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## **Illustrator Makes Child's Play of Animal Designs**

### **K.C. Fuzzy offers charming infant clothing by young OC artist**

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA – Characterizations, cartoon or otherwise, created for children's enjoyment like fine wine seem to get better with age. Nostalgically we recall our favorite mad capped characters from Saturday morning television or bedtime story books, and those from our youth are delightfully perfect when compared to today's current crop of kooky characters. But eventually even the likes of Sponge Bob Square Pants will become a classic, given time and maturity.

However in K.C. Fuzzy, the brainchild of illustrator Katie Covington, we find a cast of characters that are surely classics from the very start. While supremely cute, these baby animals embody a gentle realism that makes them naturally charming.

"I try to capture some of the special, emotional qualities of animals—joy, curiosity, innocence, amusement—without stripping away the beautiful colors and patterns provided by nature," Katie explains.

K.C. Fuzzy characters currently adorn infant clothing, but illustrator Covington says it's all about the drawings.

"First and foremost, the realistic detail in the illustrations is not only different from the simplified graphics you normally see in baby products, but it helps teach little ones to recognize and appreciate wildlife. The color scheme of earth-tones and white differs from the usual blue and pink. The use of exotic animals as subjects stands apart from the common baby animals (like bunnies and puppies). And finally, the high-quality printing method stays true to the artwork by printing in full-color, so no unique shade is left out."

Covington has always loved animals, and has been drawing and painting animals for as long as she can remember. Throughout her artistic training, she experimented with different subject matters and different artistic media, but nothing else seemed to fit her "true style." After she graduated from college, she says it felt natural to return to drawing animals.

"As I began giving my illustrations to my baby cousins as gifts, and painting murals in kids' rooms, I was able to see first-hand that my work really did make kids happy. That sealed the deal," she says assuredly.

Covington admires well-known children's illustrators, including Maurice Sendak and Lane Smith, however interestingly she also admires Alphonse Mucha for his intricate, graceful, stylistic figures. At the turn of the 20th century, Mucha produced a flurry of paintings, posters, advertisements, and book illustrations, as well as designs for jewellery, carpets, wallpaper, and theatre sets in what was initially called the Mucha Style but became known as Art Nouveau.

Covington, like Mucha, has turned to fashion as an outlet for her illustrations. And like Mucha, nature features importantly in her work.

"I'm inspired by the perfection of nature, more specifically, animals. They are only capable of being what they are. They are unique and expressive, which makes me think of them as perfect artistic subjects," she says

Covington started drawing and painting at an early age. She took her first formal art class when she was only 6, started painting at 8, and won her first fine art competition (Division Winner, Orange County Fair) when she was 10. After that, she began painting after school at an open art studio, Barbel's Art Center in Huntington Beach, and got her first paying job at age 15 as Assistant Art Teacher for the children's classes at Barbel's. After high school, she decided that she wanted a creative career, becoming fascinated with graphic design and technology. She earned her degree in Graphic Design, but never gave up drawing and painting.

K.C. Fuzzy designs are available on infant snapsuits in sizes 3M, 6M and 12M. Purchase them online at [www.kcfuzzy.com](http://www.kcfuzzy.com).

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**PO Box 4451, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274 • Phone/Fax: (310) 606-2708 • [kcfuzzy@kcfuzzy.com](mailto:kcfuzzy@kcfuzzy.com)**