

Visual Art 视觉艺术

– Interview with *Jade Hoksbergen*
专访

At the age of 14, Jade Hoksbergen faced a difficult transition in her life. Her affair with painting quickly blossomed as her artistic ambitions were recognised and encouraged by her father. Later, she became inspired by diving to become an underwater photographer. This is her first interview about her artistic world.

十四岁的时候，Jade Hoksbergen 的人生面临着一次艰难的转折。在父亲的认可与鼓励下，她的绘画艺术天分迅速开花结果；而后来，她受潜水经历的启发，成了一名水下摄影师。此次采访，她第一次谈到了自己的艺术世界。



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Images | Jade Hoksbergen

Q & A

To you, what's the relationship between art, life and death?

对你来说，艺术、生命和死亡的关系如何？

To me, art is life. It sounds dramatic, but in a strange way, art has given me back my life. When I was 13, I was pulled out of school suddenly and sent to France where I struggled with my mental health. I went through counselling, which didn't seem to help until I first started painting my emotions. That was the first step towards my recovery. I'd never been able to explain what was inside my head – it's like trying to explain a colour to someone who is blind. For me, art became a way of understanding myself.

对我来说，艺术就是生命。听起来很夸张，但艺术的确以一种神奇的方式让我重获新生。十三岁的时候，因为精神方面的原因，我被迫中断学业并前往法国居住。我一直在接受心理辅导，但作用不明显。当我拿起画笔宣泄自己的情绪时，整个人才开始康复。我始终无法解释我的内心世界，就像你无法向一个盲人描述颜色一样。艺术对我来说是一种了解自身的方式。





Does being an artist help you in photography? For example, the lighting, colour and composition.

艺术家的经历对摄影有帮助吗？比如在打光、色彩和构图方面。

Definitely. In photography, it is as if the artist in me teams up with nature in order to produce an image that is aesthetically pleasing. Of course, a lot of trial-and-error and experimentation goes on, and that's part of the fun, but I think I've had relative success in underwater photography because of my appreciation and eye for colour. I never ignore a subject that might be 'too average' or 'too common.' It can make all the difference if an ordinary subject is situated in a beautifully colourful setting — you can make the ordinary extraordinary. I am also not afraid of unconventional compositions. I photograph in much same way as I paint, for example, often I will cut a portion of the subject deliberately from the frame.

有。摄影的时候，我体内的艺术家似乎与自然合作无间，使拍出的照片赏心悦目。当然啦，我也会经历很多试错、实验，不过那些也很有趣。在我看来，我的水下摄影比较成功是因为我对色彩的鉴赏力和眼光。我从来不忽略任何一个可能“太平淡”或“太普通”的拍摄对象，如果它的背景色彩足够好，也一样出彩——要有这种化腐朽为神奇的能力。我也不拘泥于传统的构图形式，我拍照片就像画画一样，经常会故意在画面中截掉拍摄对象的某一部分。

