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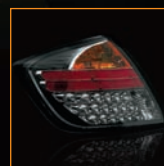
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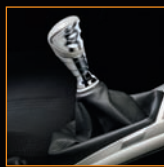
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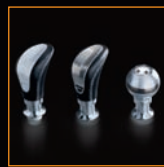
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ON THE COVER: Photo by RANDALL SLAVIN; Stylist: JAIME LESS; Hair: JOHN FRANCIS for soloartists.com; Makeup: GARRET GERVAIS for margaretmaldonado.com using MAC Cosmetics; Location: SMASHBOX STUDIOS, West Hollywood; On Tila, Xanthrax leather and denim bustier; Danielle Kelly DK75RAW hot pants; Michelle Marchon Jewelry silver necklace.

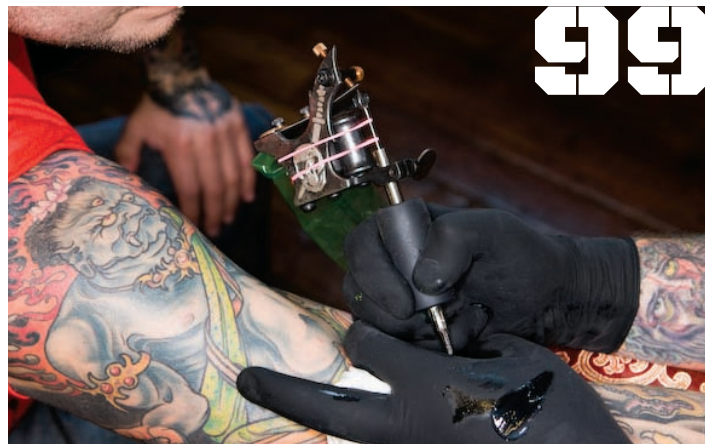


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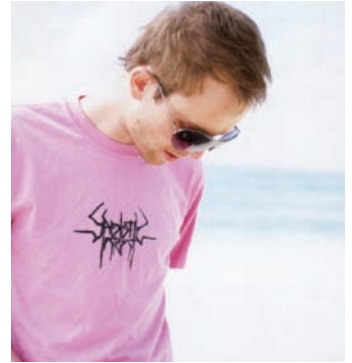


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contributors



Top Row: Photographer **Ellen Stagg** set up shop in her home for this month's shoot with racecar driver Chica Loca ("Inked People," page 39). "Everything went smoothly, besides people being allergic to my cat," she explains. Stagg has six tattoos, including a purple Corazón de Sangria on her inner right arm, a purple and pink cobra on her left foot, a green rattlesnake on her right foot, and a large golden eagle on her lower back. Her work has appeared in *Interview*, *Jane*, *Vibe*, *Maxim*, *XXL*, and others but her true passion lies in lingerie. "I would love to be a lingerie designer. I love buying beautiful, good-quality bras."

To pull together this month's feature on custom car shops ("Shifting Gears," page 58) we recruited *Rides* senior editor and auto expert **Will Gock**, whose writing appears in *Rides*, *King*, *Mass Appeal*, and others. Gock tracked down the best shops in the country, each with its own distinctive style. If he weren't writing, Gock would be traveling or cooking. "I sure as hell wouldn't be back in the world of corporate marketing that I escaped from," he says. Does Gock have any tattoos? "No comment. I may be sending a copy of this issue to Mom!"

Interviewing tattooer Phil Holt of RedLetter1 ("Inked Spot," page 99) nearly killed writer **Stan Horaczek**. Literally. "I had to reschedule my interview because I thought I was having a heart attack that morning and went to the hospital with an irregular heartbeat," Horaczek explains. "I ended up doing the interview the next day sitting in the park. I think it made for a much better setting than room 4C at New York Presbyterian," Horaczek says

"Stay True" tattooed across the back of his arms, courtesy of Matt Victor at Hart & Huntington, and claims if he weren't writing he would open a used clothing store. "I'd spend my days cruising the Salvation Army for cool shirts. Either that or I would be begging the Salvation Army to give me a place to sleep." Horaczek's writing appears in *Maxim*, *Stuff*, *Revolver*, and the *New York Post*.

Photographer **Lucas Zarebinski** has shot for *Los Angeles Times* magazine, *Outside*, *Flaunt*, *URB*, and others. For this month's "Inked Life" (page 16), we piled up sunglasses, running shoes, racing jackets, and other cool stuff and let Zarebinski do his thing. "I only have one tattoo," he says. "It's on my stomach. It was done 10 years ago when I was still living in Poland, where I grew up." He also knows how to wire car stereos—something we did not think of beforehand. Good save!

Bottom Row: Before this month's shoot with Tila Tequila ("A Shot of Tequila," page 50), we asked photographer **Randall Slavin** for some information about his life and work and ended up with a slightly clever story about a Tulsa carnival, a family gas station, and a "chance run in with Helmut Newton." Um, okay. In fact, Slavin takes photos we like of celebrities we like for *Esquire*, *Rolling Stone*, *GQ*, and *Flaunt* among others. He currently has two things in common with Bret Michaels: They both live in Los Angeles and have a penchant for wearing bandanas.

For "Shifting Gears" (page 58), we sent photographer **Russ Quackenbush** into some of the top custom car shops in

the country to shoot the owners, mechanics, and vehicles, while generally getting in the way. Quackenbush has no tattoos, which he blames on his upbringing in Beantown. "I'm tattoo-free but that's because I'm from Boston and it's pretty conservative," he says. "Maybe next year!"

Photographer **Rudy Archuleta** nearly needed rescuing from this month's shoot with muscled animal vigilantes Rescue Ink ("Mad Dogs," page 80). "The guys looked so bad ass and intimidating," he explains. "Then, as we were setting up, one of my lighting packs blew. I sent my assistant to pick up a rental replacement. While we were waiting, my camera froze and I had to call him to get another. The shoot turned out great, but I was definitely sweating there for a minute." Archuleta recently completed an exhibition of portraits of Interpol, The Raveonettes, The Secret Machines, and other bands, and his work appears in *Rolling Stone*, *Vibe*, *Maxim*, and *Revolver*.

Writer **Marisa DiMattia** has a tattoo fetish, so much so that she married her tattoo artist, Daniel DiMattia from Calypso Tattoo, who's responsible for her two sleeves, back piece, and her Greek father's ulcer. The lawyer and writer works at international law firms in Europe while blogging about her bod mod obsession on Needed.com. She divides her time between Brussels and Brooklyn and uses her in-flight time to write for *Salon*, *Glamour*, *Bust*, *Suicide Girls*, and others. "I won't be satisfied until I look like those fully suited tattooed ladies in old freakshows ... and I'm getting there," says DiMattia. For this issue, DiMattia profiled race car driver Chica Loca (page 46).



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letter



Pinstriper Robert Pradke at work on a custom INKED paint job.

Because the INKED staff is made up of New Yorkers, we don't drive much. Owning a bicycle in Brooklyn is hard enough. A car? Forget about it. Instead, we're stuck shoving through crowds, cramming on to subways, and trying not to puke in the back of cabs (that would be me).

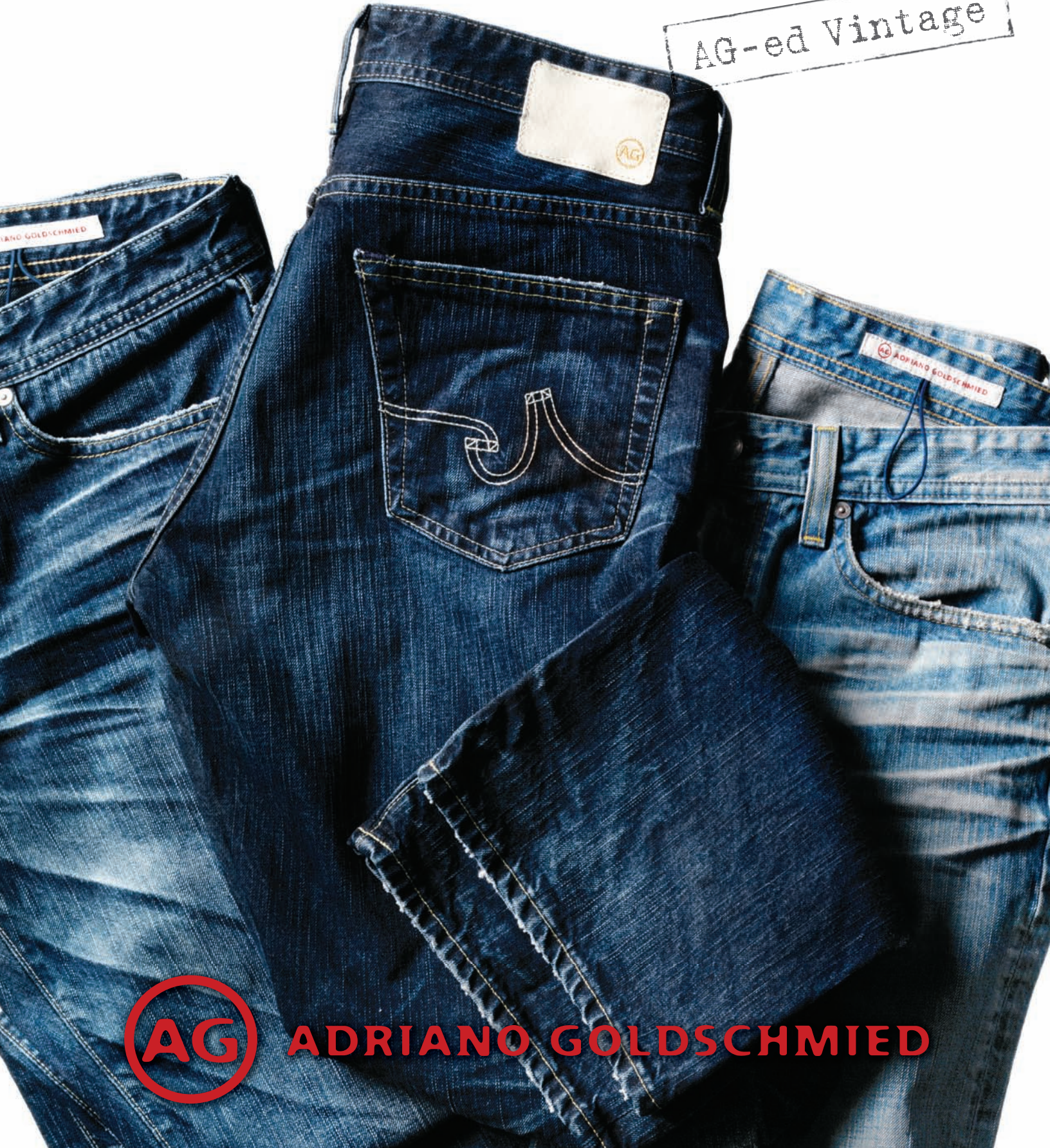
That doesn't mean we don't love cars. Maybe it's the warm weather or a renewed interest in Jack Kerouac (me again), but the INKED offices have been invaded with talk of a windows-down-and-Sabbath-cranked-to-eleven road trip. This month's feature "Shifting Gears" (page 58) shows off four of the best custom car shops in the country where they create the type of sick rides we'd love to take off in. We also checked in with racecar driver Chica Loca (page 46) and wrangled three brand new Harleys for this month's fashion shoot (page 72). Even our cover star, Tila Tequila (page 50), got comfy in the back of a Bentley.

A few guys who won't be hitting the road anytime soon are the imprisoned members of the notorious MS-13 street gang, profiled in this month's photo essay (page 84). And if the muscle-bound members of New York City's animal-rights squad Rescue Ink (page 80) show up at your door, you better plan on hitting the road.

Be sure to check us out at inkedmag.com, where we've partnered with social networking site Moli.com. Build a Moli profile then hit our page to watch behind-the-scenes video from our photo shoots, argue with other tattooed users in our forums, and read blogs by INKED staffers. We promise to update them just as soon as we get back from our road trip.

Jason Buhrmester
Editor

AG-ed Vintage



ADRIANO GOLDSCHMIED

mail



HIGH ROLLER

INKED is the best tattoo mag! I just got my first tattoo from Mister Cartoon [above left]. Who else to do a clown? He also painted my wheelchair [above right]. I'm a medical marijuana smoker. I was in a drinking-and-driving accident when I was 15 and I'm paralyzed from my armpits down. Cannabis helps with numerous problems such as muscle spasms, chronic pain, and my lack of appetite. I like to use the leaves on my frame to educate people on why I smoke. LIFE ROLL\$ ON.

Jeff Beverly San Diego, CA

KAT SCRATCH FEVER

Dude! I had such a good time with this shoot ["Wild Things," June/July]. Thanks again for making me a part of this magazine. You guys rule. We just ordered a subscription for the shop, too. I can't wait to see what you guys come up with!

Kat Von D Los Angeles, CA



READER OF THE MONTH

OLIVIA PATTERSON, Hairstylist
Edmonton, Alberta

"Jasun Maclean, who owns Injected Ink, in Edmonton, Alberta, has done almost all my tattoos. My full sleeve, cherries on either side of my hips, and skulls on either side of my collarbone were all done by Jasun. It's hard to pick a favorite tattoo because they all mean so much to me. If I had to choose, I'd say I love my cherries the most. They were the first piece that Jasun did on me so they mean a lot. They make me feel sexy. What girl doesn't wanna feel sexy?"

BLOOD LINES

The article that you wrote on my son Devon Blood ["There Will Be Blood," May] was so well done. Thanks for the wonderful way that you put the story to words.

Linda M. Blood Fairfield, CA

I just discovered INKED at my local news stand and I love it. Only one thing bothered me. Three times in the Devon Blood article his life savers are referred to as "ambulance drivers." You may have already had complaints from other paramedics and EMTs, but ambulance driver is such an outdated term it is an insult. It's akin to calling Devon Blood a "scratcher." That said, I'm glad I found INKED today and look forward to future issues.

Scott Loyst Toronto, Canada

HARDCORE LOVE

I wanted to drop you a line to let you know I enjoyed the story on New York hardcore ["Built to Last," May]. It was a trip to see what these guys are up to. I have fond memories of hardcore bands back in the day, like seeing Sick of It All when they opened for Bad Brains in '89, watching Murphy's Law blow away the Ramones, watching Gorilla Biscuits in what had to be either their

first L.A. show, and seeing the Cro-Mags with Voivod. It was a cool trip down memory lane for the days when there were a lot of great bands of all stripes—metal, hardcore, speed-core, the beginnings of grindcore, the second coming of death metal, etc. Keep up the good work!

David Konow, author of *Bang Your Head: The Rise and Fall of Heavy Metal*

BITCH & WINE

In your travel article "Seven Wonders" [April] you recommend bringing wine to the laser show at the pyramids in Cairo, Egypt. Open alcohol is illegal in Muslim countries so drinking in public is a good way to get arrested.

Paul LaRocca Gary, IN

Editor's Note: Open alcohol is also illegal in New York City but that hasn't stopped us from brown-bagging a tall boy on the subway. Still, we see your point. Getting tipsy at a laser light show isn't worth spending time in an Egyptian jail cell.

