

# A Few Minutes with Rebecca Raubacher

By Maria Wynne

Rebecca Raubacher is the artist behind the Animals To Wear clothing line. She received her certificate in Studio Fine Arts from Maryland College of Art and Design and a B.S. in Art Education from Delaware State College.

Her screen-printed clothing line initially began life as one-off bespoke pieces for family and friends. However no sooner was the clothing seen in public than a huge demand for it was realized, and Animals To Wear was born. Originally the designs were inspired by eventing, but polo, dressage and hunter/jumper designs have been added.

Rebecca continues to work and paint at the Raubacher Gallery in downtown Dover, Delaware at 123 Lookerman Street, and is also the vice president of Clarity Incorporated, an art oriented corporation.

**Sidelines:** Were you particularly artistic at school?

**RR:** When my mother saw my attempts to draw around age 4, she simply made sure I had lots of paper and pencils and encouragement. I started drawing before I went to school; my favorite subjects were, and still are, horses, people and dogs.

**Sidelines:** What is your favorite medium?

**RR:** I always carry a pen and sketchbook and draw something every day. At a horse competition, I can fill a 50 to 100 page sketch book a day. However, when I am painting I mix my mediums. For example, I may use oil stick, water color, metallic marker, and graphite on paper to create a painting.

**Sidelines:** Why horses in particular?

**RR:** Horses and the human figure are my favorite subjects. I have always loved horses and dreamed of them like most little girls. Their movement, their eyes and their personalities excite me visually. I enjoy the challenge of capturing the horse's movement while charging past me on course at Rolex or Badminton or frolicking in the pasture.

**Sidelines:** What inspired you to transfer your art to clothing?

**RR:** I started using my acrylic paints to make one-of-a-kind shirts for my family. Just free hand, no stenciling or printing.

*Wearable art.  
Photo by John Minoprio*

Then I started using some of the silk screen skills I had learned in art school. Then, demand increased and we started Animals to Wear.

**Sidelines:** Where do you go for the inspiration?

**RR:** I love observing horses at liberty. For a period of time I kept my horse at a farm where there were a number of rescue horses. Watching their evolution from a fearful flighty creature to a more gentle and confident member of the herd inspired a lot of my work.

**Sidelines:** How long does one of your large pieces take to complete?

**RR:** They can easily take a couple of weeks to complete, sometimes longer. I try to block out a period of time to work on the painting so I am not distracted by other things. When to stop working on a painting is an unknown. One mark too many and the excitement can die. I spend a lot of time studying the paintings, letting the paint dry so you have a true idea of how close to complete the work is.

**Sidelines:** Do you still ride?

**RR:** I still ride as often as possible and do low level jumping on my Connemara, Phineas, as he still loves to jump. I got him rising three and he is now 20. I love to ride him bareback, especially in the snow. He looks after me.

**Sidelines:** And other animals that share your life?

**RR:** We also have two dogs. One is a Pembroke Corgi named Spirit who is 10 years old and totally in charge of all of us. The other is Argus, 100 lbs of lapdog dressed as an Anatolian Shepherd Dog.

To see more of Rebecca's work, visit her website [www.AnimalsToWear.com](http://www.AnimalsToWear.com)



Rebecca Raubacher in front of "Rush Against The Silver".



Some of Rebecca's wearable art.