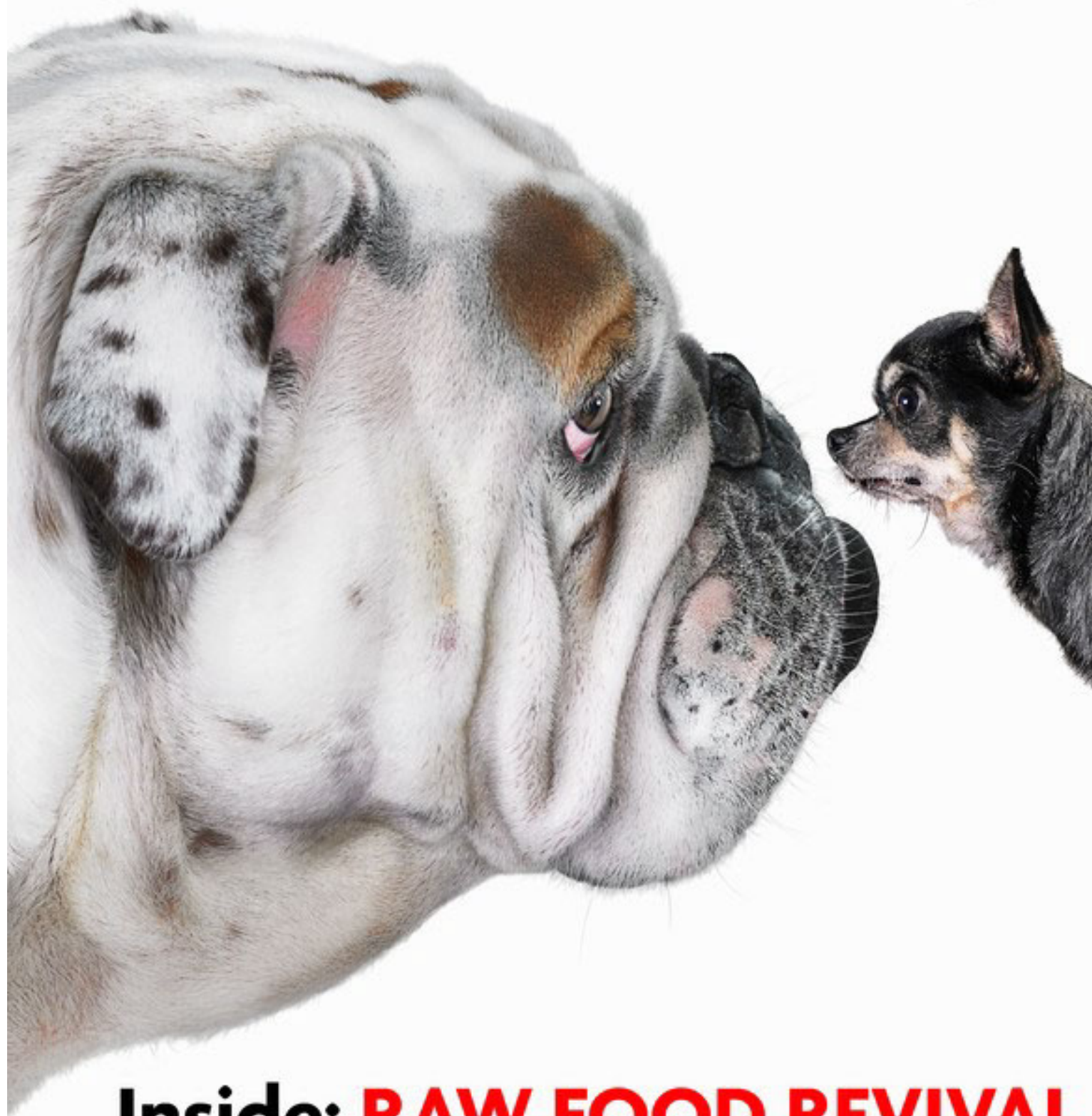


# Nomad Editions *Good Dog*

October 19, 2011



**Inside: RAW FOOD REVIVAL**

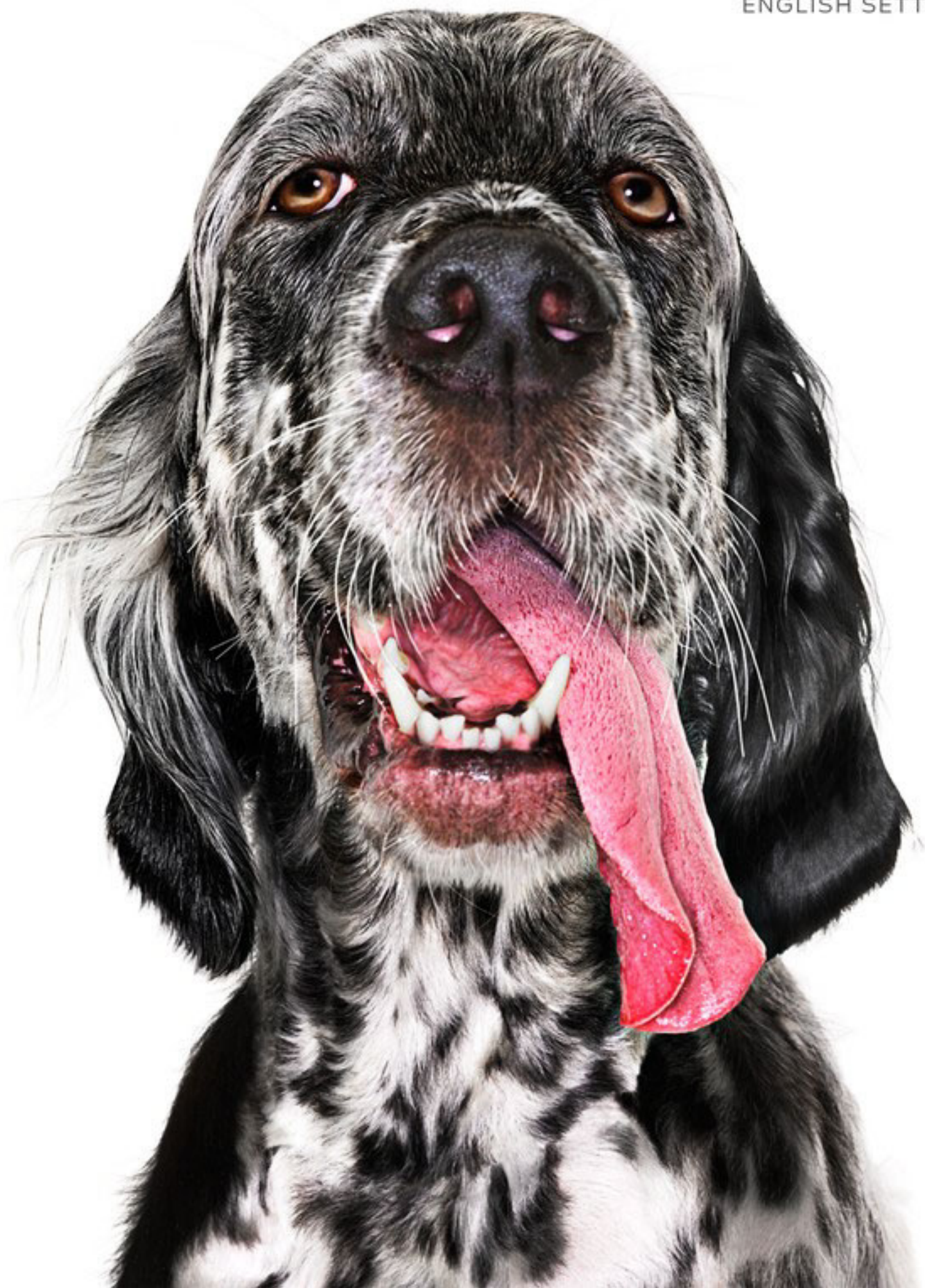
PORTFOLIO

# Express Yourself

PHOTOGRAPHER  
GANDEE VASAN  
CAPTURES  
A RANGE OF  
CANINE  
EMOTION



ENGLISH SETTER



*In the era of digital cameras and smart phones, documenting daily life has never been easier.*

At the tap of a button, our surroundings are instantly captured. And for dog lovers, those surroundings often include their furry friends. A whopping 39 percent of dog owners confess that they have more photos of their canine than of their spouse or significant other. It's no surprise, either, given how much time we spend with our animals, and how entertaining they can be .

The work of Sri Lankan-born, London-based photographer Gande Vasan shows just how captivating dogs are. A background in painting schooled him in capturing the human (and canine) figure: "I used to draw portraits of passersby outside the National Portrait Gallery for pocket money," Vasan says. He later received a degree in fine art, worked in advertising, and started doing photography. One day, he was going to pick up his golden retriever, Basil, from the groomer's and was intrigued by the wide array of expressions the dogs there were making. Vasan decided then to do a series of dog portraits, won a prestigious photo award, and published a book, *Dog Days*. The rest is history.

His images are shot with a white background, a blank canvas on which to showcase the dogs' almost human expressions — moments of thoughtfulness, reflection, concentration. "Dogs look like caricatures of humans," Vasan explains. "They seem so full of joy, character and life; they have faces that reflect human expressions." For a skilled photographer, dogs have proved a welcome, and fun, challenge. "I like to do pictures of dogs that are emotive, striking, tell a story, and are a catalyst for the imagination," Vasan says. "I've discovered that the best way to convey an idea is in an unexpected and novel way, and dogs are a great way of doing that."

When asked what the best part of working with dogs is, the animal lover with two "spoodles" (a mix of Wheaten terrier, a miniature poodle, a Labrador and a spaniel) of his own replies: "Happiness is a cold nose and a wagging tail and slobbery mouth!" — *Jana FitzGerald*

ROTTWEILER



IRISH WATER SPANIEL



ENGLISH SETTER



BOXER



NEWFOUNDLAND



BORDEAUX



BASSET HOUND



BASSET HOUND





STANDARD SCHNAUZER



DALMATIANS



GOLDEN RETRIEVER



TIBETAN TERRIER



AKITA (L.) AND MINIATURE DACHSHUND (R.)

