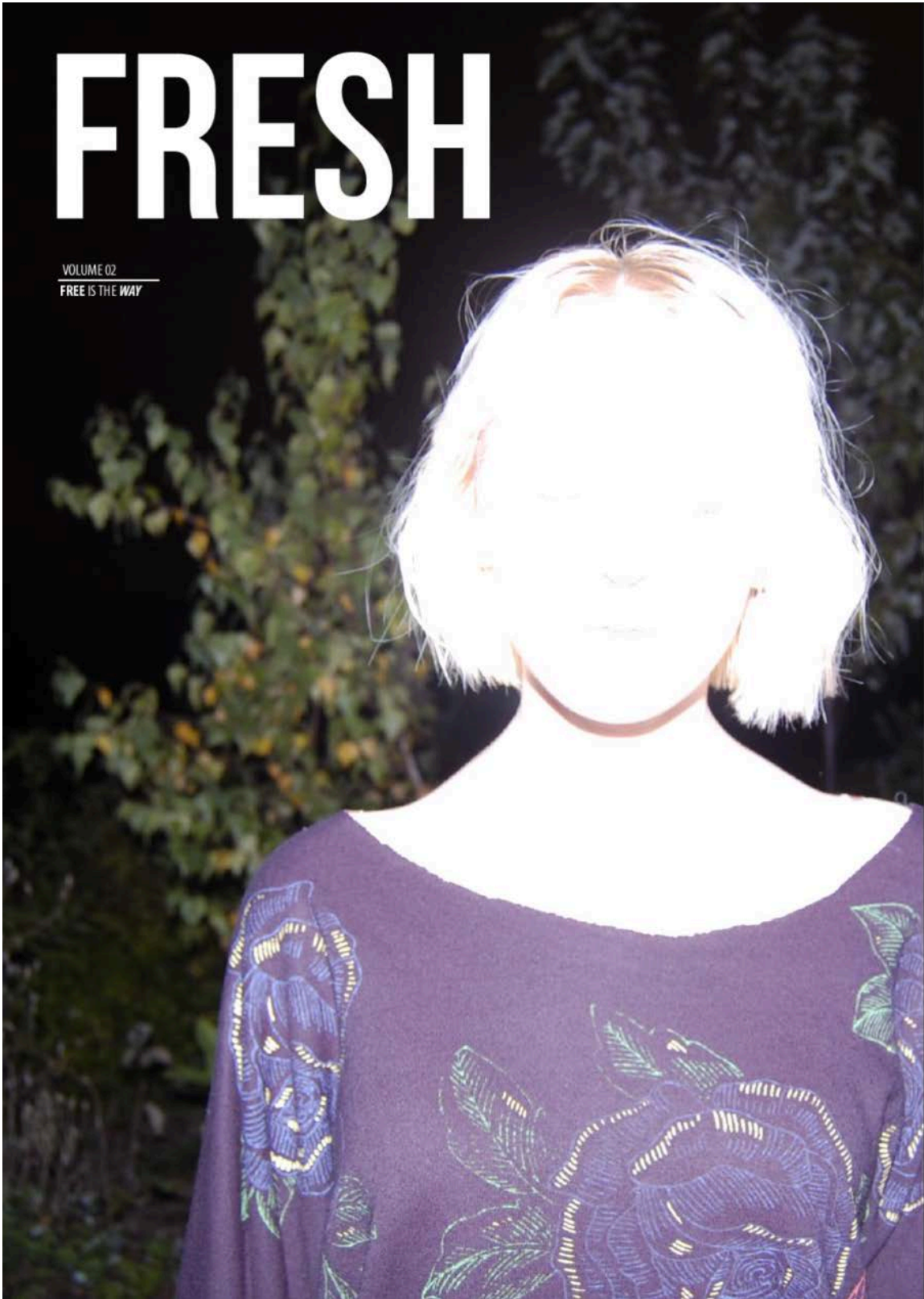


ART 3

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FREE IS THE WAY



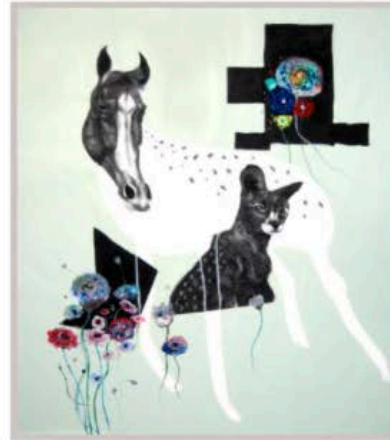
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Would you say that you are a freak of nature?
I think that humans are the most ordinary forms of nature.

