

UNDR RPBLC

Handwritten graffiti in black marker on a concrete wall. The graffiti is highly stylized and illegible, featuring large, overlapping letters and loops. A vertical purple line is drawn through the graffiti. A small, faint signature or tag is visible in purple ink near the center of the wall.



 **UNDER REPUBLIC** *Obsidian*



LIFE MADE EASY



With

UNDER REPUBLIC

Your A

d. Here

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KC
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Jana
Jelovac

Cover: KC Russell
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Blt.posse, break.things. dagmaronasis, Heart Of Oak, nah, fuck dat, petalum, Tainted Wheat, an ordinary fellow

S

UNDR RPBLQ
Times New Roman

#6

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Aug/Sept 2010

Able, Molten Lava Swimming, Nuclear Bombing Team, Oakland Stroke, Alexander The Greatest of Them All,
ow, dr.kavorkian, dreamsjung, El~presidente, Jetpack Mcleod, Luna Park, Metro Assault, and ornette flesh.

GRAFFITI

tags

ON TOP.

PARK
24
HRS.











The
Order
Republic
Cambodia



Free
Mixtape
Click
here





**THA
REINFORCEMENTS**



16
Bars!
What's good
player?

Doing good, can't complain.

How was Vegas?

Ahh, you gotta love Vegas! There's just no good weed out there.

How's Rocky?

How are you gonna ask how he's doing when he's in jail?

When's he expected to be out?

I don't know. He's got another court date.

Has that current situation put a damper on your productivity?

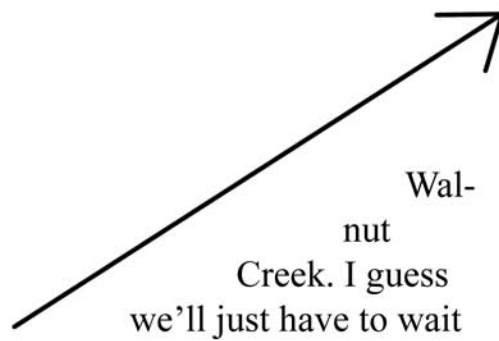
Yeah it has a bit, but we've been managing. I've just been trying to stay focused and to keep pushing forward.

What's popping in the bay?

Nines and AK's, people dying, church's getting shot up, it's crazy right now. Other than that, we've got some shows coming up at Karribbean City in Oakland, and at Pinky's and The Silk Bar in Sacramento. But our main focus is to slang cd's out the trunk city to city.

Have things cooled down since the riots?

Yeah, but it might crack off again with a parade that they're throwing for the cop in



Walnut Creek. I guess we'll just have to wait and see how that turns out.

How do you feel about that cop only getting two years?

He should get way longer than that. I hope they beat his ass while he is in jail.

Now we met while you were flipping CD's out the trunk at the mall. How many units have you moved independently?

Over 30,000 CD's out the trunk in the last four years.

How long have you been rapping?

Since I was about twelve years old.

What inspired you initially to start making music?

I just love music! It started out with just knowing everyone that rapped and before I knew it I just started busting my own raps.

How has the bay influenced your music?

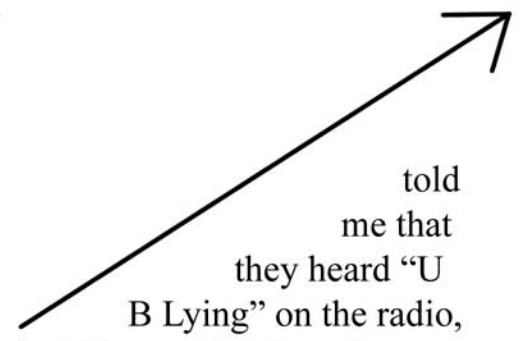
Shout outs to Too Short, E-40, MC Hammer, and everyone that came before us that really sold out the trunk.

What's it like hearing yourself on a track?

Magic.

Have you had success with radio play?

A few people have



told me that they heard "U B Lying" on the radio, but I have yet to hear it.

Would you say that you rap for yourself or for others?

Both, for others and myself. I don't like listening to garbage and I'm pretty sure my fans don't too.

What are you trying to achieve through your music?

Money, and I love making great music.

How do you gather the inspiration for a new track?

I just start thinking about different situations in life and let it grow from there.

What are the benefits of working on a track as a group versus working with guests?

Your group is always there on deck for you.

On the hit track "U B Lying" are you speaking out to anyone in particular?

I'm just talking about people in general that like to lie alot.

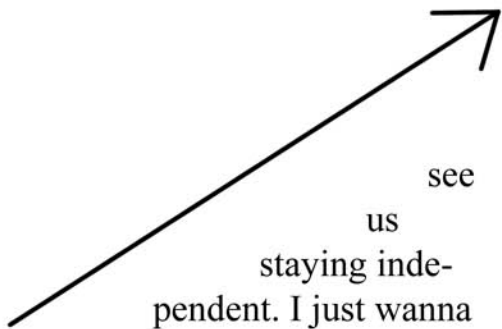
How do you feel about the music industry nowadays?

There's some good new music out there. But it's more singing than rapping.

Where do you see Tha Reinforcements heading in the future?

I





see
us
staying inde-
pendent. I just wanna
have money and success on
the low, feel me?

**What has been the biggest
obstacle that you have had
in the game?**

Getting known. We're still at
it. It's working though!

The biggest reward?

