

In His Own Words – Childhood

Among Kostas Kartelias's recollections of childhood, one observation reveals the early roots of his artistic identity: "The sketchbook was more 'me' than the arithmetic notebook." The remark, made during his 2016 interview with Ioanna Pitaouli, recalls a childhood in which creative expression felt more natural than formal academic routines.

The quotation is not a rejection of learning but an affirmation of vocation. By contrasting the sketchbook with the arithmetic notebook, Kartelias describes the gradual discovery of the world in which he truly belonged. Drawing, writing, and imagination became the means through which he explored experience, long before poetry emerged as his principal form of expression.

Read in the broader context of the interview, the statement foreshadows the themes that later define his work: memory, creativity, and the search for authenticity. It reminds readers that an artist's voice often begins to form in childhood, through simple choices and quiet preferences that reveal a lifelong creative direction.