

## hol(e)y tees

gathered by julia gartrell

as part of the radical repair workshop

this collection of t-shirts was inspired by the first official donation to the radical repair workshop's permanent archive--- a threadbare tee brought in by a close friend of mine, Cade Carlson. the moment i saw the shirt, i was flooded with memories. Cade probably wore this shirt at least once a week since we met in 2001. it is irrevocably tied to my relationship with Cade; even if i had come across the shirt in a thrift bin in alabama, i would have thought of him immediately.

as a sculptor interested in the sentimentality and lore carried in material objects, i realized that i wanted to see more than just one hol(e)y t-shirt. when i started asking around, it seemed that almost everyone had one or two or seven shirts that were just too precious to discard. i started gathering them (the shirts here are on loan, and will be returned unharmed to their owners) and also asked each lender to answer a few simple questions about their shirt or shirts. as you'll see, the answers are varied, deeply personal, funny, and poignant. the shirts themselves are in various states of decay--- from the almost intact to the moth-eaten to the net-like. there's no particular way i'm asking you to look at these shirts, other than to take a moment to observe their materiality, (smells), stains, and stories. this exercise has created a constellation of my friends' lived experiences, all tied to a holey, holy tee. welcome.

this is the first of what i hope are many experimental object curations that fit with the mission of the radical repair workshop. the radical repair workshop focuses on the act of repair as a sculptural intervention, leaving open the possibility that *not* repairing something might sometimes be the best action. thanks for stopping by.





Please fill out this form thoroughly and specifically. Your answers will inform the nature of your item's repair

What are you donating? yellow "Hemidas" shirt. / Broken Drum stick

Describe its materials in detail. Try to list every single material, or what you think it might be made of. Non-physical descriptions can be included.

shirt: my assumption is that it is some mix of cotton/poly, dyed yellow & screen printed in Red. Originally a souvenir (sp?) from my Grandmother's year early music workshop she would host.

Drum stick: wooden stick, plastic tip. Broken near tip.

How was this item used before it broke? Describe a memory you have with this object.

shirt: worn since middle school, stopped once it was beat-up to the point of fearing it would disintegrate (also, once I <sup>gained</sup> ~~lost~~ my cigarette weight. I recall it being my brightest article of clothing & loved it for that, its design, & its link to my grandmother.

stick: whacking/playing my drums. My first & favorite instrument. Not the first stick to break, but it's loaded w/ artistic/musical energy from excessive use. <sup>my</sup>

shirt: assuming textile mass production, circa 1980s, possibly 1970s even!

stick: no clue, I assume in a mass production... maybe there is an episode of "How it's Made" that could answer that.

How did you acquire this object? How long have you had it?

yellow shirt: gifted from my grandmother. I've had it since 1998ish (!!)

Drum stick: purchased new. Since 2018.

What other owners, if any, has the object had? You can make an educated guess.

yellow shirt: GRANDMOTHER. / Drum stick: me.

How did the object break? Describe the break in a detailed manner

shirt: wore it at least once a week for +10 years. Repeating machine washes have Rended it to its current state

Stick: Hitting my drums. Not sure of exact moment of breaking. I think it occurred when playing along to a song by DIIV (earbuds & I play along these days). Didn't realise the break until I wondered aloud "why does it feel off?"... turns out it was due to it breaking. who wouldo thunk it!?

[Please Turn Over]

What has changed between you and the object since its breakage?

shirt: I've gained a healthy amount of weight (can't fit in it anymore). It's been stored for "sentimental value".

stick: I got a new set of sticks, likely soon to be a new set of broken sticks. Set aside for a little sign for Halloween

Since breaking, where has this object been stored?

shirt: "memory drawer", has other older clothes.

stick: w/ my other sticks/stollots, often tried to play w/ it w/out realizing I grabbed the broken one!!

Please tell a story about your object. This story does not need to be factual.

shirt: worn through innumerable experiences, high/low, so much to consider, too much to grasp ~~the~~.

stick: Broken on the back of Rhythme, stopping the skins.

Circle (and/or write in) the sensations you most associate with this item:

taste	touch	shirt	smell	hearing	stick	sight	balance	shirt	temperature	pain
hunger	sexual stimulation	shirt	time	agency	stick	fear	comfort	uncertainty	longing	
drive										
creation		stick		nostalgia	shirt					
interpretation				"PRIDE"	shirt					

Why did you choose to donate this item to the Radical Repair Workshop?

I see potential in these objects to be reappropriated/integrated into new experiences/objects

Other information you'd like to share:

Transferring these objects to you & this workshop brings a sense of joy. Breathing New Life into "Broken" objects = GRAND!