Recognition and people play-
ing our music. We love it!

Cadillac or Lincoln?

Cadillac.

**Who inspires you in your
life?**

All of our families, and the
positive people around us.

**What would you do if you
weren't in the hip hop
game?**

I really don't know.

**What projects do you have
coming up?**

16 Bars "The Fresh Prince of
Vallejo" coming soon!

Any shout outs?

That's gonna take hella long,
and I don't want to leave any-
one out.



NIKAUER THOR





Clothing & MUA: Nkaujer Thor
Interview: Jennifer Montano
Photographer: Jacob Grossman







Hi Nkaujer,
how are you doing?

I've been very well considering that I am very new to this field/major. I got in and now things are just happening.

You're a Fashion Designer, am I correct? Do you have a name for your work?

Yes, I am a fashion designer. I'm not great with names, so I am still working on a name for my work. I do have a few on my mind, but I need more time to finalize an actual name that really represents me.

How long have you been designing?

I've been cross-stitching since I was in 3rd grade. In middle school I started hand-sewing and reconstructed a lot of my clothes because my mom didn't like fashion and it was hard for me to buy fashion-forward pieces. My junior year in high school was when I bought my first sewing machine and I've been experimenting since then. I did take a beginning sewing class about 2 summers ago, but because it was a summer class it went by fast. We learned the basics of the machine and basic stitches. I wasn't serious and didn't start de-

Can you cut and sew, as well?

Yes, I can cut and sew.

What is your specialty?

I love making skirts, but I am still in the process of discovering my specialty.

What inspired you to get into fashion designing?

As a child I picked up sewing pretty fast and I love creating my own pieces. I like to wear garments that stand out from others.

What motivates you?

My family and my Hmong culture are my true motivation and inspiration when creating my clothes.

How would you define your style of fashion?

This is hard because I love so many different styles. I really like vintage, classy, chic, sophisticated, and urban.

Who do you want to design for?

As of right now I don't know who I want to design for yet.

What was the first article of clothing you've ever designed? How did you feel about it?

The first pieces I ever designed was in elementary school and I made

signing until
 last semester,
 about 3 months ago.

myself
 a complete

Hmong outfit for the new year. I felt so proud and unique that I was able to make my own outfit.

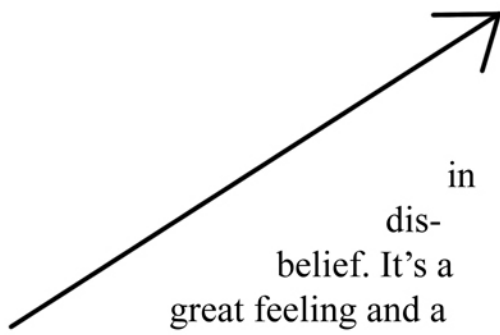
Jules, I love your work, especially the jumpsuit you designed and posted on Facebook. How long does it take to put a line together?

What thoughts run through your mind when you're getting your line done? (Deadlines, nervousness, etc...)

Awww, thank you! If I know what I want to make it doesn't take me long. For my past show at Sac State I made 3 full garments in one night that took about 10-12 hours. If I have all the material and designs ready I can probably put out a 10 piece collection in one week. The beginning is always the hardest for me. Thinking of my designs always takes a lot longer, it's just like writing my introduction for an essay. I can't and hate forcing designs. I like it more when they come to me.

How do you feel when your clothes hit the runway and the models are strutting your stuff?

The first time my clothes hit the runway I was super excited, happy, stoked, and



in disbelief. It's a great feeling and a different type of high. I just can't believe it's my clothes that they are wearing.

Do you consider yourself an artist?

Yes, I consider myself an artist.

How do you feel about fashion being art?

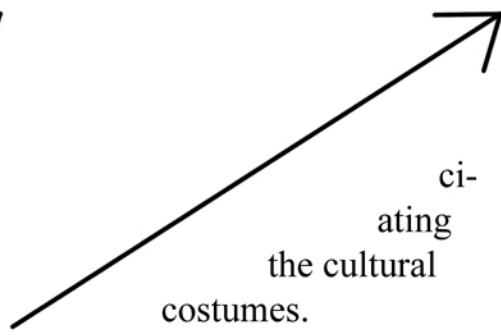
I love fashion as art because art is creating something. Self expression through art is amazing.

Do you prefer sketching or constructing your designs?

I like both and would love to advance with both aspects.

So, I heard you like to incorporate a little bit of your culture into your work. Can you go more in depth about that please?

I do love representing my culture, especially in my clothes. Being Hmong means a lot to me and I want to bring out more positive things about my culture. Hmong designs, details, and clothing are different. I don't want to send something that is read literally as Hmong down the runway. I want to make Hmong clothes fashionable and modern because I feel that many young teens are no longer ap-
pre-



costumes. citing the cultural

OK, Random Question time: Super Models or Real Models?

Real models.

Color or Black and White?

Black.

If you could be any famous person, who would you be?

No one in particular.

If you had a secret identity, what/who would you be?

I would be a secret diva.

Someone who's not as reserved and very confident.

What would be a dream life for you?

My dream life is about being happy and making sure that I am true to myself.

Day or Night?

Day.