BEAUTIFUL TRAGEDY

It was great seeing Maria Brink on the cover of INKED [May]. I love In This Moment and I think it's amazing that more women are playing metal in bands like Walls of Jericho and Bleeding Through. You guys rule!

Carrie Turner Memphis, TN

SUBMISSIONS TO INKED

Send all letters of praise, notes of complaint, photos of video game-related tattoos, and random Metallica gossip to letters@inkedmag.com. All submissions should include the writer's name and address. Letters may be edited for clarity, length, and content.



INKED LIFE

MY FIRST INK

NAME: Sandy Lakdar

OCCUPATION: actress, director, writer

HOMETOWN: Paris

I don't remember the name of the artist who did my first tattoo, but it was at a shop in Besançon, France. He did a red and black pentagram well below my navel. Now, getting a tattoo is kind of like a drug to me.

I've gotten a black star a little bit above the pentagram, a heart on my backside, cherries above that, the words "Keep It Real" on the top of my left leg, my friend's nickname "Rude" on my left hip, and then my own nickname "Die2Die" on my right hip. Most recently, Laura Satana, an artist based in Paris, gave me a big red heart broken by a bullet. I adore Laura so I am definitely going to have her give me more."

From top: Onitsuka Tiger black and silver leather sneaker; Puma silver sneaker; Creative Recreation perforated leather sneaker; Adidas black Porsche Design sneaker; New Balance red and black "China Mask Chou" sneaker.



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From top: Vanson "House 33" black leather jacket, available at house33.com; Adidas color-block nylon jacket; Schott leather and canvas jacket.



SPEED RACERS

PROP STYLIST, MEGAN TERRY

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Clockwise from top left: Lacoste black and silver plastic double-bridge sunglasses; Alexander McQueen plastic sunglasses; Paul Frank "Phoenix in Flight" sunglasses; Von Zipper "Rockford" sunglasses; Stüssy white "Cab" sunglasses; Urban Outfitters blue mirrored "Turbo Aviator" sunglasses.

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Clockwise from top left: Element black and white checkered "Transform" T-shirt; DKNY Jeans black "Traffic Laws" T-shirt; Trunk Ltd beige "The Cars" T-shirt; Mustache Brigade brown "De La Soul" T-shirt.

MODEL TEES

PROP STYLIST, MEGAN TERRY

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Sarah Hays at the Peacock Bar & Grill enjoys Irish whiskey any time of year, any time of day.

STREAMS OF WHISKEY

Irish whiskey goes down smooth any time of year, green shirt or not.

Wait a feckin' second—it's not St. Patrick's Day. And hell, it's not even March. So why are we talking about Ireland's delicious brown liquid? Because the Irish "water of life" isn't just for the days when you wear a plastic green bowler hat and try to pronounce "shillelagh" after drinking too many car bombs. Often known as a "starter" whiskey because of its milder flavors and easy drinkability, Irish whiskey doesn't need to be mixed with Coke or soda to be enjoyed. According to Sarah Hays, a bartender at Peacock Bar & Grill in Corvallis, OR, "Most of the Irish whiskey drinkers you run into will share my opinion that it shouldn't be messed with by adding anything at all."

Drinkers are downing the Irish spirit more than ever, and the biggest brand, Jameson, just expanded its catalogue with Jameson Rarest Vintage Reserve. You may need a pot of gold to afford the \$250 bottle, but the rich, deep flavors of toasted wood, cinnamon, and licorice make this the first super-luxury Irish whiskey. And with the rise in popularity, count on seeing a lot more new and different versions of Irish whiskey popping up at your local pub. Adds Hays, "I personally started drinking Jameson because I enjoyed their motto, 'Sine Metu,' meaning 'Without Fear.' Now I drink it all the time." Pour yourself a glass of Irish whiskey and drink until you forget the month. —Cory Jones



IRISH MULE

1 double shot Jameson
1 shot lime juice
dash of vanilla syrup
Add all the ingredients in a highball glass over ice, top with ginger ale, stir, then serve.



WHISKEY SOUR

1 shot Midleton
1 shot lemon juice
½ shot sugar syrup
Pour ingredients into shaker filled with ice, shake vigorously, strain into a whiskey sour glass. Garnish with a slice of lemon and a cherry.



BLACK IRISH

3 parts Bushmills Black Bush
1 part Kahlúa
Stir ingredients together in a glass with ice and let sit for one minute. Garnish with a cherry.



IRISH CAR BOMB

¾ pint Guinness stout
½ shot Baileys Irish cream
½ shot Tullamore Dew
Layer whiskey and Baileys in a shot glass with Baileys on the bottom. Drop the shot into the pint glass of Guinness and chug.

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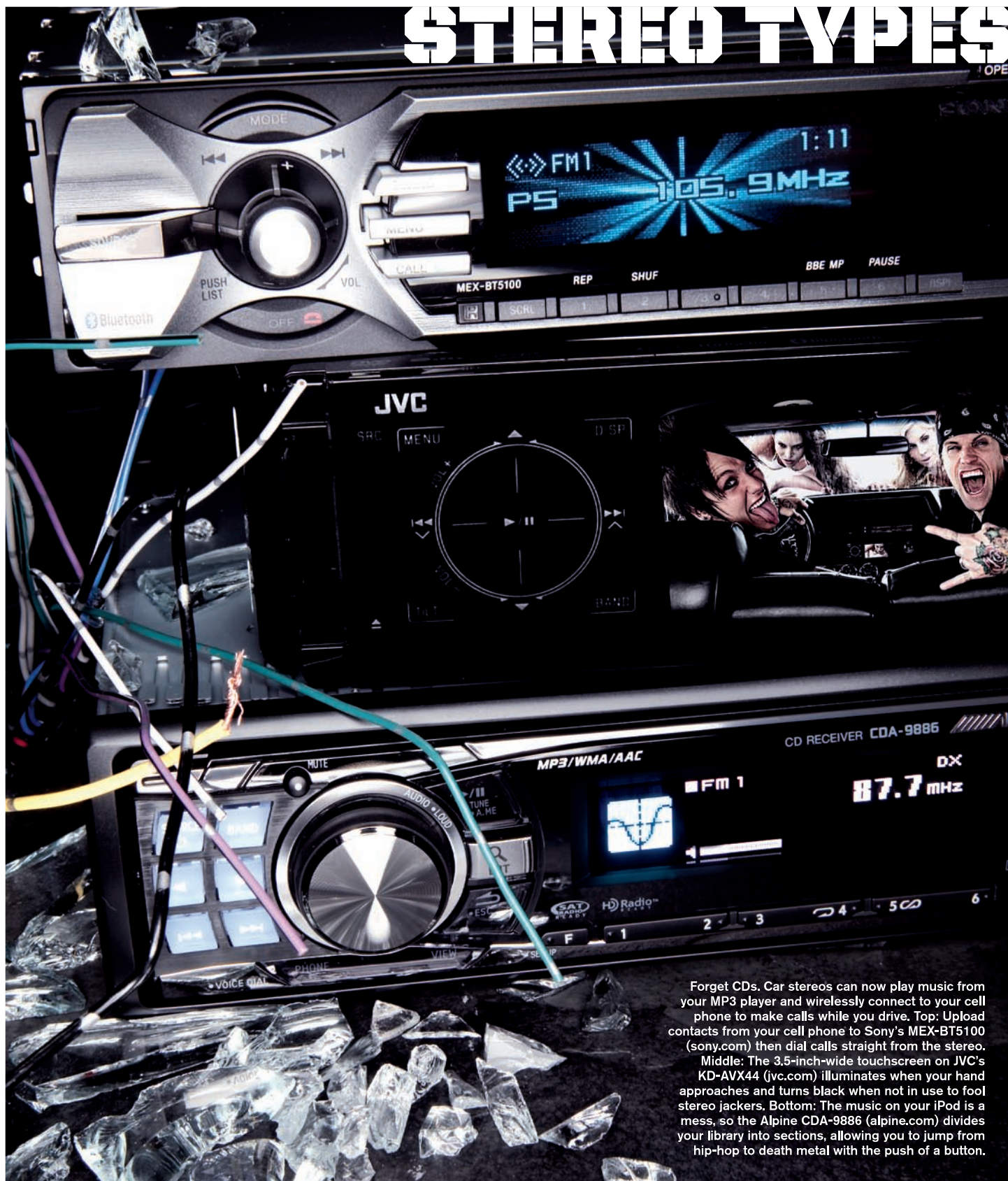
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STEREO TYPES



Forget CDs. Car stereos can now play music from your MP3 player and wirelessly connect to your cell phone to make calls while you drive. Top: Upload contacts from your cell phone to Sony's MEX-BT5100 (sony.com) then dial calls straight from the stereo. Middle: The 3.5-inch-wide touchscreen on JVC's KD-AVX44 (jvc.com) illuminates when your hand approaches and turns black when not in use to fool stereo jackers. Bottom: The music on your iPod is a mess, so the Alpine CDA-9886 (alpine.com) divides your library into sections, allowing you to jump from hip-hop to death metal with the push of a button.

PROP STYLIST, MEGAN TERRY

SOUND ADVICE



KING KHAN AND THE SHRINES
The Supreme Genius of King Khan and The Shrines
[Vice]

Wig-wearing rock 'n' roll nut job King Khan is a true international mess. The Montreal musician spent time in a few bands before landing in Berlin, forming the nine-piece soul freak-out The Shrines, and flooding the globe with fuzzed-out rock. This collection gathers a few of Khan's greatest hits. While The Shrines mash *Nuggets* rock 'n' roll with Stax horns, Khan wails through the Animals-inspired "Burnin' Inside" and gets down like James Brown on the horn-pumping "Took My Lady to Dinner." Check out "Welfare Bread," in which a softy Khan offers to share his bounty with a lucky lady. This album is crucial listening for any summer BBQ.



STREET DOGS
State of Grace
[Hellcat]

Street Dogs singer Mike McColgan carries working class street cred in spades. The Army vet fought in the Gulf War and served as the original singer for Boston punks the Dropkick Murphys before bailing to become a firefighter. Now on leave from his firehouse, McColgan leads the Street Dogs. On their fourth album, the group sound grittier than ever. But behind the riffs that recall The Clash and Cock Sparrer, it's McColgan's world experience that gives heart to his rants about honor and family. Whether he's toasting a late uncle ("Kevin J. O'Toole") or an old friend ("Two Angry Kids"), it's obvious that McColgan keeps one Doc Marten planted in the old neighborhood.



THREE 6 MAFIA
Last 2 Walk
[Hypnotize Minds/Columbia Records]

When Three 6 Mafia won an Oscar for their track "It's Hard Out Here for a Pimp," from the *Hustle & Flow* soundtrack, more than one music nut dropped their headphones and said, "What?" The truth is, the Memphis crew have been flooding the South with tracks for more than a decade, and anyone who has ever set foot in a club—strip, or otherwise—has no doubt heard them. With their formula perfected, Three 6 Mafia deliver as advertised. They bang it out with Akon on "That's Right," get loaded on pills during the ecstasy anthem "Rollin'," and duet with Good Charlotte (!) on the moody "My Own Way." Count on hearing it the next time you're stumbling around the club with a fistful of dollar bills.



RONNIE HAWKINS
Mojo Man/Arkansas Rockpile
[Collectors' Choice Music]

Ronnie Hawkins did more than crank out hot-ass rockabilly. The Arkansas sensation formed his first band in the 1950s before relocating to Canada. There, he assembled an amazing backing band called The Hawks that would later back Bob Dylan before renaming themselves The Band. This collection combines two classic Hawkins albums from the '60s into a 23-track rockabilly shakedown loaded with scorching covers of Chuck Berry, Muddy Waters, and others. But it's a knockout version of Bo Diddley's classic "Who Do You Love?" featuring a ridiculous solo by guitarist Robbie Robertson that shows just how much history was going down at these sessions.



THE COOL KIDS
The Bake Sale
[Chocolate Industries]

There's a lot missing from the latest EP from Chicago hip-hop duo The Cool Kids. No tough-guy tracks. No rhymes about guns or jail. And the only reference to rims comes on the summer jam "Black Mags," an ode to a slick BMX bikes with pegs on the back for hauling honeys. Cool Kid members Mikey Rocks and Chuck English are hip to just how un-hip they are; on "A Little Bit Cooler" they laugh, "Fruity Pebbles. How gangsta is that? Not gangsta at all." The Kids' too-cool-to-play-the-game attitude wouldn't work half as well if weren't for their homegrown beats. And halfway through "One Two," when they admit they're "the new black version of the Beastie Boys," they're damn right.



BLACK SABBATH
The Rules of Hell
[Rhino]

Don't doubt Ronnie James Dio. Sure, Ozzy will always be the mumbling voice of Black Sabbath, but any metal fan will tell you that the years after the Oz-man shambled off and the pint-sized Dio took over are still worthy of throwing up the horns. This five-CD box set collects every Sabbath release featuring Dio, including all three studio albums and the double live collection *Live Evil*. The set is a treasure chest of classic Dio hits such as "Neon Knights," "Lady Evil," and other songs loaded with knights, witches, dragons, and references pulled straight from a *Dungeons & Dragons* handbook. Despite the wealth of Tenacious D gags lurking here, the Dio-era Sabbath had great moments, and "The Mob Rules" still rocks.

CHILL OUT



If the AC is cranked and you're still feeling the heat, add these cooling products to your medicine cabinet. Clockwise from top left: MKMen Cooling After-Shave Gel (marykay.com); Nivea for Men Cool Body Wash (drugstores); Oxy Chill Factor Daily Wash (drugstores); Xbalm XIce Lip Balm (xbalm.com); Elemis Ice-Cool Foaming Shave Gel (timetospa.com); Nickel Cold Sweat Deodorant (amazon.com).

PROP STYLIST, MEGAN TERRY

UNDER THE GYMFLUENCE

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What's the next best thing to owning an Italian sports car? Dating an Italian supermodel. Until then, update your Facebook on the Asus Lamborghini VX3 laptop (asus.com), which is made with titanium alloy and outfitted with real leather and stitching that matches the car. Sapphire crystal covers the built-in webcam and a fingerprint scanner keeps your data safer than a locked garage. The 2.5 GHz Intel processor and 4GB RAM keep things speedy, and at 3.7 pounds it's light enough to carry to the bus stop.



SPEED FREAK

PROP STYLIST, MEGAN TERRY

GAME ON



Soulcalibur IV

Platform: PlayStation 3, Xbox 360

The Force is with this classic fighting game. To spice up the action, the latest installment of Soulcalibur comes injected with a heavy dose of Star Wars; PlayStation 3 owners can wield the deadly powers of Darth Vader, while Xbox 360 owners get access to the little green badass Yoda. Traditionalists can stick to characters that aren't from a galaxy far, far away and play 20 classic characters or one of four new fighters. Staying true to the series' legacy, the game looks stunning, and Soulcalibur's hand-to-hand and weapon-based fighting, which still kicks ass, now lets you break down your enemy's armor to deliver replay-worthy brutal finishes that would make Darth Maul smile.