THANK YOU FOR DONATING TO THE RADICAL REPAIR WORKSHOP!

An archive of repaired items can be found at [www.radicalrepairworkshop.com](http://www.radicalrepairworkshop.com)

OFFICE USE ONLY:

date of donation \_\_\_\_\_

location of donation \_\_\_\_\_

item number \_\_\_\_\_

other notes:





**Leah Mahony**

steamfitters local 818

+ grandpa ornament

**How long have you had this shirt?**

I have had this shirt since 2010.

**What age do you estimate it to be?**

I estimate that the shirt is 50-60 years old.

**How did you become the owner of this shirt?**

When my grandpa died in 2010, my grandma was clearing out his old clothing. I was allowed to pick out anything I wanted to keep and I chose this shirt and a blue wool cardigan.

**What other owners has it had (feel free to speculate)?**

I think that just my grandpa owned this shirt. It has the logo of the union he was a part of as an air conditioning mechanic in a small town near Syracuse, NY.

**Why have you hung onto this shirt?**

I did not know my grandpa well and at times it felt like we had very different personalities and interests. I have kept the shirt because it is a window into part of his life that was important to him, that he contributed to, and reflects his role of being someone who took pride in his work and in being a union worker.



Skye Livingston

grey tee

How long have you had this shirt?

10 years

What age do you estimate it to be?

10 years

How did you become the owner of this shirt?

bought it at Target for \$6

What other owners has it had (feel free to speculate)?

none, unless someone bought and returned it (or I guess technically the Target Corp)

Why have you hung onto this shirt?

it's so comfy! I wore it regularly forever as an everyday shirt, until recently when I realized it should just be a "around the house shirt"

Anything else you would like to share?

I bought this shirt in green at the same time and still have that shirt as well, but don't wear it as much for some reason. Also for the first few years after I bought the shirts, I ran into lot of other people wearing the same shirt.





Adam Joyce

rottweiler

How long have you had this shirt?

13 years

What age do you estimate it to be?

mid-90s (27 yrs old)

How did you become the owner of this shirt?

bought it from Carolina Thrift in Greensboro (RIP)

What other owners has it had (feel free to speculate)?

a guy that drove a Camaro/rottweiler enthusiast, but didn't actually own  
a dog.

Why have you hung onto this shirt?

incredibly soft + comfortable + badass blue dog

Anything else you would like to share? Yes, his name is Geoffrey.





Dana Decareaux

winterhawk

**How long have you had this shirt?**

Since about 1997

**What age do you estimate it to be?**

40ish

**How did you become the owner of this shirt?**

It was my uncle's and I always thought he was so cool because he played drums in various bands. When I started to get interested in music in my early teens, he gave it to me and I wore it incessantly.

**What other owners has it had (feel free to speculate)?**

My uncle, Mike Bowlin

**Why have you hung onto this shirt?**

It is sentimental to me because it is from my uncle, but also because it represents a time where I was figuring out who I was and what I liked and what my style was for the first time. I always felt cool when I put it on.



Meredith Cohen

Perry-Alston reunion

**How long have you had this shirt?**

I think I got it when I was in college - I'm going to safely say at least 16 years.

**What age do you estimate it to be?**

It was used when I got it! So at least 20??

**How did you become the owner of this shirt?**

I found it in the garment district (thrift store) in Boston, on a road trip with friends.

**What other owners has it had (feel free to speculate)?**

A member of the Perry-Alston family (as it's from their reunion)

**Why have you hung onto this shirt?**

It was always my favorite because it was so soft, and fit just right. It's only gotten softer over time, to the point that it is now literally transparent (and I'm afraid to wear it, because I don't want it to fall apart!). It also reminds me of memories of thrifting and trips with friends in college, when that freedom was so exciting and I felt more punk rock.





Ann Tilley

LA GEAR

**How long have you had this shirt?**

10 years

**What age do you estimate it to be?**

80s (30-40 yrs old)

**How did you become the owner of this shirt?**

A friend sent me her old shirts to make into a t-shirt quilt for her, but I never did and took this shirt from the box forever.

**What other owners has it had (feel free to speculate)?**

So Haley had it, and she had taken it from a childhood friend, Erica, and she probably got it from a thrift store in Pennsylvania.

**Why have you hung onto this shirt?**

I love the colors + the cropped, oversized style. It changed my taste in clothing towards more cropped shirts.

**Anything else you would like to share?** This shirt has been retired from wear, sadly, and now lives in the rag pile at home.





Bec Conrad

skate free or die

**How long have you had this shirt?**

Since college.

