

# Inked

CULTURE. STYLE. ART.

*The Voice's*

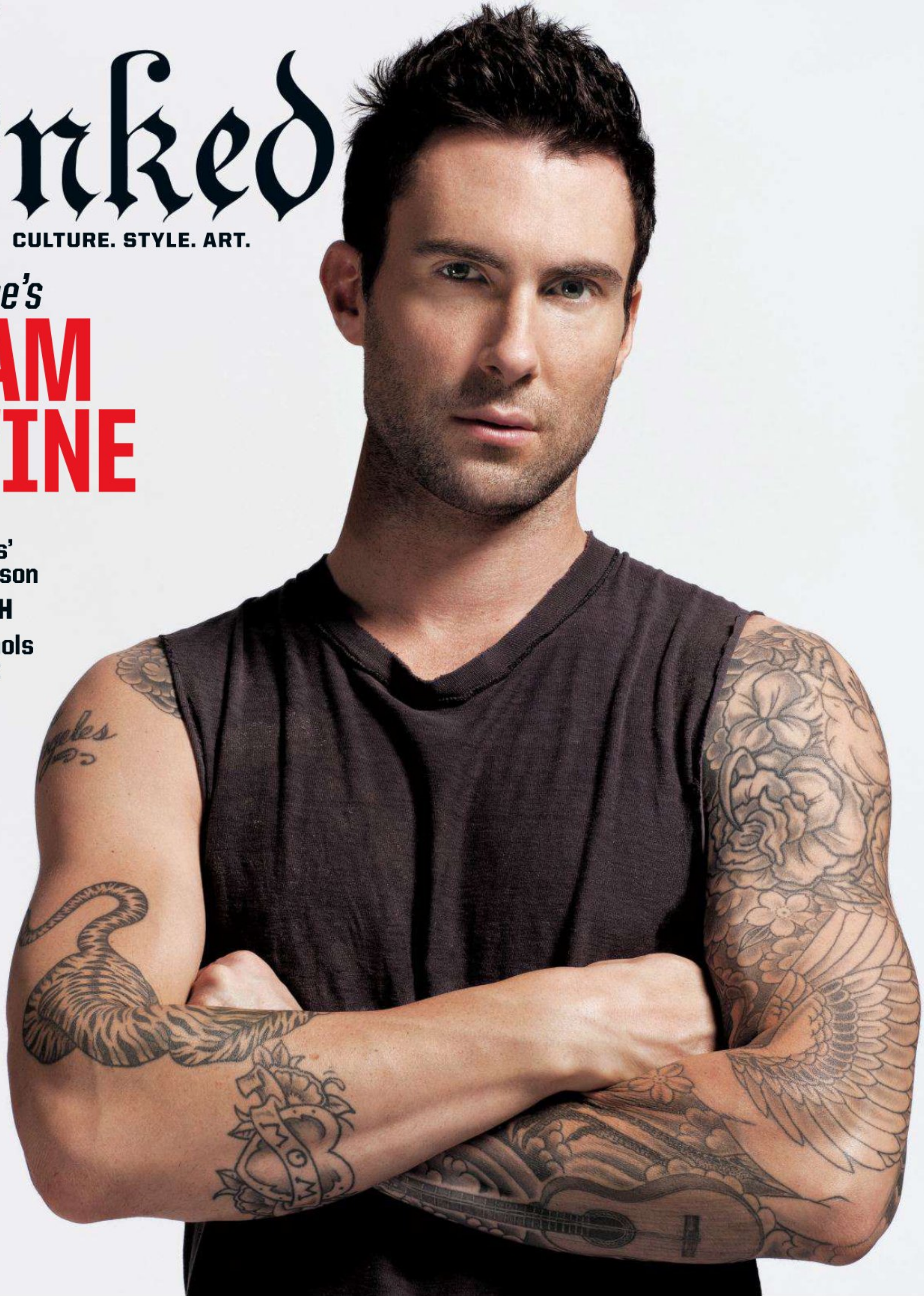
## ADAM LEVINE

**PLUS:**

Buffalo Bills'  
Stevie Johnson

**NEON HITCH**

Damien Echols  
of the West  
Memphis 3



SEPTEMBER 2012  
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A futuristic factory setting with a robotic arm welding a sneaker on a conveyor belt. The scene is illuminated by blue lights, creating a high-tech atmosphere. The robotic arm is positioned over a sneaker on a conveyor belt, and sparks are flying from the welding point. The sneaker has a blue stripe and a crown logo. The background shows a complex industrial structure with various pipes and lights.

51W

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# Night Rider

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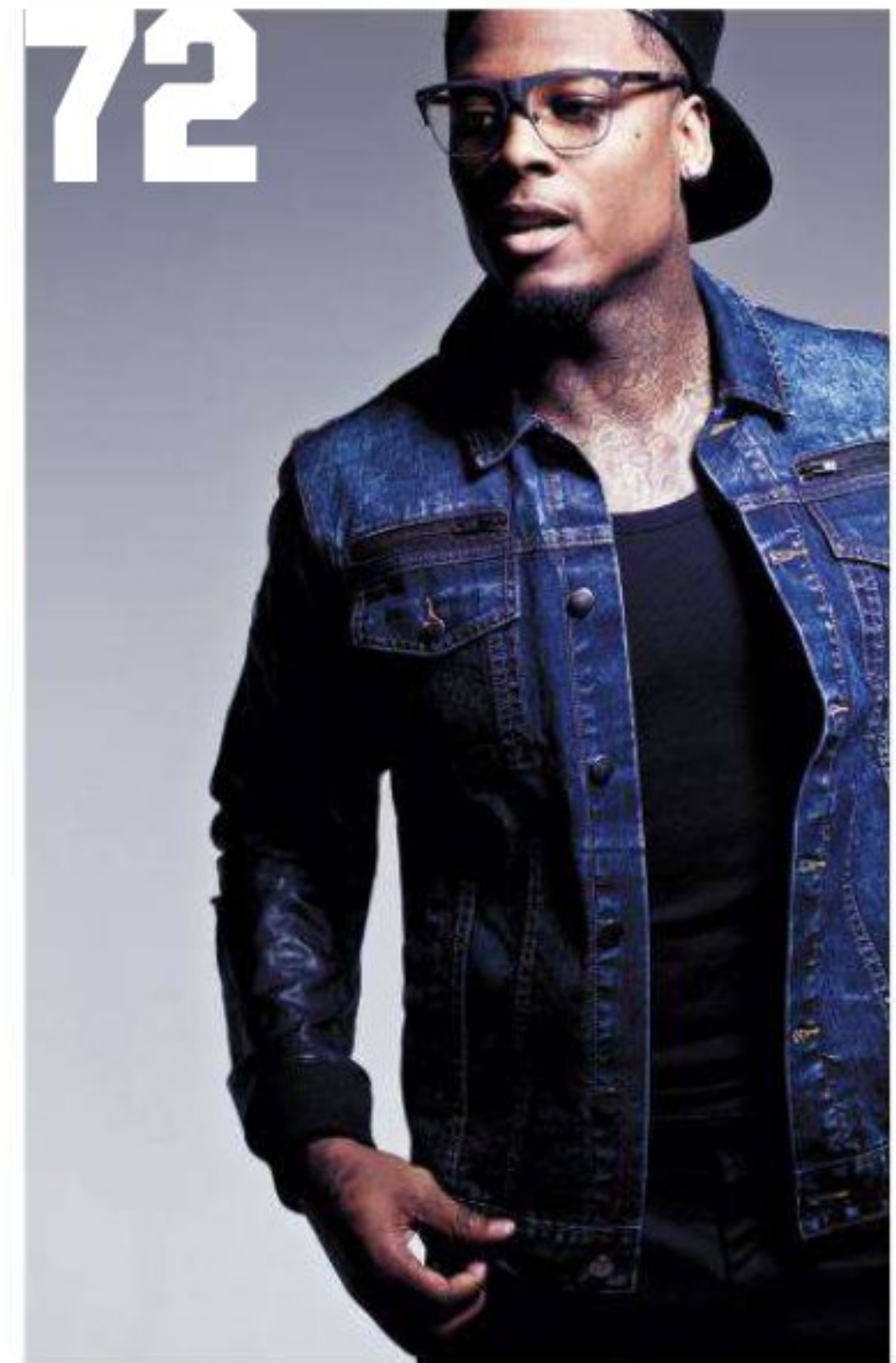
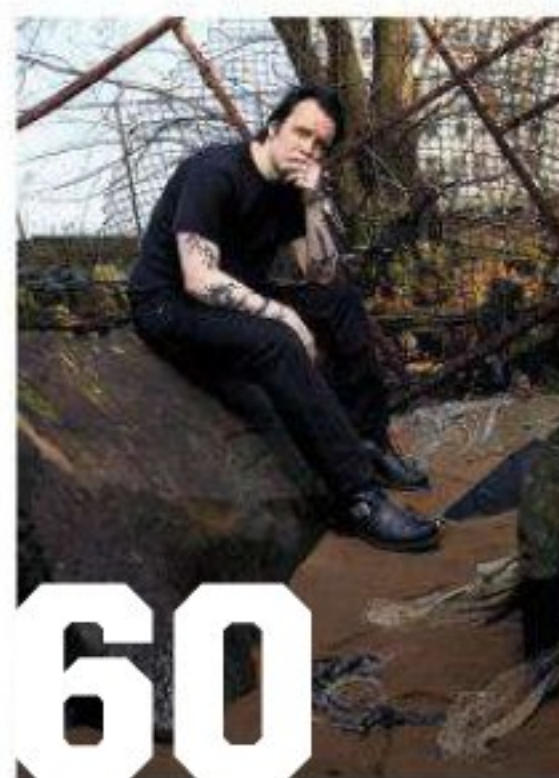
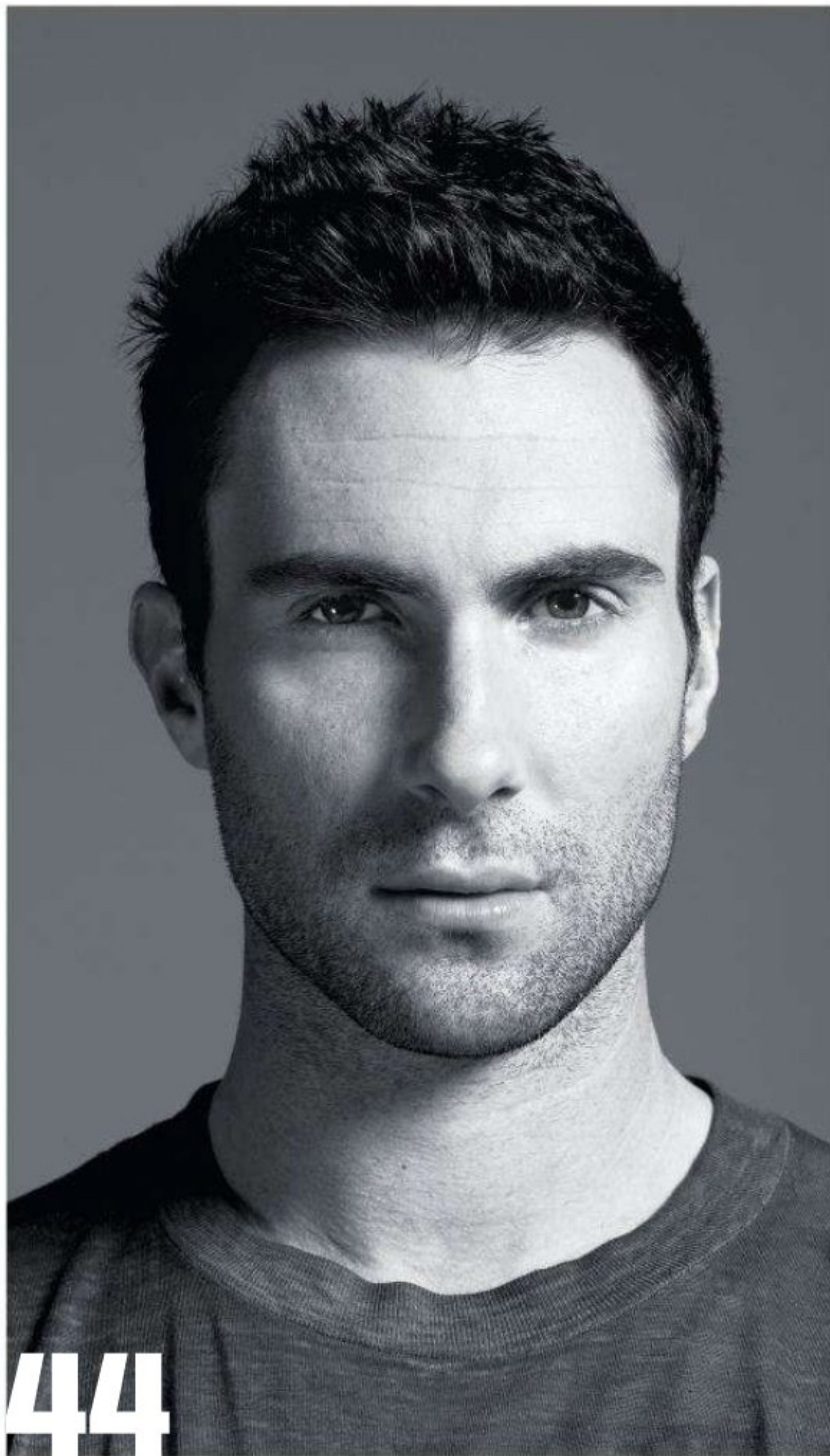