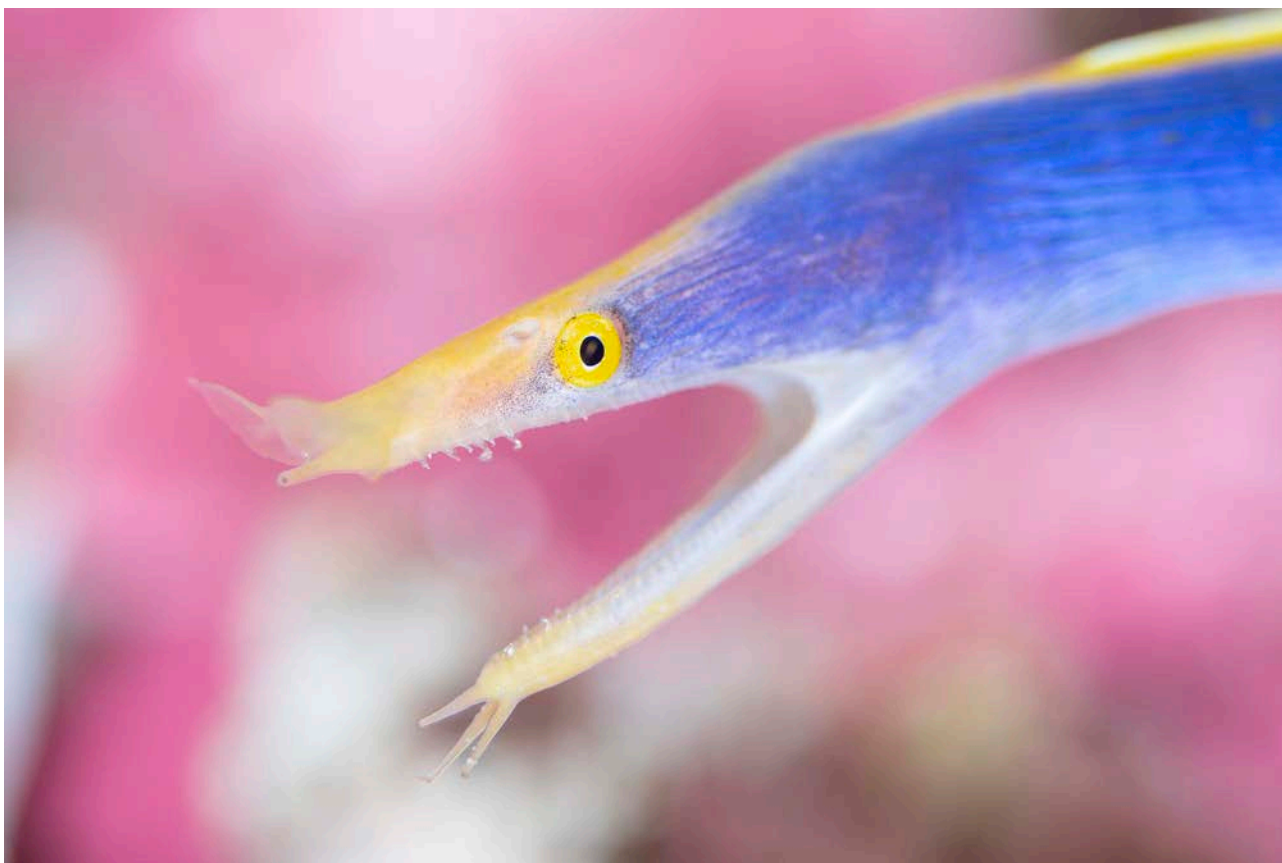
Do diving experiences inspire you artistically?

那潜水经历对你的艺术创作有启发吗？

Yes! The ocean is full of such diverse life. I try to absorb it all whenever I'm under the sea. I believe that as an artist, you can't sit around waiting for inspiration to come; instead, you've got to chase it. Diving gives me that, because life underwater is so rich and unique. My first blackwater dive springs to mind — submersing under the cover of darkness to witness larval and juvenile fish, usually found in the depths, rising to the surface to feed on microscopic plankton. On that first dive, I saw pyrosomes glowing in their hues of electric blue. I saw a larval lionfish and a larval scorpionfish. All of it looked so... out of this world! So much resembled the creatures I was making up on my canvases. This was hugely inspiring.

必须有！海洋里有各种各样的生物，每次下水我都想把它们全印在脑子里。因为我觉得，艺术家不能干坐着等灵感降临，要主动寻找才对。潜水给了我很多灵感，因为水下生物太丰富、太特别了。我想起第一次黑水潜水的经历——在夜幕的掩映下潜入水中，看到白天待在水下深处的幼虫和仔鱼，此时都浮到水面附近觅食浮游生物。那次潜水我看到了闪烁着铁蓝色光的火体虫，还看到了一条狮子鱼幼鱼和一条鲉鱼幼鱼。它们看起来都……不像人世之物！和我在画布上涂抹的生物倒是很像。这点让我深受启发。





Life is beyond our control but everyone wants to control it. Are you in control when you are diving?