**What age do you estimate it to be?**

15 yo

**How did you become the owner of this shirt?**

It's just a basic white t-shirt that I drew a design on the front of with fabric markers. My friend and I had a skateboarding gang called "Skate or Die" and we made up a hand signal.

**What other owners has it had (feel free to speculate)?**

No other owners. I've never even see anyone else wear it.

**Why have you hung onto this shirt?**

It reminds me of my best friends in college.

**Anything else you would like to share?**

I didn't realize until many months later that the hand I drew had 6 fingers.



Daniel Bagnell

operation ivy

**How long have you had this shirt?**

I've had this shirt since about 1990/91

**What age do you estimate it to be?**

New at the time

**How did you become the owner of this shirt?**

Ordered from Lookout Records mail order/via Maximumrocknroll magazine. I would order 7"es and stuff from them and Chris Applecore would send nice letters with the order that had fun drawings and everything.

**What other owners has it had (feel free to speculate)?**

Just me.

**Why have you hung onto this shirt?**

Shirts like this were a way to find my personal style/aesthetic/genre. Fashion was not my thing but T-shirts were accessible and to the point. While I still have a place in my heart for OPIV I find them hard to listen to now without it stirring up hard memories of awkward times and desperate longings. Hedgecore is a great song.

**Anything else you would like to share?**

I tried to explain the lyrics on the shirt to my mom and got a serious blank stare. This shirt went over much better than the Dead Kennedys or Bad Brains shirts though so...

Also, shirts in the 90s tended to be huge for some reason - I chopped the bottom off so it didn't look like a dress on me but that made it look like a crop top for a giant. Oh well.





**How long have you had this shirt?**

Five years.

**What age do you estimate it to be?**

Nineteen years old.

**How did you become the owner of this shirt?**

In 2015 I quit my job at this metal shop in Brooklyn, went on a bender while coming off of Lithium and a bunch of other psychotropic drugs that weren't working properly, broke up with a longtime partner, got a job as a bus boy at a fried chicken restaurant, listened to a bunch of Beach Boys and Burzum while smoking joints with the rest of my head underwater in the filthy pink bathtub, and ran out of rent money in August when my little brother came through homeless and dopesick with a hip full of mrsa. After he moved along, I packed everything into the back of my truck (which had expired tags and a few thousand dollars in parking tickets) and split for Durham, NC, where some distant cousins were going to take me in. My dear friend and housemate Noah and I were working at the same fried chicken and pie restaurant and had been staying up all night every night playing music and chess and doing everything together around this time. He helped me pack my truck, and he gave me RUNNING FREE as we hugged and cried as I left.

**What other owners has it had (feel free to speculate)?**

I'm pretty sure Noah bought it at a walmart when he was twelve or thirteen.

**Why have you hung onto this shirt?**

It's beautiful, it's soft. It has deer. It has a tractor-trailer. It was one of my closest friends' most precious tees. Running free is a sailing term where your sheet is all the way out and you're cruising with the wind at your back letting it carry you. So this applies to the tractor, but also the deer that are imperiled by the tractor. I often feel like a deer imperiled by tractors who still digs tractors.





## Jack Thegan-Crowley

the striped one I've had since i was 20 or so. thrift store did much oogle shit in that shirt. there are three in there that were my dads. the black MC Esher one that says "leapin' lizards" was from his volley ball team in the 80s and even features a little volleyball on it. i think i tried to sew up the collar with dental floss. I've had since i was about 17. the green one is also from the 80s, barley legible and barely holding together say "Bull city cycles" on it. dirhams first bike shop. was a favorite work shirt of my dads for many years.

theres another white tank top in there that is another old volleyball shirt of my dads and also sewn up with dental floss by me. it has the team roster on it and says " N' Crowley " at the bottom.

my dads battered old work shirts were swept up and given a new appreciation by myself as a punk teenager. I went on to do much oogle shit in them i.e dumpster dive, get in bike wrecks, train hop etc.

i think the leaping lizards were sponsored by durham tire or something  
i still wear the leaping lizard shirt a lot. it is a place of high honor

of shirts i only wear infrequently and on special occasions because they will only endure so many more wearings, i have to hand wash them







Andrew Preiss

mr. pouce (white)

Mr. Pouce T-shirt (team shirt)  
(by me)

Made in 1985 as a team  
jersey for a Triangle Men's  
Club Ultimate team called  
"Mr. Pouce". ~20 copies were  
made. Worn at Regionals

in Princeton NJ (mid Oct. 85)  
when the team <sup>won in the finals and</sup> qualified ~~for~~ as  
one of 10 teams nationwide to  
compete in Wash. DC at The  
National Championships. I was  
the captain of the team. Saved  
for obvious reasons.