COVENANT DOG TAG

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# table of contents







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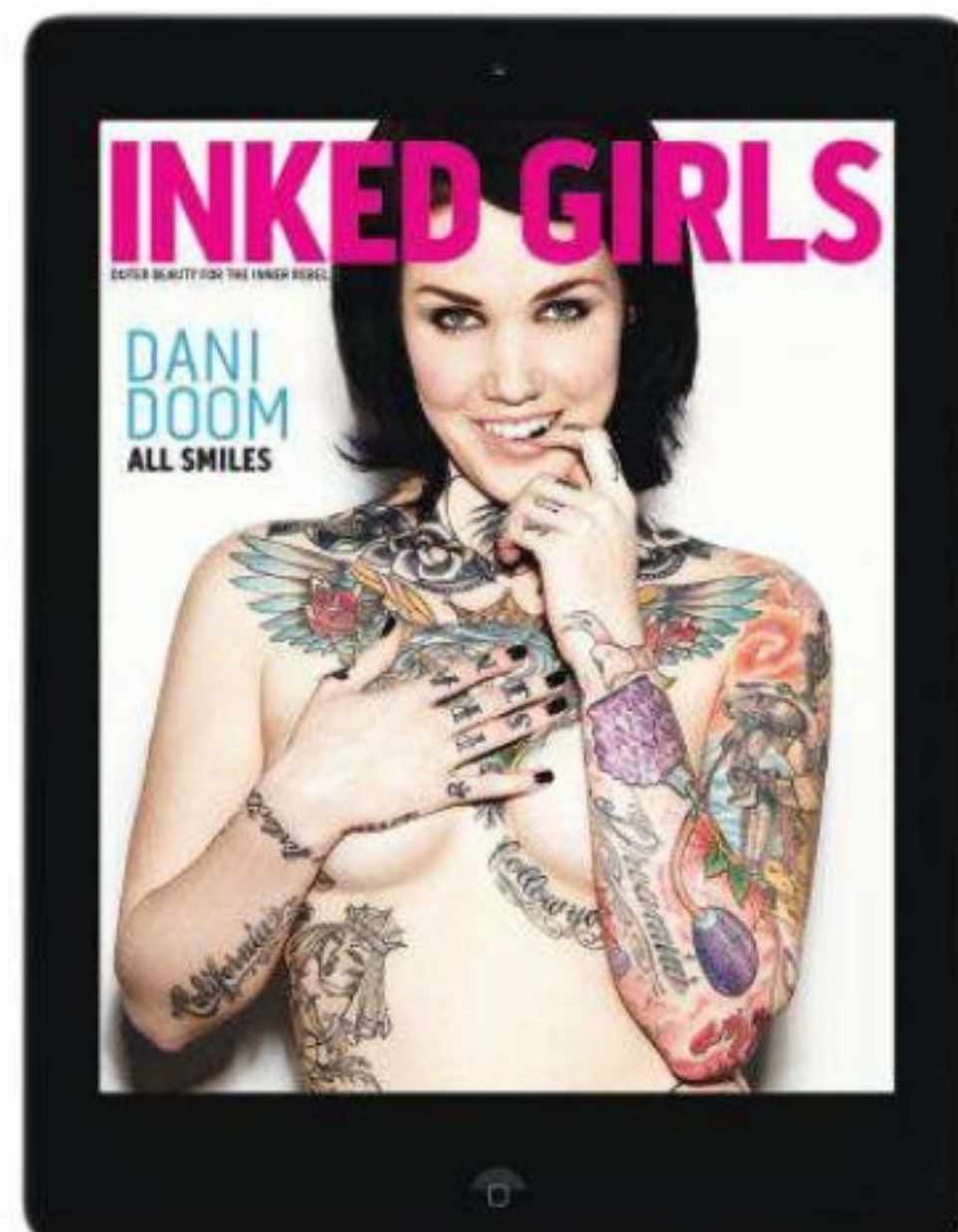
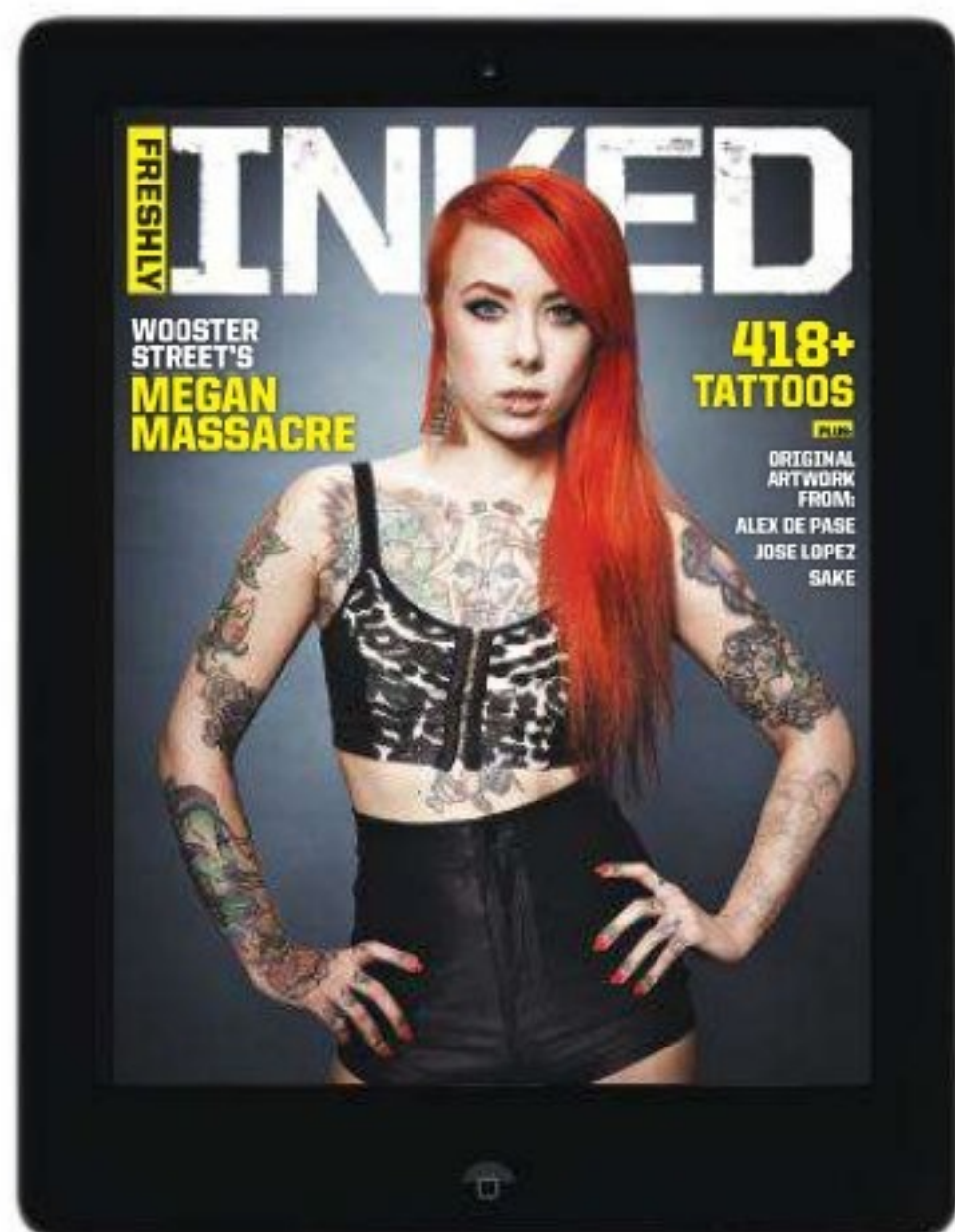
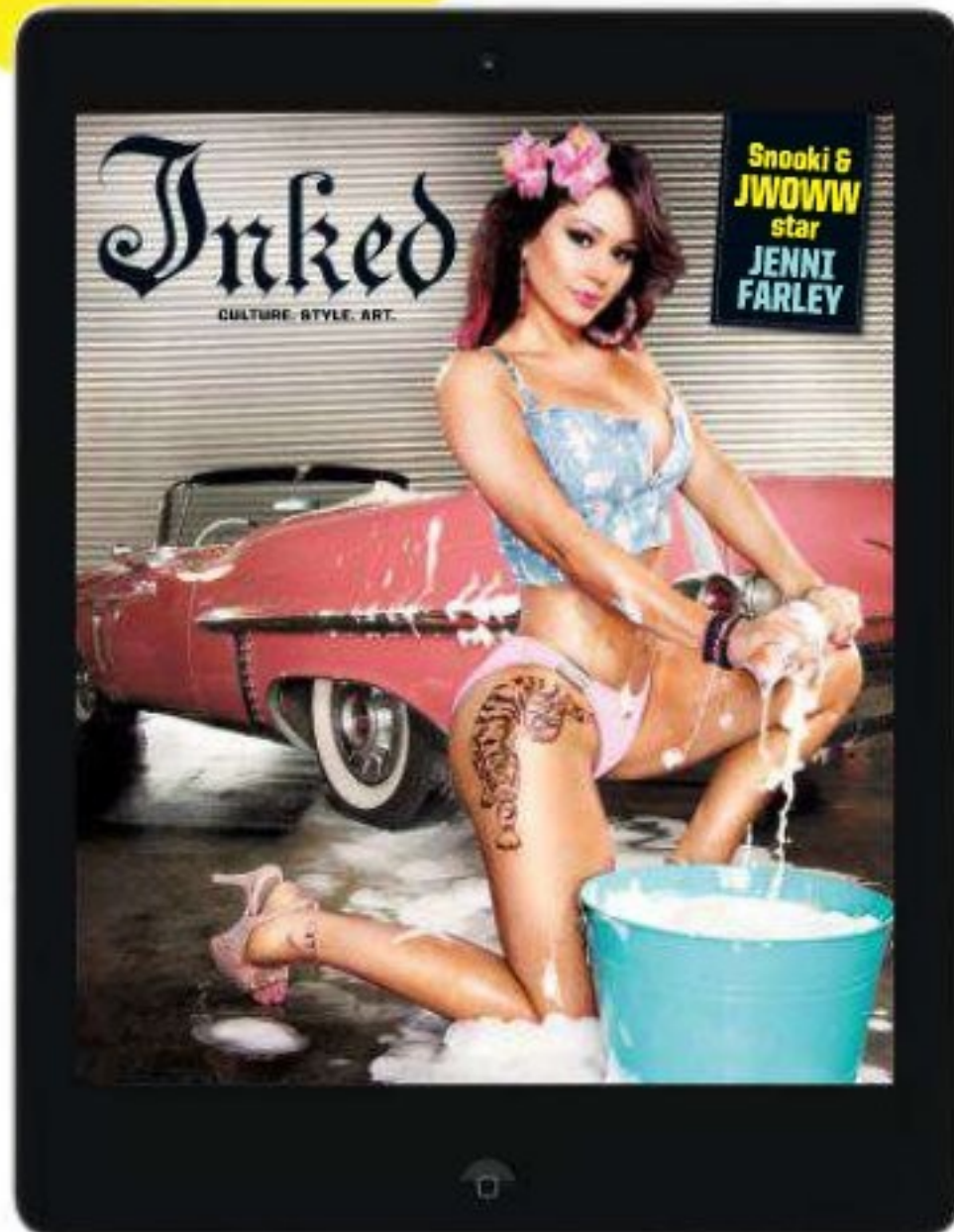
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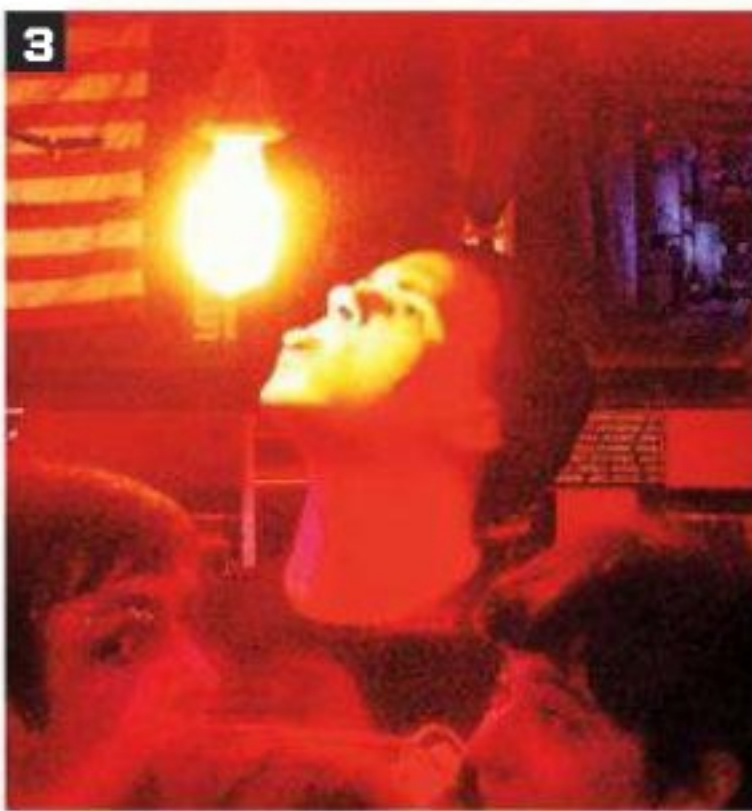
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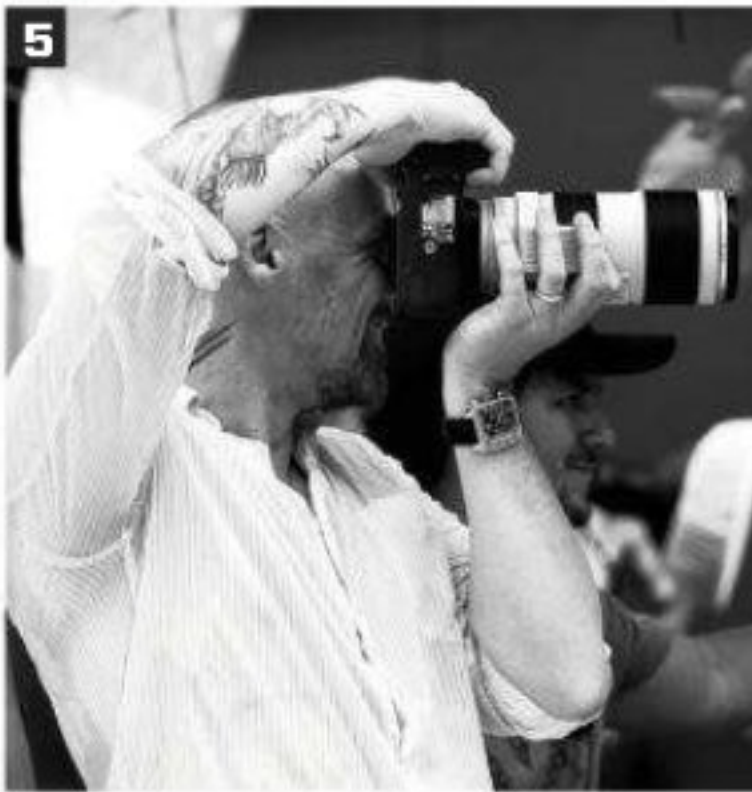




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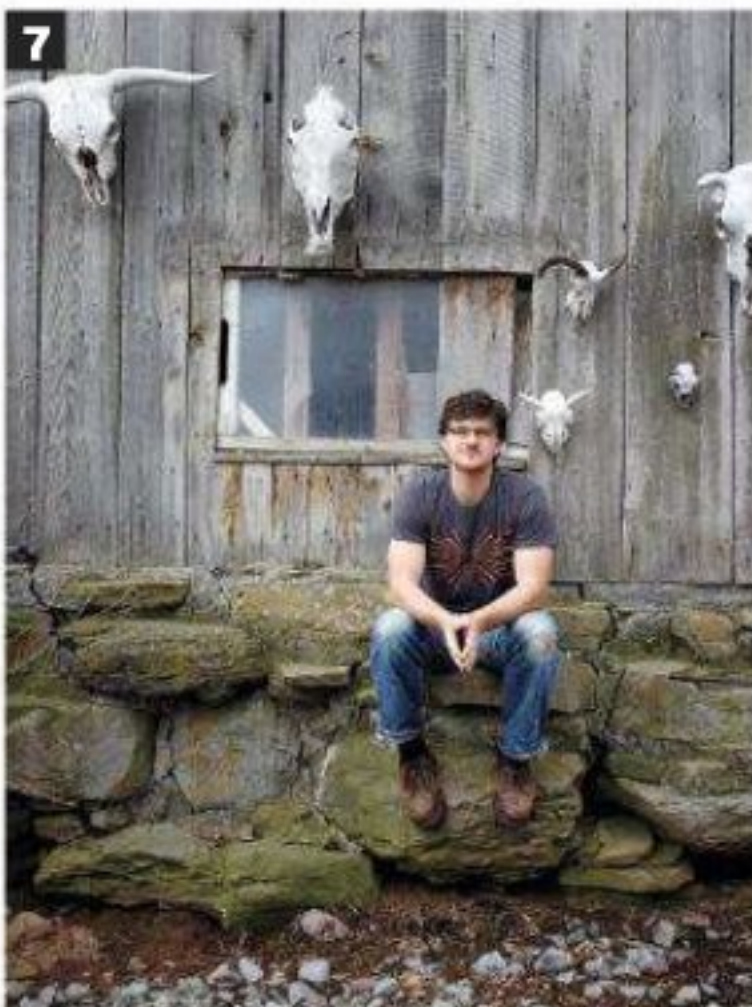


On a sweltering day this past summer, I was walking down a scorching Brooklyn avenue that was made even hotter because I was next to Neon Hitch, who was being photographed for the magazine by Marley Kate (1). The firebrand performer was sashaying in an epidermis-tight latex dress that left nothing to the imagination except how she got into it. (The answer: “Baby powder, lots of baby powder.”) Construction on a nearby building stopped as we walked past, and the guys in hard hats threw whistles and eyes at Hitch. I asked her if she wanted some cover, a robe, a T-shirt, my shorts—I would have given her my shorts right there on street. “No, darling,” she responded. “This is how I always dress. This is who I am.” That was the first time I actually considered that clothes do in fact make the man, or woman.



For this, our fall fashion issue, we take a closer look at style. Buffalo Bills wide receiver Stevie Johnson showed off his quirky-fresh look for photographer Mark Mann (2). Nick Fierro (3) dropped in on *Oddities*' Ryan Matthew Cohn at his trippy home, replete with taxidermy and human skull displays. Cohn, also part owner of an upscale men's shop, answered the door in a dashing suit. And Eric Foemmel (4) interviewed Inked Icon Crazy Philadelphia Eddie, who proudly showed off his three hallmarks: tattoos, the swirl in his hair, and his vibrantly colored threads.

Our cover guy Adam Levine has been given the heartthrob treatment by a plethora of magazines, but that's not the real him. For our pages, James Dimmock (5) shot the star wearing nothing more elaborate than his everyday clothes and his ink while writer Jennifer Goldstein (6) captured his essence—the man behind the hordes of screaming girls—in her story.



Damien Echols, one of the West Memphis Three, now released from death row, sat for photographer Mike McGregor (7) and talked to Kara Pound (8) about his ordeal behind bars. When in prison, you are stripped of your right to dress yourself and you have to wear the same thing as the rest of the inmates—perhaps the human need of physical self-expression is why there's a hotbed of tattooing behind bars. And on another level, we know that clothes make the man, but tattoos make him more interesting. Wear your style and your ink proudly.

  
Rocky Rakovic  
Editor  
editor@inkedmag.com



AMERICAN MUSCLE, MANUFACTURING AND A LITTLE ROCK AND ROLL

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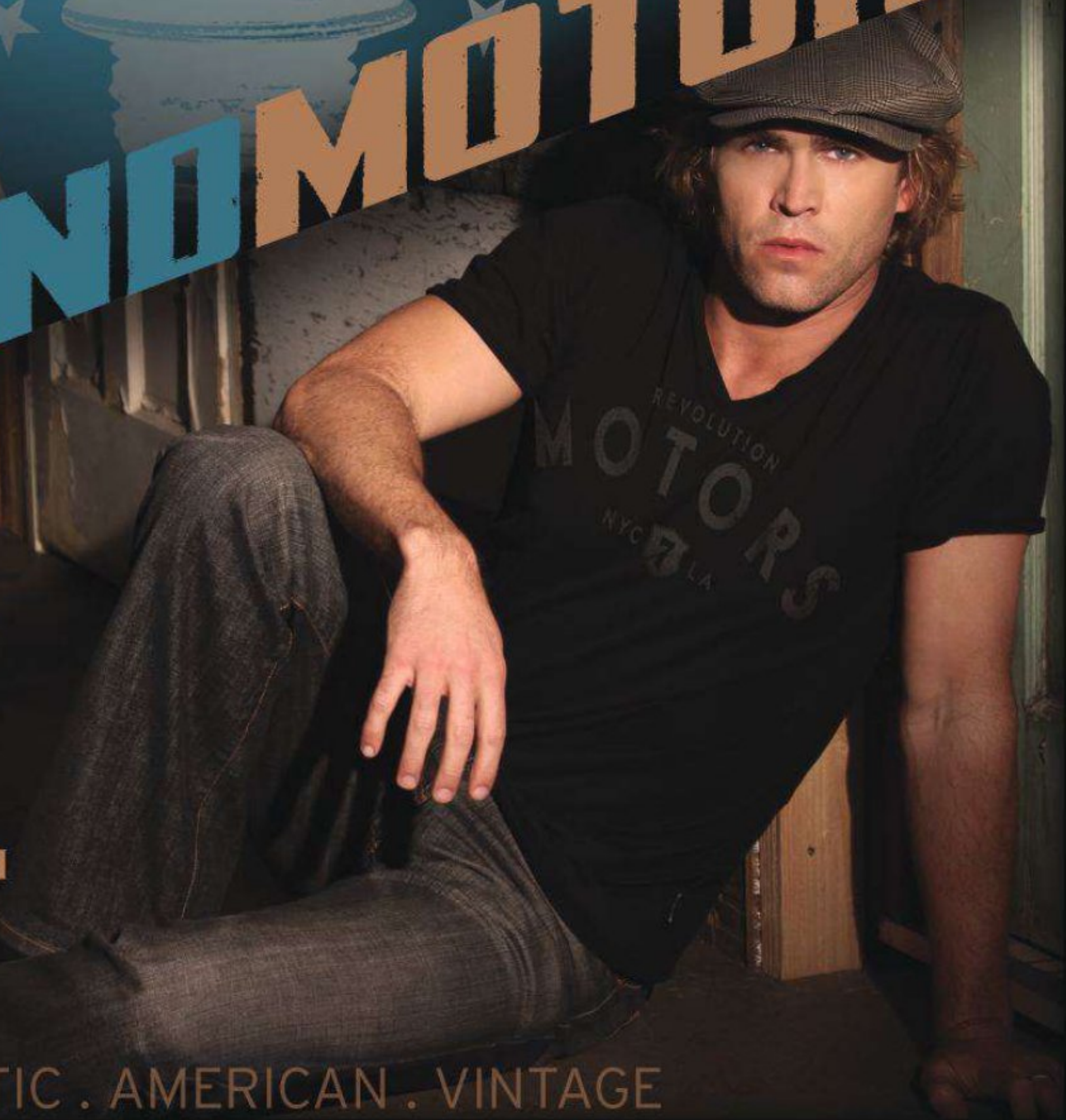
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# mail



## THE JWOWW FACTOR

Thanks for the hot pics of Jenni "JWOWW" Farley. I was so disappointed in her *Maxim* cover and shoot a few months ago. It

actually turned me off of her. But you made JWOWW, and her tattoos, look super sexy again.

**Jared Walters**  
Freehold, NJ

## COMPLISULT OF THE MONTH

I don't really find JWOWW all that attractive, but looks ain't everything. Personality and heart are. And ink is ink regardless of who it's on, it's about the artist. The most physically unattractive person can still be the most beautiful with those traits and tattoos.

**Justin Ford**  
Cape Girardeau, MO

## BLACK INK

Thanks for making Miya Bailey an Icon. Black tattooists don't get media ink, maybe because tattoos don't pop on dark skin or for other reasons.... He is one of the best working African-American artists, and if you see his documentary you'll discover others who came before.

