

# becky stanhope

Longboarder and artist Becky lives and works in Cornwall. Until recently she was a freelance designer, and her colourful, fun designs still pop up in all sorts of places, but nowadays her day job is with Gul. Kat Dawes went to find out more.



**How old are you?** 28

**Where do you live?** Perranporth, Cornwall.

**How did you get into art?** I definitely inherited the creative genes; all my life I have been making, drawing and painting things! In the last seven years I have focused my artwork and career around surf.

**Have you studied it at all?** I completed A-Levels and a foundation in Art and Design in Cornwall then went away to Nottingham to study a degree in graphic design. The degree helped me land my first job in the surf industry as junior graphic designer for Gul before moving on to work for Headworx and Balin. Now I'm back at Gul as senior graphic designer!

**How would you describe your style?** My style is quite illustrative and I often like to begin my designs by hand, by either drawing or painting, which gives my work a unique and soft feel. I later use the Mac to play around with the designs and create something that is both commercially viable and appealing.



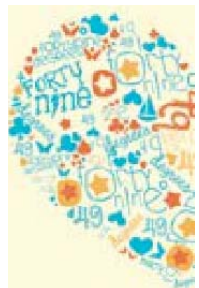
**What inspires you?** My work largely captures inspiration from the nature and lifestyle of my passion for surfing and my home in Cornwall. I always have my camera close to hand to snap

patterns, textures and bits of typography that I can later use in my work. Trends in fashion and colour are a good starting point too.

**What projects have you got lined up for this year?** I'm really focusing on my new job at Gul now. I've recently just got a new portfolio website together, you can check it out at [www.stanhopedesign.co.uk](http://www.stanhopedesign.co.uk). I am also planning to spend some time improving my digital photography skills this year. Projects seem to spring up so it's hard to say what I will be working on but one of the more unusual commissions has to be assisting another designer in painting a life-size cow cast for exhibition! Plus, of course, I always try to leave enough time to travel and get in the sea as much as possible!

**You've been competing recently, how's that going?** This year I set myself a goal of entering the BLU series, having come third at the English Nationals in the women's longboard division last year. I came fourth at the third contest of the series at Watergate Bay in June and I'm hoping to keep on improving. Contest surfing is

a whole new experience for me and it really pushes your surfing. Working out how to get the best out of a 20 minute heat, battling with nerves and being competitive are new skills that take time to learn.



**How did you get into surfing?** I've lived in Cornwall since I was young but decided to go to away to Nottingham to study Graphic Design. As time went on at Uni, I really began to miss home, so joined up with the uni surf club, this meant I could get home cheaply! There was quite an interesting crowd of us going down to Newquay, I hadn't originally intended to go surfing but tagged along with the lessons put on for the club, absolutely loved it then ended up being the surf club bus driver!

**What does a typical work day involve for you?** Day to day, my job can vary loads. As the team at Gul is relatively small it means each designer gets involved in all aspects of the design process, whether it's shooting team rider Celine Gehret in the new clothing range, rummaging through the archives to find old Gul ads and photos or designing next season's clothing graphics.

**What do you do after work?** Summer evenings are all about surfing and the beach to me. Now the evenings have drawn in I'm trying to keep myself occupied with swimming, Pilates and the gym so I don't miss surfing so much. Planning a trip to northern Morocco for early 2010 is keeping the spirits high too.

**How would you describe your day in five words?** Creative, challenging, fun, bagels, tea!