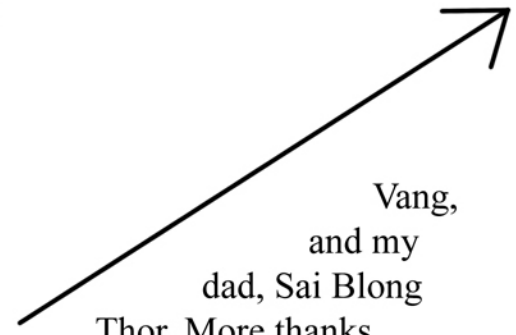
What's your best friend like?

They're somewhat like me. :)

Jules, it was a pleasure working with you. Congratulations on all your achievements and the upcoming fashion show on August 7th, at Sacramento's Memorial Auditorium at 7PM. Good luck in the future.

Do you have any shout outs?

Much love, appreciation and thanks to my mom, Mee



Vang, and my dad, Sai Blong Thor. More thanks to my family, best friends, M.P.C., friends and colleagues for the greatest love, support and advice. Also, Under Republic Magazine for considering me as a designer. Thank you all!!!









OBSIDIAN



Free
Mixtape
Click
here



What up Obsidian!

What's up Gyros! Just kicking it.

How are you man?

I'm fine, just chilling over here in the No-Town.

It was good seeing you the other day, but what happened after I left?

Oh, Young Mass started flipping out because somebody jacked him for some cologne. So he started throwing a big ol' tantrum. I don't know, he started driving all crazy and got pulled over and they took him in. Then I just smashed back to Fresno with the rest of the Homies.

So dude went to jail over a bottle of cologne?

Pretty much, he started acting all stupid and went to jail over some cologne.

Everything else went well with the drive home though?

Yeah everything was fine after that.

Have you been rocking any shows recently?

Just here and there around Fresno. Like over at the Crossroads and The Next Bar, that's pretty much it. We're planning on setting one up over here at Holmes Playground some-

time soon.
What's your favorite aspect of performing live?

I like feeding off of the energy from the crowd. Getting pumped up and killing it.

What's the latest in Fresno?

There's people doing things, but it's pretty much the same stuff all the time.

How are you handling this summer heat?

I've just been trying to stay creative, stay up in the booth, and stay inside. Turn that AC on!

What's new with GAS crew?

We've just been chilling. We got out to the yard last night, got back at like 5 in the morning. We've been kicking it pretty tough, you know. Keeping it solid even though everyone is on different pages.

How would you say that GAS Crew has influenced your development throughout the years?

Ahh, GAS Crew has influenced me tremendously. Just having the Homies freestyling around me all the time. I remember we used to just get drunk and freestyle about whatever, just having the ability to rap about

anything and feel comfortable.
Would you say that you rap for yourself or for others?

For others, definitely.

What's your main source for inspiration?

The things that I've gone through. A lot of the stuff that I've seen. Stuff that makes me angry, I channel that energy into my music. It's a much better decision than fucking somebody up.

Are you down to rock a show coming up here in September?

Yeah, for sure!

Yeah, I guess we're going to try to link up with Eras and get some stuff cracking off. Do an art show or something.

Yeah, that would be real tight. I'm down for Sure. Probably out there in Sac?

Nah, out there in Fresno.

But we need to get some stuff cracking here in Sac though, for sure. I know a few spots like the Shiny Nickel Art Gallery, or Bang Art Gallery where stuff could pop off. Remember how we would both be ditching class and always wind up kicking it together at the basket-

ball
courts?

Yeah, yeah.

Both of us would be ditching all periods and shit, be in P.E. playing sports.

It's hard to believe that was like 15 years ago.

Yeah, that was... Yep.

How about the time when we both quit our jobs at Michael's on the same day without even planning that shit?

Yeah that was crazy. I guess we both didn't want to deal with the big truck the next day. Susie was all "I need you guys here tomorrow, I'm counting on you guys. We've got a big load coming in." We both said skerttt...

I remember we both we're ducking one another thinking that other would be pissed.

Yep, we finally met up at the 147's and laughed about that shit.

We made that guy Jeremy cry.

That guy hated on me getting a job later on down the line.

Really!? Where at?

Yeah at Montgomery Wards. I was about to get a job there and he worked there and he was like "nah, don't hire him." He started hating on me and I didn't get the

job.

**You
need to move**

up here to Sac

though, 2006 all over again.

Yep. It feels good up there right now, all of our friends kicking it. Everybody's stacked up there. I know.

Do you think that you're gonna hook up with Pete Space over at Sound Cap Audio to record soon?

Yeah, I'm gonna be recording the Heat Seekers album up there. Because that was the first time that I had recorded myself, the quality wasn't all that, so I'm gonna re-do that with Pete Space. Then flow that over to Eras and try to blow up LA with it.

What new projects do you have coming up besides Heat Seekers?

AbombaNation\$ is the project that I'm mainly focusing on 'cuz that's already done. Then the plan is to do a collaboration with all my producers like Nesia, Paradox, Eras, and Resq. I'm gonna do an album with all them so you know it's going to be dope. We've got the GAS Crew album coming out. And I'm also gonna put Oskoe's album out because he got locked up.

When's Oskoe expected to be out?