**Douglas Barber**  
Jackson, MI

## facebook

### JWOWW

**ASHLEIGH E. CHILD** I hate *Jersey Shore* but I love JWOWW and her tattoos too.

**MICHAEL FREUD** If my car wash looked like this I would get my car washed several times a day.

**JAMIE JACKSON** You don't need a lot of ink to make it nice. Some people want it in just the right places.

**BRIAN FRIETAS** Nice, this is more like it, a simple example where less is more.

**STEPHANIE SULKEY ROMBACH** Love her, the car, the hair, the shoes, I love it all. This is the best picture yet!

**JEREMY MICHAEL BENJAMIN RILEY** Nice ride!

### MATT ARCHBOLD

**MEGHAN OLIVER** There is something about bald and tattooed that is hard to resist.

**DAVE CONREY** He's not a "former" surfer. He still surfs, just not on the competition set.

**CRAIG KOLSTAD** Bromance!

**HELEN PAPALOVSKI** OMG, my blood pressure went up!

### MISTER CARTOON

**THOM JOHNSON** That paint is super deep. Looks like water.

**BRAULIO ABRAHAM AGUIRRE** He's one of us who made it in real life.

### MISTAH METRO'S SKETCHBOOK

**JEN BAKIES** I feel like I need some crayons!

**PAUL DOLAN** I wish I had this when I got my arms sleeved. This is some ish I like.

### EXTREME COUPONER PERRY

**ANTHONY COOK** Nice pictures of ink.

**CASEY LEIGH** Did she use coupons to get those tattoos?



## READER OF THE MONTH

**JESSI ANNE: RADCLIFF, KY**

Want to be a Reader of the Month?  
E-mail photos to [inkedgirl@inkedmag.com](mailto:inkedgirl@inkedmag.com).



## TATTOO OF THE MONTH

**ARTIST: ALISSA K., BOUND BY DESIGN, DENVER, CO**  
**COLLECTOR: DEREK LUCAS**

Want to be the Tattoo of the Month?  
E-mail photos to [photo@inkedmag.com](mailto:photo@inkedmag.com).



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## MY FAVORITE INK

**Name:** Ashley Lionetti

**Occupation:** makeup artist and stylist

**Hometown:** Stamford, CT

(currently living in Los Angeles, CA)

My favorite tattoo is a memorial portrait of my pit bull, Jada. It represents the love I have for my girl and the seven amazing years we spent together. I took Jada everywhere—together we changed the minds of many, showing how loving and amazing pit bulls really are. She inspired me to get into pit bull rescue and become an advocate for the breed. Unfortunately, Jada passed away from a rare cancer more than a year ago. Patrick Loud inked her on my thigh, taking the time to add in special details like her birth flower and birthstone. Every time I look at this piece, it reminds me not only of Jada but of all the pit bulls I have rescued and loved, as well as the animal rights I fight for.

PHOTO BY GREG MANIS



# SONG BIRD

Superstar Rihanna dropped into Bang Bang Tattoos on New York City's Lower East Side to get a new piece of artwork. Her tattooist, Bang Bang, created an Egyptian falcon in the shape of a handgun on her ankle. After the art was complete, she tweeted a picture with the description: "Falcon: a light that shines in the darkness! Never close their eyes during sleep."



THE AMOUNT OF MONEY SPENT ON  
TATTOOS ANNUALLY IN THE UNITED STATES:

**\$1.26 BILLION**



# BANANARAMA

Tattoo apprentices have long practiced on oranges and grapefruits, but artist Phil Hansen found a fine produce medium at the banana stand. By hand-poking a pin into a banana's peel he exposes the flesh to oxygen and the marks turn brown. He replicates famous pieces from Botticelli's *Venus Rising From the Sea* to Michelangelo's *The Creation of Adam* and *David*, which you can see on YouTube and his book *Tattoo a Banana: And Other Ways to Turn Anything And Everything Into Art*. Grab a bunch of Chiquitas, practice your art, and send us your pics at [editor@inkedmag.com](mailto:editor@inkedmag.com).



# ENTER GAIMAN

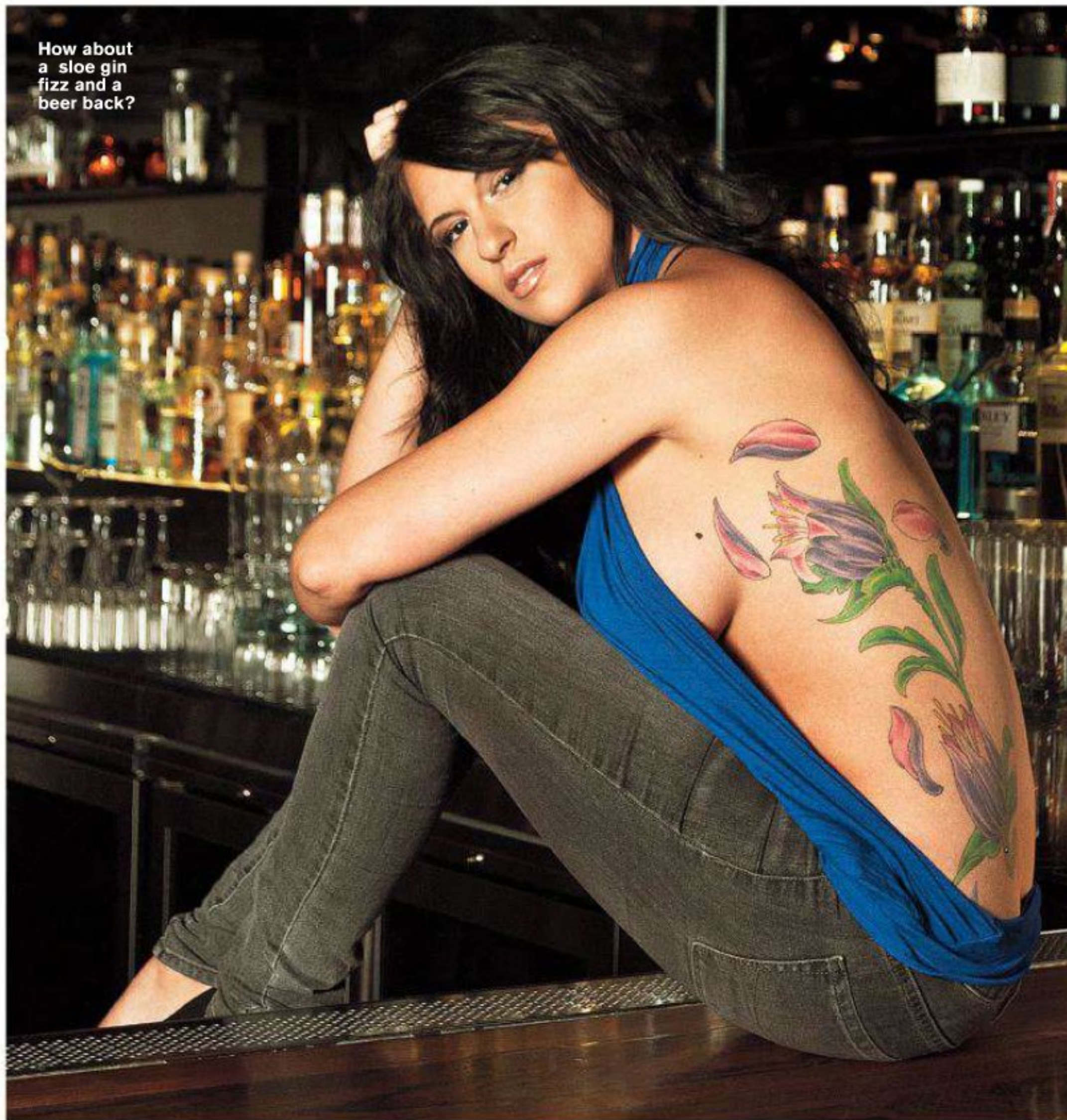
A good writer's words stay with you for life, especially when they mark you with a custom tattoo. Neil Gaiman, author of *Coraline* and *American Gods*, wrote a poem for a back piece by request of fan Burton Oliver. The writer agreed on condition that he could use the work to financially assist The Comic Book Legal Defense Fund that is selling silk screens of the piece. David Mack designed the tattoo to occupy Gaiman's poem that begins, "I will write in words of fire. I will write them on your skin. I will write about desire. Write beginnings, write of sin. You're the book I love the best, your skin only holds my truth."



OG *OG Gabel*  
The  
COLLECTION







How about a sloe gin fizz and a beer back?

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL DRINKING

Just as you should read Shakespeare and Hemingway, you should drink your way through the classic cocktails.

Even if you're a beer-and-a-shot drinker, every so often it's a nice change of pace to quaff cocktails. When you're in the mood for an elixir, here are just a few maxims to abide by.

**DRINK THROUGH THE CLASSICS.** True cocktails shouldn't have the ingredients in their names.

**PICK THE RIGHT BAR.** If you walk into a place and it has chocolate martinis on the cocktail menu, order a shot of Bacardi 151, douse the bar with it, flick a match onto the bar, and walk away Nick Cage-style. (Yes, we're personae non grata at T.G.I. Friday's.) No chocolate martinis? Identify the Galliano or Chartreuse bottle and check how yellowed the labels are (a good bartender will dust the bottle but can't stop the label from aging). If they look like one of Indiana Jones's maps, politely exit. Lastly, ask the bartender what kind of bitters the bar has. If the answer is, "I only carry Angostura" or "I'm a

mixologist," leave. Otherwise, take a seat.

**LET THE BARTENDER DO HIS OR HER THING.** You want to give the bartender an idea and let him run with it, just as you would if you were working with a good tattoo artist. Each bartender has specialties, and you want to take advantage of his skills; maybe he makes his own infused simple syrups or a good version of a classic cocktail you've never heard of.

**PACE YOURSELF.** Mixed-drink drinkers are sippers, while beer drinkers are sluggers. If you are having more than one cocktail every half hour, put on the breaks. You know that *Mad Menny* bravado behind the three-martini lunch? Well, back in the '60s most martini glasses held about 2 or 3 ounces, whereas today's typical glass holds 4 ounces or more. (Don't tell New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg; he'll come after liquor just as he tried to vanquish the Big Gulp.) —Rocky Rakovic

## COCKTAIL CONVERSATION

A chat with Lilium bartender  
**Michelle Romano**

**INKED:** How would you describe your bar, Lilium at the W New York-Union Square?

**MICHELLE:** Lilium is like falling down the rabbit hole in *Alice in Wonderland*—well, a dark, sexy, mysterious rabbit hole.

**What percentage of your clientele has tattoos?** More than you would think. There are actually a lot of people who come in with tattoos, but they have them strategically placed so they're not visible at first—or at all—unless they decide to show me. Kind of like mine.

**What's your favorite tattoo?** My rib piece is definitely my favorite. I love the way it accents the curves of my body. The petals are very strategically placed.

**What classic cocktails do you make?** We actually have some reinventions of some classic cocktails. The Blonde Manhattan follows the same basic principles of a traditional Manhattan, but we put our own special twist on it by using moonshine instead of a traditional bourbon. We also have a new spin on a Sazerac, called The Whiskey, in which we add a bit of Cherry Heering. Both cocktails are amazing.



### HARVEY WALLBANGER

1.5 oz vodka  
.5 oz Galliano  
3 oz orange juice  
Pour all ingredients into a highball glass over ice. Garnish with an orange slice and a maraschino cherry.



### NEGRONI

1.5 oz Campari  
1.5 oz sweet vermouth  
1.5 oz gin  
Pour all ingredients into a highball glass over ice, stir, and garnish with an orange wedge.



### OLD-FASHIONED

2 maraschino cherries  
1 orange slice  
1 sugar cube  
3 dashes Peychaud's Bitters  
3 oz bourbon  
Put cherries, orange slice, sugar cube, and bitters into an old-fashioned glass. Muddle, then add ice and bourbon; stir.



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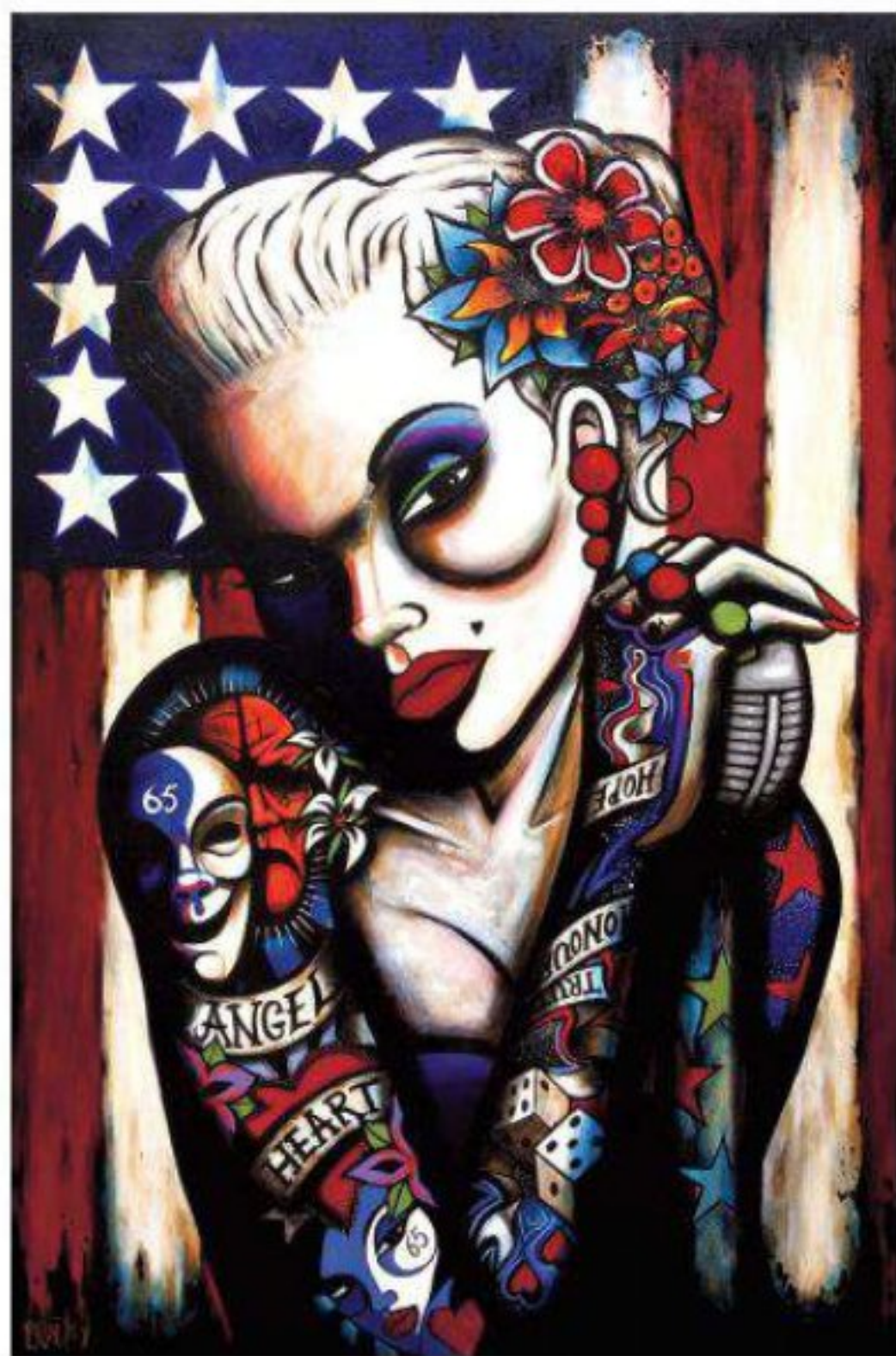
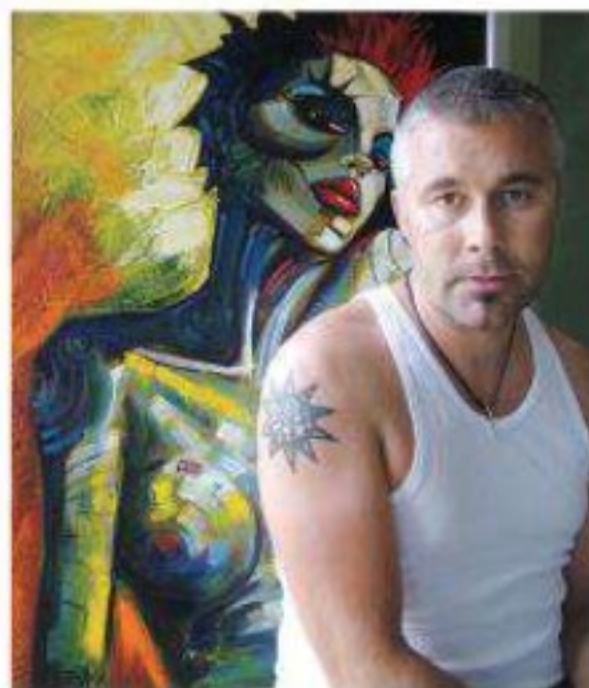


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Clockwise from top left: Bradley with nude, Harley-Davidson petrol tank hand-painted by Bradley, Love Life, Star, Girl in Green, Angel Heart, Never Give Up.



## WORKMAN LIKENESS

Terry Bradley captures the beauty in working-class stoicism.



"We lived in the worst place you could imagine," says Terry Bradley, who grew up in Belfast, Northern Ireland, during the troubles of the '70s. "It wasn't safe for me to play in the streets, and I'd have to walk through the peace lines [barriers between Catholic and Protestant neighborhoods] to go to school." Today his artwork is still heavily influenced by his Irish upbringing—specifically the colorful characters from Belfast's dockland community, known as Sailortown. Bradley fills his canvas with heavily tattooed, hardworking, and hard-drinking and -smoking dockworkers with bandaged noses and a tough guy demeanor. "Most of the tattoos I grew up around were negative, like the [imagery of the] IRA [Irish Republican Army] and UVF [Ulster Volunteer Force]," says Bradley. "I use the tattoos on my guys and gals as something positive, like honor and trust."

He's shown his work in Dublin, Belfast, London, Spain, Australia, and Los Angeles. Bradley recently

teamed with Harley-Davidson to design custom fuel tanks, and his website ([terrybradley.com](http://terrybradley.com)) hawks everything from iPhone cases and skateboard decks to affordable limited-edition prints. But some fans prefer a more permanent souvenir—his artwork inked on their body.

"I know of 220 people just in the Belfast area who have my art on their bodies," Bradley says. His own ink includes a sleeve on his right arm with two ornate skulls—one representing the artist's depressive side; the other, his happiness. On his right arm is his logo, a skull with a paintbrush in his mouth.

A self-taught artist in every sense of the word, Bradley has been called an "artist of the people"—a title he welcomes with open arms. "I don't like the snobbery in the art world," he says. "I wasn't taught the color wheel, I was taught about real life. I look at painting as an excuse to talk about life." —Kara Pound





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## TOP HAT

New Era has always made quality hats with sports teams front and center and its own logo on the side. Now, after 92 years in haberdashery, New Era is touting its own brand (\$32, neweracap.com).



## ELECTRIC CHAIR

Design of Love takes inspiration from the furniture of Louis XIV and makes their versions in vibrant, funky colors, such as the electric green of this Queen of Love Lounge Chair (\$1,025, allmodern.com).



## HETFIELD'S REAL MCCOY

Sutro enlisted the help of Metallica's James Hetfield to create these signature shades (\$220, metallica.com), which come in matte tortoise shell and this bitchin' gloss black.



## SPIRIT OF '76

Converse's Pro Leather World Basketball Festival Edition kicks (\$75, converse.com) come in perforated leather and are based on classic sneakers worn by Dr. J in 1976.



