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## **WOLFBAT SHAMANS AND THE WHALE OF GRATITUDE**

**Art by Dennis McNett**

**ARTISTS RECEPTION: Saturday, Feb. 4, 2012**

**PRESENTED by VANS**

**"The Wolfbat tribe is making its way west across North America to Laguna Beach where shamans from the tribe will gather to invoke the Whale of Gratitude."**

WOLFBAT SHAMANS AND THE WHALE OF GRATITUDE // ART BY DENNIS MCNETT  
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A large selection of Dennis McNett's woodcut prints, sculptural forms, wall installations, papier mâché and masks in mythical and animalistic creations come to AR4T Gallery this February and March. The artist will spend several days building an original installation that will be on view for two months and will also host a craft day for kids in Laguna Beach. This will be his first solo art show in California in three years and his first time showing in Orange County.

"Each year the tribe stops to reflect on fallen tribesman, opportunities they have had, new members they have connected with, pay respect to those who have paved the path before them, and express gratitude for the energy and breath of the Wolfbat spirit. We have much to be grateful for this year."

McNett has shown frequently at galleries and art fairs all over the world, including the esteemed Joshua Liner gallery in Manhattan. His artistic practice focuses on storytelling through mythopoetic images, sculptures, and public events/performances. His vocabulary of images borrows freely from Greek and Norse myths, Mexican muertos, and the animal kingdom, all synthesized into an idiosyncratic style that is deeply heartfelt. Often inspired by the spirits of close friends and admired figures, McNett has evolved these characters into a unique and personal mythology. Chief among these is the "Wolfbat," a flying creature with bat wings and the head of a wolf. Inspired by the misunderstood Fenris of Norse myth, the Wolfbat which "wakes up the sleeping spirit" was featured in the 2007 Deitch Projects Art Parade in the form of masks worn by participants. Since that time, his massive public art parades have made him a favorite with art media: multiple features in [Juxtapoz](#), [NY Times](#), Vice and Bliss among many others, including a nine episode web series on Dennis for [Time and Space / Off The Wall TV](#).

"Wolfbats can not stay stationary for too long and need to connect with a broader spectrum of souls. California has been really responsive, calming, and kind anytime the Wolfbats have flown through in the past. We are looking forward to coming out to Orange County to share some gratitude."

Laguna Beach 2012, release your Inner Wolfbat.

***"WOLFBAT SHAMANS AND THE WHALE OF GRATITUDE" runs Feb. 4-March 24 at AR4T GALLERY, 210 North Coast Hwy. (between Broadway and Cliff), Laguna Beach, CA. Opening reception on Saturday, Feb 4th from 6 to 9pm, is free and open to the public. Parking Meters free after 7pm. Works are for sale. Winter gallery hours: Wed-Sat 3 to 8pm. [www.AR4T.com](http://www.AR4T.com).***

***For more information on kids craft day with Dennis McNett, with woodcut printing, papier mâché mask-making and honorary Wolfbat initiation, please contact [dana@ar4t.com](mailto:dana@ar4t.com)***

## **About the Artist**

[www.wolfbat.com](http://www.wolfbat.com)

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Sometimes taking the form of Viking ships, McNett's memorial sculptures are emblazoned with wheatpasted images of deceased friends and heroes among myriad contributions by other artists, and then paraded through the streets drawing participants from the surrounding community. These public events are intended not only as memorials but also as celebrations of community energy and collective spirit. Identifying overarching themes in his work, McNett states that he views his characters as "strong, beautiful misfits shunned and punished for being different, alive, strong. They are a reminder of our short time on earth, the awestruck sensations inspired by nature, or simply characters very alive and expressive in their gesture. Participating in a Viking parade inspires camaraderie and displays the power of working as a unit. And resurrecting a giant serves as a reminder that you cannot bind a strong spirit. I envision all of these things battling against the sleeping, tuned-out, and lost translations of digital communication, loss of community/tribe, fictional news media, corporate ownership, and money-before-spirit attitudes."

Born in 1972 in Virginia Beach, VA, Dennis McNett received a BFA from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA, and an MFA from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY. He lives and works in Ridgewood, NY. Solo exhibitions of his work include the New Works at Joshua Liner Gallery, New York (2011); Year of the Wolfbat, Fecal Face Dot Gallery, San Francisco (2009); and Driving Through, The Life Art Gallery, Portland, OR (2008). His work has been featured in the following selected group exhibitions: Barnstormers, Joshua Liner Gallery, New York (2010); Outlaws and Wild Animals, Rebus Works, Raleigh, NC (2009); From the Streets of Brooklyn, Thinkspace Gallery, Los Angeles (2009); Titanium Exposed, Fecal Face Gallery, San Francisco (2008); INprint, SCA Contemporary Art, Albuquerque, NM (2008); and Inky and Stinky, Lombardi Gallery, Austin, TX (2008).

## **Dennis McNett CV**

[www.wolfbat.com](http://www.wolfbat.com)

### **Education**

2004 MFA, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York

2000 BFA, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia

### **Solo Exhibitions**

2012 Wolfbat Shamans and the Whale of Gratitude, AR4T, Laguna Beach, CA

2011 The Wolfbat Castle of Elgin, Safety-Kleen Gallery Elgin, IL

2011 Whirling Waves and Wolfbats, Viking Union Gallery, Bellingham, WA

2010 Barney's Window Displays, Madison Ave. New York, NY

2010 "Reaping Waves and Vital Vessels: The passing of the Wolfbats"

Joshua Liner Gallery New York, NY December

2009 "Year of The Wolfbat" Thinkspace Gallery Los Angeles, CA August

2009 "Year of the Wolfbat" Fecalface Dot Gallery, San Francisco, NY July

2009 "Year of The Wolfbat" Space 1026 Philadelphia, PA October

2008 "The Horned Deity" The Stanton Chapter, New York, NY, Sept.