They're

try-

ing to

give like 8

years or something

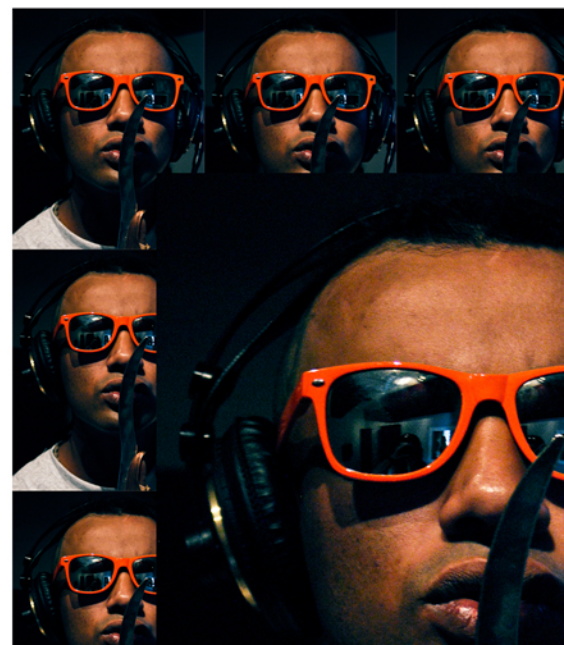
like that.

Ahh shit, that sucks. He had been recording a grip of dope material. That's what's up with you putting his album out. Is there anything else that you would like to add?

The Gas Crew's albums coming out soon, and we probably going to have a little DVD to accompany that.

Any shout outs?

Yeah, shout outs to all the 559'ers, the 916'ers. To all the Homies that have been down with the Freek Show for hella years. And you know definitely to big Pinedale! GAS CREW, Under Republic, and Lurk Hard. To all the Homies that have been showing support throughout the years. Thanks.





EMPRESA



GRAFFITI

throw ups















YELL
SACCANI











Hey
hey!
How are you
Yell?

Hello Jacob, I'm fine thanks... :)

What's good in Israel?

You're asking the wrong person. I don't want to be here.

I read that you started your flickr account off as joke.

What's up with that?

It wasn't a joke, it was more like I didn't know what I was doing. I started the stream out of boredom. I didn't know anything about photography. I only saw pictures I liked, and didn't know why I liked them or what made them good, so I stuck around and learned a lot about both Photoshop and photography. Maybe that is funny, I don't know.

How did you teach yourself photography?

I taught myself by taking pics. Taking pictures everyday teaches you something in the end.

...and Photoshop?

Photoshop I taught myself as well, although I don't think you can ever fully master it. I find it fun to use and not that hard to learn. I also tried some graphic design courses, but they didn't teach me much about Photoshop, so I took advice from else-

where
and cre-
ated nonstop
pictures to see what I
could do.

What cameras do you use?

I have a Nikon D90 now but I have used many different cameras since I started.

How often do you shoot?

I shoot almost every day. It used to be hundreds daily, but now I have less time. Every photo you see here can take from one hour to two days.

What do you get out of taking pictures?

When I am creating a shot, I put everything into the movement or pose I am making. I can shoot the same pic over and over until I get what I want, so for me it's a time for self-expression. I must do it or I will go nuts.

How much planning do you put into each individual shot?

It depends. I can be very impulsive and just try stuff. I don't plan much of anything in my life; I just go with the flow.

I also read that some instructors of yours were less than positive in regards to your work. Do you think that negativity helped to motivate you as an artist?

Yeah,

they
told
me that what I
wanted to do wasn't
art, it was bullshit for the
poor or something like that. A
few weeks after I started I re-
alized that what I needed was
a camera. I was so bored with
the letters, logos and adverts
that I started to explore with
the camera and taught myself
Photoshop so I could create a
combination of what I liked
from what I was learning, and
what I wanted to do.

Your work portrays a dark, gritty, almost grungy world. Is this portrayal the way you see the world in which we live?

I see it the way I live; it's the only way I know.

Do you have any photo exhibitions planned for the future?

There are some things I am planning but I don't like talking about it until it's real.

What is the best compliment you've received from your work?

I don't know it's hard to choose just one. I like to make people feel with my work so I guess the best compliment is "you make me feel this moment you captured here." If I make you feel something my work is

done.

:)

...the worst?

The worst...I get more bad compliments about who I am as person than on the pics.

What impact would you like your photography to make on your audience?

On others? I don't care what the impact is as long they feel the pic. If they like it, fine; if they are repulsed, that's also fine, as long they feel something.

What's next?

I don't know. I don't know what is going to happen next week, how can I think about the future?

And the question I'm not supposed to ask... Why do you shoot pictures of yourself?

I prefer to express myself with my body more than using other models, and besides, it's the most fun when I do them myself since I put everything into creating these pictures. I do create other kinds of pictures, but since I don't really consider them art yet, you won't see them in my galleries.

Any shout outs?

Thanks for this :)

-Yell















KORUSSEN











Er-
ray!
What up

K.C.?

SSDD.

How was Paris?

Paris was really relaxing. It was a pleasure getting away from the U.S. and submerging myself in such a unique and long-standing culture. Being in such an old city had a real effect on my mind. Such an unreal experience to be in an environment that is so rich with history. I had the privilege of staying in this newly renovated apartment in the 1st, between Colette and the Louvre. It was really an exciting place to come home to every night after exploring other areas of the city. The graffiti was pretty unreal. Almost utopian.

Are you bummed to be back?