## MOORING

We found this slick-looking two-finger Anchor Ring (\$6, gritnglory.com) at an awesome boutique called Grit N Glory in NYC. Explore their online shop for more treasures like this.





## PENSKY

Businessmen sign with Montblancs, but we don't think something as mundane as a pen should command a large price tag. Speaking of tags, the Retro 1951 Kaligrafitti pen isn't too expensive—as far as nice pens go—and is hella fun to click (\$30, coolmaterial.com).



## MISTER TEE

How sick is this guy? He walks around in a shirt that says Mother Fucker. How cool are you? Could *you* walk around in this Cobra Lord shirt (\$33, cobralord.com) that features a guy wearing a shirt that says Mother Fucker?



## BIG RED BUTTON

The Panic Button Light Switch Replacement Kit (\$25, thinkgeek.com) makes turning off your lights seem like a life-or-death situation.



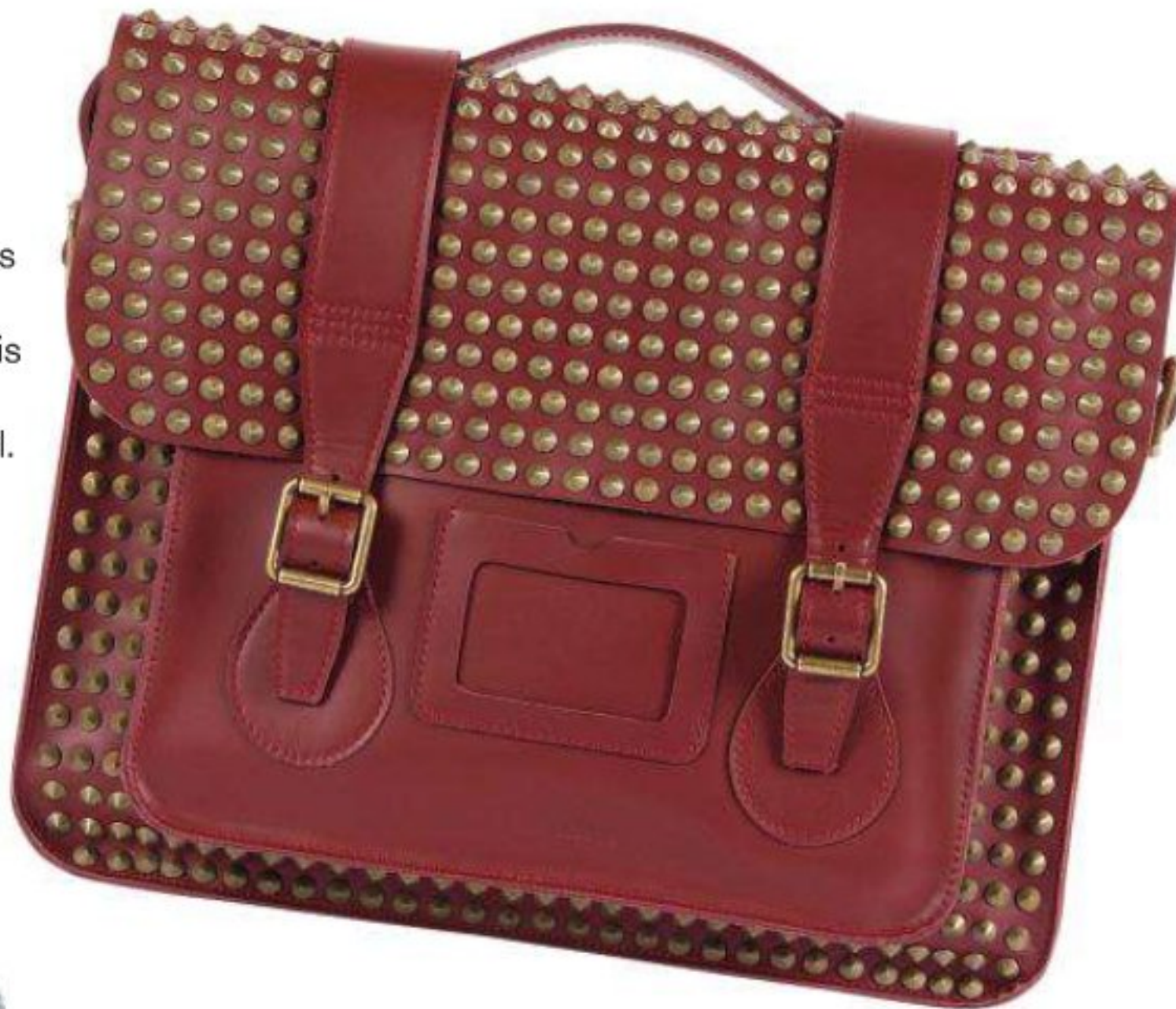
## WEST COAST CUSTOM

Kid Robot recently launched City 'Bots Minis (\$12, kidrobot.com for store locations): three-inch vinyl toys inspired by San Francisco, New York, Los Angeles, Miami, and London and sold exclusively in Kid Robot stores in their namesake cities.



## DOCTOR'S BAG

Fully grommeted out, the Dr. Martens Cherry Red Smooth with Studs Satchel (\$265, dmusastore.com) is a little bit office, a little bit rock 'n' roll.





# INK ON THE STREET

**SUBJECT:** Brett David

**SPOTTED:** Lower East Side, NYC

**WHERE HE GETS INKED:** Invisible NYC, by tattoo artist Regino Gonzales. "My favorite is the full traditional Japanese sleeve he did on my left arm. It combines a very detailed koi and octopus and a plethora of two-toned wind bars and cherry blossoms," says David. "Most of my friends agree I have the best tattoo work ... and I get stopped on the street sometimes. I attribute that to Regino's talent, 100 percent."

**WHAT HE'S WEARING:** Jedidiah by Made for Good Wheatley shirt (\$50, [madeforgood.com](http://madeforgood.com))

**BRAND BACKSTORY:** Made for Good is a collective of brands that donate profits to humanitarian causes. One such brand is Jedidiah, a label that has embodied the southern California lifestyle of relaxed fashion and philanthropy for more than a decade. The company has given to organizations such as Street Angels, Invisible Children, and Surfing the Nations, and the shirt David is wearing is part of a collection inspired by Nika Water, a company that supports clean water projects in needy areas.

**WHAT ELSE HE HAS:** Saturdays Surf NYC pants; vintage tie and suspenders; Billy Reid hat; the Tie Bar tie bar; Tommy Bahama watch; shoes from Barneys.





# Sourpuss

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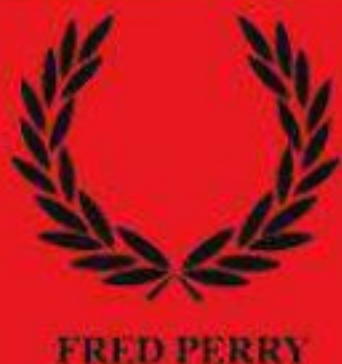
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PUNKS & THEIR BABIES



FRED PERRY

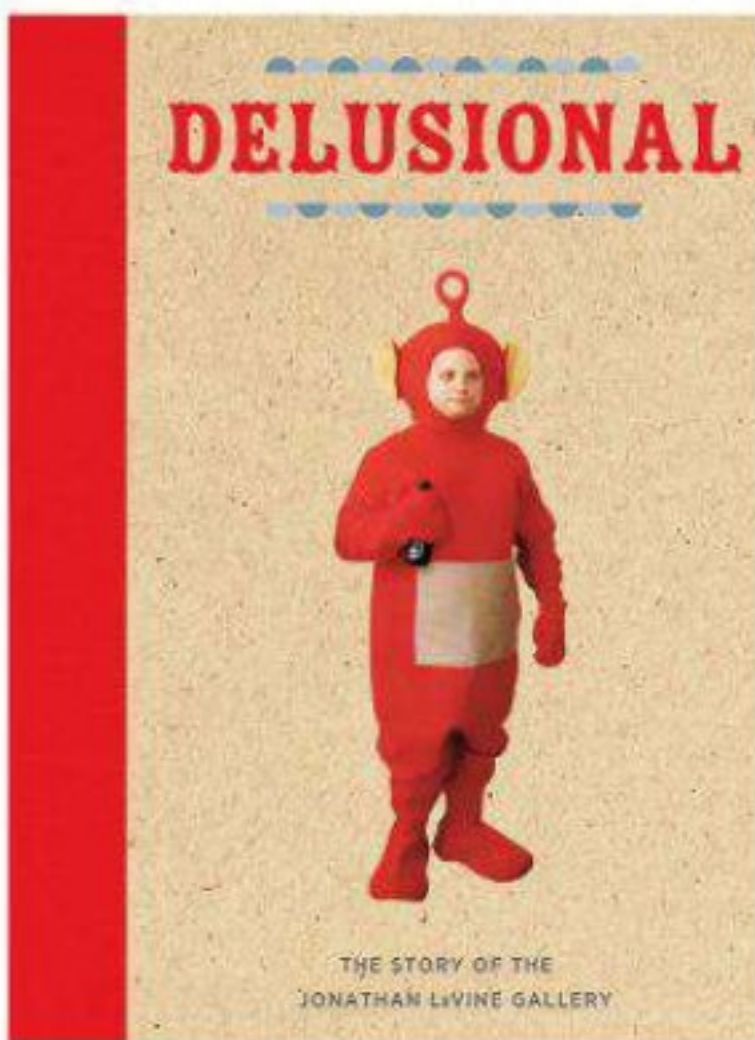


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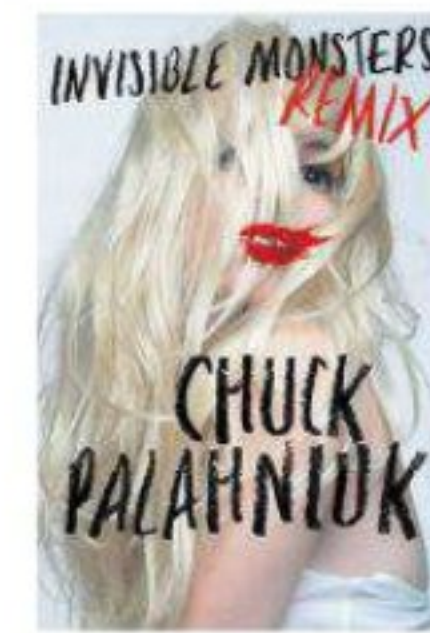
BOOK



## MAGIC EYE

*Delusional: The Story of the Jonathan LeVine Gallery* is a life's work (so far) in art. Jonathan LeVine was called "delusional" for being a middle-class Jerseyite in the hardcore scene who decided to make his living dealing art. LeVine makes sure nobody forgets the improbability of his success by taking it as unseriously as possible (or, at least, unseriously enough to pose in a Teletubby outfit for the cover shot). Though the art wasn't created by his own hands, LeVine is still present in each page. From the sweaty crowd in Dan Witz's "Big Mosh Pit" to unique abstracts such as James Marshall's Untitled works, his personality comes through with each of the 252 pages of the book dedicated to "anyone who can't get over themselves [sic] enough to love." —Cristina Guarino

BOOK



## MONSTER MASH-UP

Thirteen years after *Invisible Monsters*' initial run, the Chuck Palahniuk tale of a mangled supermodel and a transgender plastic surgery queen gets a bit of work done for *Invisible Monsters Remix*. Instead of reading cover-to-cover, the revamped version unfolds from the outside in, sending readers from page to page in a manner that suits the fragmented, impressionistic style of the story. You'll also find new chapters sprinkled throughout—only readable with the help of a mirror—that shed more light on the cast of messed-up characters. —Anthony Vargas

MOVIES



### RESIDENT EVIL: RETRIBUTION

We're now at the fifth installment of the *Resident Evil* saga with yet another entry written and directed by Paul W.S. Anderson (*Resident Evil*, *Resident Evil: Afterlife*). And like the previous entry, it's in state-of-the-art 3-D. This time, Alice (Milla Jovovich) finds herself running across various zombie-plagued regions as she continues to fight the Umbrella Corporation and hunt those responsible for the t-virus outbreak. Fans will be intrigued by some of the new characters as well as the number of returning cast members who were thought to be dead. —Gil Macias



### LOOPER

In this futuristic action-thriller, time travel exists but is illegal and only available on the black market. When the mob wants to off someone, they will send their target into the past, where a "looper" (assassin) awaits. This is where it gets into mind-fuck territory: Joe (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) is a rich looper enjoying his life and his dirty job until one day when the mob decides to "close the loop" by sending back Joe's future self (Bruce Willis) for assassination. Older Joe of course gets loose, so young Joe now has to chase down and kill his older self from the future. Whoa! —G.M.



### GANGSTER SQUAD

This 1940s gangster flick has one hell of a cast: Josh Brolin, Ryan Gosling, Sean Penn, Nick Nolte, Emma Stone, and Giovanni Ribisi. Ruthless mob king Mickey Cohen (Penn) runs and controls everything in town—the drugs, the guns, the prostitutes—and he does it all under the protection of his own hired goons, crooked cops, and politicians. No one has the balls to stand up to him except for a few LAPD outsiders led by Sergeant John O'Mara (Brolin) and Jerry Wooters (Gosling), who go head to head with the crime lord and plan to bring the mob world down. —G.M.

DVD



### THE WALKING DEAD: THE COMPLETE SECOND SEASON

There's about a month to go until the highly anticipated third season of *The Walking Dead* premieres. Until then, it's time to revisit season two on gorgeous Blu-ray. This four-disc set contains all 13 episodes and plenty of extras, including behind-the-scenes footage, featurettes, and audio commentaries. Some argue that the first half of season two lagged a bit since it seemed to favor character development over intense zombie action and carnage, but once Sophia's fate was revealed, tears rolled, and shit really hit the air conditioner. —G.M.



# Steadfast Sweetheart



Steadfast Sweetheart: Mary-Leigh Maxwell | photos: J. Isobel de Lisle

See more of  
Sweetheart  
Mary-Leigh





VIDEO GAMES



**BORDERLANDS 2**

PLATFORMS: PLAYSTATION 3, XBOX 360, PC

Borderlands cleverly combined the loot-collecting experience of RPGs like Diablo with the fast-paced action of a shooter, to the tune of six million copies sold worldwide. Not bad for a debut. The sequel retains the four-player online co-op and insane gun collecting, but adds one key ingredient missing from the original: some semblance of a narrative. In the five years that have passed since the events of Borderlands, a man named Handsome Jack has taken over the planet and promised to rid the land of its unruly population. After he rewards you for winning a combat tournament by leaving you for dead, your job is to take one of the four new protagonists and end his reign. Along the way you'll discover new regions of the planet, upgrade your specialized skills, and find enough loot to start your own munitions company. **Play if you like:** Diablo III, Halo, gun collecting —*Matt Bertz*



**MADDEN NFL 13**

PLATFORMS: PLAYSTATION 3, XBOX 360

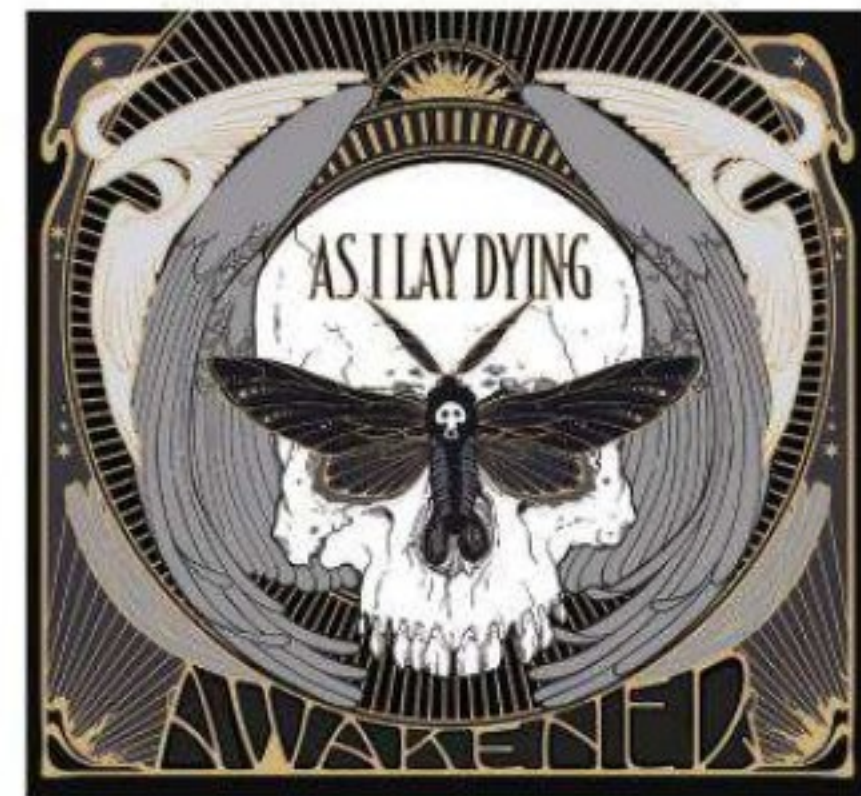
When an NFL team is struggling to string together wins, they shake up their management. After years of failing to match the quality of other sports games, EA has done the same with its legendary football franchise. With Madden NFL 13, the new leadership group is going back to the basics. They overhauled the passing game, included 430 new catching animations, and forced defenders to locate the ball before reacting. The new Infinity Engine improves the physics of the violent collisions at the heart of the game, and defenses now mask their coverage schemes more effectively. Tack on a revamped career mode and a new commentary duo (CBS A-team Phil Simms and Jim Nantz) and we finally have a franchise worth rooting for. **Play if you like:** NFL Sunday Ticket, pass-heavy offenses, bone-crushing hits —*M.B.*



**NEW SUPER MARIO BROS. 2**

PLATFORM: NINTENDO 3DS

Benjamin Franklin once said the only two certainties in life are death and taxes. Add "a new Nintendo console offering a Super Mario Bros. game" to that list. The latest adventure for the mustachioed plumbers sounds a lot like the last: Bowser has once again kidnapped Princess Peach, and the Italian stallions Mario and Luigi must come to the rescue. The Mushroom Kingdom is bursting at the seams with gold coins, new gold flowers let you turn blocks into more coinage, and the super leaf returns to allow a raccoon-tailed, flying Mario to discover hard-to-reach places. In a sign Nintendo is finally catching up to the times, New Super Mario Bros. 2 will also include downloadable content to keep the coin scavenge going well after it hits store shelves. **Play if you like:** Super Mario Bros. 3, Sonic the Hedgehog, getting real pay —*M.B.*



**THE Inked PLAYLIST**

BY JONAH BAYER

**A PLACE TO BURY STRANGERS**

**"Mind Control"**

This driving rocker is equally aggressive and avant-garde.

**AS I LAY DYING**

**"Cauterize"**

As I Lay Dying prove that melody and brutality don't have to be mutually exclusive terms with this headbanger-worthy raga.

**ECHO LAKE**

**"Young Silence"**

This atmospheric indie rock tune is a must if your beach house is on the Best Coast.