生命是不受控制的，但每个人都想要掌控。你觉得潜水是可控的吗？

The ocean is wild, unpredictable, anything but tame. There are aspects to the sport within our control, such as technique and execution, but so much is beyond our control — like the magical encounters that might await you.

There is something incredibly humbling and nourishing about diving as it is a discipline where we are completely enveloped by nature. We are visitors in the ocean so I almost feel it's an escape from being human — from the constant buzz and busy-ness. We know we are not completely in control, and we can be okay with that.

海洋有野性，不可捉摸且毫不驯服。就潜水这项运动来说，有些方面是可控的，比如潜水技巧和执行，但更多是不可控的——例如你可能会遇到的神奇生物。

另外，因为潜水时我们完全沉浸在自然的怀抱中，就会有种不可思议的谦卑与丰盈感。作为海洋的访客，我觉得我几乎逃离了人类——逃离了绵绵不绝的嘈杂与忙碌。我们知道自己不能完全掌控，但也没关系。

What are the reasons you started painting the Ocean Series? 你画海洋系列的背后有什么原因吗？

I didn't set out to create an 'Ocean Series,' rather it began organically, side by side with my diving. Over time, I noticed the subjects I was painting evolved and became more fish-like. I started painting prolifically in 2009 and, although the subjects look more like monsters, back then they were intended to be self-portraits. By 2014, there was a shift with these self-portraits becoming fish.

Never did I think I would become an artist, but the way I see it today, my job is to create work that sparks conversation. I have never experienced freedom like I do when submerged underneath the waves and painting brings me to a similar mind-space. I have promised myself to always paint with freedom. I believe that shows, and can transport viewers to a similar place and hopefully create a momentary feeling of peace and escape for them.

我一开始并没有想画海洋系列，它是随着我的潜水历程自然呈现的。随着时间的推移，我发现我画的物体逐渐演变，越来越像鱼类。2009年我画了许多画，里面的物体很像怪物，大概是我那时候的自画像。到2014年，这些自画像开始变得像鱼了。

我从没想过自己会成一位艺术家，在我看来，我的工作就是创作出能与人对话的作品。沉没于波涛之下让我感受到了前所未有的自由，而画画之于我的心灵也一样。我曾发誓永远要自由地绘画，因为我觉得这样观众才能随我进入一个自由的空间，获得短暂的平静与逃离。

Is there anything you would like to advocate through the series?

通过这个系列你想要传达什么讯息?

Looking back, the relentless pursuit of perfection and the pressure I've always placed on myself is what led to my mental health deteriorating. My art is incredibly healing for me – I welcome the imperfection, the creative mess, and embrace the spontaneity of the process. In Japan, there is a philosophy called 'wabi-sabi' about appreciating beauty that is imperfect, impermanent and incomplete. In my art, colours don't always sit cleanly within lines, shapes are incomplete... embracing imperfection is freeing.

All this serves as a constant reminder that a perfect human being doesn't exist, simply because no two people, let alone the world, could possibly agree on what a perfect human being is.

回头想想，我的精神状况恶化其实就是不断追求完美、不断给自己施压造成的。而艺术是疗愈我的神奇力量——让我接受不完美，接受创造性混沌，拥抱艺术创作的自发性。日本有种哲学观叫“残缺之美”，就是要懂得欣赏不完美、不永恒且不完整的美。在我的作品中，色块有时会故意冲出围合线，形状也不完整……原来拥抱不完美让人感觉这么自由。

这些经常提醒我：完美的人是不存在的。因为没有哪两个人对完美人类的看法完全一致，更不要说整个世界了。

Besides fish portraits what other marine creatures you would like to paint?

除了鱼类肖像，你还喜欢画哪些海洋生物?

I'm not sure, we will have to wait and see, but I recently saw a photo of a 'smooth hand-fish', a fish that has gone extinct, and that was very inspiring.