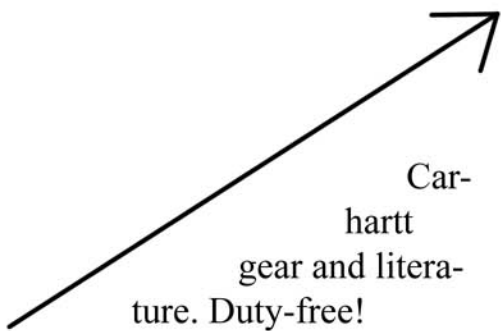
Certainly am. I had not been to Paris in 5 years, so I was really looking forward to this trip. A week was not close to enough time to take on that city. But I will be back for sure.

Business or Pleasure?

I guess a bit of both.

Did they give you hard time at customs?

Surprisingly not. I did come back with a lot of nice

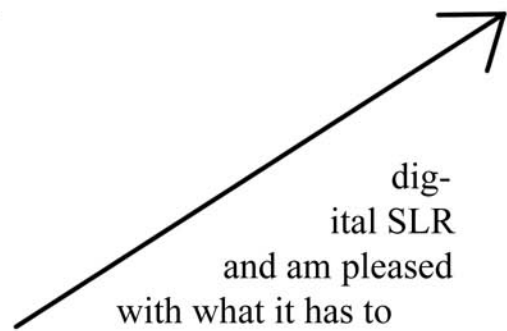


When's the next vay-kay?

London/Paris this winter if I can get my shit together. Spending sometime in NYC later in the summer and hopefully I can mix in a trip through Jersey or PHLA while I'm down there.

How did you get started in photography?

My earliest memory of using a camera is around 8 years old. Growing up, my dad was in the photography business, so film cameras were available to me. Because it was a hassle to get prints made, I was hesitant to take photos of things I knew I could revisit and was always trying to capture things that weren't so everyday and average. Doing that helped strengthen my memory and sense of surroundings, allowing me to be able to capture unique things. Digital photography was something I was into when I was younger. I had access to editing software and was always manipulating found images or photos I had taken but the quality of digital was really bad in comparison to what is available now. Little over a year ago I got a



Why shoot graffiti?

It is something I have a lot of respect for and is one of the only things in this world that still excites me. Seeing spots that I had never imagined being buffed disappearing, I would always say to myself "why didn't I photograph that?" Even weeks later, I would feel devastated knowing that it was gone, forever. Dealing with that type of emotion was hard for me to grasp. Death was the only thing I could relate it to. But seeing writers still getting up, sometimes in an even better spot, that perseverance gave me hope and would surpass my sadness. It made me look up to these guys on a much more personal level. Exploring the city and following writers in my head expanded my perception of my surroundings as well as my knowledge. Photography empowered me to start documenting as much of my surroundings as I could. Whether it is how it relates to its space or environment, the amount of space it takes up,

or
the
material it is
on; it's those unique

pieces I strive to find. By mixing the use of documentation and adding a distinct perspective, I am hoping to expose more people to graffiti through photograph. In general, I feel like it's something I need to document.

How often do you get a chance to shoot?

Surprisingly not that often, so when I do, I try to capture as much as I can. I try to make trips every few weeks back to New York but my connects down there have been busy the last couple months. But there are plenty of photographers there so I am not too worried. I'm hoping to make it more of a regular thing though.

To Photoshop or not... That is the question?

I certainly do, but not on a regular basis. I have been using it for years, so I am familiar with what it has to offer. A camera can limit what I am experiencing while in my surroundings, so being able to compile images into a complete composition is something I do and I won't have to regret. Also things don't always go as planned or just

are
impos-
sible to view
without being ob-

structed. These are things I try to be aware of while photographing so if I do have to use Photoshop, it is as minimal as possible.

How do you feel when you know that you just captured a great shot?

It excites me. It adds to the drive that keeps me wanting to explore and finding things to photograph. But soon after, it fades away because certain things you can only see once and then it becomes ordinary. It all depends on what I am photographing. There are some shots that bring back specific memories for me and cannot for someone else.

...when you miss a shot?

It can be frustrating because I would love to be able to share it with other people but nothing can beat having that memory in my brain.

Any other hobbies or talents that we should know about?

I do some digital work and also mixed media paintings. I am also interested with early 20th century America.

Do you write?

Recreationally.

Blunts or joints?

Glass.

**Real titties
or**

them
plastic
joints?

If I can't tell, I guess it doesn't really matter. But real for sure. Nothing beats Mother Nature.

Rap or hip hop?

Hip hop for sure. It constantly redefines and progresses itself and infested popular culture. It is interesting how it has grown into a worldwide phenomenon in a considerably short amount of time as well.

How long can you bust a wheelie for?

I used to be able to manny a basketball court. On the right bike, 3 or 4 blocks.

Have you ever made it out to Cali?

Went to Oakland once when I was 3. One of my earliest memories actually. I don't have any contacts out there but hopefully someday I can find a way out there and someone to show me around. There are a lot of writers out there putting it down.

What do ya think of folks that take themselves too serious?