**GOLD MOTEL**

**"Musicians"**

Summer may be over but we've still got Gold Motel's breezy "Musicians" to keep our spirits high.

**AIMEE MANN**

**"Charmer"**

Aimee Mann is an American treasure, and this stripped-down rocker showcases exactly why.

**MATT AND KIM**

**"Let's Go"**

Matt and Kim continue their hot streak of infectious anthems with their latest pop gem.

**THE OFFSPRING**

**"Days Go By"**

One of the most successful institutions in punk rock continue their reign with this modern rock masterpiece.

**THE RAVEONETTES**

**"Observations"**

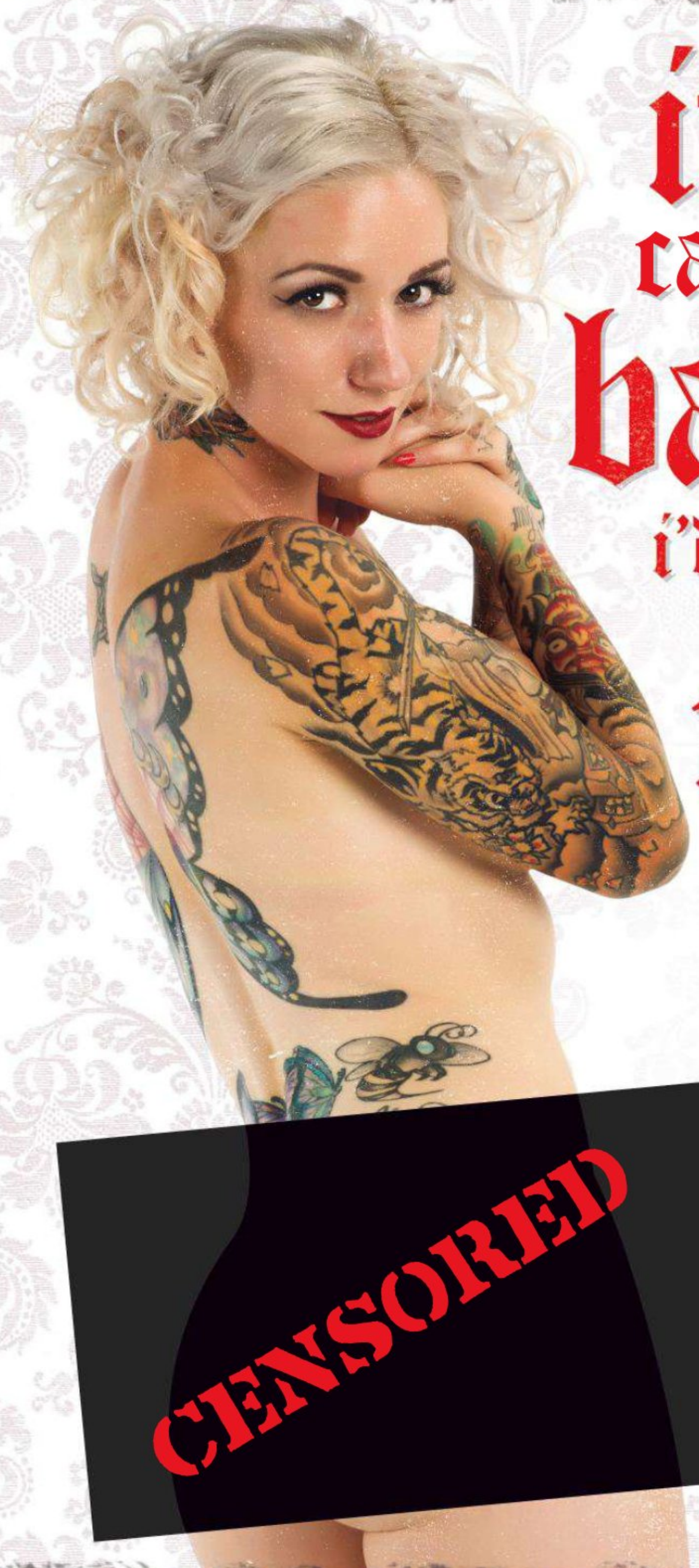
This Raveonettes ballad may be haunting, but we'll brave the nightmares in order to keep listening to it.

**THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS**

**"Where Do They Make Balloons?"**

Hey, we can always appreciate a song that's as educational as it is catchy.





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# BETTER LIVING THROUGH DENTISTRY

What are we smiling about? We've got our reasons.



The two types of people who smile the least are hockey players and the tattooed—the first because of missing teeth, and the latter seems to have something to do with disposition. But artist Steven Heward may change that. He started out working as a dental technician for his brother-in-law—his job was to stain crowns to match the patina of patients' teeth. "I wanted to show dentists what an artist could *really* do, so I took a needle, dipped it in black stain, and made tooth art," Heward says.

That's right, like a hand-poke tattooist, Heward pushes pigment into porcelain crowns one dot at a time until he creates art, like a portrait of Abraham Lincoln or David Letterman, or even a rooster. "I see so many tattoos everywhere but very few on the teeth," explains the artist of the adorned crowns he now sells through his company, Heward Dental Lab Inc.

As for teeth that aren't "tattooed," Heward has some words of wisdom to share: "The one thing people should do but don't is floss daily." He also suggests easing up when you brush. "You might think you're really scrubbing your teeth clean if you brush hard, but you can wear down your enamel, and rubbing your gums too hard can cause them to recede," he explains. As for today's teeth whitening products, he simply knows that they work. "Most of the teeth I have to match have become whiter over the years," he says. "I have a lot of dark shades of stain that I bought in bulk and will never use." —Robert McCormick



### TOOTH TATTOO

You thought you couldn't top the neck tattoo? Heward Dental Labs can tattoo your crown (\$70 and up plus cost of crown, [toothartist.com](http://toothartist.com)).



### ARM & HAMMER COMPLETE CARE PLUS WHITENING

Back in the day people brushed with baking soda; these days, Arm & Hammer is still in the game with a great-tasting toothpaste (\$4, [drugstore.com](http://drugstore.com)).



### COLGATE ICY BUBBLE WISPS

After a crazy night when you wake up somewhere with someone, don't use their brush. Reach for these disposable gems (four for \$2, [drugstores](http://drugstores)).



### FLOSSBOX

This credit-card-shaped floss (six for \$5, [staino.com](http://staino.com)) dispenses dental tape, has a mirror, and can be customized with your favorite image.

The grill next door.

STYLING, BETHANY WOLOSKY; MAKEUP, ROBERT REYES USING MAC; HAIR, JILLIAN HALOUSKA; MODEL, KLEIO; SHIRT AND UNDERWEAR, PATRICIA FIELD





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# CHARLOTTE, NC

If you choose to visit the city that the Democrats selected for their national convention, let Joey Vernon be your guide.



Charlotte, nicknamed the Hornet's Nest for the sting of rebellion it gave the British during the American Revolution, is now home to the buzz of Joey Vernon's tattoo machine. A former diesel mechanic, Vernon started tattooing in 1992 as a way to express his inner artist, and nine years later he opened up Fu's (not f-you's) Custom Tattoos at 3200 North Davidson Street, five minutes from downtown Charlotte. Vernon travels often, but his heart stays in Charlotte. Meet him there for a new tattoo, then wander around his recommended hot spots. —Zac Clark

**BEST PICKUP SPOT** A prime place for reasonably priced drinks and people watching, The Sanctuary (507 E. 36th St.) is one of the best hangouts in town. "Don't get into a fight," warns Vernon. "The bartender was a gymnast." If you're cruising the dating scene, this is the place to congregate. You might even get lucky playing the pool table.



**LATEST AND GREATEST BITES** "Jack Beagle's [3213 N. Davidson St.] has the best food in NoDa," the North Davidson neighborhood, says Vernon. The rustic brick interior is home to their famous hot dogs, which you should try with their jalapeño relish. You may find Vernon and company chilling on their expansive patio until 3:30 a.m., when the kitchen closes.



**BEST FAST FOOD** Quick service and amazing home-style cooking is what the Diamond Restaurant (1901 Commonwealth Ave.) is all about. They serve up classic staples—wings, burgers, and sweet potato fries—as well as their unusual ham-on-a-stick "pig wings" and fried pickles. "It's the best home cooking in Plaza Midwood," says Vernon.



**MOST INSPIRATIONAL GALLERY** Wander around the unorthodox displays in Gallery Twenty-Two (1500 Central Ave.) when you're feeling artsy. Have a glass of wine as you check out the ever-changing layout of paintings, photography, and even skateboard decks. The owner does a great job at keeping the exhibitions fresh and fun, but, warns Vernon, he plies patrons with alcohol. "He has a hollow leg!" Vernon says.



**BEST VIBES** With warm locals, great drinking, and a friendly atmosphere, the Thirsty Beaver Saloon (1225 Central Ave.) is the dive for an easy weekend happy hour. Charlotte is renowned for its amiable citizenship, and it's no more apparent than here, where everybody might not know your name but will still be glad you came. Set the mood using their free jukebox. "It's our staff's favorite bar for Sunday Funday," Vernon raves.

CHARLOTTE, COURTESY VISIT CHARLOTTE; THIRSTY BEAVER, TERRY SAUTTER



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Clockwise from left: hands-free liftgate, front center air bag, hands-free texting, wireless charging mat.



# BELLS, WHISTLES, AND TEXTING

Car accessories have come a long way from power windows.



It may be true that the clothes make the man, but real style will always lie in the details. From the way Bogart held a cigarette to the way Ferris Bueller rocked a sweater-vest, the making of an icon is linked directly to the whistles and bells that punctuate greatness. For 2013, our featured automakers have unveiled a fleet of vehicles equipped with relatively small features that make a huge difference. These familiar faces have been decked out in ways that not only set them apart from the herd but establish them as true innovators.

## HANDS-FREE LIFTGATE

Our favorite tweak to the 2013 Ford Escape is truly a kick-ass upgrade: a wave of your foot underneath the rear bumper activates a sensor that raises the hatch. For anyone who is lugging groceries, pushing a stroller, or just too lazy to dig the keys out of his pocket, this feature allows the holder of the key fob (which must be within one meter of the sensor) to access the trunk without setting down cargo. And you won't have to worry about an unexpected uppercut from your ride's door; the feature has a delay and an adjustable liftgate height.

## FRONT CENTER AIR BAG

Front and center! GM's new air bag design definitely has our attention. Upon impact, the bag deploys from the right side of the driver's seat and—along with the already standard front and side airbag—cradles passengers in the front seat like never before. The air bag, a culmination of more than three years of testing, will be deployed as a standard feature on the 2013 Chevy Traverse, Buick Enclave, and GMC Acadia and is sure to keep both drivers and passengers from butting heads.

## HANDS-FREE TEXTING

If science had a bucket list, we're pretty sure "make a talking car" would be on it. Sadly, we've only come so far. But there's a glimmer of hope in Nissan's 2013 techno boost for the Altima. Using Bluetooth, a hands-free texting feature translates the driver's speech into an outgoing text, eliminating the need for us to drive with our knees while not looking at the road. Inversely, the function also reads incoming texts out loud to the driver, instantly turning friends and family into a reasonable facsimile of HAL 9000.

## WIRELESS CHARGING MAT

There's something electric in the air, and it's charging your phone—that is, if you're driving the 2013 Dodge Dart. The model comes with an optional wireless charging station that juices your phone or MP3 player via induction charging (smartphones require a special case). Hopefully this feature will be available for future models in the Chrysler family; we're scratching our heads as to why they didn't start with the Dodge Charger. —Nick Fierro



# Inked MUSIC TOUR

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WED/OCT 10	New York, NY	Irving Plaza
THU/OCT 11	Worcester, MA	Palladium
FRI/OCT 12	Philadelphia, PA	TLA
SAT/OCT 13	Asbury Park, NJ	Stone Pony
SUN/OCT 14	Cleveland, OH	House of Blues
MON/OCT 15	Detroit, MI	St. Andrew's Hall
TUE/OCT 16	Cincinnati, OH	Bogart's
WED/OCT 17	Chicago, IL	House of Blues
FRI/OCT 19	Denver, CO	Summit
SAT/OCT 20	Salt Lake City, UT	The Complex
SUN/OCT 21	Boise, ID	Knitting Factory
MON/OCT 22	Seattle, WA	El Corazon
TUE/OCT 23	Portland, OR	Hawthorne Theatre

WED/OCT 24	Sacramento, CA	Ace of Spades
THU/OCT 25	Anaheim, CA	House of Blues
FRI/OCT 26	Los Angeles, CA	House of Blues
SAT/OCT 27	Phoenix, AZ	Nile Theatre
SUN/OCT 28	Albuquerque, NM	Sunshine Theatre
TUE/OCT 30	San Antonio, TX	The White Rabbit
WED/OCT 31	Dallas, TX	House of Blues
FRI/NOV 02	Houston, TX	House of Blues
SAT/NOV 03	New Orleans, LA	House of Blues
MON/NOV 05	Orlando, FL	House of Blues
TUE/NOV 06	Atlanta, GA	The Masquerade
WED/NOV 07	Charlotte, NC	The Fillmore





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Only women over 18 are eligible to apply. Please make sure your local laws allow you to pose nude before applying. Must be comfortable appearing in nude photos. Finalists application photos will appear on a cobranded site and will be voted on by the public. Winner will be selected and announced on October 15, 2012.

*Good luck!*



# INKED PEOPLE

DESIGNERS. BAND. CLOTHIER.



"WITH YOUR SHADES ON, YOU CAN DO ANYTHING. YOU'RE ON TOP OF THE WORLD." -COCO

From left: Coco, Breezy





From left:  
Coco, Breezy



# COCO AND BREEZY

Don't let the identical-twin status fool you: Coco and Breezy are the faces of individuality. These 22-year-old fashion entrepreneurs (real names Corianna and Brianna Dotson) have decorated the likes of Nicki Minaj, Lady Gaga, and Beyoncé with their signature shades in the three short years since they created their bold line, Coco & Breezy. But you won't find any of their designs at your local mini-mall's Sunglass Hut—only through local boutiques and their website, which dares its unisex audience to turn heads as much as they do.

Coco & Breezy began when its founding twins had just stepped out of their high school halls. Holding down two or three jobs at a time (always with each other) since their budding teenage years, they are a powerful unit. "It's crazy: A lot of the places we worked didn't allow family members to work together," Breezy says. "You couldn't be in the same classes in high school if you were cousins." But somehow the twins escaped these rules. "We had the same hours at work and sat right next to each other in class every day. By 19 we were still together and working for ourselves."

The day of their 19th birthday was when the line took off. "Coco's always been into fashion, longer than I have. She introduced me to wanting to be a designer and motivated me to see designing as my main passion," Breezy says. "We always knew we wanted to be business partners; we can separate business and family." So that day they packed up their things in Minneapolis, sold their cars, and moved to the fashion metropolis of New York City. Ashanti's stylist called just three days after they arrived, asking for a pair of glasses for her client's red carpet event. The same week, Kelly Osborne donned a pair of their sunglasses. Coco & Breezy had officially taken the fashion world with its bold style, which, the twins say, is a result of their background in art.

"Dancing was our first passion, and we also paint," Coco says. "We're used

to being onstage, so our stuff has a very theatrical style."

With the twins' focus on the visual, it didn't take long for tattoos to come into the picture. Coco and Breezy started getting tattooed wherever they went to mark their travels—old-school sailor style—and to tell the story of their success. "We do career days at schools and make sure we show our tattoos ... I just want to show kids that they can have tattoos and start their own business," Breezy says. "A lot of people think, 'Oh, you have tattoos, you'll never get a job.' But I have as many tattoos as I want and I love where I work."

In fact, their work made its way onto their skin in the form of several tattoos, one being a pair of studded glasses and red lips (chunky shades and shocking lip colors being two of their signature looks). And though glasses are their forte, the twins also sell clothing and accessories they affectionately call "wearable art." They plan on following the Ralph Lauren model: "Ralph Lauren started with the tie, then branched off to make a more household name," explains Breezy. "We're branding ourselves with our sunglasses, then branching off and adding more categories."

Their confidence belies the insecurity that inspired the line. The girls say walking around Minnesota with shaved and dyed hair, tattoos, and piercings is tough, and they began hand-making their sunglasses to keep their unique style while shielding themselves from critical eyes. One of their many tattoos—all of which are identical—is a girl with half a pair of sunglasses and one exposed eye. The symbolism is as loud as their style: They are growing more confident and passing their armor onto the rest of us. "We each have a twin and the two of us still get lonely at times," Coco says. "I can only imagine what it's like for those who don't have a twin. With your shades on, you can do anything. You're on top of the world." —*Cristina Guarino*



# POLAR BEAR CLUB

It's easy to imagine a group of old men clad in Speedos diving into a frozen lake when hearing the words "Polar Bear Club." For music fans in the know, however, a contradictory image comes to mind: that of the post-hardcore band rocking out in a hot, sweaty club. In fact, the band's name wasn't inspired by bears or courageous swimmers at all. "The name comes from the Silent Majority song 'Polar Bear Club.' It's a song about growing up in the punk rock scene, about getting older but still trying to hold on to what you love," explains bassist Erik Michael "Goose" Henning.

Henning and the rest of Polar Bear Club have been burning the candle at both ends and show no sign of stopping anytime soon. This past year they did their second tour of duty with the Vans Warped Tour, an experience that is more like punk rock summer camp than it is work. "Any friend you've ever made on tour is there," Henning says. "When you're not playing you're grilling in a parking lot. You can't really argue with that."

The endless time on the road gives the band ample opportunities to watch movies and TV shows on DVD, and one show in particular led to a bit of obsession. "All of a sudden, Polar Bear Club was obsessed with *Friday Night Lights*," Henning says. "We have a *Friday Night Lights* rip-off shirt, our tour manager and I have *Friday Night Lights* tattoos. Movies and TV shows make up over half of what we talk about, so a *Friday Night Lights* tattoo isn't that weird." While it may not be weird to the guys in the band, Henning's girlfriend thought a little differently. "My girlfriend is kinda weirded out that I'm getting 'Texas Forever' and I'm not even from Texas," he says with a chuckle.

Henning's first tattoo—a Misfits skull on his leg—was similarly inspired by pop culture, a choice that he jokes about now. "I'm not mad about it, but I feel like I used to listen to the Misfits all of the time, and something happened when I got the tattoo and I just stopped," Henning laughs. "I didn't want to be that guy."

This fall, the band will take a little time off from touring while they work on writing a follow-up to last year's album, *Clash Battle Guilt Pride*. After a brief rest they'll be touring the country to play as many club dates as they can. "We are definitely a shitty, dark club band. The less you can see of us the better," Henning says. Even if the band's name was inspired by song lyrics, one would think that after an hour in a sweaty punk pit during one of Polar Bear Club's raucous sets, jumping into a frozen lake might not seem like such a bad idea. —Charlie Connell



From left: Steve Port, Nate Morris, Erik Michael "Goose" Henning, Chris Browne, Jimmy Stadt.











# JAMES BOND

When it comes to promoting Undefeated apparel stores, cofounder James Bond prefers things gently stirred, not shaken. He wants to keep a low profile and maintain mystique. "I feel like it's best that people know very little—otherwise you open yourself up for more criticism than you really want," Bond says. "You're never going to make everyone happy, so we've always maintained a ninja-type mentality."