HR Webster

sea turtle

**How long have you had this shirt?**

The shirt became mine around 2007. Before that it was my father's.

**What age do you estimate it to be?**

I think it is from a 1991 or so.

**How did you become the owner of this shirt?**

My father got sentimental at some point about my desire to wear his old clothes. I think he was comforted by my 'Tom boy' vibes. We weren't very close at the time (teens yrs) and he was excited because he thought my desire for worn out clothes was a desire for emotional intimacy. He gave me a stack of t-shirts and flannels he had worn for years and this is one of the few survivors.

**What other owners has it had (feel free to speculate)?**

Why have you hung onto this shirt?

It is soft. It is a turtle. I feel kinda hot when I wear it because... holes?



## T-SHIRT

1. I HAVE HAD THIS SHIRT FOR FOURTEEN YEARS.
2. I WOULD ESTIMATE THIS SHIRT TO BE TWENTY FIVE OR THIRTY YEARS OLD.
3. I GOT THIS SHIRT FROM A CLOTHING SWAP IN TUCSON, ARIZONA IN 2006.
4. THIS SHIRT WAS BROUGHT TO THE CLOTHING SWAP BY A FRIEND, HER NAME IS ALLISON. BEFORE ALLISON, IT SEEMS LIKE IT WAS A LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL SHIRT...? THERE IS A WICKLIFFE, OHIO & A WICKLIFFE, KENTUCKY.
5. I LOVE THE COLOR, FIT, AND ESPECIALLY THE WORN QUALITY OF THIS SHIRT. OVER TIME, THE NUMBERS ON THE BACK HAVE STARTED TO STICK TOGETHER - I LIKE THIS TENDENCY OF THE SHIRT -- BECOMING MORE 3D, MORE WRINKLED & CREASED AS IT WEARS. I THINK THE HEAT FROM THE DRYER DOES A LOT TO ALTER IT.
6. I ONLY HANDWASH THIS SHIRT NOW. AND HANG DRY. IT IS MY FAVORITE T-SHIRT. MY VERY OWN GOLDEN BOY.





Charlie Ryland

grey/holey

How long have you had this shirt?

17 years old

What age do you estimate it to be?

17 years old

How did you become the owner of this shirt?

aunt gave it to me for my 15th birthday

What other owners has it had (feel free to speculate)?

none

Why have you hung onto this shirt?

I don't know...I know I tend to hold on to things well past their prime.

Honestly, I hate shopping and I hate buying new clothes so I wear things

as long as possible.



Tom Dawson

barton funk

morphine

subhumans

How long have you had this shirt?

A month.

What age do you estimate it to be?

Mid 90's

How did you become the owner of this shirt?

My parents passed it on to me.

What other owners has it had (feel free to speculate)?

My brother, maybe his friends, or girl friends.

Why have you hung onto this shirt?

They are bands that he loved or were friends of his. I gave him one of the shirts from a concert I went to (Morphine)

Anything else you would like to share?

We haven't seen each other for almost 20 years. He died last February.





Willard Fenton-Miller

kzoo

I received it new as a Christmas gift in 2011. I've hung on to it I suppose because I really liked my work in the K art Dept and enjoyed promoting it. It was often a conversation starter.

One fun aspect was wearing it in CA while visiting my daughter. I had two alums and one incoming 1st year approach me on separate occasions when they saw the shirt. (All in Oakland)



Julia Gartrell

Macintosh

**How long have you had this shirt?**

I think I got it in middle school, though it's a bit fuzzy/I have poor time recall

**What age do you estimate it to be?**

It is from 1984, the year the first Macintosh computer was commercially available. My dad (a big nerd) bought this computer and kept the shirt for many years.

**How did you become the owner of this shirt?**

At some point when I was in middle school/late elementary I was really into old-looking clothing, and I asked my dad if he had any old tshirts. He pulled a plastic bin out from under his bed that was full of his college and other shirts (including a Vietnam War strike shirt from his senior year of college). I'm pretty sure that's where I got this one, which quickly became a favorite of mine. He wouldn't let me go near a lot of them which was smart, in retrospect. I definitely would have ruined them all.

**What other owners has it had (feel free to speculate)?**

Steve Jobs, my dad

**Why have you hung onto this shirt?**

It's so fun to wear, people get excited about the Mac logo when they recognize it. Great for sportswear, keeps the breeze up.

**Anything else you would like to share?**

My dad was always kind of upset that I let this shirt get so tattered. He was convinced it would be worth big money some day as a collector's item. I just looked it up on eBay---in mint condition they're going for \$20-\$25.