What are your views on depression? Would you agree that everyone goes through a dark phase at some point in their lives and it's actually not such a big deal?

I guess I don't have any specific views on depression. Everyone is different and will experience different things in life. But, speaking for myself, I have definitely been in and out of some real dark places, and have found that art has let me surpass those scary times. Making work as an artist has enabled me to concentrate. Having said that, when being alone for such a long period of time my thoughts get the best of me. I saw this as a problem, so I decided to visit a Buddhist temple for some assistance. Hearing about the different meditations and thought processes has definitely enlightened my situation. I guess that what I'm saying makes no sense to you and to the readers ... or maybe it actually does. I kind of don't mind either way.

What makes a true dreamer?
Anything living that has the need to sleep.

What have you been working on lately? Is there anything different in terms of the characters and creatures you draw upon with your new set of work?

There have been a couple things that have been going on, in terms of my work. The main goal I always had in reference to my art practice was the process and to have some kind of vehicle that allows me to move within the art form, so that I have no direct tie to a medium or style. I can be easily pigeonholed in the art world, and I am totally aware of the fact that if you don't develop your message and technique, perhaps you will never master your craft. That is why I put a lot of effort into the awareness of my art process. I often create hundreds of sketches, drawings and paintings within a single month. Through these experimentations I attempt to model and shape the chosen medium. I guess this has always been how I work my way through a final product. I have also left the commercial art gallery that represented me in Australia, so that I could branch out into experimental exhibitions. The main reason of this change was due to my personal opinions on commercial spaces in general. I do get the feeling that galleries at times do not give a shit about the image of other artists, in terms of the artists liking of position themselves. I was not that affected by the decision, as I do have my own studio which in the near future can be transformed into my own gallery space. At the moment, I do prefer this method of showcasing my artwork, in comparison to exhibiting in an actual gallery. I do at times feel quite reluctant to become exhibited, as I am socially awkward and hate opening nights. Eventually I will return to showing in galleries, showing in galleries.

Is there a particular film that you keep watching over the years?
Nirvana live.

What else would you be doing, if you weren't pursuing a career as a full time artist?

I do like animals, but I guess I would be more inclined to be homeless and unemployed. I really have no idea.

Your vision in life is... ?

I have spent way too long thinking about this, it just can't be answered.

Pressure – we all have some of it. When would you say it's enough?

All great artists and people will experience self-doubt, which is a mild cause of pressure. I think it's important to be moderate, and have a balance in life. I am totally doing the opposite, which is why my social life is so fucked up. The real pressure I guess, for me, is to try and feel like I fit in a social group.

What do you use the internet the most for?

Listening and viewing nineties' grunge bands. As a child I used up a big sum of my allowance on purchasing all types of videos. The internet has definitely made everything so convenient, and efficient. The internet has made such an impact on my life, but I guess it will never top off that excitement of being eleven, and watching Nirvana videos on VHS.

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When was the last time you reminisced?

Actually just before, when I read my answer on the previous question, which I thought is fucked.

Australians love their beaches and enjoy a good sport. Would you classify yourself as a true Australian, living the Australian dream?

No way! I loathe all that bullshit! I used to be quite offended by people who describe themselves as living an Australia dream, but I don't take the effort to bother anymore. At some moments, I do believe that Australians are quite narrow-minded.

Is being a millionaire a priority in your life?

Jim Ward said "I don't find success as interesting as art". It's actually lyrics from one of his songs. It was playing during the period where I turned my back on a large amount of money.

Would you mind being left in the woods on your own?

Actually, I do often stay in the woods alone! I live in an area that has very dense woodland, so it turns out that my backyard is acres of trees and bush, with nice streams flowing through.

Where do you seek inspiration from? Is it mainly through a source or purely imagination?

It is definitely a combination of both, realistic and abstract. Art making is a love hate relationship, sometimes you love it, and other times you despise it.

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