

Blue Jean Jumper



SHYA BETH

Fifteen-year-old Shya Beth grew up riding before she could walk, and she always had a crayon or a colored pencil in her hand, drawing and doodling ponies on everything.

Influenced by her mother's creativity, she began entering her drawings in art competitions before moving on to life-sized sculptures.

"Blue Jean Jumper" is the first in Beth's Blue Jean Horse Project sculpture series. She's creating 16 life-sized sculptures of horses in various disciplines covered in denim. She's currently working on a blue jean mustang, race horse and PMU mare. These will be displayed at prominent horse shows to be signed by top riders, then auctioned off to benefit various equine charities.

"After seeing so much abuse and the horrific environments some horses are in, such as the PMU mares and the plight of the wild mustangs,

I would like to help as much as I can to save, help care for, and broaden people's awareness of the situations many horses live in," said Beth. "Nearly everyone wears jeans—whether they are a farmer's old pair of Levi's or a pair of designer jeans. I think that using denim is a great way for people to feel connected, and they can relate to these sculptures, whether they are around horses or not."

Beth, Lafayette, N.J., plans to have drop-off points at tack shops and feed stores in New Jersey and the tri-state area where people can donate their old jeans for the project.

She's exhibited at the Peters Valley School Of Craft (N.J.), the EQUUS Film Festival (N.Y.), Centenary College's Equine Center (N.J.) and at the Garden State Horse Show (N.J.). She will be exhibiting at the EQUUS Film Festival again this year with several of her blue jean sculptures.

In 2014, Beth started her website, *The Flying Shetlands*, to celebrate equine art from around the world. She publishes articles about equine art in all its forms and hosts #equinearthour on Twitter on Sundays from 4-5 p.m. EST, where she holds exclusive interviews with internationally known artists.

Blue Jean Jumper is 7' x 8 1/2'.

For more information, visit <http://theflyingshetlands.wordpress.com>.



Artist Shya Beth