the extraordinary creator collaborate with at Calvin Klein? We have chosen our top five picks here.



Jared Madere, *Untitled*, 2015



Jared Madere, *Untitled*, 2016

5. Jared Madere

The young New York-born artist, who had his first museum solo exhibition last year at the Whitney, could be an interesting choice for Simons to work with. Madere's installations primarily consist of contrasting materials such as salt, flowers, foodstuffs, and plastic tarps that are assembled and aggregated in a manner that insists on their material connections to society, economics, industry, and human emotion. The textures the 30-year-old creates would be intriguing to see in more refined materials turned into some kind of accessory. But Simons, famously passionate about flowers, could perhaps be intrigued to secure Madere as a future set designer for a CK show?