Madden NFL '09 20th Anniversary Collector's Edition

Platform: PlayStation 2, PlayStation 3, PSP, Xbox 360, Wii, Nintendo DS

Sundays wouldn't be the same without everyone's favorite mush-mouthed fat man John Madden drooling all over the Telestrator during football games. The same goes for pigskin video games, where Madden NFL has flattened all comers for 20 years. For the game's anniversary, the creators finally fulfilled the wishes of the rabid fan base and added 32-player online league play, so you can round up 31 friends, assign everyone a team, and play an entire NFL season. New controls let players break out of spin and juke moves to avoid going out of bounds or to dodge tackles. New announcers Cris Collinsworth and Tom Hammond are there to point out just where your running back fumbled.



Brothers in Arms: Hell's Highway

Platform: PlayStation 3, Xbox 360, PC

Time to get your war on. The Brothers in Arms series rejoins Staff Sergeant Matt Baker of the 101st Airborne as his squad fights to stay out of body bags during Operation Market Garden, the worst Allied defeat of World War II. Behind enemy lines in the Netherlands, Baker's squad must wrestle control of strategically important bridges, hold off the Nazi counterattack, and pray for reinforcements. This gritty story ditches heroics for the camaraderie formed by your squad during frantic firefights, exhilarating escapes, and painful losses. As the leader, your tactical decision-making spells the difference between a celebratory shot of scotch at a rally point or digging graves for your assault team.



Too Human

Platform: Xbox 360

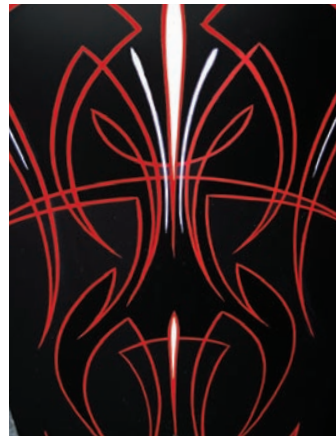
Here's a game geek cocktail: Mix Norse mythology with futuristic technology and create one hell of a mash-up game. The first installment in a planned trilogy, Too Human follows the plight of Baldur, the Norse god responsible for protecting humanity against robots gone wild. To stop the bloodthirsty machines you'll choose between relying on humanistic traits or piling on the technology. The game play blends the hack-and-slash combat of action games with the depth of a role-playing game to create a hybrid that is equal parts Devil May Cry and Diablo. Overrun with robots? Play Too Human's special blend of Rock 'Em Sock 'Em robots with three other people simultaneously online. —Matt Bertz



Clockwise from above: A lucky hot rod gets INKED by Robert Pradke; custom fuel tank by Pradke; the fine-line work of Artie Schilling; Pradke's finest; Schilling hard at work.



PINSTRIPE WIZARDS



The history of pinstriping stretches back in one long, straight, hand-painted line all the way to horse-drawn carriages and further back in time to cave walls. What's certain is this: You can't talk about pinstriping without hearing the name Kenny Howard, best known as Von Dutch. Thought to be the granddaddy of the art, Von Dutch was an artist and avid biker who learned hand lettering at age 10 from his papa, a professional sign painter. He did the majority of his work in the 1940s and 1950s, but today the art is just as hot as it was back then. This time around, however, it has resurfaced in the mainstream, straddling both the hot rod and biker culture and the Jaguar and Mini Cooper set.

In this collision of cultures reside a few masters whose influences and training run the gamut. From hot rod enthusiasts to tattoo artists to Tiki bar owners, pinstriping is an art practiced, touted, and passed down through the ages. Meet three fiercely coveted masters of the steady hand.

EAST COAST ARTIE (eastcoastartie.com)

At 13, Artie Schilling did his first striping job on a '51 Chevy, and he's watched the industry evolve. "Hot rod culture is so hot right now because of shows like

Monster Garage," says the owner of East Coast Artie's, in Surfside Beach, SC. "There's a crossover into tattoo terrain, too," he says. "I've even designed tattoos for people, but I can't begin to dig a needle into anyone yet."

ROBERT PRADKE (customautodesign.com)

Robert Pradke, of Eastford, CT, is a veteran of shows like Discovery's *Biker Build-Off* and he takes extra pride in his gold leaf work, which carefully incorporates metals into his craft. "I like pure forms, and I manipulate my work from there to make it a little edgier and harder. My designs give a nod in the direction of Von Dutch, Ed Roth, and, of course, Tommy the Greek."

DAN KITE (dankitepinstripping.com)

Biker Dan Kite spends his winter months in Florida and has a house in Illinois, but the rest of the time he "lives on the road" with his wife, Gina. A third-generation painter, he's passed on the art to his oldest son, Brian. Bikes are his specialty. "My work is mainly Harley-Davidson related ... I'm influenced by that type of culture, attitude, whatever." —Rachel Aydt

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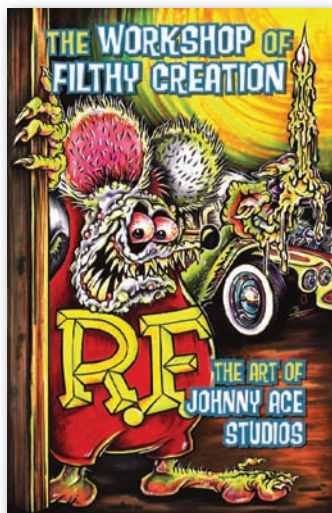
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CASH & CARRY



MONSTER MASH

Artist Johnny Ace worked alongside hot rod icon Big Daddy Roth for more than 20 years, cranking out weirdo art and eventually earning the title "Official Rat Fink Artist." *The Workshop of Filthy Creation: The Art of Johnny Ace Studios* (\$19.95, darkhorse.com) collects the toys, posters, skateboards, and other artwork created by Ace and his wife, Kali Verra. It's an inside look at the work of a lowbrow master.

BRAIN BUCKET

When your noggin' hits the pavement at 60 mph it doesn't matter what the helmet looks like. Still, we'd rather have Angus Young and gang protecting our skull on the next spill. This AC/DC edition half-helmet (\$170, rockhardhelmets.com) is Department of Transportation approved, meaning it's strong enough to protect your brain on any highway to hell. It's also available in Slayer, KISS, and Lynyrd Skynyrd editions.

AUTO EROTIC

Most artists harbor a hardcore fetish for two subjects: human bodies and motor vehicles. Curator Les Barany assembled a traveling exhibition of the best art that combines the two, often in twisted and perverse ways. Now released in book form, *Carnivora: The Dark Art of Automobiles* (\$29.95, baranybooks.com) collects art from the show, including pieces by Coop, H.R. Giger, Robert Williams, Guy Aitchison, and Jason D'Aquino.

FAST & FURIOUS

UNKL's tiny UniPo vinyl figures have popped out in every form from demons to astronauts, and there's even one based on loud rock legends the Melvins. The latest are the Speed Demons (\$7.50 each, unklbrand.com), which are rumored to have been spawned after UNKL owners attended a NASCAR race. The series includes four figures: three helmet- and jumpsuit-clad drivers and one angry cop with a killer mustache.

TOUCH & GO

There are more touchscreen cell phones to get your greasy fingers on than just the iPhone. The Samsung Glyde (\$299, samsung.com) features a 2.8-inch touchscreen for launching applications, browsing the web, locating contacts, and controlling the 2.0-megapixel camera/camcorder with flash. When it's e-mail, instant message, or text message time, slide out the QWERTY keyboard and put those thumbs to use.



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Clockwise from top left: the slick aluminum interior; the Bullitt burns rubber; the distinctive badge of the Bullitt.

MAGIC BULLITT

ENGINE

4.6-liter, 3-valve V8
315 horsepower at 6,000 rpm
325 pound-feet of torque at 4,250 rpm

DRIVETRAIN

Tremec 5-speed manual transmission

Steve McQueen nailed the concept of cool in the 1968 film *Bullitt* with his portrayal of Frank Bullitt, a San Francisco police lieutenant who floors a souped-up Ford Mustang through one of the most exciting cinematic chase scenes in history (and makes turtlesnecks with sport coats cool in the process).

The 2008 Bullitt, a special-edition version of the latest-generation Ford Mustang, does everything right in recreating the lean looks and overt aggression of both McQueen and his legendary wheels. It also repairs the damage done to the car's rep by the lame 2001 Bullitt edition. Just 7,700 of these '08 Bullitts were issued, and with prices that start at just over \$31,000, they're getting snapped up quickly.

The new Bullitt bears the distinctive retro look of a Mustang fastback coupe that has rolled to huge success since its 2004 resurrection. And though it's designed to evoke past glories, the new Mustang is a masterpiece of today's street rod technology. Innovative intake, exhaust, and engine management systems boost midrange torque and top-end power, while the muscle comes courtesy of a fiery 4.6-liter V8 engine that produces 315 horsepower and 325 pound-feet

of torque. Mated with a sporty Tremec 5-speed manual transmission, this drivetrain is a stirring tribute to the muscle car ethic. The car's shorter rear-axle ratios launch the Bullitt 0 to 60 mph in a blistering five seconds. Just don't plan on any hot-rod maneuvering; equipped with the latest electronic stability and traction control systems, the Bullitt refuses to fishtail on take-off no matter how hard you tromp the gas. Fortunately, the satisfying squeal of tires is always just a tap of the foot away.

From the outside, the Bullitt is all about minimalist attitude: No chrome, no air dams or spoilers, no nameplate or logos on the front or side. The only ID adornment is a brushed aluminum and black crosshair Bullitt emblem in the center of the trunk lid. Plus, the Bullitt comes finished in the authentic Dark Highland Green metallic paint from the film.

Inside, the Bullitt is spare and expansive the way American cars really were during the '60s. The aluminum dashboard facing is a nice accent to the black satin-finished surfaces. The front bucket seats are thick and comfy but supportive enough to handle some strong body shifts through hairpin turns during pursuits or getaways, whatever your situation. —George Polgar



*Win a trip for two and get **Inked by Scion.**
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Clockwise from top: The scene at Peñíscola's beach; delicious paella; Castellón Tattoo Convention; Valencia's City of Arts and Sciences.



SPANISH COAST



A drive down Spain's eastern coast is a winding road trip through a bit of everything, from historical castles and wildflower fields to chic hotels and nude beaches. Plan a September road trip along the coast from Valencia to Peñíscola and you'll get to experience it all, including the Castellón Tattoo Convention, which takes place September 5 – 7.

Start out in Valencia. Many of the city's buildings date to Roman and Arabic times, but some of the most breathtaking were built by architect Santiago Calatrava as part of the City of Arts and Sciences, which was erected in the '90s. Don't miss The Hemispheric, a soaring eye-shaped pavilion that holds a planetarium and IMAX theater. When the sun sets, head to La Bolsería Café in the city's Carmen neighborhood, where all the best bars and music venues are located.

Next, drive north along the coast for about an hour to Castellón de la Plana (also known as Castellón), where the second annual Castellón Tattoo Convention takes place. The exhibition isn't huge by industry standards, but many of Spain's top artists, including Robert Hernandez, will be in

attendance. Organizers expect thousands to visit La Pérgola in the city's Parque Ribalta, where there will be live music, vendors, and the requisite tattooing contests. Spend a night in one of the modern, minimalist rooms of Hotel Luz Castellón, which is a one-minute walk from the convention. Before you get back on the road, stop by La Tasca del Puerto in the Grao district, around the city's port, and order the seafood-strewn paella the region is known for.

Another hour's drive north will bring you to Peñíscola, one of the most scenic spots along Spain's Costa Azahar (Orange Blossom Coast). Visit the Castle of Peñíscola, which still stands in all its medieval glory (though it's now surrounded by nude beaches). Stay at the seaside Hotel RH Casablanca & Suites; there may be more men in Speedos than you'd like to see, but the view of the castle from the pool makes it worthwhile. If you're not ready to wrap up your Spanish holiday, continue two hours north to Barcelona. Or, take your time driving back to Valencia so you can enjoy the views along the way. —*Jennifer Chapman*

CITY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Avenida Autopista del Saler, 3, 46013, Valencia
cac.es

LA BOLSERÍA CAFÉ

Calle Bolsería, 41, 46001, Valencia

CASTELLÓN TATTOO CONVENTION

La Pérgola, Parque Ribalta, Castellón
castellontattooconvention.com

HOTEL LUZ CASTELLÓN

Calle del Pintor Oliet, 3, 12006, Castellón
hotelluz.com

LA TASCA DEL PUERTO

Avenida Puerto, 13, 12100, Castellón

HOTEL RH CASABLANCA & SUITES

Avenida Papa Luna, 113, 12598, Peñíscola
hotelrhcasablanca.com

INKED PEOPLE

"Racing came as a fluke when I went to a track one day with a couple of friends. I had no idea how accessible car racing was." —*Chica Loca*



HAIR AND MAKEUP, MELANIE HARRIS FOR OLIVER PIRO INC.

HORITAKA

Ten years ago, when tattooer Horitaka traveled to Japan and sought out tattoo master Horiyoshi III with hopes of starting a back piece, he had no idea what he was truly beginning. “I wanted him to do my back piece, which is now finally completed, and we just hit it off,” Horitaka explains. “If you had told me at that time that I would become an apprentice of his, I would have never believed you. The last 10 years have been magical.”

Horitaka, 34, was born in Japan and raised in the United States. Thankfully, his parents taught him Japanese, which helped later in his study of Japanese tattoo culture and traditions. Enamored with tattoos, he started collecting in high school and eventually began tattooing in 1998 before landing his coveted apprenticeship. Now an iconic tattoo artist of his own right, Horitaka is a pioneer in the tattoo industry with eight published books and his own shop, State of Grace, in San Jose, CA. The shop’s small, select staff specializes in traditional Japanese tattoo artistry as defined by their master, Horiyoshi III, who designated State of Grace as the only shop in America associated with his name. Horitaka embraces the mentality that tattooing is more than a mark on the body and he

likes to think of the art as a philosophy. “We try to express a culture,” he says.

The extensive collection of Horitaka’s own tattoos almost completes a full bodysuit. “It’s hard to say which one means the most to me. I think they all meant something at one time or another, most certainly when I got them. For better or for worse, it is a record of my life.” A prominent part of his bodywork that stands out is the back piece inked by Horiyoshi III; it’s an image of the Japanese warrior Toyotomi Hideyoshi on horseback, tattooed by both machine and hand.

“I’ve been fortunate to study with some really amazing people,” says Horitaka. He shares that knowledge with his numerous books and involvement with conventions. “I just aim to do my part, things I can be proud of, in trying to protect the industry. For example, I can’t stop all the lame-ass, corporate conventions out there, but I can be part of a good one in San Jose.”

Just don’t expect him to have all the answers: “I am still an apprentice of Horiyoshi III and have been for the last 10 years. He’s much more than a tattoo teacher to me. He teaches me about life.” —Jimmy Im







BRADLEY FARRELL

"It's scary." That's how Bradley Farrell, filmmaker, tattoo artist, and CEO of the social networking site eCircuit, describes what it's like to drive his matte black Ferrari 360 Modena on the track. "Even if you drive really well on the road, it's a totally different feel on the track, especially when you're throwing around a \$150,000 car. You don't want to throw it into the wall." Farrell, 33, got into racing Ferraris after he sold his Long Island tattoo shop, High Rollers Tattoo, to a friend in 2005.