The one time the entrepreneur was front and center was when he collaborated on a shoe line with David Beckham for Adidas and had to do a plethora of press. But even then, given that Beckham was British and Bond's name invoked the famous 007, the soccer star's name was the only one gracing the shoe, which was fine with his collaborator.

This year marks the Undefeated chain's 10th anniversary; they have three locations in L.A., one in San Francisco, one in Las Vegas, and two in Japan, with designs on New York City and China. Bond and his business partner, Eddie Cruz, came up with the Undefeated concept a decade ago "over a barbecue and a couple of rounds of golf" while working on other businesses. Bond says it was a "strict passion play" with no business model that has since evolved into stores selling hip, cutting-edge footwear and apparel, including their own line of the latter. He describes Undefeated as being "the performance of the lifestyle."

Even though the company runs below the radar, Bond wants sports icons like LeBron James to wear their stuff, and he admires the Foot Locker business model. "They took something really basic and simple and turned it into a viable business model, and they appeal to everybody," he says. "That's what Undefeated really is. We don't try to be a vintage or heritage sport line. We just want to be a legit, well-made, well-curated brand."

When it comes to his tattoos, Bond still keeps it discreet, despite the fact that about 90 percent of the skin above his waist is inked. He simply believes some

things are private. "Most people don't know I have tattoos unless I'm in a short-sleeve shirt, and you don't see it through my collar. It's always something that's more personal and underneath. I don't have anything on my legs because I wear shorts." Bond adds that he has a mixture of Japanese and Mexican gangster-style ink. "I ran around the breastplate, I didn't cover the full chest, then the back is from the waist up to the shoulders and wraps around the collar, almost *yakuza* style."

His first tattoo was a "skanky ska guy" that a Philadelphia artist did in reverse, inadvertently creating a swastika, which Bond later had covered with an octopus. Since then he has accumulated exclusively black-and-gray tattoos. Mister Cartoon has done most of his work, including the portraits of his daughter, Jersey (when she was 12 months), and his son Ace (a.k.a. James Bond V, at 11 months) on his forearms. He also has a piece he got in New Zealand—an abstract image on his forearm of two circles forming a lifeline that his wife designed and then turned into a sculpture. On one arm he has a samurai with a geisha that turns into a Japanese tree with symbols on it, while the other arm features water with a couple of koi and a geisha.

And yes, in case you're wondering, James Bond is his real name—he is J.B. III, his son is J.B. V—and he jokes that it's good for hotel upgrades. Further, the co-owner of Stüssy, the company that holds the license to the Undefeated brand, is named Frank Sinatra Jr. (that's got to be fun for the duo at parties—and for making dinner reservations).

His name, however, is the most high-profile thing about him. Even Undefeated storefronts do not blatantly advertise the brand's name, typically featuring a small sign and the hash mark-like logo instead. "I think when you're confident in who you are, being out there with a big S on your chest isn't as needed," he says. "We're very subtle in our approach—clean, simple, not a lot of bells and whistles. That's how we live our lives." —*Bryan Reesman*





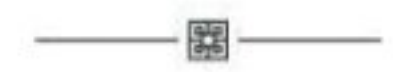




THE  
CREATION  
OF

# A D A M

And Hollywood said, "Let us make a man, and let there be ink on his skin, and let him play guitar, and hit high notes, and date models, and judge a singing competition, and act on television, and star in a movie."  
**And there was.**



BY JENNIFER GOLDSTEIN  
PHOTOS BY JAMES DIMMOCK









**I'M IN MY APARTMENT TRYING TO DO SOME WORK ON MY LAPTOP,** but my mind is elsewhere. It's actually *at a paaay-phone, trying to call home...* Last summer was different. I wasn't stuck at a pay phone, but I did have *mo-o-o-o-o-o-o-oves like Jagger*. Or at least I thought I did because a voice in my head told me so, over and over and over.

The voice belonged to Maroon 5 frontman Adam Levine. And if you have no idea what I'm talking about, then you probably haven't been near a radio for more than five minutes in the past few years to hear his 2011 hit "Moves Like Jagger" or the chart-topper "Payphone," from Maroon 5's most recent album, *Overexposed*. If you had, chances are they'd be on replay in your head too.

With songwriting skills and a soaring voice to match, Levine has the rare ability to create melodies that infiltrate the minds of millions. It's not an easy feat. Ph.D.'s using MRI machines to study people with songs stuck in their heads (the phenomenon has a scientific name: *spontaneous auditory imagery*) aren't able to figure out the secret sauce that makes it happen. The only thing they've been able to prove is that in order for a song to catch on, it first has to infect the songwriter.

When I share this with Levine, he nods. "I'll hum the tunes that we write in the shower because they're stuck in my head," he says. "I mean, we don't take scans of people brains, but in order for a song to work for people, it has to work for me." The strategy seems to be successful so far.

At 33, Levine's been making music for almost half his lifetime. His first band, Kara's Flowers, released an album in 1997, when he was just a senior at Brentwood School in Los Angeles. A few years later, the band—Levine, keyboardist Jesse Carmichael, bassist Mickey Madden, and drummer Ryan Dusick—teamed up with guitarist James Valentine to form Maroon 5, and they released *Songs About Jane* in 2002. That album featured the first of many hits, including "Harder to Breathe" and "This Love."

In the decade since the release, Maroon 5 has recorded three more albums (two of them with drummer Matt Flynn, who replaced Dusick in 2006). Along the way, their musical style has evolved, moving away from the funky rock-pop they started out with toward a more mainstream sound featuring synth elements, electronic drum loops, and the heavy dance beats that often dominate today's Top 40. It hasn't gone unnoticed by music critics, many of whom criticized *Overexposed* for sounding overproduced. But Levine doesn't lose sleep over it.

"Music critics are all fucking idiots," he says two minutes into our interview, which took place two weeks after the album's release. "The way that we make our records is no different from the way that certain bands make their records with just as much programming, just as many loops, and just as much fairy dust as we use."

The thing is, most of those other bands don't go into the record-making process with the goal of being popular—or at least they don't admit it. Levine,



**“THERE’S OBVIOUSLY  
A CERTAIN BALANCE  
BETWEEN PURSUING AN  
AUDIENCE AND PURSUING  
WHAT YOU LOVE TO DO,  
BUT I LOVE WHAT WE DO.”**

however, has never been shy about his love of attention or living a life that garners plenty of it (he has a string of model ex-girlfriends, a home in the Hollywood Hills, and a Harley Fat Boy, Aston Martin DB9, and vintage Porsche 356). In fact, he is refreshingly honest about wanting to broaden his fan base. “There can only be so many bands that make raw, organic records that sound great. ... If I wanted to make a record that was super self-indulgent and all about the art I would, but I’d rather take those skills and apply them to something else, which is gathering a huge audience to appreciate the music.”

He knows his approach may put off some people, but at least it’s genuine. “There’s obviously a certain balance between pursuing an audience and pursuing what you love to do, but I love what we do. ... I would never put out a record I didn’t want to listen to.” And it’s obvious he’s not the only one listening. *Overexposed* debuted at number two on the *Billboard* 200 chart, and “Payphone” reached number one on the *Billboard* Hot AC and Top 40 charts. Levine relishes the success. “I get off on that ability to connect with a large group of people. That’s what I aim for when we’re making music,” he says. “I’d much rather be able to go to Indonesia and sing a song that we wrote and have everyone sing the words than be hiding and playing in a little club.”

Don’t think Levine is too obtuse to realize the way he sounds when he makes statements like that (he and his bandmates were self-aware enough to call the album *Overexposed*). He knows he’s portrayed in the media as an overconfident attention seeker. But if he really were as cocksure and in need of acceptance as some of the haters assume, you’d think he would have made some calculated statements to try and change that perception. But he doesn’t; he talks honestly and unguardedly. Five minutes into a conversation you can tell his reputation as a douchebag—a descriptor mentioned by more than one million web pages—is unwarranted. That’s also obvious to anyone who has watched NBC’s *The Voice*, where he gives out bro-hugs and thoughtful advice to up-and-coming singers and tries (but not that hard) to ignore the bait when fellow judge Christina Aguilera puffs out her cleavage and takes a dig at him.

Levine aims to please off-camera as well. During our INKED cover shoot, he took time to chat with the guys from the All American Car Club, who lent him their rides for the day. He snapped a photo with the intern who was practically hyperventilating when she asked. And he braved the blazing-hot sidewalks of Brooklyn wearing combat boots and work pants in 95-degree heat, even going so far as to throw around a Nerf football with some onlookers while the rest of the crew cowered in the shade eating Italian ices.

So he’s either a nice guy or a really good actor, which would bode well for his next career move. In October, Levine makes his acting debut on the sec-







Los Angeles









Stylist: **Djuna Bel**  
Stylist assistant: **Taryn Shumway**  
Grooming: **Daniella for Workgroup using Oribe**  
Location: **Fast Ashleys**  
Cars: Special Thanks to Mike Matarazzo and George Rodriguez of All American Car Club of NYC

ond season of FX's *American Horror Story*, in which he has a top-secret role as one half of a couple that (possibly) meets a gory, tragic end. Whether he's a good actor remains to be seen. But he's certainly got the charisma—and a comedian's sense of timing. When I ask him his favorite curse word, he replies immediately: "Fuck." So I ask him what he likes to do to blow off steam and, without missing a beat, he answers, "Fuck," then maintains a Blue-Steelish gaze for a second before slumping into his armchair and laughing. "No, really, it's yoga," he clarifies.

The practice has inspired at least one of Levine's tattoos, the Sanskrit word *tapas* inked above his heart. "The meaning is a little bit loose and can get misinterpreted, but when applied to talking about yoga, it has to do with my fire or determination for the practice," he says. "It's a personal thing. That's kind of why I put it in a place that's a bit more hidden." Not all his tattoos are quite as meaningful. Some are just there to look good, like his most recent piece, a string of beads around his neck. "I was in Japan and I got this necklace. I'm not sure why I got it—I think I was bored. But I like it."

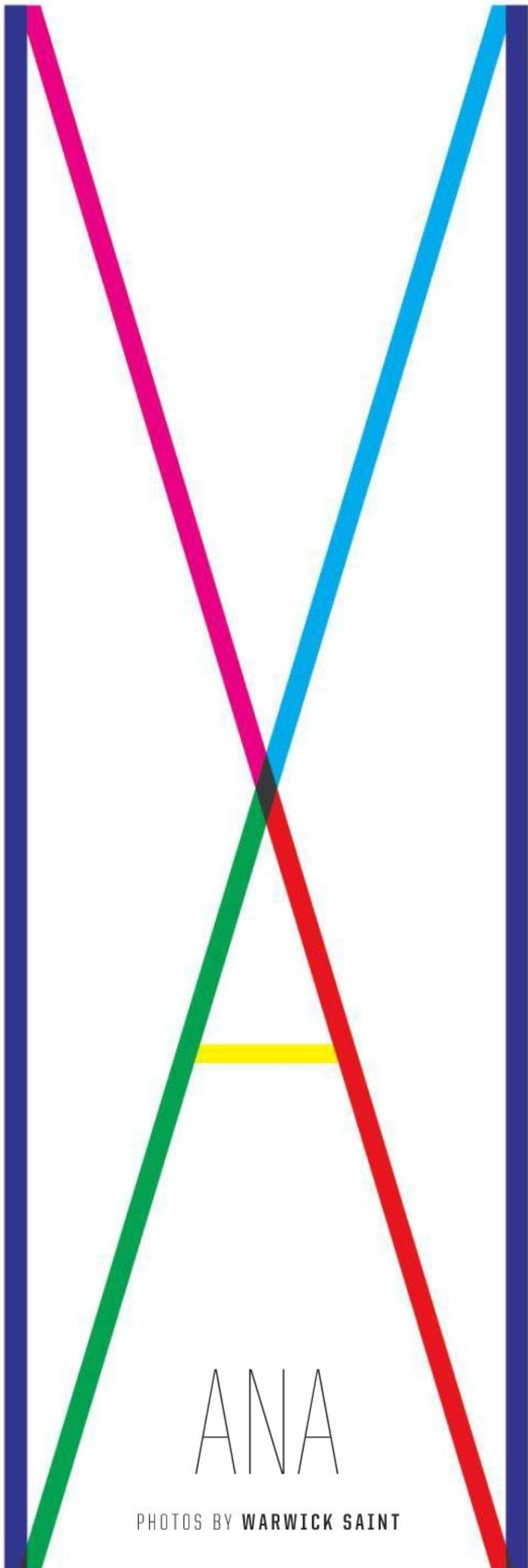
A lot of his other black-and-gray work was done by Bryan Randolph, who works out of Spider Murphy's Tattoo in San Francisco. He also has a heart with a scroll that says *Mom* from Amsterdam's Hanky Panky (Henk Schiffmacher) and a dove by Baby Ray of Spotlight Tattoo in Los Angeles. He got the dove at 21; it was his first piece, and Baby Ray treated him accordingly. "After he did the tattoo he made me go across the street and get him a pack of cigarettes," Levine says. "You have to give those guys credit, they're probably sick and tired of people screwing around and coming into the shop and not getting anything, so I totally understand the attitude of, 'Are you wasting my time or are we really going to do this?'"

He's not planning any new work at the moment, and that might be because he's in the process of filming his first movie, John Carney's *Can a Love Song Save Your Life?*, which is being coproduced by Judd Apatow. Tattoos wouldn't be out of place on his character, a musician who moves to New York City with his girlfriend (played by Keira Knightley), but who's to say his next role will be the same? Every additional tattoo is more time in the makeup chair for cover-ups.

For now, it may be too soon to contemplate his future in movies. Acting is still new to him and it's something he's uncharacteristically humble about. "It's challenging," he says. "The first thing I did when I got the job was ask friends who are actors what the fuck I was supposed to do." This admission proves he's not divine, but human after all—and with the year he's been having, we were starting to wonder. ■

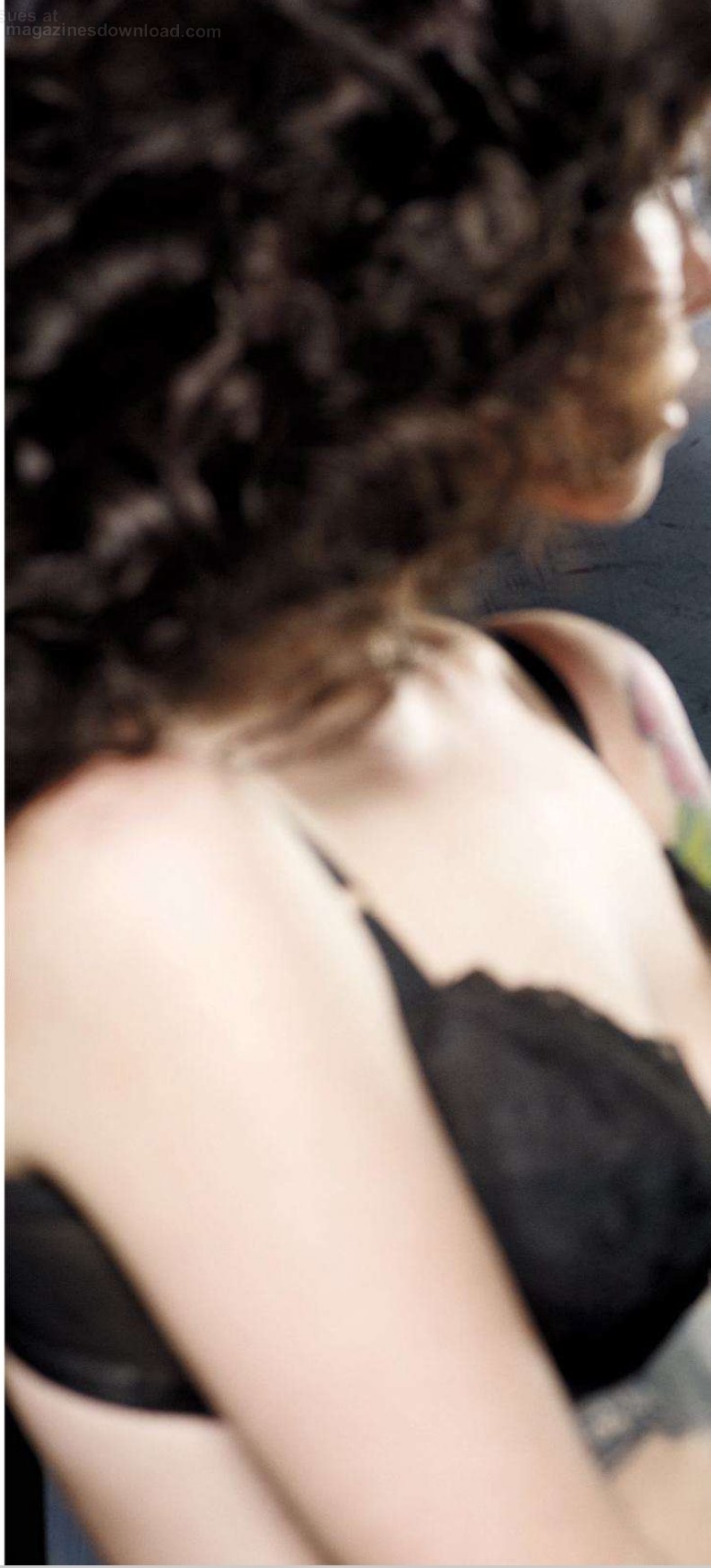
Pages 44-45: Dr. Martens shirt; Paul Smith sunglasses; Levine's own A.P.C. jeans and Rolex watch (throughout). Pages 46-47: Vintage tank top from Search & Destroy; stylist's own Ray-Ban sunglasses; Levine's own Dickies pants (throughout). Pages 48-49: Vintage tank top from Grand St. Bakery, in Brooklyn, NY. Pages 50-51: Stylist's own vintage Hawaiian shirt.





ANA

PHOTOS BY WARWICK SAINT









W e all know name tattoos are a bad idea. Ana Stone disagrees. "The script above my knees says 'Harley Baby.' When I showed my mom she was like, 'Isn't it a bad omen to get someone's name?' I was like, 'Mom, it's my dog. I don't think he's going to leave me for someone younger in 10 years.'"

Stone's love for her family members—both canine and human—is a common thread behind some of her favorite pieces. Her parents' signatures are on the tops of her wrists, and she and her sister have the same tattoo honoring their grandfather. "I'm obsessed with World War II, and hearing stories of my grandfather kicking ass never got old. I knew I was going to get a tattoo for him, so I got the 'Follow Me' script on my forearm after the patch on his infantry uniform," she explains.

Pieces like these best represent her attitude toward getting inked: "It allows you to continually change and discover yourself, but it never lets you forget who you were and where you come from. With each tattoo, I can remember exactly where I was in my life. That importance of remembering is so much more significant than the ink that is only skin deep."

Not surprisingly, her ink-covered body elicits the occasional comment from random strangers, but this New Yorker just deals with the catcalls. "I didn't get any of my tattoos to hear, 'Damn, girl, you must be a freeeeeak!' But I just smile and deal because I put it there and people are going to see it," she says.