What I enjoy most is making up my own fish. My favourite ones to paint have been the anglerfish although they weren't intended to be anglerfish originally. I used to paint abstract self-portraits featuring really long tongues and long filamented lines and bulbs coming out of the head. When I started drawing fish, I continued using those symbols which eventually came to resemble the lure of an anglerfish – and the name just stuck.

I recently created paintings of seahorses, quite a departure from my usual subject. Teeth are important symbols in my work, so it was outside of my comfort zone to create a creature with no teeth. But it did give rise to a new symbol which I will continue to use in my new works – a shining heart, which reflects my optimistic belief in humanity and the power of love, things we really need to cling to, especially when bearing in mind the current climate.



我还不确定，暂且拭目以待吧。不过我最近看到一幅已经灭绝的单翼合鳍躄鱼照片，深有感触。

我最喜欢做的还是创造属于我自己的鱼。最喜欢画的鱼是鮫鯮鱼，但一开始我并没有做任何计划。我经常画抽象的自画像，有长长的舌头，还有细长的线条吊着球体从脑袋上伸出来。开始画鱼之后，我还是保留了这些特征，最后画出来的就很像鮫鯮鱼——然后这鱼就一直在我脑海里逗留了。

我最近画了海马，这不是我常画的题材。牙齿是我的作品中一个重要的象征，但海马没有牙齿，所以打破了我的创作舒适圈。不过这也形成了一个新的象征，我之后的作品中会经常用到——闪亮的心，它反映了我对人性与爱的乐观信念。这才是我们要坚持的东西，尤其是在现在的境况下。

Who's your favourite painter/artist? How does he/she inspire you? (your husband? Ha-ha)
你最喜欢的画家 / 艺术家是谁? 他 / 她对你有什么启发? (是你先生吗? 哈哈)

Picasso and Jean Michel Basquiat are easily my artistic idols, aside from my husband (Henley Spiers) of course... Ha-ha! Both Basquiat and Picasso were said to be prodigiously talented at a young age. Their work shows impulsive and intuitive approaches to painting. I am attracted to the distortions that delivers so much energy to their work — it's chaotic, contemporary, almost musical. Their work revolutionised the art world, and needless to say, mine.

For me, painting is about putting your soul to paper, and Picasso and Basquiat did just that. **EZ**

Picasso 和 Jean Michel Basquiat 绝对是我的艺术偶像, 当然我先生 (Henley Spiers) 也是……哈哈! 据说 Basquiat 和 Picasso 都是年少成名, 天赋极高。他们的作品集中体现了绘画的感性和直觉, 我很喜欢那些作品中的扭曲变形——混乱、现代甚至有乐感, 非常有力量。他们的作品给艺术世界带来了革命, 也彻底颠覆了我的艺术。


在我看来, 艺术就是将灵魂倾注纸上, 而 Picasso 和 Basquiat 为此做出了完美诠释。|



Jade Hoksbergen

Jade Hoksbergen is a French-Taiwanese painter and underwater photographer currently based in Exeter, UK. Jade spent her late childhood growing up in the Philippines where she first learnt to scuba dive. With a husband passionate about photography and an inclination for visual arts, Jade took up underwater photography in 2016 whilst living in Saint Lucia. In 2017, she was awarded in the Underwater Photographer of the Year Contest. Launching her art commercially for the first time this year, Jade's art has already sold to over 13 countries.

Jade Hoksbergen 是一位法台混血画家和水下摄影师, 目前居住在英国埃克塞特。Jade 的童年在菲律宾度过, 也正是在那里学会了潜水。由于其未婚夫热爱摄影而她自己热爱视觉艺术, Jade 于 2016 年居住在圣卢西亚岛时开始学习水下摄影。2017 年, 她在“UPY 水下摄影师大赛”中载誉而归。Jade 的作品今年首次在市场上推出, 就已销售至超过 13 个国家。

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