It's not a good way to live. If you are personally restricting your life; stop. The wider your perspective on life, the better. But I suppose people like that are here













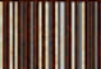


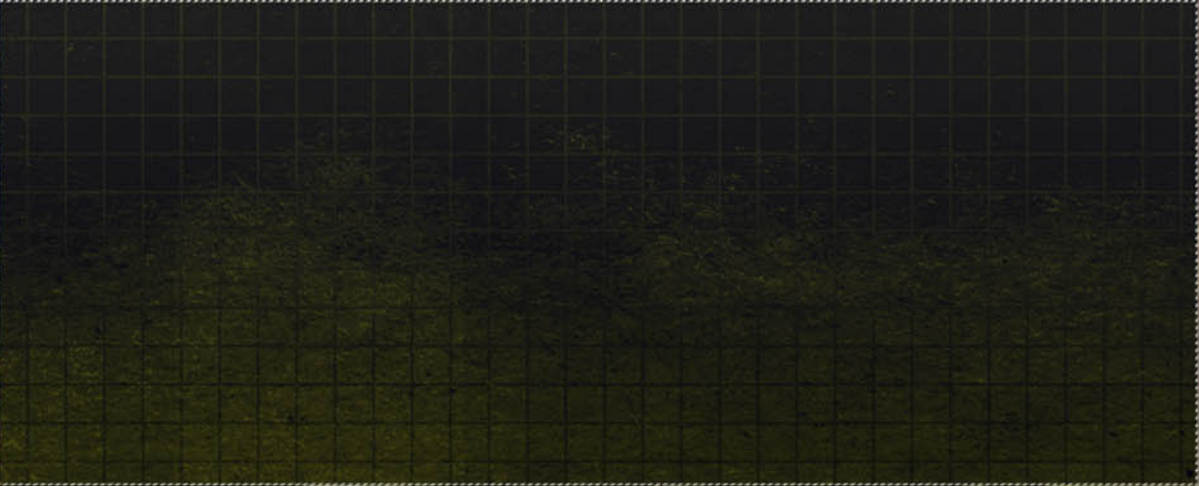
ХТО
ШУ

ТАМА ТЕОВАС

Mono, Photoshop, Illustrator, 2010.

3E AON3



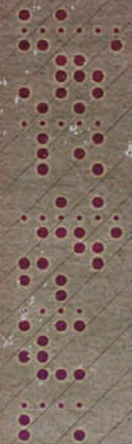


tricky
TRICKY
I QUIETLY OBSERVE
STANDING IN MY SPACE
DAYDREAMING



Москва

I GOT
EVERY
THING
YOU
NEED



... and local The House



ghetto youth

BO
definition



YOUTH





Hey
Jana!

Hi Under Re-
public People.

How are you?

I'm fine, thank you, hope you are all doing well too.

What's new in your neck of the woods?

Nothing special, just trying to move two humans and unfortunately just one old dog to Barcelona.

How long have you been involved in graphic design?

I don't know exactly... maybe 4-5 years. Before that I was doing Interior Design mainly.

What inspires you to create?

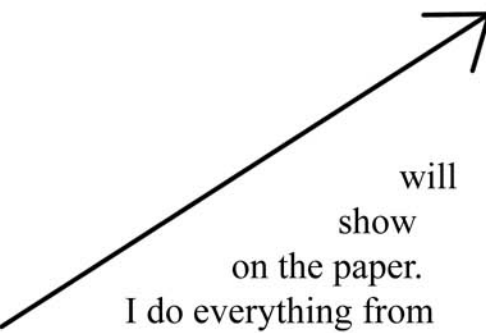
Everything inspires me. Life situations, people, nature, towns, animals and their behavior, and above all music by Unkle, Tricky, Martina Topley Bird, etc.

What rewards do you receive from your art?

In my country there is an unwritten rule, if you want to get ahead, you need to have a connection or two. I don't have many so... you can fill in the rest.

Do you ever get "stuck," or run out of ideas?

Yes, of course that happens from time to time. If I am in the wrong mood for creating, nothing



will
show
on the paper.

I do everything from the heart and I'm not so good with doing things automatically.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

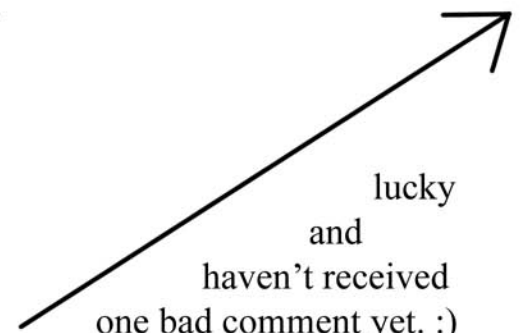
In my spare time I try to relax and get away from my problems big and small, watch TV with my husband, play with my dogs, just the usual stuff.

Where would you like to go with your career in graphic design/digital art?

As many quality freelance jobs I can get is my main goal for now, and later, who knows, maybe some design studio through which I can expand my unique style all over the world.

I've definitely noticed all the promotion you do of your work on the Behance Network. Has that had a positive effect in gaining notice for yourself and work?

Thanks for noticing. :) I must say that self-promotion is a double edged sword; people may not react as you want when they see your work, particularly if the art is very emotional and personal like mine. Harsh words and criticism can hurt, but fortunately I got



lucky
and
haven't received
one bad comment yet. :)

What's the greatest compliment you've received for your work?

I receive many compliments on my work, but the one I liked the most is when a guy on the internet said that my art is something that he had seen for the first time in his life. These days with so many tutorials on the web and where everybody copies everybody, that was a big moment for me.

Do heritage and culture play a role in your work?

I would like to say no to that question, because in Serbia heritage and culture are very badly interpreted, but all those wars, poor economy and corrupted government surely did contribute to the fact that my works are a little bit heavier and darker, just mirroring the reality I'm living.

Why digital art?

Simply because of all the freedom it gives to me. I don't have to worry about the difficulties of working with some media. To me, digital art doesn't hinder my imagination and that is what I most-

ly
love
about it.