The one thing she won't deal with? Poor grammar. "I correct people all the time in person and via text. If you don't know the difference between *your* and *you're* ... you're not doing so well." Shit, did we spell-check this? —Christine Avalon





Irma La Douce lingerie; Fleet Jewelry earrings. Previous spread: The Family Jewels bra; Maison Close skirt; stylist's own gloves; Topshop ring; Left Turn Jewelry earrings. Opposite page: Katie Gallagher bodysuit; Trash & Vaudeville heels.







Maison Close bra and  
underwear; stylist's own  
thigh-highs and gloves;  
Trash & Vaudeville heels.

Hair: **Marco Santini** for ION Studio  
Makeup: **Hector Simancas** for  
**M.A.C. Cosmetics** at Jump  
Stylist: **Xina Giatas**  
Location: **Thompson LES**



**“I DIDN’T GET ANY OF MY TATTOOS TO HEAR,  
‘DAMN, GIRL, YOU MUST BE A FREEEEAAK!’  
BUT I JUST SMILE AND DEAL BECAUSE I PUT  
IT THERE AND PEOPLE ARE GOING TO SEE IT.”**





# BACK TO THE FUTURE

Let the turn of the (20th) century inspire your style.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL KRAUS  
ILLUSTRATIONS BY DANIELLE OTRAKJI



**STEP LIVELY** Clockwise from top: Billy Reid boot, available at Billy Reid, 212-598-9355; Wolverine Seger boot, wolverine.com; Peter Nappi Murdaugh boot, peternappi.com; Converse Chuck Bosey X-Hi, converse.com; Red Wing Heritage moc-toe boot, available at Federal, 202-518-3375. Center: Richard Chai for Palladium Tactical boot, palladiumboots.com.





**GET STINGY** Clockwise from top: Goorin Bros. navy Salvatore hat, goorin.com; Stetson blue Tartan hat, stetson.com; Vans light gray Stogie fedora, vans.com, Hat Attack charcoal gray Boyfriend hat, hatattack.com; Ben Sherman checked hat, amazon.com.





# DAMIEN ECHOLS

When Damien Echols and the rest of the “West Memphis Three” were released from death row, he celebrated his freedom by getting tattooed with his friend and champion Johnny Depp. The subject of the documentary *West of Memphis* and author of *Life After Death* talks ink and exoneration.

BY KARA POUND PHOTOS BY MIKE MCGREGOR

For nearly two decades, Prisoner SK 931 spent his life in jail for a crime he has adamantly maintained he didn't commit. In 1994, at the age of 19, Damien Echols, the 931st person to be sentenced to death in the state of Arkansas, was tried and convicted for the murder of three young boys from West Memphis, AR. The second-graders were found naked and hog-tied in a drainage ditch. Echols, a poor, white teenager from the wrong side of the tracks, along with his codefendants, Jessie Misskelley Jr. and Jason Baldwin, were instant targets for their “dark” taste in music, fashion, and fiction. Because of DNA advancements and new physical evidence in the mid-'90s, the case—known as the “West Memphis Three”—received a lot of public attention. Celebrities such as Eddie Vedder, Johnny Depp, Peter Jackson, and Natalie Maines of the Dixie Chicks got behind Echols and his codefendants and raised funds for the defense team and appeal process.

Echols spent nearly 18 years on death row. Prisoner SK 931 and his codefendants were released from prison in August 2011 due to lack of evidence. They entered Alford pleas, which allowed them to assert their innocence while acknowledging there was enough evidence to convict them. Essentially they are free but not fully exonerated.

Now 37, Echols, released from death row just a year ago, is trying to get his life back together. He spoke to INKED the same day he got his 17th tattoo (a dragon on his right biceps) at Sacred Tattoo in New York City. He's candid, kind, and still has a sense of humor—something you'd never presume to expect from a person who spent the better part of two decades on death row. Echols is happy to talk about injustice, his wife, Lorri Davis, whom he met while in prison, and his non-prison tattoos.

**INKED: What was a typical day in prison?**

**DAMIEN ECHOLS:** The last 10 years that I was there, I was in complete solitary confinement—24 hours a day, seven days a week. They say that you get an hour a day outside your cell, but what they call “outside” is really another cell. I didn't have sunlight for about a decade. It destroyed my

eyes—my vision is just horrendously messed up. A typical day in prison starts at 2:30 a.m. when they serve breakfast; you get lunch at 9:30, and you get the last meal of the day at 2:30 p.m. You have to find a way to make time for yourself because time doesn't exist in there. I would do anywhere from five to seven hours of meditation in a day.

**What's a typical day now?** I wake up anywhere from 6 o'clock in the morning to 10 in the morning. It's sort of just unregulated ... I just let my body wake up when it wakes up. I work out a lot—only now I have nice equipment to do it with. [My wife] Lorri and I spend a lot of time together. I do a lot of exploring too. Whether it's just going out and walking up and down the street or going to the bank and figuring out how to fill out a deposit slip. Right now, I'm just sort of exploring the world.

**Were you into tattoos in prison?** No. I stayed away from them like the plague because there's no sort of sterilization process or anything. You'd get a tattoo and then the next thing you know, you're dying of hepatitis and your liver's shutting down. They wouldn't allow tattoo magazines in the prison because they tried to prevent people from doing that by all means.

**Well, you've gotten quite a bit of ink since you were released. Did you always know you wanted tattoos?** My first one I got when I was a teenager and unfortunately it was one of those dumb mistakes people make when they're young: tattoo a boyfriend or a girlfriend's name on 'em. And that's what I had done. I had an old teenage girlfriend's name tattooed on me. As soon as I got out, the first new one I got was with Johnny Depp. We went and got one together [from Mark Mahoney at Shamrock Social Club in West Hollywood]. I did it as sort of a patch over to cover that old name up. And then I realized from that very first one that I was hooked because, to me, what tattoos feel like—really, I mean this literally—it feels like you're putting on armor.











Nobody can take it away from you. I've been in an environment where everything can be stripped away from you, down to your clothes, your hair. They take everything from you. And the thing that they can't take is the ink on your skin. It makes you feel, I don't know, a little less nervous about the world. They're very soothing to me. Lorri went with me one time. She had been out shopping and she walked into the shop while I'm getting a tattoo and she just looked at me for a minute and says, "I've never seen you happier than when you're getting tattooed."

**What did you and Depp get on that first trip to the studio?** We have three that we've done together now. That very first one was a hexagram from *I Ching*, the Book of Changes. When I was in prison, I used to keep a journal every day, and one of the things I wrote about was this hexagram. And Johnny read it onstage when he did the Voices for Justice concert. What it's about is that whenever you're facing huge obstacles in your life, don't focus on the huge obstacles or else you'll lose heart and be defeated. Instead, just focus on putting one foot in front of the other. It's by doing that that you eventually defeat the huge obstacles. It's nicknamed The Taming Power of the Small. So we got it because it was not only what I was doing and it was the journal entry he read, but also Lorri,

## "I'VE BEEN IN AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE EVERYTHING CAN BE STRIPPED AWAY FROM YOU, DOWN TO YOUR CLOTHES, YOUR HAIR. AND THE THING THAT THEY CAN'T TAKE IS THE INK ON YOUR SKIN."

my wife, her nickname is "The Small." So it was something that sort of tied all three of us together.

**What were the other tattoos you guys got together?** One was a skeleton key because for me, when I was a child, I thought that a skeleton key could literally open any door. So that if you ever got your hands on a skeleton key, you'd be almost unstoppable—no barrier could hold you back. It seemed like an incredibly magical thing. For me now, that's still what it represents. That one we did simultaneously. He was in L.A. and I was in New York and we were on the phone at the same time both sending each other photographs back and forth, keeping track on the progress and everything else. I was at a shop on Franklin Street called Majestic Tattoo and there was a guy named Alejandro Lopez that worked there. He only worked there for a few weeks. ... Now anytime I want something, he'll come to my apartment.

**So what was the third one that you and Depp did?** I'm going to keep that one secret, but that was another one where we were actually there together.

**You lost such a huge part of your life in prison—are you really choosy about how you spend your time or do you just kind of go minute-to-minute?** Um, a little bit of both. It depends on what I'm doing. It's been weird. For

the first two months at least, I was in a state of deep and profound shock and trauma. So I really couldn't appreciate anything the first two months I was out. It was like going through a bomb or something. I'm still just trying to find my way in a lot of ways. Some days I just set off with no particular plan at all and go exploring. Or—I have this book coming out in September—so some days I have to sit down and really get to the grindstone and finish up the writing project.

**Is it a memoir?** A lot of it is journals that I kept while I was in prison. A lot of it is memoir and some of it that's essay form. It's probably the thing that I'm the proudest of in my life right now. It's a little bit of everything. It's my life story and it's sort of everything combined together.

**Did you read a lot in prison?** Nonstop. Nonstop. Lorri had to actually rent a little storage facility to hold all the books because they eventually overflowed out of her house. There were just too many to keep in there—thousands, thousands.

**You're also a visual artist. Have you been working on any new work?** I'm actually getting ready to explore and branch out into other areas right now. I'm in talks with people right now about

actually doing a show at MoMA [the Museum of Modern Art]. It's actually going to be performance art. I'm going to be doing tarot readings.

**You went from death row inmate to somewhat of a celebrity. Do people recognize you on the street?** Yeah, I mean it's not like somebody who is a movie star or a TV star or something. But it happens fairly regularly, a couple times a week, maybe. I always appreciate it. When people come up to me, it means something to me that I can't really articulate. When I went into a tattoo parlor in New Zealand, as soon as I walked in the door the girl behind the cash register looks up and says, "Congratulations!" She knew who I was immediately.

**You had a TV in your cell. Do you feel like you kept up on pop culture and current events, or did you feel lost when you got out of prison?** A little bit of both. We got the basic channels like ABC, NBC, CBS, and Fox—no cable, no HBO, none of that. When I was in, I was a news junkie—I watched it all the time. You kind of have to because your life depends on it in there; your life literally depends on who wins the next election. Is it someone who wants to crank up the executions and feed people into the meat grinder faster, or is it a guy who feels ambivalent towards the death penalty? You have to keep up with stuff like that. Out here, I have not watched the news one single time

since I've been out. I just can't sit still for TV, and there's so many more amazing things to be doing.

**What are some of your favorite things to do now?** Lift weights. I lift weights a lot, like a couple hours a day, just because it feels really good. I love the tattoo parlors. I love watching movies. I'm hooked, hooked on Danzig right now. I don't want to listen to anything but Danzig. Now there are so many more Danzig albums that didn't exist when I went in, so I just today got *Danzig 5: Blackacidevil* in the mail. And everybody's saying, "Oh, that's the horrible one, that's the one where he turns industrial." It's still Danzig to me, and I still love it. I like how he doesn't express any self-pity in his music, he just has this air of "Get the hell out of my way, I'm coming through."

**Your book *Life After Death* is out this month and you're the producer and subject of the documentary film *West of Memphis*, which debuted at Sundance Film Festival in January. What's going on with it?** It's in a state of constant improvement, all the way up until it comes out. We'll keep looking at it, figuring out ways to make slight improvements on it to make it even better. A lot of it in the beginning was just length. We've cut it down to just bare bones. We're trying to pack as much information into it as we can, where it's just

punch after punch after punch. And it's still, like, two hours and 15 minutes. So a lot of it is that: trying to get the most out of the time. It's been picked up by Sony Classics, [due out in December].

**You've been a free man for about a year. What things still seem strange or surprising to you?** I don't know. One of the things I'm so amazed by is how you can get anything you want. When I was out in '93, there was no such thing as Amazon.com. The last time I'd seen a computer before I got out was 1986 and it was this huge glorified typewriter for rich people. Now if you wanted a book or a movie or some music or something that you couldn't find in your local, small town, you can go online and have it delivered right to your house. It's still kind of stunning to me how available everything is.

**What would you like the future to look like?** To be honest, I kind of want to put this whole "West Memphis Three" thing behind me. I don't want to be remembered for that for the rest of my life. I want to do things that stand on their own merit—that people know my name as something other than the guy who used to be on death row. I want it to be more like, "Oh, that's that guy whose books I read that I really like." Or, "Yeah, that's the guy whose art show that we went to," or, "That's the guy who worked on that movie." I don't want to be defined by the way I was victimized for the rest of my life. ■







# ELECTRIC LADYLAND

Neon Hitch connects with fans through her music—and her Instagram feed. Here, in her own words, the pop starlet shares her thoughts on traveling, her ink, and her life as the world awaits the release of her debut album, *Beg, Borrow, and Steal*. **PHOTOS BY MARLEY KATE**



▲ "I love being naked. In the world I grew up in the adults would be naked a lot—it's a hippie thing. My mom would go to Stonehenge and they'd all get naked. We just went to Stonehenge recently and when one person got naked they got arrested. Being naked is beautiful; it is natural. I just want to be free."

◀ "My arm says 'Pema,' my sister's name. When I moved to America I left her back in England and wanted to carry her on my arm at all times. I designed it myself and our friend did it."

Opposite page and next spread: L.A. Roxx jacket; Insight shorts; Neivz ring; Patricia Field ring; Noir bracelets; Report Signature boots.  
This page: Seville Michelle Anastos shoulder piece; UNIF skirt; Noir bracelets; Ivanka Trump bracelet; stylist's own bracelet; BCBG ring; Marco Marco ring.



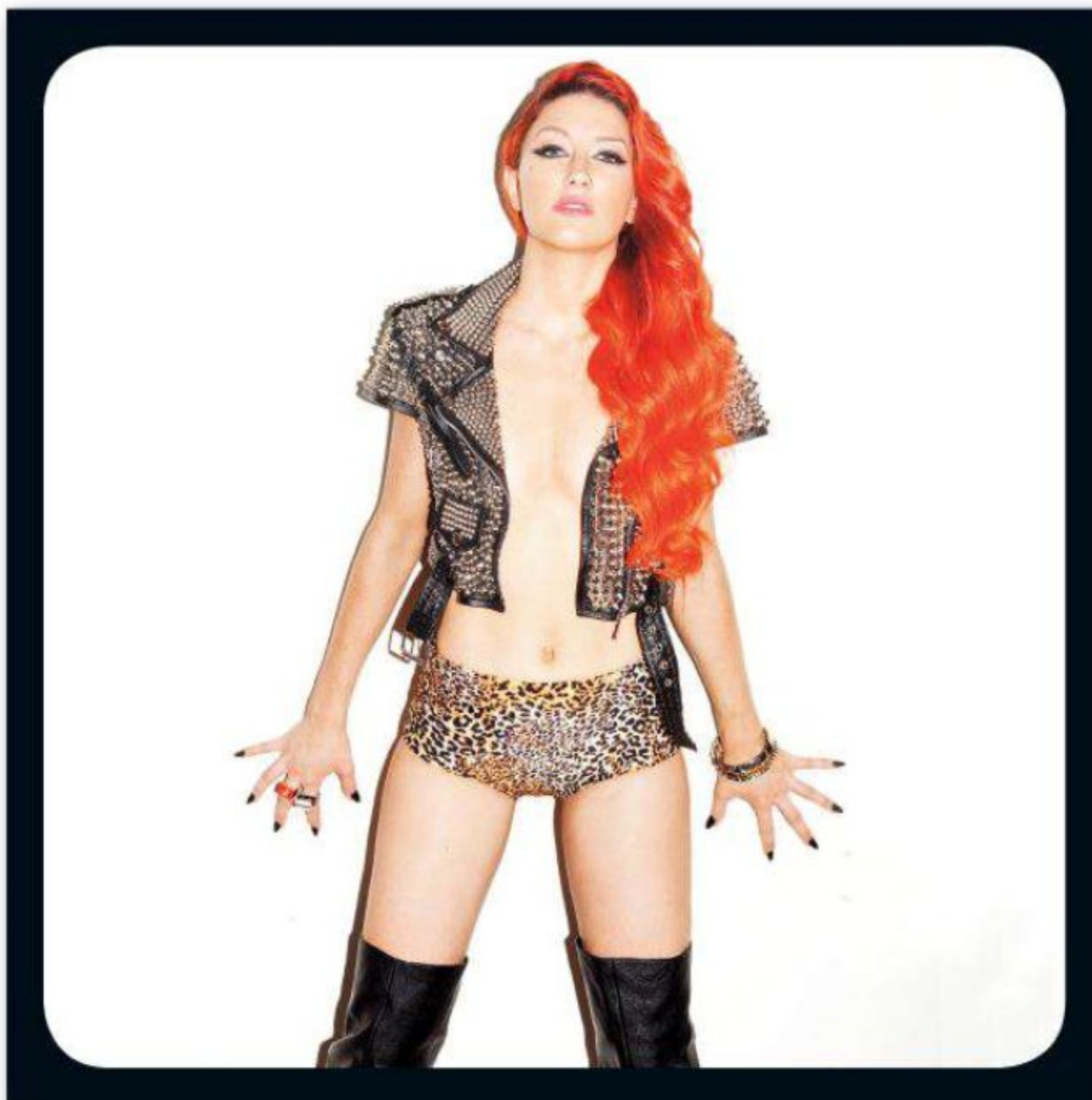
► "My favorite song on the album is 'Poisoned With Love.' I wrote it in a taxi after a fight with my boyfriend. I recorded the whole thing on my iPhone and I was crying when I recorded it."