2008 "Beasts" Saved, Brooklyn, NY Oct.

2008 "Driving Through" The Life Art Gallery Portland, OR, June

### **Museum Shows**

2012 The Power of Making, Victoria Albert Museum, London

2011 Wind Weaver and the Whirling Wheel: A Tale of Wolfbat Romance,  
MOCA, Jacksonville, FL

### **Group Exhibitions**

2012 Galleria Patricia Armocida, Milano, Italy

2012 The Power of Making, Victoria Albert Museum, London

2012 Juxtapoz Turns 18, Copro Gallery, Santa Monica, CA

2012 *Published By The Artist*, IPCNY, New York, NY

2011 Cautionary Tales, Milwaukee Union Art gallery, Milwaukee, WI

2011 Bloom Art Fair, Cologne, Germany

2010 Barnstormers, Joshua Liner Gallery, New York, NY

2010 "Know New York" Cinders Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2010 "Dark Pop 2" Last Rites Gallery, New York, NY

2009 "The Other Side of A Smile" OnSix Gallery SF, CA June

2009 "The Detournements Of Wynn Miller" Exhibit A Gallery, Los Angeles, 2009

"Outlaws and Wild Animals" Rebus Works, Raleigh, NC June

2009 "From The Streets of Brooklyn" Thinkspace Gallery, Los Angeles, CA Jan.

2008 "Brooklyn Block Party" Adhoc Art Gallery, Brooklyn, NY Dec.

2008 "Titanium Exposed" Fecalface Gallery, San Francisco Nov.

2008 "Horror Business" Westlake Village, Ca Oct.

2008 "Metropolis Apocalypse" Supreme Trading, Brooklyn, NY Oct.

2008 "INprint" SCA Contemporary Art Albuquerque, NM August

2008 "Spread the Ink, Spread the Love" Happy Dog Gallery, Chicago, IL

2008 "The Horror Show" New Orleans, LA July

2008 "Inky and Stinky" Lombardi Gallery, Austin, TX May

2008 "Ink Slingers Ball" The Creative Workers Union, Austin, TX May

2008 Group Show Jonathan Shorr Gallery New York, NY March

2008 3Way Print Melee, Parnu Kunsti Hall, Parnu, Estonia Jan.

### **Grants and Fellowships**

2009 NYFA Grant  
2009 Pratt Faculty Grant

### **Books and Publications**

2012 Lamono Jan. Issue Barcelona  
2010 Juxtapoz August issue (full feature)  
2010 Juxtapoz *Dark Arts*  
2009 *Rip the Ripper*  
2009 Dirty Pilot *Year One Rewind: a Survey of Graffiti, Street, and Urban Art*  
2009 Vans Off the Wall: Story of Soul from Van Originals  
2009 Bliss Magazine/ September Issue (featured artist)  
2009 Inked Magazine/ October issue (featured artist)  
2008 Complex Magazine/ January issue (featured artist)  
2008 Art and Sole: Contemporary Sneaker Art and Design  
2007 New York Times: The Creative Spirit, Strolling  
Through SoHo With Its Fringe Flying Sept. 10th  
2007 Juxtapoz Magazine/ April issue (featured artist)  
2007 New York Arts Magazine Vol. 12 (featured artist)

### **Visiting Artist Lecturer**

2011 Elgin Community College, Elgin, IL  
2011 University of Texas –Permian Basin APR  
2011 Texas Tech APR  
2011 Kansas City Art Institute MAR  
2011 Wichita State University MAR  
2011 Emporia State University MAR  
2011 University of North Florida FEB  
2011 University of Wisconsin- Madison FEB  
2011 University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee FEB  
2011 Western Washington University FEB  
2011 University of South Dakota JAN  
2009 University of Oklahoma OCT  
2009 Frogman's Workshop, University of South Dakota  
2009 Elgin Community College, Elgin Illinois  
2008 Universidad De Monterrey Monterrey, Mexico  
2008 Framingham State College, Framingham, MA  
2008 Syracuse University, Syracuse New York  
2007 Visiting Artist, lecture/Workshop, University of Wisconsin – Madison  
2007 Visiting Artist, Evil Prints with Tom Huck, St. Louis, MI

### **Professional Experience**

2011-2004 Adjunct Assistant Professor Pratt Institute  
2010 Barneys window displays, Madison Ave. NY, NY  
2011- 2007 Nitro snowboard graphics  
2010-2006 Antihero skateboard graphics  
2010 Volcom Artist series collection  
2009-2008 Vans limited edition artist graphics for shoes  
2009 Adidas originals shoe and apparel design  
2005 - 2001 Printer, Brand-x Editions (Chuck Close serigraph), New York, NY  
2004 Freelance Illustration, The History

AR4T | ARTISTS REPUBLIC  
FOR TOMORROW

# WOLFBAT SHAMANS

AND THE WHALE OF GRATITUDE



DENNIS MCNETT

• FEBRUARY 4TH - MARCH 24TH, 2012 •

AR4T  
GALLERY

210 NORTH COAST HWY. LAGUNA BEACH  
BETWEEN BROADWAY & CLIFF DR.  
HOURS: WED - SAT, ONE TO SIX PM  
AR4T.COM

PRESENTED BY:



OPENING RECEPTION:  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH  
6:00PM - 9:00PM