What are you currently working on?

Lately, I have worked on some layout designs, music pages for Kismet Magazine, and now I am continuing my personal work dedicated to and inspired by Will Eisner. I guess I'd call it like new wave Eisner. I included two works from that series too. I haven't published them anywhere yet because the set is not finished. I will give you the honor to be the first. :)

Thank you Jana. Where would you like to be a year from now?

Without fail, I want to be in Spain. The best outcome would be the city of Barcelona, of course, but life is shifty, so anything in that area will be good enough for me.

...5 years from now?

On a sunny beach in Barcelona, surrounded with people who are important to me, working with innovative artists, enjoying in the rest of my life.

Of your entire body of work, do you have a personal favorite?

That is hard, but if I must choose it will be Mono, Made for TV and Everything you

need.
In any
case I am send-

ing you those works so you can see for yourself.

All said and done, would you say that you love what you do for a living?

Of course I do. I can't live my life working on something that doesn't fulfill me. This is a tough road but in the end I'm sure it's all gonna be worth it. Commercial design is for the masses, and that is not what I am looking for. Quality is more important to me, not quantity.

Any shout outs?

Yes, if somebody from Spain or particularly Barcelona wants to hire me, they should do it right now. :)





YO SOY EL M





HUDSON'S
GROWS WITH DETROIT

Kelly-
Springfield

DETROIT
CREAMERY
MILK
IS HEALTH INSURANCE

KEP'S
DRY

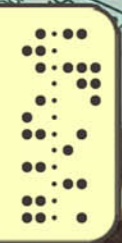
GOLDE
15
CLOTHES

ELMER'S

BAQUAT

SALTO

VALUE



Basquiat, *Photoshop*, 2010.



WE ARE ALL READY TO WIN^{1/2}



DREW CAINO









**Hey
Drew!
What's going
on?**

Hey! It's really cool to be included in the zine. Thanks for the opportunity.

How long have you been tattooing?

I've been in the industry for a little over 4 years now, and tattooing for a solid 3 1/2 of those years.

What tattoo shop do you work at?

I'm currently working at The Exotic Body. It's the shop where I first started. I've done some traveling to other shops and gained some fresh perspectives and met a few new faces, but I'm back home where I need to be.

How did you get started in the tattoo industry?

I think this job really chose me for some reason. It's hard to explain, but I got serious about being an artist when I was about 18 years old. Slowly but surely I gravitated towards the tattoo arts. It took me 2 long months of pounding down shop doors until I got my first shop position. After a good year of hard work, I was deemed ready to begin my apprenticeship. I'm 26 now and there's no doubt in my mind that I made the

right
deci-
sions.

What's your favorite aspect of your job?

My favorite aspect of my job at this point is working with such good friends. When everyone has fun and enjoys what they are doing it's not much like work at all. I also get the chance to meet people from all walks of life, and they never cease to amaze me.

Do you have any advice for the young kids out there looking to get their first tattoo's?

My leading advice to the masses looking to get tattooed would be as follows:

- #1.) Look at portfolios - If you like the art move on to #2.
- #2.) Get to know your artist. (If you get along, odds are you will be happy getting tattooed by him/her.)
- #3.) Know your budget. (Be up front about how much you want to spend and we'll work with you to get the most out of your money.)

Do you have a favorite style of tattoo and why?

I really really love traditional Americana and neo-traditional style these days. In my eyes you just can't beat big bold outlines and bright ass

col-
ors. I
like for my

work to really be able to be understood from ten feet away like "Damn that's a kick ass dragon!" You catch my drift.

Where do you see yourself going with tattooing?

I definitely plan on tattooing for as long as my mind and body can handle it. This career has already taken me to Washington State, and I have friends in shops all over the place. So I plan on using tattooing to help take me places I'm not ever have than chance to see otherwise. I also would like to stay happy so I can help keep my clients happy as well.

Any shout outs?

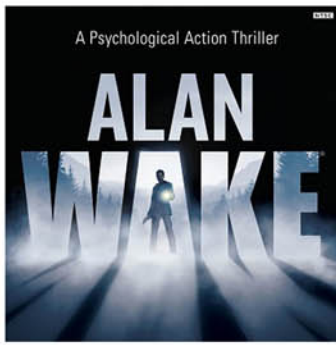
I'd just really like to recognize and give respect to all the people who invested time and effort into helping mold me from a wad of cookie dough into a solid tattooer. Thanks and love to my family, Mark A. my teacher, Mike B., Mike H., Dave W., and a special thanks to all my co-workers past and present for making work fun fun fun!











Alan Wake

Remedy Entertainment

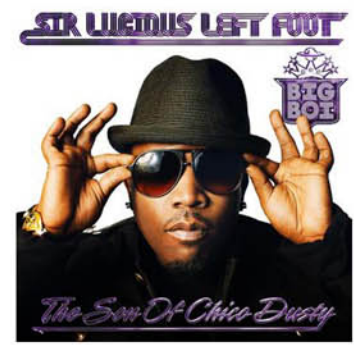
Blasted into Bright Falls, Insomniac writer Alan Wake immediately finds himself acting out a part from the pages of his very own work. Darkness reigns supreme as Wake is forced to face his fears and search for his wife's captors. Yada yada ya. This game is fun as hell! Wake's vague storyline keeps you clamoring for answers, while the cast of characters guide your direction. Add in a little sweet satirical spoofing of Twin Peaks and you've got a next to impossible to put down controller and an irritated girlfriend. I played this one for 3 nights straight, and after about 8 or so hours of game play, defeated the darkness. I might not be a huge success elsewhere yet, but at least can kick some ass at video games. Holler at a player, my gamer tag is UNDER REPUBLIC on Xbox Live.



