

WTFIT: KIEL JOHNSON

By TERRI STONE

Cardboard is often artist <u>Kiel Johnson</u>'s medium of choice, so we weren't surprised when the star player in his response to our WTFIT challenge was not the items in the box, but the box itself.



"When I saw the stuff in the box and the word (heat), I wanted to eliminate it," he remembers. "I was trying to get out of it somehow. It consumed my brain

for days. 'What am I going to do with all this shit?' Then I had the idea to burn it up. You can pretty much set anything on fire, and it's cool."

Here's how it works:

- 1. You've now received this box of unrelated items.
- 2. Find your word on the back of this card.
- **3.** You have 1 week to create something that represents that word.
- 4. Use every item in this box in your creation. Add only glue and paint:
- **5.** At the end of the week, photograph or film the results and post them as a new project in your Behance profile. Include progress images, if you'd like.
- 6. Tag the new Behance project with WTFIT.
- 7. The results will be published in a re-imagined Adobe Inspire Magazine.

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The box and its contents provided some of what Johnson needed to carry out that concept. "The paper and packaging were flammable," Johnson says, "but how could I catch it on fire? There wasn't a magnifying glass, and no sticks to rub together." He even considered going someplace hot enough that spontaneous combustion would destroy everything. In the end, however, he decided to build the facsimile of a furnace.



In the two days that followed, he deconstructed the box, created the furnace, and used paint to evoke flames and charred objects emerging from the heat.







Look for more flames in Johnson's future work. "I'm doing a series of drawings that was going to be a thick section of forest, but now I'm going to have a section of it on fire," he says. "Being forced to work on the word *heat* made me think of it. It inspired me. Maybe I'll light my studio on fire. I'll have cardboard fire of all different sizes. It would be hilarious to get a series of beautiful photos of the entire studio on fire. I'll be a cardboard arsonist!"

For more images of the project, see Johnson's Behance page.