Farrell opened the Hicksville shop in 1997, and over the years, filled it with a ping-pong table, a skateboard ramp, a gigantic shark and eel tank, and a wealth of celebrity guest artists, including Chris O'Donnell, Timothy Hoyer, and Grime. And though he did some of the tattoos himself, he admits that while he was learning he wasn't very good. "They always say the only way you can learn how to tattoo is by tattooing guinea pigs. And the guinea pig is basically your stupid friend. There have been plenty of stupid friends who I've misspelled things on and done portraits on that ended up looking like Robert De Niro when they should look like their baby."

Despite the friends and the shark tank, after eight years of running the shop, Farrell was burnt out. "When I sold the tattoo shop, I hated tattooing. I thought it was a mediocre art form and everything was being done and done and done. Everybody wanted to be Ed Hardy or Horiyoshi and nobody wanted to be themselves, except for a few tattooists, like Grime, who really stood out. I felt it was a freedom of expression that became such a mainstream thing and a scene, so I moved away."

Farrell moved on, investing his time in filming pro skateboarders, racing exotic cars—including the Ferrari—and developing the concept for eCircuit, a social networking site that launched this past New Year's Day. The site is a "web-top," which means it operates like a desktop, allowing you to open windows and access data wherever you go by offering each user a gigabyte of space on the site. It also features a tool called the Social Penetrator that lets you grab your information from Facebook, Flickr, YouTube, or eBay and insert it into your eCircuit profile. It's a site that has a chance for success, but Farrell is in the middle of selling it since he feels he accomplished his goal. "I set out to create something from nothing and have it be organic and cool. Right now, I'm just enjoying life and filming and spending time with my family." —*Rebecca Swanner*

CIVET

Most artists are inspired by art they love, but it was a particularly bad backyard show by a Los Angeles punk group that spurred singer Liza Graves to form a band. "I went home and started my own band because I was so disappointed," Graves remembers. She teamed with her sister, guitarist Suzi Home-wrecker, bassist Jacqui Valentine, and drummer Danni Harrowyn, and the new foursome started the snarling punk outfit Civet. "I think there's a stereotype that if you are a girl, you have to be girly. We're not afraid to say we've got balls but we're going to dress nice because that's how we are in regular life."

Inspired by her mother's ink, Graves got a tattoo of a spider web complete with a black widow on her lower back when she was 16. "My mom has a lot of tattoos and my sister and I pretty much learned off her in the first place. I've always thought tattoos were really attractive on women," she says. Just after the release of the band's first album, 2005's *Massacre*, she picked up a tattoo of a civet as well.

With her reddish locks and perfectly dolled-up face, Graves may look like a retro-style sweetheart, but don't be so sure. She sports a dagger on her forearm that reads "Hail Hail Rock and Roll," and lights up when she says, "You wouldn't think I'd sound like this. A lot of people are like, "Oh, you're so cute and sweet in person and then you get up onstage and scare us."

Although Graves says the band's recent release, *Hell Hath No Fury*, is more toned down than their debut ("On the last record, I felt like we had something to prove," she explains), the newest isn't exactly easy listening. In fact, the furious intensity and Graves' fierce vocals could easily make it a follow-up to Rancid's frenetic 2000 album. So it's no coincidence that Rancid frontman Tim Armstrong released Civet's album on his label, Hellcat Records.

So, what has the women of Civet so angry? The guys the band members are dating may be one cause. Just before writing the album, Graves had split with her boyfriend of four years (she's looking to cover up the heart tattoo behind her ear that features his name). "Everybody has problems with their boyfriends at all times," Graves explains. "We go out on the road and it's hard being away from people and there are trust issues. Then there's the fact they're in their own bands—and to have us doing so good right now is a bit of an ego blow. ... When we wrote the song ["Hell Hath No Fury"] it encompassed the whole record. If you cross us, you're totally fucked." —Rebecca Swanner







0-60

B2

Larratt

CHICA LOCA

Rachel Larratt, also known as Chica Loca, takes a hair-pin turn at 129 miles per hour in her 2006 Lotus Elise and finds that the preceding evening's rain has washed away a large chunk of the stretch of Mexican roadway where she's been racing. She pilots around it and continues on, just a streak of gunmetal in Mexico's most perilous road race, La Carrera Panamericana. In the end, Chica Loca comes in first in class, first in exhibition, and tenth overall out of 103 entered in 2006. Not bad for a girl.

In fact, this "girl" has had podium finishes in every rally series she's entered, including the Chihuahua Express; she even drove in the super-exclusive Player's Run, making record time in 2006 driving a Porsche 996 Turbo as fast as 186 miles per hour. Being a woman in the male-dominated field of racing does have its advantages. Larratt says, "It's a double-edged sword. I get to enjoy the benefits of being able to get sponsorships or opportunities that may not be given to a male driver of a similar skill level, but, because of this, there is always a microscope over me."

It's no surprise that a hot tattooed woman in a hot car attracts attention. Her sleeves, tattooed by Jason Leisge and Shane Faulkner, and her leg work, by Patrick Cornolo, are particularly eye-catching, but it's Jim Miner's brilliant blue flowers on the sides of Larratt's neck that stop people in their tracks. What is surprising is how the 27-year-old Chicago native came to the racing circuit. Larratt started out as a tomboy and geek, taking auto shop instead of sewing, computers over cook-

ing. "Racing came as a fluke when I went to a track day with a couple of friends," Larratt explains. "I had no idea how accessible car racing was."

It was her geekiness that eventually led her to the funds necessary to race performance cars (a Lotus and Porsche don't come cheap). Larratt comes from a competitive family—her mother is a racehorse trainer and both of her brothers are jockeys. So, she took that genetic drive and parlayed her computer savvy into tech businesses. In her early twenties, she worked on the team that designed the on-demand video system used by many hotels.

Larratt is also known for her work on BMEzine.com. BME began as a space for people to share their experiences with body modification, from tattoos and piercings to the extremes of amputation and genital modification. Today, it's the largest body modification site and one of the web's most popular e-zines. Although the site and her 5-year-old daughter are her main priorities, Larratt is also focused on her return to racing. In 2007, she wasn't racing after being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, but now, with her illness in check, she feels she can get back behind the wheel. She's hoping to do the Dakar off-road race and dreams of the World Rally Championship. "My entire team is just out to have fun," says Larratt. "We're not doing it for a living, we're just interested in seeing what we can do as a private team." She's tough, but behind the Armor All is a soft-spoken and sagacious woman. Strong and calm—anything but *loca*. —*Marisa DiMattia*

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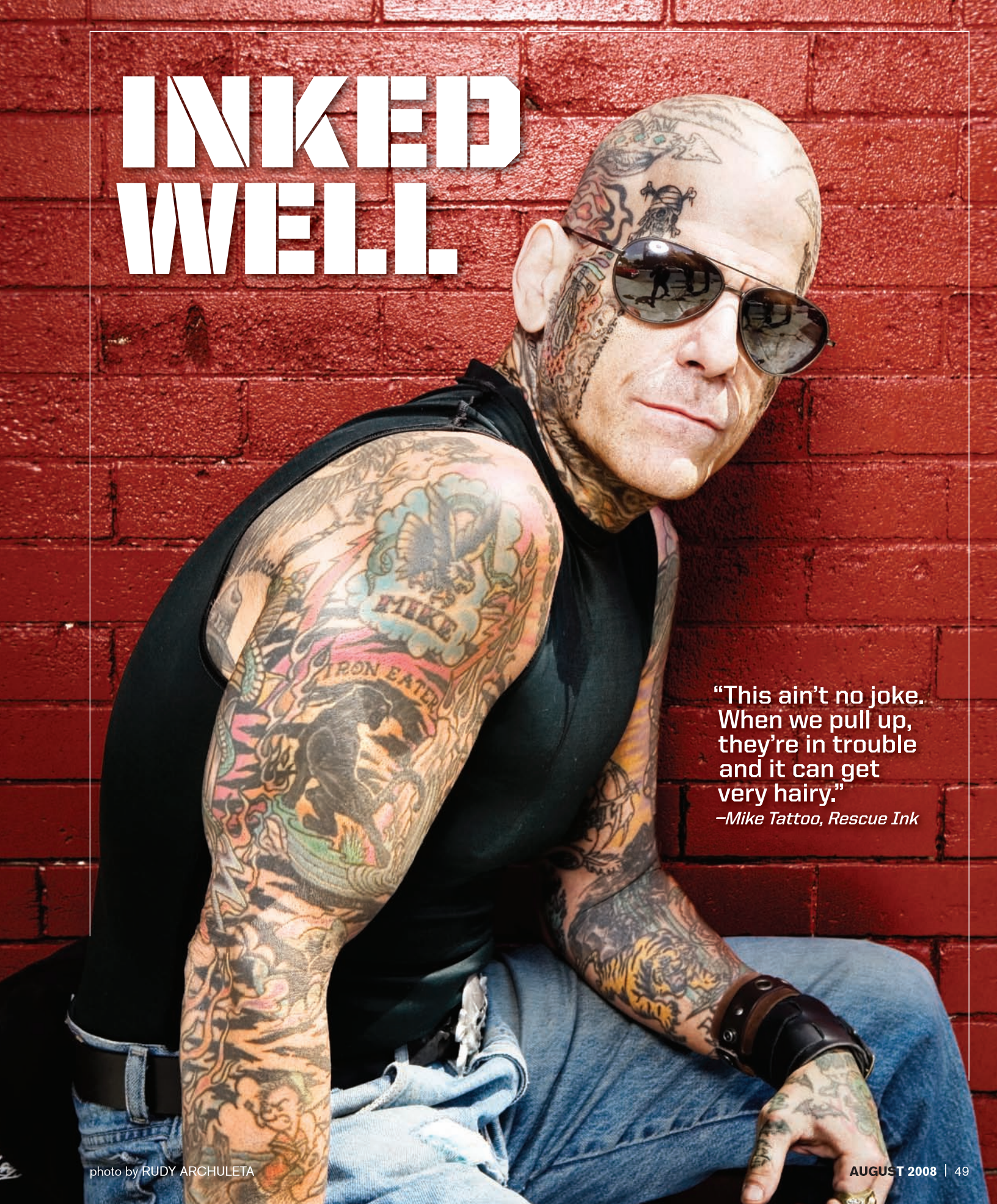
"I'D RATHER

Go
Naked

THAN WEAR FUR"

—COLEY SUICIDE

INKED WELL.



"This ain't no joke.
When we pull up,
they're in trouble
and it can get
very hairy."

-Mike Tattoo, Rescue Ink



Zanthrax Designs faux fur wrap; Le Bra Lingerie one-piece lingerie; Margot Michon Jewelry silver charm bracelet; Michael Kors shoes.



180 PR ♥ F

Sex sensation **Tila Tequila** mixed Jell-O wrestling, catfights, tattoos, and blow-up dolls into an explosive cocktail of entertainment, all in the name of love.
BY JASON BUHRMESTER PHOTOS BY RANDALL SLAVIN

While you're reading this, Tila Tequila is taking over the world. Since rocketing into the libidos of men and women everywhere with her saucy MySpace photos, the pint-sized model has created an entire industry based on her sex-icon status. She still maintains her MySpace page (with over three million friends and counting), her MTV show *A Shot at Love with Tila Tequila* was the second highest-rated show on the network, and this fall she's publishing a book, *Hooking Up with Tila Tequila*. Your sex life will never be the same.

INKED: You recently said that you are planning to go away after this season of *Shot at Love With Tila Tequila*. Are we going to see you again?

TILA TEQUILA: Oh yeah. I just need a break. I've been working non-stop. We wrapped the first season and started the second season right after. I just need some time off. I've never really had a vacation.

This season must have been particularly stressful, especially after Chad broke Bo's jaw in a fight. Did that upset you? Chad was just a moron. That's not anyone I would ever want to be with. This guy broke Bo's face. Bo is going to have a metal plate in his face for the rest of his life. His face is messed up forever. That's wrong. I don't condone that type of violence. We had fights last season, and I don't condone that either, but no one got hurt to that extent. It was really messed up.


Chad has since said some pretty nasty things about you and the show on his MySpace page. Is it weird to have to defend yourself on MySpace considering that's where you got your start? No. I learned from last season with these idiots that if you say bad things, you're just giving them more press and that's what they want. What's the point in giving them what they want and being negative? Like [season one winner] Bobby [Banhart], for instance. He keeps popping up trying to get his 15 seconds. Get over it, move on, go away.

The funniest moment this season was watching George walk on broken glass and writhe around in pain until you revealed that the glass was fake. That was hilarious! I knew ahead of time, of course, so I was cracking up inside because everyone was asking if he was okay. He was really being a baby about it and complaining the whole time, saying, "I'm bleeding and I'm really hurt." He was so mad after I told him the glass was fake. When everyone laughed, he tried to defend himself, but the more he defended himself, the funnier it got.





Danielle Kelly
DK75RAW dress;
Felicity Joy cross
necklace; DOA
studded leather cuff.



Danielle Kelly
DK75RAW black
crisscross top and skirt;
Le Bra Lingerie beaded
silver snake lingerie.

For two seasons, you've used the show to try to find a romantic relationship. Are you a hard person to date? It's pretty easy to date me, actually. All I want to do is love you and then I have my job. If you start to feel like my job is too much, I don't need that. I need someone who can understand where I'm coming from. My job is just a job. When I come home I'm just Tila. Not Tila Tequila. If you don't get the two mixed up, we should be fine.

Is it tougher to date girls because they borrow your clothes? No. I love that! I love sharing clothes and dressing her up. It's like having a living Barbie doll. You can't really do those kinds of things with a guy. Guys hate shopping with girls and we hate bringing you along. With girls, it's a big fun day. We can fight and then just go shopping.

This season, you took the cast to a tattoo shop and challenged them to get a tattoo of your name. Were you surprised when they did it? I thought, "Are you fucking crazy?"


Would you ever get someone's name tattooed on you? Never. It's jinxing yourself. You know that 99 percent of the time when people get a tattoo of someone's name, it doesn't work out. Then you find a way to cover it up. You can get my name, but I'm not getting yours.

When did you get your first tattoo? I got the scorpion on my back when I was 15. I was still in Texas. I used a fake ID. I wanted to get this huge naked chick on my back. I didn't have enough money. I thank God every day that I didn't

have enough money [laughs]. I had \$65 that I borrowed from a bunch of friends at school. All I could afford was the scorpion. And it's the ugly one, too, because it was \$65. I just thank God that I didn't get the naked chick, man.

What was your next tattoo? There was a long break, and then I came to Los Angeles and I got kanji and nautical stars on my wrists. I'm really into Chinese astrology and I'm a rooster. So the kanji means rooster. The other one means strength. I try to remember that I'm a strong person.

What is the tattoo on the back of your neck? The back of my neck is more kanji. It means "summer love." At the time, I had a fling and I wasn't about to get anyone's name tattooed on me, but



"I wouldn't mind being friends with [Lindsay Lohan], but dating-wise I think we're both too high strung. That would cause a lot of problems and we'd probably fight a lot. But maybe we'd have really good make-up sex."