Costco Polish Dogs

Hebrew National

Ever since I was a little guy I've been snacking these dogs! At \$1.62 with a coke how the hell can you go wrong? The hot dogs are terrific. Sometimes I go to Costco just to grub a dog. Boom, order up your dog, ask for kraut (cuz they got it back there), and lace that duder with everything they got. I'm talking the whole schmear, ketchup, mustard, relish, kraut, and onions. It will make your breath stink, but if you and your girlfriend both eat one both yall's breath will be humming so it's all good! And don't even get me started on Costco's kick ass return policy. My advice, go to Costco, snack a dog, eat some samples, and buy a bunch of stuff you don't need. Just because you can. Shiet, I'm about to go get my grub on there right now, real talk.



Big Boi

Sir Lucious Left Foot: The Son of Chico Dusty

Big Boi's first solo album just dropped and this joint knocks! Production wise he's got the cream of the crop, along with guest appearances galore. But Big Boi's unique style and creative flow swiftly take the helm. "Let it be clear, I'm a leader not your peer. Valedictorian of this rap shit every year." It's almost as if Big Boi lends to those on the track with him allowing them to explore their more creative side. Oddly enough Andre 3000 only shows up on a couple tracks throughout the album. That's got me wondering what more could these two have in store for us in the near future. Regardless of all of Outkast's mainstream pop success they have continued to push the envelope with each new album, and The Son of Chico Dusty definitely continues to follow suit.



HTC

Droid Incredible

I had to wait 2 months for the phone to arrive, but the wait was worth it. This phone is pretty fresh. The snapdragon processor speeds through loading applications with ease. The Droid Marketplace offers just about everything that I'd become accustomed to with the iPod Touch, and the digital camera takes some great pictures. I've been playing with the FxCamera app quite a bit with some great results. On the other hand, a major downside on this bad boy would have to be its battery life. I'm having to charge it up like twice a day, which is a pain in the ass. Still, the Droid Incredible outperforms the Apple competition. My actions are now streamlined in realtime. For every little morsel of food that I eat a twitpic will be posted. If I'm in a bad mood, you will know about it. J/K LOL :)



Nikkor 50mm f/1.8D Af

The Nifty Fifty

The aptly named nifty fifties are what's up. I copped my Nikkor from Amazon for only \$120, and for all you Canon heads out there the deal gets even sweeter. Right now you can get the Canon EF 50mm for only \$99 bucks off of Amazon. There's no comparing the nifty fifties to other lenses price wise, hence the name nifty fifty. These little jamers snap super sharp photos and boast a wide ass aperture of f/1.8. Great for Depth of field or shooting in low-light situations. If I boost my ISO to 1600 and shoot at f/1.8, I can get great shots without flash wherever I go. Shooting with a fixed lens also has helped me to become a better photographer just by only allowing the one focal length. So if you're looking for a new toy for your camera keep the nifty fifties in mind.



The Roots

How I Got Over

The Roots are back with their 9th studio album to date *How I Got Over*, and this is what I've been listening to. Slapping it in the car, bumping it on the bike, or allowing these tracks to whisper sweet nothings in my ear during long walks on the beach, this is my shit. I guess you could say that I identify with the albums overall message and tone. It's not so much religious as it is the search for self, success, and enlightenment. However you take it, *How I Got Over* is a breath of fresh air in the otherwise lacking genre of conscious mainstream hip hop. Okay, let me step off my soap box here. I still can't get myself to watch Jimmy Fallon though. Bygones.



GRAFFITI

pieces











for
some
reason. Luckily I haven't been introduced to many people like that.

How do you feel about the new generation of youngsters coming up?

I'd say about 30% percent might have something going for them. For the most part, America is corrupt and brain-washed. Somewhere along the way, our mainstream culture got introduced to something that has changed. We'll see when 2012 gets here.

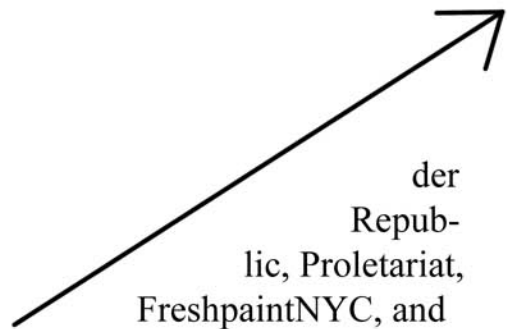
If you had a chance to do it all over again, what would you do differently?

A lot of things. The notion of time . I would love to go back and change things just to see where it would end up bringing me. Who knows, it might not even matter. But definitely wish I had been prepared for a few situations. But the memories are all in my mind and that is something I cannot trade time for.

Booya!!! Any shout outs?

All my friends and family that have supported me and my photography. All the people that inspire me to keep searching, The Flickr community and all the people that check out my pictures,

Un-



der
Republic, Proletariat,
FreshpaintNYC, and
other graff-related sites for
the exposure. All the writers
who make doing this worthwhile and anyone who has to helped me on my search for more graffiti. Thank you all so much.





No. 1
UNDER
RPBLC



UNDER REPUBLIC 

