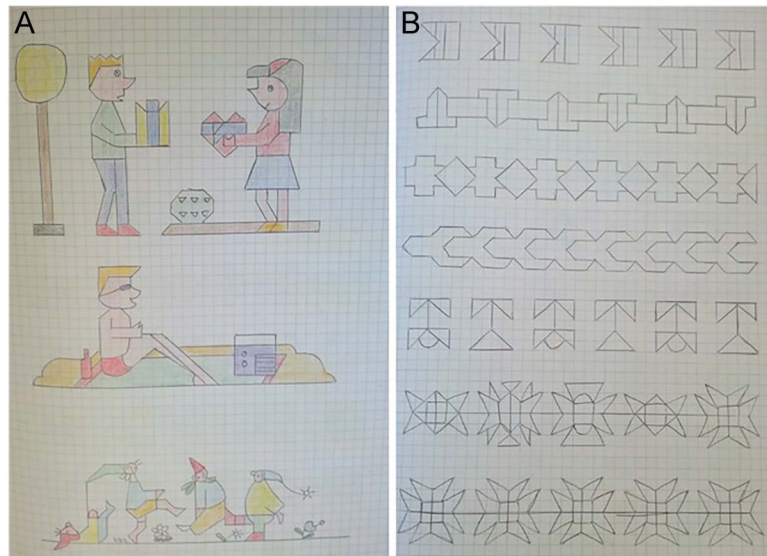


Drawing in Alzheimer-type dementia

Figure 1 Painting made before the illness (2000)



Figure 2 Drawings made when memory disturbances were first reported (A) and present-day drawings (B)



(A) Drawings made when memory disturbances were first reported (i.e., 2012). Note the first signs of regression into child-like drawing, with loss of perspective, color simplification, and woodenness (geometrical design). (B) Present-day drawings (2014), limited to stereotyped, geometrical shapes without color.

A 76-year-old woman had progressive memory loss for 2 years. Neurologic examination confirmed the memory deficit and also demonstrated ideative-ideomotor apraxia and visuospatial disturbances (Mini-Mental State Examination 17/30). A diagnosis of probable Alzheimer disease dementia (AD) was formulated. She showed

us notebooks filled with drawings she had completed as a hobby, covering a period from before the illness (figure 1) to the present (figure 2). These sketches provide an inside into AD-related changes in creativity and visuospatial skills.¹ Drawing performance is related to perceptual and executive dysfunctions in the visuospatial domain.

Mario Fichera, MD, Maria Paola Bernasconi, MSc, Vittorio Martinelli, MD, Giancarlo Comi, MD, Maria Antonietta Volonté, MD

From the Scientific Institute Ospedale San Raffaele, Milan, Italy.

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Correspondence to Dr. Fichera: fichera.mario@hsr.it

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