Margot Michon Jewelry leather wrap bracelet; DOA studded leather cuff; Felicity Joy cross necklace; Skin Graft Designs cropped vest and leather garter belt; American Apparel thermal hot shorts.

I wanted one that meant something. That tattoo was the most that I would do.

What are the tattoos on your upper arms?

I have guns and music notes. The guns represent my tough side, growing up in Texas and living a really rough life. The contrast to that is being in Los Angeles and being more feminine and less aggressive, but always reminding myself where I come from. The other arm has a heart because I wear my heart on my sleeve. But it also says "C'est la Vie," since that's life and shit happens. I also have "Only God can judge me" below the summer love tattoo because people always tend to talk shit about me behind my back and say negative things. I don't care because I'm walking ahead. Only God can judge me, and I'm going down the right path. Anything you want to say behind my back, that's your problem.

Do you have your next tattoo planned?

I want to get one on the side of my rib cage. It's going to be an eagle because I am like an eagle. I have an eagle eye and I can rise above it all and soar in the sky. I'm going to get that on the right side of my rib cage.

Who do you go to for your tattoos? I usually get tattooed by Juan Puente or Colin [LaRoque] at Shamrock Social Club on Sunset. Juan is my buddy.

You have a book coming out later this year.

What is it about? It's called *Hooking Up With Tila Tequila*. Fans ask me so many questions every day so I thought I would write down all of the answers in a book and give them a perspective on my life and past experiences.

Do you have a lot of celebrities come up and tell you that they are fans of the show?

I have so many people from all kinds of demographics come up to me and tell me how much they love the show. People and celebrities both. Sarah Jessica Parker's assistant came up to me at the MTV Movie Awards and told me how much they love my show and they always watch it. Amanda Bynes told me, "I'm such a huge fan!" David Hasselhoff, David Beckham, a lot of people. I'm really surprised.

Is Lindsay Lohan bisexual? I think everyone already knows, but who gives a shit? Is it really affecting the world right now if she's bisexual or straight? If she actually does come out and say, "This is my girlfriend," then what? There will just be more pictures of them making out. Bi, straight, lesbian, what's the big deal?

Would you date Lindsay? I wouldn't mind being friends with her, but dating-wise I think we're both too high strung. That would cause a lot of problems and we'd probably fight a lot. But maybe we'd have really good make-up sex.

Junker Designs denim vest and skirt; Skin Graft Designs feather clip-on charm; Room 101 silver heart-lock necklace.

Stylist: Jaime Less

Hair: John Francis for soloartists.com

Makeup: Garret Gervais for margaretmaldonado.com using MAC Cosmetics

Location: Smashbox Studios, West Hollywood

Car: Bentley Flying Spur provided by platinummotorsport.com



Coupe de Ville

SHIFTING

GIVE YOUR RIDE A MAKEOVER WITH THESE WIZARDS OF THE WHIP. BY WILLIAM "WILLIE G" GOCK



GEARS >>>





>>> WEST COAST CUSTOMS

Corona, CA, 951-284-0680, westcoastcustoms.com

Established: 1993

Video may have killed the radio star, but reality TV has downright annihilated the reputation and cred of more than a rising luminary or two. That *could* have been the story of West Coast Customs, but the California-based powerhouse of builds, which first became a household name from *Pimp My*

Ride, has worked to reposition itself as a no-nonsense center of automotive customization. With a more grown-up series entitled *Street Customs* currently airing on TLC, owner Ryan Friedlinghaus and his innovative staff have become the best friends of car collectors too impatient for manufacturer waiting lists. "That's really where I see the future of my business going," he speculates. "We've redesigned Mercedes models from sedans into coupes, we're working on a line of two-door Dodge Chargers, and Shaq



has us building a convertible S-Class Benz, which will be the first of its kind anywhere." A recent client from the Middle East, unable to convince Land Rover to sell its Range Stormer concept vehicle, commissioned WCC to build him his own. With a Range Rover Sport as an organ donor, Friedlinghaus and his crew not only replicated the concept but tailored the vehicle to its owner's exact specifications. Friedlinghaus has also set his sights on going global. "We're the only custom shop to have opened up branches all

across the world," he says. "Right now we're in Malaysia, Japan, Dubai, and Russia. And we're filming the buildup of our latest shop in Germany for the show." The expansion is not about adaptation. "We're not going overseas to create a [German] West Coast Customs. We're bringing the American West Coast Customs experience to them," he explains. "Besides, I think that's what they want. And we're determined to give our supporters exactly what they want." Just don't ask him to put a fish tank in your station wagon.



>>> KANDY KUSTOMZ

Corpus Christi, TX, 361-658-2001, kandykustomz.com

Established: 1992

Dayton Wheels and hydraulic systems do not a lowrider make. As any lowrider fanatic will tell you, the true test is in your paint—the wetter, the better. Repping the Lone Star State for nearly 15 years, Kandy Kustomz specializes in frame-off restorations and, of course, candy paint. Owner Fabian Villarreal

first got a taste of the business while working at his father Reynaldo's body shop. "I've been into lowriders since I was 12," says Villarreal, who is known in the scene simply as the Candyman. "As I got older, I realized I had this God-given talent and figured I'd use it to help make others happy." With his father and cousin Randy Rodriguez working alongside him, Villarreal and his modest Corpus Christi shop draw clientele from everywhere. "Our customers come from all over," remarks Villarreal. "We even get cars trailered



in from California, which is a pretty big compliment, considering that's where the heart of the culture is." Those unfamiliar with Kandy Kustomz's intricate paint process might be put off by the four- to six-week turnaround time, but patience pays. "It's far from your typical paint job with a base and clear coat," explains Villarreal. "You have to think of it as painting the car ten or more times." Villarreal's creations have graced the covers of magazines and earned their owners trophies. In fact, the Candyman is so highly regarded for

his one-of-a-kind works that most customers trust his creativity more than their own imaginations. "Most people know the primary color they want," he explains. "But when it comes to all the other stuff, like murals and themes, they just say, 'Hey man, do your thing.'" With little to stifle the shop's creative vibes, Villarreal and his team welcome anyone fixing for a taste of candy. "We even have an '06 Bentley GT sitting here waiting," he exclaims. "I can't say I get it, but hey, it's going to help send my daughter to college."



>>> PLATINUM MOTORSPORT

Los Angeles, CA, 323-935-9222,
platinummotorsport.com
Established: 1998

There's an unfortunate stigma attached to owning a luxury exotic. Even if you know every spec and capability of your top-shelf toy, most performance junkies don't take you seriously. Los Angeles-based Platinum Motorsport opened its doors for just that reason—to customize luxury rides as a way of differentiating the car connoisseurs from the trust-fund kids. After spending their youth working in their father's repair shop, brothers George and Jack Keshishyan designed their own automotive aspirations. "When other kids were out on the playground, these two were learning and feeding their passion for cars," remembers Sam Telikyan, Platinum's director of marketing and a childhood friend of the siblings. Living in the shadows of Hollywood, it seemed only natural that the brothers' venture would involve high-end luxury vehicles.

Platinum Motorsport's posh showroom, packed with only the finest in Italian and German wares, feels like a high-end wheel shop, but their vehicles are much more than stock beauties with new rims. "George and Jack coined a term for what they do here," explains Telikyan. "They like to call themselves automotive re-stylers." When a customer is tired of his Lamborghini Gallardo looking like every other one cruising Beverly Hills, the brothers feel out the owner and determine how to put him in the right. "Maybe this guy is the type that likes big flashy brakes, maybe not. Perhaps he likes chrome lips or more aggressive styling," says Telikyan. "They sit down and get to know you—then say, 'This is how we think we should build your car, but the ultimate call is yours.'" If it sounds superficial, remember that on a six-figure whip, even the slightest alteration, if not executed properly, can stammer performance. To insure this doesn't happen, Platinum employs well-trained automotive techs who are certified to take apart Bentleys, Benzes, and the like and put them back together—better than before, of course.





>>> SYNDICATE AUTOMOTIVE CONCEPTS

San Diego, CA, 858-505-4600, syndicateauto.com

Established: 2004

Old-school rides have lines and designs that look good rolling through any decade. But finding your own vintage ride can be a challenge. Making it road-worthy? Next to impossible. For those who have found a classic cruiser, yet lack restoration skills, there's Syndicate Automotive Concepts. Although billed as a customizer capable of anything, this San Diego shop specializes in rebuilding classic rides and lowering them to the pavement. "That's what we're probably known best for," remarks founder Cliff Leeper. "We'll take your car, put it right down to the ground, and still make it drivable." Leeper, a veteran car builder of more than 20 years, opened Syndicate's doors in 2004 with the goal of creating a custom operation

capable of anything. Although anyone is welcome to hit Syndicate's floor and get low, it's no surprise why the shop's specialty is reviving old-school beauties. "It's what I've always done, so it only makes sense that it's what we'd become known for," he explains. "Plus, with our airbag installs, it goes much smoother on an older car. You have a solid chassis and real steel to work with." Even with his jaw-dropping suspension installs, Leeper finds that most of his old-fashioned clientele like to keep things on the traditional side. That doesn't mean he's opposed to changing up styles. Syndicate has turned out everything from a modern-day Scion to a '74 Bricklin. Grateful for the reputation he's earned, Leeper is quick to distribute Syndicate's success among the shop's 15-person staff. "Everybody here is a specialist in their own right," he says. "This place wouldn't be such an ongoing hit without them."



Montel Williams

He's a former Navy spy, a medicinal marijuana smoker, and a tattoo enthusiast. Meet the other side of the daytime television king.

BY TOM CONLON PHOTOS BY KURT ISWARIENKO

Take one look at the half-sleeves blanketing both of his upper arms and it's clear Montel Williams lives up to his talk show's slogan, "There's More to Montel." Who would have ever guessed that underneath those neatly pressed shirts, this fixture of daytime jibber jabber is hiding intricate ink murals by the likes of the legendary Zulu from Zulu Tattoo?

The "moreness" of Williams extends way beyond his surprising love of tattooing. He's an avid snowboarder, a skilled poker player, and an ex-military spy who speaks Russian and served in the invasion of Grenada. There's also more to a man who, despite suffering from multiple sclerosis, travels the country as the spokesman for the Partnership for Prescription Assistance, an organization committed to getting drugs into the hands of those who can't afford them. He's also a proponent for legalizing marijuana for medicinal use.

There's just one problem: There is no more. *The Montel Williams Show's* 17-year run is up, the grand finale has already aired, and the surplus of unaired episodes runs dry after September. Has the man of more finally given the public all he has to offer? "Forget that noise," he quips. "I'm not even close to being done." We're inclined to believe him.

INKED: Montel Williams has tattoos?

WILLIAMS: Yeah, I think most people are surprised by that. It's an odd one.

What got you started? I spent 22 years in the Navy and Marines, both enlisted and as an officer. I came off active duty in 1989 and back then the military really frowned down on tattoos, especially amongst the officers. I always wanted one but never pulled the trigger. Then in 2001, I just said, "You know what? I'm getting one." My first was the snowboarder guy on my left arm. But like many of us, I couldn't just have *one*. It grew.

You have several tattoos of a human-bobcat creature. Where is it from? That's a half-human, half-panther alter ego of myself. He looks like Tony the Tiger on crack. When I was a kid, that was the doodle on all of my notebooks, and when I made the football team, I drew it on my helmet. One day, I was looking through a package of my old stuff and I found an old doodle. I thought, "This ought to be a tattoo."

Your right arm has an insane amount of detail. What is it all? The whole right arm was done by Zulu in Los Angeles. In the middle is a trio of half-human,

half-animal people, and if you look at the half-man half-panther he's got all sorts of things on him that are important to me. Going up his leg are all the ranks I achieved as a Marine. His belt buckle is the eagle, globe, and anchor emblem from the Marine Corps, while the thing on his chest is the Meritorious Service Medal I got in the Navy. Each of the half-cat women has a sword on her leg—one is the Marine Corps sword, one is the Navy sword.

What's the stuff all around them? Those are things I had to do in the military. I was airlifted in and out of Grenada during the invasion, so there's a Huey [helicopter]. I rappelled and did some parachuting, so there's a parachute. The two round circles, that's really an "80" for my Naval Academy class. Below that there's a spyglass because when I was in the military I was a spy. Underneath that is a pair of headphones because, as a spy, I spoke Russian and I used to have to listen in on conversations. At the bottom are two submarines. One is the USS *Seahorse*, which was the submarine I was on when it chased down the other submarine there, a Soviet Typhoon.

You were on a sub that chased down a Russian sub? Oh yeah. We were the only submarine to do something called an "underhull" of a Typhoon, which was the most powerful sub they had at the time. That's when one sub is underneath another one taking pictures of it while they're both moving through the water.

They had no idea you were there? Nope. If they knew they would have killed us. At the closest spot we were about 15 feet apart. If the other guy decided to dive, we'd have been dead.

Do you have any tattoos that aren't visible? On the front side of my hip right over that pelvic bone I have a panther head about six inches in diameter. It went right across that bone and ... oh my God ... worse than under your arm, worse than your collarbone. My God that took me off the table. That was one of those five minutes, stop, five minutes, stop, for about three hours.

Is it important for you to be able to cover them? Well, I don't want someone to immediately have an opinion about me based on a first view. But I'll tell you something strange: I've been on television for the last 17 years talking about some of the most important issues facing our nation. For the last eight of them, I've been doing so with three earrings in my ear. No one has ever said



STYLIST, AMY ACTON; GROOMER, RACHEL PAGANI





a word. I don't think you'll find another news anchor or TV host with three earrings. Howie Mandel copied me. He asked me once how I get away with them and I said, "Dude, no one has ever said a thing." The next week he has one earring. The week after that he has two! I shouldn't be so worried about the tattoos, but I let you see them when I want you to see them.

Why was snowboarding the subject of your first tattoo? It's a huge part of my life. It's unbelievably therapeutic for me because snowboarding is all in the ankles and knees, and that's where I've had the most difficulty with my MS. For the last few years I've snowboarded over 100 days a year, but my schedule is off this year and I haven't gone. I've tried to replicate the movements on machines at the gym, but it hasn't really worked. This has been my worst walking year in a long time.

Are you still using medical marijuana to relieve your symptoms? Without a doubt, and I will until the day I die. I'm a proponent. I've testified around the country in every state that has legislation pending.

Why is smoking a joint preferable to popping a Percocet? I'm just asking for my doctor to have the right to prescribe it just like he has the right to prescribe morphine or cocaine. Under Bill Clinton there was a study funded by taxpayers that attempted to refute marijuana's medical efficacy. The study came back the opposite. It said that it was the most egregious offense that marijuana was not being prescribed by doctors. People have to understand that the pharmaceutical industry makes about 190 different pain medications. That's because not one medication will work for more than 28 percent of the population. So, I might take a pill and it might not work. And the next pill might not work and the next pill might not work. Marijuana won't work for everyone either. But give my doctor the right to make that choice, not some bunch of bean heads wearing bad ties and bad suits down on Capitol Hill.

