



## Rebecca O'Brien

Born in Washington, U.S.A. in 1985

Currently lives and works in Shenzhen, China

### **Artist's Biography**

Rebecca O'Brien was always a self-taught artist, though kept her talents quietly to herself and her close friends. In 2013, she ventured into the streets of China and began spray painting under the alias "NFN8" (pronounced: "infinite") for anonymity whilst still a teacher. She chose this tag because, when asked where her art comes from, she attributes it to something much larger than herself or her hands.

Quickly, however, word got out about her paintings and she was met with surprisingly strong support from her peers, students and other artists who saw her work. After a serious bike accident in early 2014, she was left with a new clarity that creating art is part of her identity. Within a few weeks, she was invited to her first group exhibition and since then she has been showing and selling her work in Shenzhen.

Recently, she has been supported by the Jardin Orange Artist Residency to create her newest black and white series titled “Lines and Strokes” using water and Chinese ink. The exhibition name alludes to her process of combining quick and ‘messy’ layers of brushwork and water stains with contouring ink lines. Her technique aims to visually demonstrate the ‘infinite’ layers and complexities of even the most natural expressions and gestures.

In Rebecca’s current series of works, she portrays dogs behaving or looking distinctly similar to human beings. She places the dogs in costumes as a way to help remind people not to take their life (possessions, fashion or jobs) too seriously and to laugh more! This theme was chosen by the artist to be geared towards the upcoming Chinese zodiac calendar year. Since the symbolism of the zodiac animal is often connected to the fact that dogs are always ensuring others are happy, this series emphasises Rebecca’s opinion that serving others is more important than achieving wealth, money or success.

The artist is currently looking for new dogs to be her next “muse”; she is looking for photographs of dogs that show an obvious joy for life, humorous personality and even exhibit funny poses. If you think your dog could be an inspiring model for this next series of portraits, feel free to seek out a commissioned art work from the artist that will capture your dog’s unique personality and spirit.

## **Exhibitions**

2017

International Artists Group Show, Shenzhen, China

Amanda Wei Gallery, Hong Kong

Jardin Orange, Shenzhen, China