Will it ever be legalized? No question. Right now there are 13 states that have already passed medicinal marijuana laws that allow doctors to prescribe. In another two years we'll be up to 19 states. When we hit 25, the federal government can't stop it. And the presidential candidates are 100 percent for changing the way marijuana is persecuted, prosecuted, or processed. So, the tide is changing.

Do you have political ambitions yourself? Politics will be in my future whether it's from an elected position or from a lobbying position. I believe very strongly that if you complain about the ills of our society and do nothing about it, you should keep your damn mouth shut.

You're referring to yourself? I do a lot of complaining about the ills of society, so it's time for me to step up to the plate and do something about it in a leadership role.

Do you think we'll see our first African-American president elected this year? I have no idea about this election and I don't think most of America does either. We're not informed enough. We follow the media with a hook in our mouths like lemmings being pulled over a cliff.

But you're part of the media. I am part of it, and I'm glad I've quit for right now. It's offensive to watch supposed news pundits swill on their individual opinions in an attempt to sway people to vote the way they do. Most people voting this year don't have the slightest idea who they're voting for. They only have the media's impression of who the person is. Some might say this happens every election, but it doesn't. This election is definitely worse.

Was there a watershed moment that created this climate or has it been a gradual shift? The watershed would have to be the entire Clinton abomination with Monica Lewinsky. All bets are off when we start dragging dresses out of closets to test them for the president's DNA. That's a talk show. We turn it into Jerry Springer and that's what we've turned this election into.

Since you mention Jerry, how would you say you distinguished yourself from the other guys you shared the dial with? One: I respect the living rooms I'm brought into. You can watch my show and not have to worry about taking a shower at the end to wash the garbage off. Two: The show doesn't just belabor an issue. If I address an issue like date rape, I'm going to talk about the situation that lead to what happened and discuss solutions. Three: I'm the only show in the history of television to have an aftercare program—and I'm not talking about three minutes in the green room. We've sent about 3,500 guests into aftercare, which has included full-blown medical surgeries and treatment centers for everything from drug addiction to anorexia. Over the last 17 years, I did 3,150 shows and there's not one I had my name on that I wasn't proud of.

In 17 years, there's not a single show you wish you hadn't done? There was only one I wanted to pull back. I'm sorry I did it, but I was proud of the way I handled the topic.

What was the topic? Back in my first year we did a show on infantilism—those freaks that dress up in diapers and run around the house sucking on bottles playing baby. [Phil Donahue and Sally [Jessy Raphael] had done it before me and I had this group of producers who convinced me it would pull great numbers. So, I tried it. After the show aired I said, "That's it. Now, I approve every topic and every guest." From then on I maintained 100 percent creative control.

And now it's all wrapping up, huh? People have asked me what's it going to be like to be retired. Right now, I've got four projects that are close to being greenlit, including a reality show I'm producing with the NFL and the next version of *The Montel Williams Show*. Plus I just signed my eighth book deal. So, I had my finale, but I'm not going anywhere. I'm like Jay-Z: "This is my last tour... This is my last tour..."

One last question. Truth or Internet rumor: Were you a Swiss rodeo clown before getting on TV? That's so crazy! Do you know that you're the fifth person who's asked me that? Someone else told me that on Wikipedia there's a whole thing about Connie Chung, Maury Povich, and Montel Williams leading some Internet relationship. Ever heard that one? One day my wife jokingly asked, "Honey, you've been cheating on me with Connie Chung and Maury Povich?" But, no, I was not a rodeo clown. That's funny.



BORN TO LOSE

Photos by Michael Dwornik Styled by Risa Knight and Ariane Dallal

Above: Harley-Davidson Windshielder Gauntlet Gloves. Right: On Jonathan, A.P.C. jeans; vintage vest; American Apparel T-shirt; Sexes chain; Converse sneakers. On Andrew, Calvin Klein white V-neck T-shirt; Iron Thread black leather vest; Earnest Sewn Jeans, What Comes Around Goes Around vintage black leather boots; Surface to Air silver ring; model's own necklace. On G-Spot, Endovanera white T-shirt; Alexander McQueen skull scarf; Agatha Custom Leather pants; Digby and Iona silver lion ring; Jean Shop black leather jacket; Frye black lace-up boots.





Above: Tommy Hilfiger black tank top, Alexander McQueen skull scarf, Lost Art black leather pants, Harley-Davidson black leather vest; Jean Shop black belt, Frye lace-up boots. Right: On Andrew, Tommy Hilfiger black tank top, Harley-Davidson black fingerless gloves and black lace-up leather vest; H&M jeans; What Comes Around Goes Around vintage lace-up boots. On Jonathan, Ray-Ban sunglasses; vintage plaid shirt.





Harley-Davidson

DAVIDSON
EST. 1903





Left: On G-Spot, Calvin Klein white T-shirt; What Comes Around Goes Around vintage black leather jacket; Levi's jeans; model's own belt; stylist's own silver bike chain; Surface to Air three-finger ring; Frye black leather boots with buckle. On Andrew, Tommy Hilfiger black tank top; What Comes Around Goes Around vintage leather jacket with zippers; Jean Shop belt; H&M jeans; Surface to Air three-finger ring; What Comes Around Goes Around vintage lace-up boots. On Jonathan, Belstaff black jacket; A.P.C. jeans; Ray-Ban sunglasses; stylist's own pant chain; Converse sneakers. Above: On Andrew, Parasuco black button-up sleeveless shirt and jeans; Jean Shop black belt; model's own vintage necklace; What Comes Around Goes Around vintage lace-up boots; Surface to Air three-finger ring.



Above: On Andrew, Parasuco black button-up sleeveless shirt and jeans; Jean Shop black belt; model's own vintage necklace; What Comes Around Goes Around vintage lace-up boots; Surface to Air three-finger ring. On G-Spot, H&M plaid button-up shirt; Levi's Jeans; Frye black leather boots; Surface to Air three-finger ring; stylist's own clip-on chain. Right: Polo black shirt, modified by stylist; Levi's jeans; model's own vintage belt; H&M black wrist band; stylist's own clip-on chain; Frye black leather boots.

Models: G-Spot, Andrew Glessner for Bloom, Jonathan Francis
Grooming: Michelle Ceglia for Oliver Piro Inc.
Location: Duff's, Brooklyn (duffsbrooklyn.com)
Bikes: Sportster Nightster, Softail Cross Bones, Dyna Street Bob, courtesy of Harley-Davidson Motor Company from Lombardi's Harley-Davidson





WILD DOGS

When it comes to saving animals,



the men of Rescue Ink have the bark and the bite to back it up. By Tal Pinchevsky Photos by Rudy Archuleta



THREE DAYS HAD PASSED SINCE CLARA, A 3-YEAR-OLD ENGLISH

bulldog, was stolen outside a grocery store in Manhattan's Hell's Kitchen neighborhood. The NYPD followed a few leads, but in a city with nearly 500 homicides a year, a missing dog was not exactly at the top of the local police blotter. Then a crew of intimidating-as-hell, tattoo-clad equalizers heard about the missing pooch from a neighborhood poster and hit the streets. Convinced that the theft wasn't the work of some punk kids, the crew roamed the area, pounding on the doors of local dealers, thugs, and anyone desperate enough to steal a defenseless animal in broad daylight. After an afternoon spent scanning the area and asking questions, it became obvious that they weren't fucking around. The crew sent out a clear message: All you scumbags are going to see plenty more of us until this dog is returned, and that won't be a pleasant experience. Casting an awesome shadow over Hell's Kitchen's notorious underbelly, the crew found the dog in a few hours. It was the group's third high-profile dog rescue that month. "Some people won't talk to cops," says Johnny O, a martial arts instructor with the group whose glasses also earned him the nickname Clark Kent. "They'll talk to us."

This is Rescue Ink, the toughest and most colorful animal rights advocates in history.

AFTER MEETING AT LOCAL TATTOO AND HOT ROD CONVENTIONS,

the nine members formed Rescue Ink with the intention of helping animals. They knew their huge builds, numerous tattoos, and imposing presence would immediately intimidate abusers. The threat of Rescue Ink may be implicit, but it works.

"When we approach someone's house, they shit bricks," admits George, a refrigerator-sized, African-American fireman from Connecticut and an official member of Rescue Ink. "They see a group of big guys with tattoos on their faces and they give us the [abused] dogs."

Every member of the squad has tattoos, many of them on their face. Today, the tattoos on George's enormous arms—including fresh work courtesy of his brother, a vet of the Iraq War—are covered by long sleeves. Batso, a 74-year-old former body-shop worker, has visible tattoos everywhere, including eyes on his palms and bats on his head and ears. When a construction worker from a nearby site walks by and sees Batso's inked head and Fu Manchu moustache, he doesn't try to keep his thoughts to himself. "Jesus Christ," he mutters out loud. He's just met Rescue Ink, and if he's been abusing animals he just might have to meet them again sometime soon.

Still, there is more to Rescue Ink than scaring abusers straight and rescuing animals, although that does make up the bulk of their volunteer work. Some of the guys recently returned from "making some noise" in Yates County, NY, where they protested area puppy mills. They've also started outreach programs and housing workshops designed to find homes for animals on local shelter death lists. But it's the countless alerts of escaped, stolen, or abused animals that bring out the real war stories from this Rescue Ink crew.

"We go everywhere. New York, New Jersey. We even rescued these pigs on Long Island," says George, who starts sharing some of his other stories. "This one time, a slum lord wasn't paying his water bill. So the city shut off the water. He came back to the building to turn it back on and ended up flooding the building. One woman had to go to a hotel and her dogs were abandoned, so he took them and was trying to sell them. We went to his house, which was this huge house in a gated community, and heard dogs. After negotiating with him for an hour and a half in the pouring rain, he threw out the dogs."

Rescue Ink members have fascinating animal rescue stories. Some involve confrontation, some don't. There's the return of a missing Maltese and the time the gang put the squeeze on a known car stereo thief and recovered two show Corgis named Daddy Warbucks and Sammy, valued at \$5,000 each. Then there's the story about Biagi, the Rescue Ink member who is a former boiler mechanic turned expert dog trainer: One time, he crashed through the floor of an abandoned building, and the dog he had just rescued landed on his chest as his back hit the next floor down.

"It's part of the rescue. I've been doing rescues for 30 years," he says. "We all go back 15 years from hot rod and tattoo conventions. And we all love animals. We would talk about how we rescued this pit bull, or how these guys came at us. We had experienced severe cases of pit bull fighting and someone

selling dogs for drug money. So, we got a group together to do this."

Along with Biagi, that group started with Mike Tattoo. An actor best known for his recurring role on the HBO series *Oz*, his work with animals goes back almost as far as his passion for tattoos, which cover practically every visible inch of his skin. "I got my first tattoos at 14 from that 'bad guy in the basement.' I would knock on the door and have to say something like 'Goldilocks sent me, I'm here to see the three bears,'" he remembers. "You had to know the code."

For now, the Rescue Ink crew gathers at Lone Wolf Tattoo in Bellmore, NY. It's a '50s-themed parlor where tattoo artist and Rescue Ink favorite Craig Messina plies his trade. There's a diner down the block, and the location has become something of an unofficial headquarters for the guys. It's also where some Rescue Ink members got the ink that represents their various personalities. Like the Eastern imagery on Johnny O's arms. Or the brass knuckle tattoos on Big Ant, the colossal 320-pound anchor of the group. And then there's Batso, who has a thing for bats and the scalp tats to prove it.

"Everyone here has a specific niche. Biagi is the handler, Johnny O is a martial arts instructor, Batso is very holistic and can calm down the dog, George is an ex-fireman, Ant is like a brick wall, Angel is an ex-detective, Del is a cat guy. I'm the first guy there," says Mike. "This ain't no joke. When we pull up, they're in trouble and it can get very hairy. People come at us with weapons, threaten our lives. It's the world we live in."

Del did help launch Rescue Ink's trap, neuter, and return program feral cats. And Angel, a retired NYPD detective with a beloved tiny bichon frise (the canine equivalent of a powder puff), is the mastermind behind the investigations that play an important part in Rescue Ink's efforts. In fact, after their downtown Manhattan photo shoot, the group is heading over to the office of famed New York private investigator Vinny Parco to look at some new surveillance equipment.

"We do surveillance and are very careful. We check everything. We've got to be careful when it comes to complaints," says Mike, who estimates that about one quarter of the group's abuse calls are false alarms. "A typical animal rescue is done by a lady or a smaller guy with a huge heart. But with some people abusing animals, if they don't kill you, they're going to abuse you. We do what we need to do. So when we approach abusers, we ask them if they want to work with us or if they want to be a tough guy."

Sure enough, they've confronted their fair share of tough guys. Prying those details out of the Rescue crew is tough, as the team is careful to keep their crazier stories to themselves. When the subject of violence does come up, Johnny O, the martial arts expert and former bodyguard, helps to clarify without giving away too much. "It can get violent," he says while walking Lucy, his rescued pit bull. "We make sure it doesn't."

"THAT'S AN OLD WAR STORY"

George is joking about the impressive scar on the back of his shaved head while on his way to the group's Manhattan photo shoot. He never explains the scar or where it came from. When it comes to their pasts, these guys don't share much, and when they do, it's typically obscure, often hilarious.

"I had a pitchfork stuck in my leg," says Batso. "A girl did it."

Batso turns the discussion to his custom-built Batmobile and the giant metal bat in his front yard—he likes bats, hence the name—before mentioning how he first met his banker wife when she was 19 and he was 47.

"When I first went to the bank with her, she said, 'Behave yourself,'" Batso remembers.

"They didn't know if he was her husband or if he was holding her hostage," George laughs.

Between jokes during their downtown photo shoot, the members of Rescue Ink interact with a pack of dogs from a Brooklyn Animal Care and Control shelter. It's one of the few times you'll see their hard exteriors soften a little. This is their mission.

"We have to do it," Mike says as he watches his fellow Rescue Inkers mix with the dogs. "How can you not?"

As if on cue, Batso runs over—the same Batso with the Fu Manchu moustache, ear tattoos, and the pitchfork in his leg. He's holding a tiny pit bull puppy under his chin. And just like that, you can actually see the old guy's heart melting. "Mike," he yells. "I'm taking this dog home."





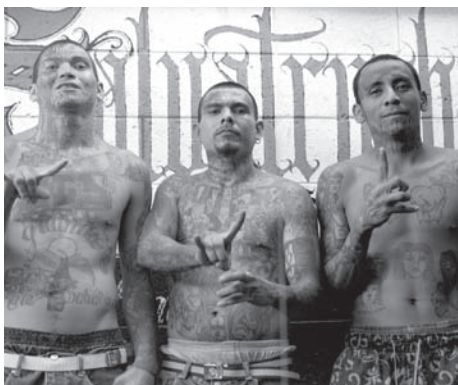
GANGLAND

Locked up with MS-13, one of the world's most notorious street gangs.

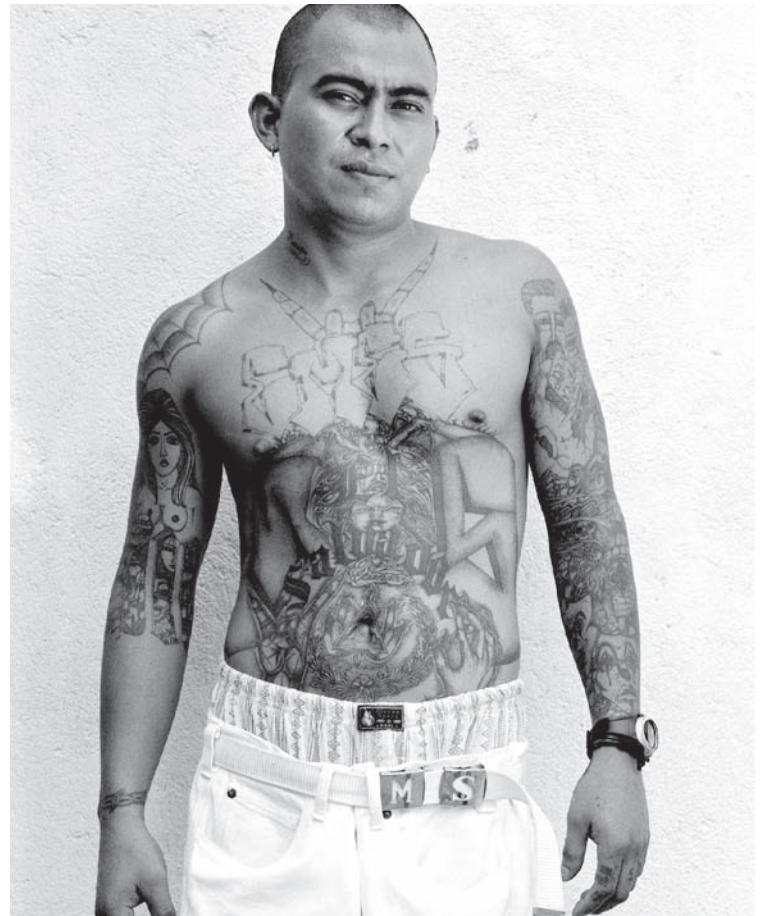
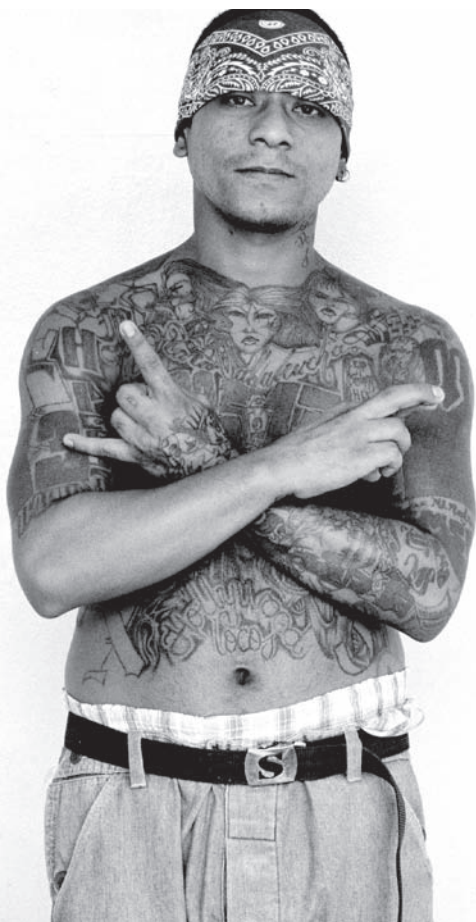


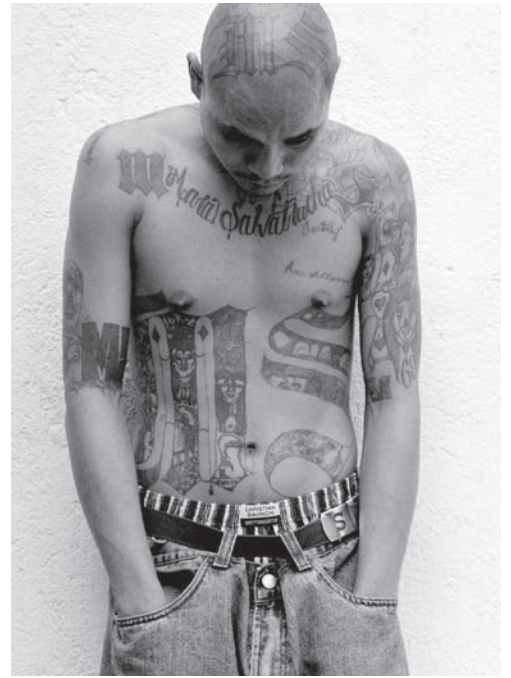
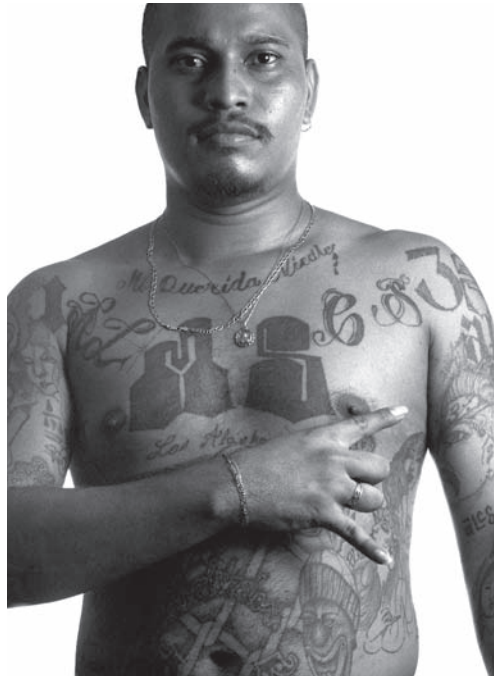
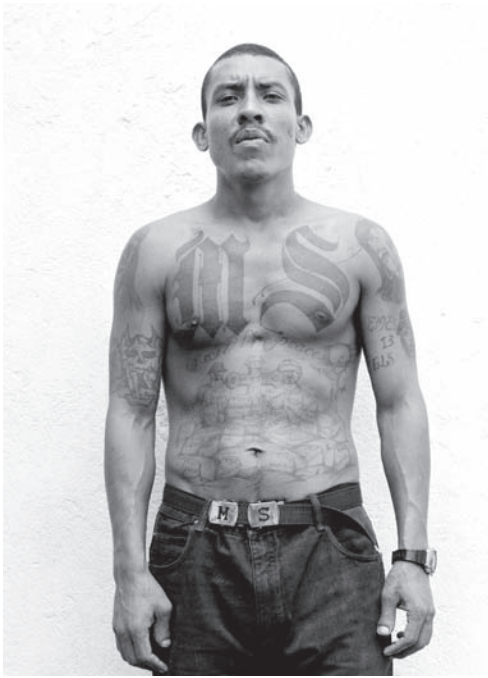


In 2005, photographer Tom Bauer traveled to El Salvador to photograph members of the MS-13 street gang. Working with the makers of the MS-13 documentary *Hijos de la Guerra* (“Children of the War”), Bauer and his crew bribed their way into two prisons reserved solely for members of the gang. “They have these prisons to themselves,” Bauer explains. “If they tried to add anyone else, they wouldn’t stay alive very long.” The following images show some of the heavily tattooed members and their artwork.











A photograph of a person walking on a beach. In the foreground, there is a fence made of several horizontal wires. A tall, dark wooden pole stands in the middle ground. The person is walking from right to left, wearing a light-colored jacket and dark pants. The sky is bright and clear, with several birds in flight. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

heat

waves

Photos by Warwick Saint

Styled by Risa Knight

Stella
McCartney
black bikini;
Bliss Lau black
leather vest.



Malia Mills
black bikini.







BCBG
black
bikini.



Town & Country
Hawaii

BCBG
black
bikini.

American
Apparel
black
bathing suit.





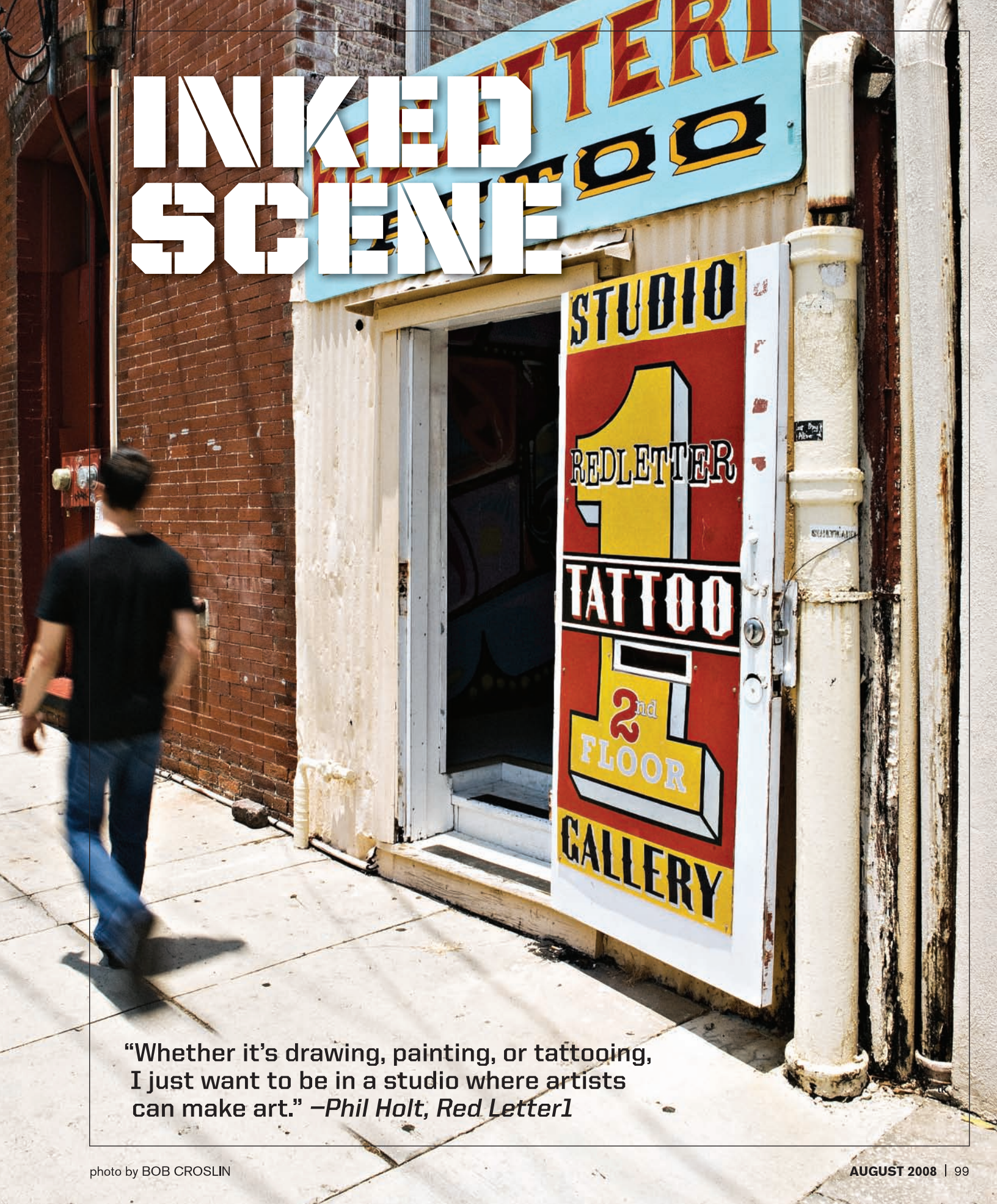
Hair: Gio Campora
for the Wall Group
Makeup: Riku Campo for
Lancome / celestineagency.com
Model: Trisha Lurie
Location: Dockweiler Beach, LA



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INKED SCENE



“Whether it’s drawing, painting, or tattooing,
I just want to be in a studio where artists
can make art.” —*Phil Holt, Red Letter 1*

Left to right: Phil Holt, Jeff Srsic, Lucky Matthews, Angelo Nales.



RED LETTER1

1510 E. 8th Ave., Tampa, FL
813-241-2435
redletter1.com

If you're into neon signs and lots of flash on the walls, then there are plenty of tattoo shops to choose from on the streets of Florida. But when Phil Holt opened RedLetter1 in 2003, he wanted something different for both his customers and himself. "When I first opened, I had just gotten back from Mick's shop in Zurich, Switzerland," Holt explains from Skull & Sword in San Francisco, where he is finishing up a stint. "He didn't have street shop flash all over the walls and not everything was tattoo-oriented. He had a library and a place to chill out, too, so it was really comfortable. That's how I wanted to set up."

Holt found his comfortable space on the second floor of an old factory in Tampa, FL, that has stood for more than a century. The hardwood floors,

retro elevators, and exposed brick walls provide a great vibe, and there's even space in the back for a metal shop with mills and lathes so artists can build their own machines. More importantly, the space includes lots of room to hang art. "I spend a lot of time painting," Holt says. "I've done a bunch of exhibits and now the studio has spiraled into a full-blown gallery." Holt regularly displays his own paintings, which uphold a dark but vivid style similar to his tattoo work, and the shop also features work from other talented artists. The next exhibition on the schedule is a collection of Holt's oil paintings, as well as pieces from California-based tattooers Henry Lewis and Edu Cerro.

Even with all of the art on the walls, the main focus is still tattooing and the small group of talented guys that make up the RedLetter1 team. "Originally the place was just my private studio, but as I kept getting busier, I brought in other artists to use it as their own private spaces." The first person to come into the fold was Angelo Nales, who had worked with Holt in Chicago and Cleveland. In the following years, veterans Jeff Srsic from Virginia and Tampa local Lucky Matthews would come on board, bringing decades of combined experience and, luckily, no drama.

"There's not a lot of bullshit to deal with at the shop," Holt explains. "We're always critiquing each other's work and bouncing ideas off of one another. Everyone gets involved in every drawing. When you work like that there's not a lot of time for bullshit."

Because everything is done on a custom basis and pored over by a team of seasoned pros Red Letter1 has established a customer base that remains incredibly loyal. According to Holt, by the time a customer has done a few sittings he usually has become a friend. "Our clientele is die-hard and most of them are never leaving. A lot of times we hear that being in the shop is like being in someone's house."

But even with the intense creative process and schedule full enough to crash the average BlackBerry, the shop still subscribes to the "no tattoo too small" mantra. "Almost every tattoo we do requires lots of planning and multiple sittings, so when someone walks in and wants something that's only going to take an hour or two, it's fun."

There are times when the fun stops, though, especially when conversation turns toward a reality show TV show about a certain other Florida shop. "I don't watch TV, but I hate the tattoo-based TV shows, mainly because sometimes it's all clients want to talk about," Holt laughs. "One time my mom asked me if I knew Chris Garver. My mom shouldn't know who that is."

Since the shop opened, Holt has spent time in Ohio, Chicago, San Jose, and San Francisco, but now he's ready to return to his own shop and spend some quality time in the space he loves. "If we ever lost our building we would have a really hard time finding another place we liked as much," says Holt. "But whether it's drawing, painting, or tattooing, I just want to be in a studio where artists can make art." —Stan Horaczek



LOWER LEFT TATTOO PHOTOS: PHILIP HOLT

Clockwise from top left: Phil Holt inks another one at Redletter1; the stairs to the studio; artwork from the Redletter1 gallery; a recent back piece by Holt; more new work by Holt; the massive studio space and waiting area at Redletter1.

INKED ISSUE RELEASE PARTY

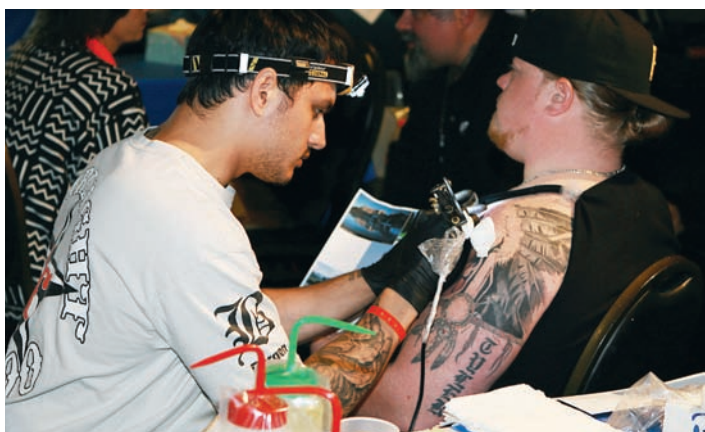
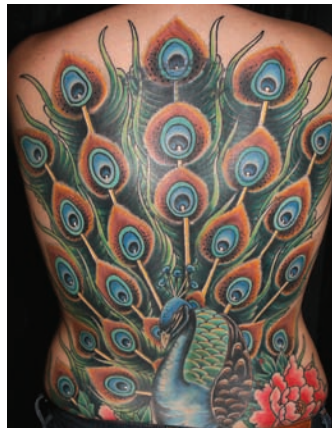
In order to bring you the finest tattoo magazine on the planet, we spend countless hours in a dark office, staring at computer screens, ordering bad takeout, and fighting over the stereo (sample argument: Tears for Fears or In Flames?). We broke free long enough to throw a party celebrating our May music issue and the opening of the New York City Tattoo Convention. A rowdy crowd packed the Mansion nightclub, the lovely Theo Kogan deejayed, drinks flowed, and INKED fans showed some skin on the dance floor and at our upstairs photo shoot. We're getting back to work. See you next time!



Clockwise from top: Dave Bastard from Big Kahuna Tattoo; our INKED Squad made the scene, including (clockwise from top left) Jessica Tong, Kryssy Cocktail, Stephanie Paterek, Denia, Sam Pribesh, and intern Sean Colon; a Fruit Loops fan forever (personally, we prefer Count Chocula); Buffalo was definitely in the house; architect Nicholas Bunning dressed sharp; G-Spot from High Voltage Tattoo gave us the shirt off his back; Troy Arcand gave us his best Blue Steel.

NEW YORK TATTOO CONVENTION

Tattooers from around the globe descended on Manhattan for the 11th Annual New York City Tattoo Convention. Local crews such as Last Rites, New York Adorned, Daredevil Tattoo, Lotus Tattoo, and others set up shop alongside tattooers from Belgium, Taiwan, Japan, and Germany. Crowds got a chance to watch legends like Jack Rudy, Kate Hellenbrand, and Paul Booth at work. We spent the weekend in the INKED booth where visitors ranged from NYPD to Hell's Angels to kids in strollers. Would it kill you to say hi next time?



Clockwise from top: Agent from Screamin' Ink Tattoo at work; severed head; 1st and 2nd place winners for black and gray work Nathalie and Michelle Legg; Biagio from Starlight Tattoo; back piece; young tattoo fan; a customer gets his arm twisted by Bert Krak from Top Shelf Tattooing; proud as a peacock.



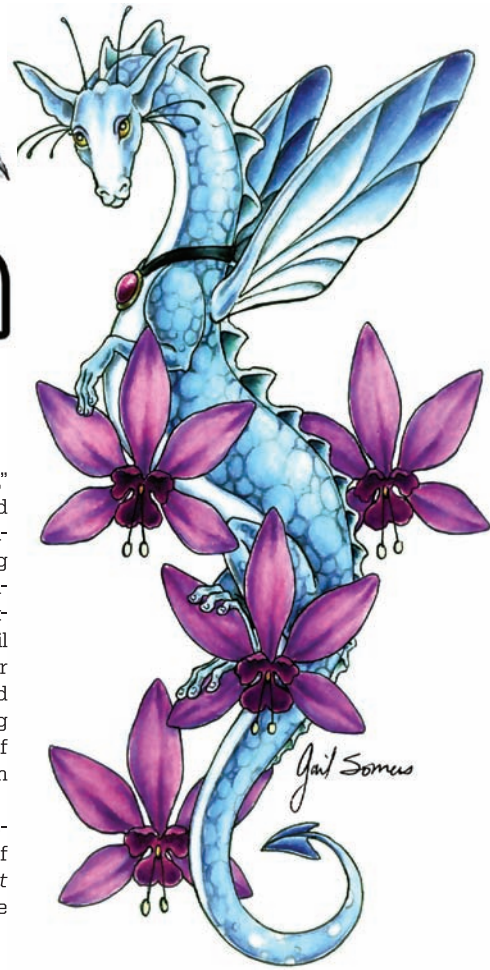
TattooFinder.com

TO INK OR NOT TO INK: IS GETTING A TATTOO THE RIGHT CHOICE?

The thought of getting a tattoo could be new for you or maybe you're on your third and considering that full tribal sleeve. It always seems that those of us who are already inked find ourselves giving advice to friends thinking about getting their own artwork. No matter where you're at in the process, you should know that getting a tattoo is inherently a long-term commitment and there are potentially a lot of complex decisions to make before starting the process. Because the artwork you end up with is permanent and ultimately your responsibility, TattooFinder.com has created Tattoos-101 – your trusted and comprehensive guide to having the best possible tattoo experience and helping out others along the way. We're excited to be working with *Inked Magazine* to keep you connected, informed and inspired with art. So if you or someone you know is thinking about inking, start here first with the most important question: "Is getting a tattoo the right choice?"

"Tattooing has a gut level of appeal to every culture," says Guy Aitchison, respected modern-day tattooist and TattooFinder.com artist. Historically, the urge to permanently mark one's skin has been around for a very long time and the ancient art has since developed in sophistication. But that hasn't necessarily made tattoos accepted. The practice wasn't even legal in New York City until 1997. But, while some may still find tattoos repulsive or unnecessary, their rise in popularity is unmistakable and the trend has definitely not gone unnoticed. According to a recent study by the Pew Research Center, about half of Generation Nexters in the U.S. (those born between 1981 and 1988) say they have a tattoo.

As a craft and an art form, tattoos can provide a physically intimate way to express your individuality. And if you learn more about *why* you want a tattoo and *what* you'll experience in getting one, the better you'll be able to answer the big question: Am I ready to get inked?



10 Questions to Consider *Before* Getting Tattooed

There will be some level of pain involved. Am I okay with that? If scraped knees make you woozy, getting tattooed may be a real challenge for you. Despite the coolness factor, getting a tattoo is like art surgery; it involves rubber gloves, some blood and bandages, needles and the process can take several hours. And, yes, most people say that getting tattooed does, to some extent, hurt. After all, your skin is being punctured thousands of times by little needles. Even if you're okay with the pain, you still need to consider that you may be sitting in a very uncomfortable position for an extended amount of time.

Am I comfortable knowing that a tattoo will become a permanent part of my body? A healthy body can heal most wounds – a good thing since getting tattooed essentially "wounds" your skin to get ink to its second layer or "Dermis." Anything that penetrates your skin at that level is typically broken up and flushed out by the body through the bloodstream, but tattoos are resilient because the ink molecules are too big to discharge. A healthy immune system recognizes that the ink is not poisonous or harmful and allows most of it to stay there ... for-

ever. The decision you make now will be with you in your next relationship, at your future children's high school graduations and with you as you rock on the front porch many, many decades from now.

Do I accept that, even under ideal circumstances, there may be some health risks? Not all tattooists are reputable. Some adhere to local health regulations (if any exist at all), while others may not. Poor sanitation or misuse of tattoo equipment can lead to more serious and even life endangering blood diseases like Hepatitis. And, while you can be tattooed in a safe, reputable tattoo studio with little health risk, the greatest risks often occur *after* you've gotten your new tattoo. Improper healing and aftercare can lead to infection and long-term skin conditions, not to mention unsightly damage to your new artwork. If you have special health considerations such as diabetes, hemophilia, epilepsy or immune deficiency problems, you should talk with your health care provider prior to being tattooed.

Whether people love my tattoo or hate it, can I accept potential tattoo criticisms and other

"tattoo attention" as a part of my life? Not everyone likes tattoos. Frankly, some people despise them. They are appalled that people would "deface" their bodies and they'll let you know their opinions. And, vice versa, others who are also tattooed may feel a common bond with you. Some people may just be interested and will want to see them more closely (and they may not ask for permission). By getting a tattoo, especially if it's going to be highly visible to others, you will be drawing attention to yourself and, whether you like it or not, potentially labeled and stereotyped. Sometimes you have to have some patience and thick skin to wear your tattoo with pride.

What are my reasons for wanting a tattoo? There is no "right" reason to go under the needle and you won't need to justify your choice to anyone... except you. Be honest with yourself about why you want a tattoo and make sure you're comfortable with that reason. Remember that your decision may be with you for a very long time. The more honest you are now about why you want a tattoo, the closer it will be to what motivated you to get it, especially as you wear it into the future.

Do I understand that my tattoo will change in appearance over time? Like your body, tattoos are going to change as they age. The skin is the largest organ in the body and it reproduces itself over and over. Your body will slowly break down some of the ink pigment of your tattoo, making it look dull, faded and blurred over time. The silver lining is that it's definitely possible to get your tattoo touched up, rescued, covered or removed entirely. The results will vary, but it's important to know from the beginning that your tattoo will age with you and may eventually need more work to keep it looking like you originally intended it to.

Am I willing to educate myself and do the research needed for the best tattoo experience? Like any type of learning process, getting a proper tattoo education can take some time and effort. You'll want to put serious preparation in finding the perfect tattoo design, artist and studio, as well as learning how to take care of your tattoo as it heals and into the future. As you may have already discovered, there is a lot of misinformation floating around. Tattoos-101.com can be a useful, comprehensive guide to a great tattoo experience, but you should be prepared to put in time and energy to get the best results.

Am I willing to take full responsibility for the final outcome of my tattoo experience? The design you choose, the artist and studio that you decide to work with . . . all of these decisions are yours. With the potential of getting bad work and, worse, a health complication, it's important that you take responsibility for the ultimate outcome. There may be other people involved, like your flash artist or tattooist, but you're the one calling the shots. Educate yourself and make smart decisions about your design, placement, tattooist and aftercare. The choices you make will have permanent rewards and consequences, ultimately determining whether you'll have the best possible tattoo experience.

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Does the decision to get tattooed feel like my own, or are there other influences that might be pressuring me? Friends may pressure you to get one. Family may disown you if you have one. Re-

gardless of external pressure, you should only get a tattoo if you want one. It sounds cliché, but a tattoo can be one of the most personal decisions anyone could ever make. Tattoos-101 will give you a roadmap for the best possible experience, but it's going to be a personal journey. Friends, family members and even your significant other will have opinions about tattoos – whether or not you should get one, what you should get, how big and where. While trusted people can provide useful advice, put YOUR opinions first when making final decisions.

Are there alternatives to a tattoo that would better satisfy my desire to get one? If you aren't ready for an actual tattoo, there are other options. One recommendation is henna art, widely used in India and derived from the henna plant. The natural ink can be applied to the body in decorative patterns, essentially "staining" the skin and lasting as long as three weeks. Other options include adult temporary tattoos, latex skin paint, tattoo clothing or other types of body modification like a piercing. If you're interested in the idea of having a tattoo and just not 100% sure about going through with it, take the time to think your options through. Your skin isn't going anywhere. —From the Editors of TattooFinder.com



Opposite page: Gail Somers, Idaho, USA, "Friendly Forest Dragon"; This page: Clockwise from top right: George, St. Petersburg, Russia, "Winged and Coiled"; Chris J'Tot, Colorado, USA, "Eye of the Storm"; Edward Lee, Colorado, USA, "Alien Plant Eater".



CLUB TATTOO ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Linkin Park singer Chester Bennington took a break from touring to celebrate the 13th Anniversary of Club Tattoo, a chain of shops he co-owns in Arizona. The party went down May 10 at the Marquee Theatre in Tempe, AZ, and featured performances by Julien-K, the Delta Fiasco, Comfort for Change, and the unveiling of Bennington's new side-project Dead by Sunrise. Members of Rabbit in the Moon deejayed and tattooed people came out to party. We sent our intrepid assistant Josh to cover the bash, confident he'd wander off into the desert and never be seen again. No such luck! Happy anniversary, guys. Photos by DIANA PRICE.



Clockwise from top left: Our Arizona INKED Squad with band Julien-K (from left to right) Hannah Smith, Elias Andra, Ryan Shuck, Amir Derakh, Brandon Belsky and Jordan Gallagher; the INKED Squad with Linkin Park frontman Chester Bennington

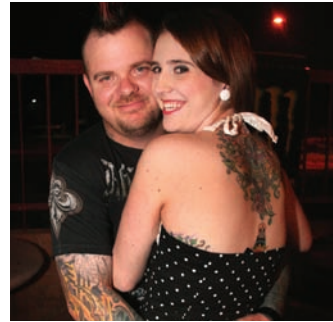
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Clockwise from top left: Bennington performing with Julien-K; Club Tattoo co-owner Sean Dowdell with Big Paul; Kristal Frank (wife of Club Tattoo artist Walter "Sausage" Frank), Michelle Selconis, Kathi Bouchard show off their ink, all done by Walter; Club Tattoo artist Keith Pulver with wife.



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SKETCH BOOK



YONI ZILBER

New York Adorned, 47 Second Ave., New York, NY, 212-473-0007, nyadorned.com

Tattoo Artist Yoni Zilber was born and raised in Israel, where he started his career in ink nearly 10 years ago. "I apprenticed with Avi Vanunu," Zilber explains. "I learned to tattoo the hard way with four years of hard work before I even really started tattooing." Now relocated to New York City, Zilber describes his style as "mostly oriental" with mixes of Tibetan and Thai influences. He's tattooed celebrities like Gisele Bündchen and often does guest spots in Miami, Israel, and Thailand.

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TATTOO COLLECTORS:

GET A RUSS ABBOTT

SUBJ. NO. 010



Photos: Mark Murrmann — TheStuffInside.com/mark

Russ' work is more than tattoo art. It's fine art. But Russ doesn't have a reality show. He opened his shop in Decatur, Georgia, where he's raising his family. He's building his business and his name on his own terms. Russ has the stuff inside. We posted tattoos and videos of his work. Look at your bare arm. Plan a trip to Decatur. TheStuffInside.com

HERE'S TO THE STUFF INSIDE