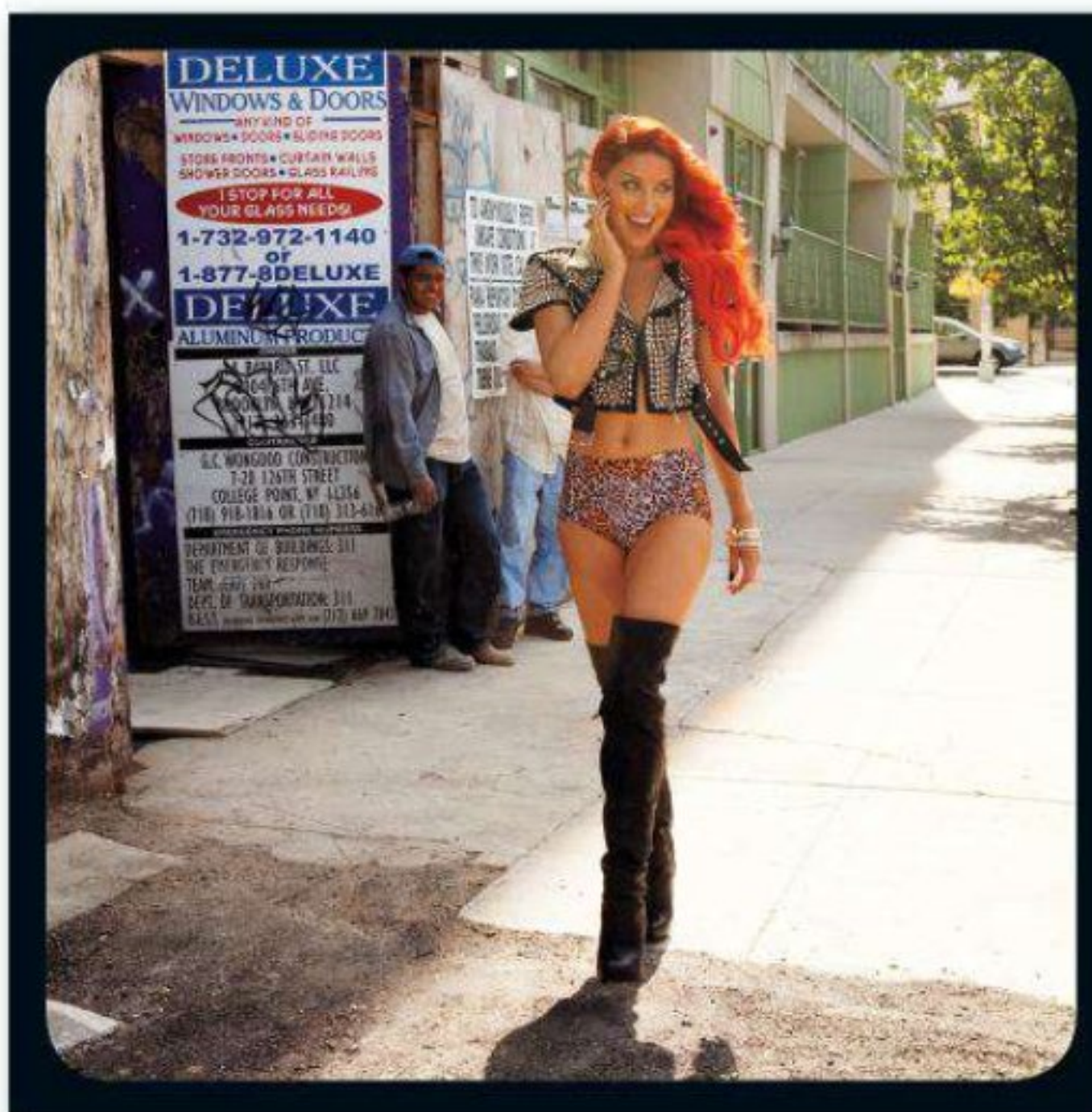
▼ "The tattoo that means the most to me is 'Amy' on my finger, for Amy Winehouse. I got it the day she died—she was a very close friend of mine, an inspiration. Not only was she really talented, she was a beautiful person who really changed my life. We met in London back in the day because our boyfriends were friends, and then we reconnected at a party. I was homeless, I didn't have anybody, and she was the mother hen who took me in and looked after me. We were always singing in our flat. Now she lives on, on my hand."



◀ "My first tattoo was my gypsy tattoo on my wrist. When I left home for India I decided to embrace my culture and be proud of who I am. It was to show the world that I am proud of who I am. As a child all you want to do is fit in and be normal. I wanted to change my name to Melanie [Neon is her real name; her dad was a lighting technician] and be a normal girl who lives in a house. It's only when you grow up that your differences make you beautiful."



▼ "Traveling is so comfortable for me. I sleep like a baby on the tour bus. I like to keep moving or I get bored. I just got done touring with Travie McCoy, who also tattoos, and he is going to finish my wrist tattoo. The piece is going to represent the magical world I live in with the illuminati eye looking out for me."





▼ "It was cool that Mashable named me one of their top artists to follow on Instagram. I'm a very visual person and it's a way for me to invite fans into my world. There are some things that you can't say with words, so I consider myself a performer—an artist—first, even though I write my own songs."



Hair: **Trevor Bowden** using Sebastian Professional for ba-reps.com  
 Makeup: **Sylvester Castellano** for Dior Beauty at ba-reps.com  
 Stylist: **Bethany Wolosky**  
 Opposite page, top: Jeffrey Campbell shoes. Opposite page, bottom left: Geoffrey Mac dress; Monserat De Lucca bracelet; Patricia Field ring. This page, top right: Geoffrey Mac dress; A-Morir sunglasses; BCBG necklace. This page, bottom left: Geoffrey Mac dress; Monserat De Lucca bracelet; Noir bracelet; Patricia Field ring; Mercura NYC sunglasses; Jeffrey Campbell shoes. This page, bottom center: BOTB by Hellz Bellz shirt; A-Morir sunglasses; Geoffrey Mac skirt; Patricia field belts (one worn as necklace); ODD ring.



▲ "Somebody tweeted me the other day, 'Thank you, Neon, because of you I am no longer scared of gypsies.' *Beg, Borrow, and Steal* is a play on what people think of gypsies but really represents my hustle to get to where I am. I grew up a traveler, performing music on the side of the street. That's how I always made a living. I'm a natural-born performer."

▼ "I am what you see. What I really want to do is reach people. Music is a very powerful tool, but I also use my social media and performances to show people that anything is possible if you believe in yourself. I feel like a lot of kids are suppressed and told they can't do something, but I am living proof that anything is possible."



▲ "We didn't have any electricity so we often had to make music ourselves. I grew up listening mostly to folk music by the fire. My dad, who lived in London, listened to Michael Jackson, Madonna, and the Beatles. My mom was really into punk, so that's where my attitude comes from. I am a rebel."







# THE BONE

COLLECTOR



Ryan Matthew Cohn, star of Science Channel's *Oddities*, deals in antiques, owns a boutique clothier, and creates skull showpieces that sit in elite tattoo shops. His love for polished ephemera is seen throughout his fantastical home—and in his neotraditional ink.

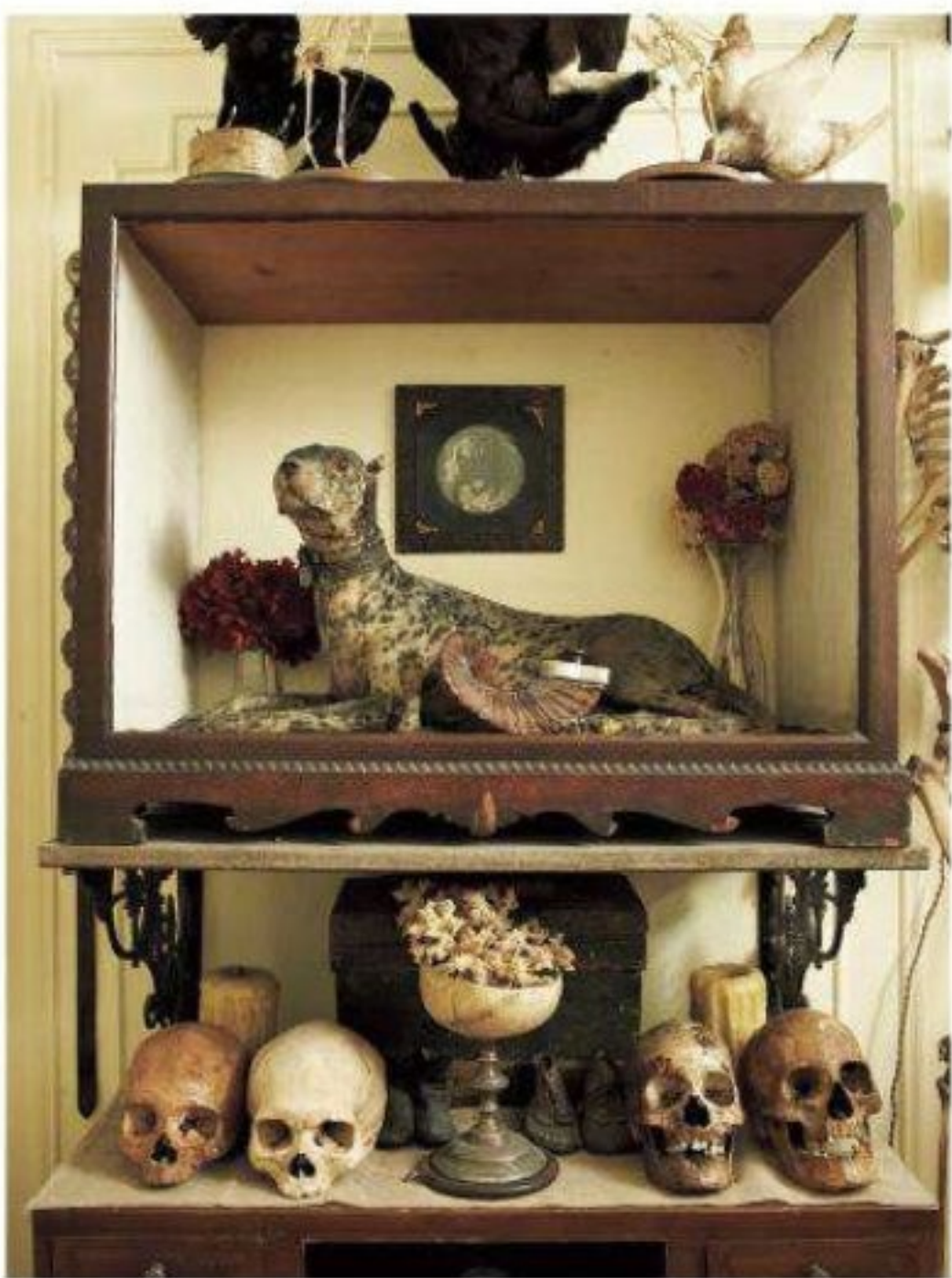
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BY **NICK FIERRO**  
PHOTOS BY **JONATHAN PUSHNIK**











### IT'S BARELY NOON ON A QUIET STREET IN BROOKLYN.

The air is crisp and there is not a footstep to be heard on either side of this historic boulevard lined with century-old houses and brownstones, each edifice cracked and noble in the display of its age, proud. And yet, all that can be seen through each and every window of these grand structures is the same sets of curtains, the identical flat-screen TVs, and row after row of wall décor meticulously placed in catalog fashion. The street appears the same as any other in the city—that is, until a door opens, and out walks a figure in a finely tailored bespoke suit with shined shoes and a huge bag of trash under his arm. Suddenly something changes; this is no longer another building along the row, but the home and live-in museum of Ryan Matthew Cohn, whose fascination with the grotesque and enigmatic sets him apart from most collectors in the antique field.

Some might recognize Cohn as the resident bone collector and artifact picker for the Science Channel's *Oddities*, a reality series centered around *Obscura Antiques & Oddities*, a peculiar antique shop in the East Village of Manhattan. Although he is known to the TV-watching public as a dissector of bones and picker of the bizarre, he is also an artist, jeweler, craftsman, and historian with a surprising amount of concealed ink. *Collector*, however, seems to be the most apt description for Cohn, whose home would probably turn Robert Ripley or P.T. Barnum a pale shade of green with envy.

A unique collection of skulls and artifacts such as Cohn's does not manifest itself overnight, nor can it be acquired through a single means of instruction. It is the byproduct of a life spent in pursuit of something new blended seamlessly with the arcane. "As kids, we weren't really allowed inside. Growing up in the nature of upstate New York lends itself to finding things and learning about what's going on around you—death being one of those things," says Cohn. As he explains the roots of his obsession with the macabre, Cohn is perched in an overstuffed, turn-of-the-century chair. To his right is a series of antique glass domes, each housing a skeletal anomaly, a medical curiosity, or an artifact imbued with the spirit of the collector. "I was a pretty obsessive-compulsive kid—whether it was skeletons, fish, or baseball cards, I was always collecting something," he says. "Throughout my life it would constantly change genres, until it finally moved back to the natural history aspect in my 20s, when I got heavily into collecting it, seeking it all over the place. And now I'm really kind of all over the world seeking specific things."

Cohn's interest in antiques and artifacts led him to New York City when he was younger. "Right after high school I was working odd jobs at an antique store in Park Slope," he says. "I was getting bored and was desperate for something new to do. A girl that I was seeing at the time was a bookkeeper for a jeweler." The jeweler, whom he came to work under, turned out to be Arnold Goldstein, the original jewelry maker for Ralph Lauren. The job "took on everything else that I was doing at the time—antiques, fabrication, restoration—it all goes hand in hand."

This correlation between creating something new that embodies the classic, the old, and the curious ultimately inspired Cohn to create something he could not find: a Beauchene skull. In a practice not seen since the 1800s, Cohn disassembles a human skull and—using a series of wires, brackets, and tiny screws (all handmade, of course)—arranges the component parts to make them appear as if they've stopped in midair during an explosion. "My personal aesthetic is antiques," he explains. "I try to give every piece that I do a real antique feel."

Antiques are more than just an aesthetic to Cohn; they embody a history, a technique, a story. The ceiling of his home is lined with antique lighting from the '20s and '30s that he's rewired and restored. "The fake stuff, that's easy," he casually mentions as he looks toward one particular fixture. "That's why people like it so much. I was buying a blanket at Restoration Hardware, and as it turns out, almost everything in my apartment is being reproduced by them. That's when you know you've got something good."

As a tattoo collector, Cohn's interests tend toward the classic. His tattoo collection started with a dragon tattoo he got at 16. "I think I was the first kid in my school to get a tattoo, and it was a big one," he says. "I've been collecting tattoos for a long time. In my 20s a lot of my friends were either starting out or becoming established tattoo artists, so I became the guinea pig, as many youngsters do. I started getting pieces here and there over the years." Since then he's traded skulls and antique ephemera for ink from the likes of Hand of Glory's Craig Rodriguez, Smith Street Tattoo Parlour's Steve Boltz, and Fun City Tattoo's Big Steve.

"Tattoo artists have always been good resources not only to buy things from but to sell to as well," Cohn says. "Skulls, pickled specimens, custom skeletal work, cats, dogs, birds, monkeys, you name it. I like traditional [tattoo work], as long as the artists lend something of themselves to it, like Scott Campbell's take on the swallows," says Cohn, motioning toward the birds peeking out from the cuffs of his shirt on each hand. "When I got my hands tattooed I realized, 'This is it, buddy—you're not going to go to med school or work on Wall Street. You're gonna be an artist for the rest of your life.'"

As a professional artist, Cohn divides his attention between his osteological displays and his metal craft. In addition to creating custom jewelry, Cohn makes all of the hardware for his displays in his workshop, and many of the stands for his skulls and articulated skeletons are forged to resemble antique lighting and scientific equipment. "I have a store on the Lower East Side called *Against Nature*. I'm one of four owners, and I do all of the accessories. There's a team that does all of the suits and custom clothing, and then there's a dude that does denim and custom jeans—they're awesome. We were all friends, and when a space opened up we said, 'Fuck it, let's just do this.' I do all of my metal and leather work there. All of my skeletal and medical construction is done here at home."

Much of Cohn's free time is still spent combing



flea markets, gathering materials and specimens to bring back to life. "Part of the fun for me is going to a place, not knowing if I'm going to find the rare piece that I've been looking for or nothing," he says. "It's about being aware and striving for something. Most things can be found. It took me six years to get that exploded skull." He points to a shelf against the far wall of the room. "The one in the middle."

Sometimes, however, the object of the search simply presents itself. "I was hung over one morning and wandered by this trashy junk store, where I found a table that I'd been looking for for four years." The table is currently supporting the centerpiece in another room, as the skull of a hippopotamus—which would seem out of place almost anywhere else—makes a beautifully fitting table in this particular room.

As far as his museum-quality collections of bones, pickled and mummified animals, and antique furniture are concerned, Cohn shows no sign of slowing down, but he resists the urge to become the world's spookiest hoarder. "It's gotten to the point where I won't buy anything without selling something," he says while perched next to a stuffed coyote and a mummified human hand.

In a house decorated with meticulously arranged human and animal remains, like an Ikea catalog from the netherworld, it would prove difficult for most people to get a peaceful night's sleep—but Ryan could not feel more at home. "Everything in my house is very much respected; it's put behind glass, it's housed," Cohn says. "They're dead. They can either be in the ground or they can be in Ryan Matthew's house ... I prefer the latter." ■

"WHEN I GOT MY HANDS TATTOOED I REALIZED, 'THIS IS IT, BUDDY—YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GO TO MED SCHOOL OR WORK ON WALL STREET. YOU'RE GONNA BE AN ARTIST FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.'"



10 20 30 40 50 40 30 20 10

STYLE

Nº  
13

POINTS

WRITTEN BY  
ROCKY RAKOVIC

PHOTOS BY  
MARK MANN

The Buffalo Bills' dyn@mic wide receiver **Stevie Johnson** suits up for the season.

10 20 30 40 50 40 30 20 10



Alfani for Macy's  
vest; WTO2 shirt;  
Levi's jeans;  
Converse sneakers;  
Sabit NYC chain;  
New Era EK  
hat; Tateossian  
bracelets.





Stevie Johnson has taken to the NFL like a buffalo in a china shop. In four years he's not only ripped up the gridiron—**netting more than 1,000 yards receiving** in each of the past two seasons—he's become a larger-than-6'2" figure through his brash touchdown celebrations (pretending to get shot in the leg when playing against Plaxico Burress, for example) and with his entertaining tweets that have earned him over **100,000 followers**. Between looks during this fashion shoot we played back and forth with **#13** in **140** characters or less.

**@InkedMag** You just got your hands tattooed.

**@StevieJohnson13** Yeah, I was waiting until I signed my new contract.

**@InkedMag** Five years, \$36.25 million, congrats. Did you need the money for tattoos?

**@StevieJohnson13** Nah, as a receiver my hands are my most important tools. It was celebratory.

**@InkedMag** What did you get?

**@StevieJohnson13** "Handle Biz" on my right hand and "Have Fun" on my left.

**@InkedMag** Is that your mantra, score the TD and then do your thing?

**@StevieJohnson13** It's like I tell kids, Do your homework, then you can play Xbox.

**@InkedMag** You play Madden?

**@StevieJohnson13** Yep, it helps you learn how to play with your team.

**@InkedMag** Are you happy with the Madden version of yourself?

**@StevieJohnson13** They have me at 89 for speed—I'm a little faster than that.

**@InkedMag** And your Madden avatar has no tattoos. What is your favorite piece of ink?

**@StevieJohnson13** The first one I got. I'm from San Francisco, so I got the old Warriors logo with the Giants SF on top.

**@InkedMag** How does your tattoo process work?

**@StevieJohnson13** I draw most of my designs—I like to draw—then hand them to the artist and tell him he can finesse the design however he wants.

**@InkedMag** Do you have a tattoo idol?

**@StevieJohnson13** After I started getting tattooed I looked at the work other guys like Lil Wayne, J.R. Smith, Carmelo Anthony, and Wiz Khalifa were getting.

**@InkedMag** Ballers and rappers, you do a little spitting.

**@StevieJohnson13** Yeah, me and my man G5Gi put out a mixtape called "Why So Serious?"

**@InkedMag** And you have a track about your tattoos?

**@StevieJohnson13** Yessir, "Inked Up."

**@InkedMag** What hurts more: getting tattooed or getting hit over the middle?

**@StevieJohnson13** I haven't got hit over the middle yet but my wrists and back really hurt.

**@InkedMag** What's your upside-down question mark tattoo mean?

**@StevieJohnson13** I flipped the question mark to express that I'm misunderstood.

**@InkedMag** How so?

**@StevieJohnson13** People perceive me one way, but once you get to know me I'm completely opposite.

**@InkedMag** Do you hope to dispel that through your Twitter account?

**@StevieJohnson13** Twitter is great because you can personally connect with your fans.

**@InkedMag** And nobody tells you what to say or edits your statements.

**@StevieJohnson13** You have complete freedom to speak for yourself, which is great. But sometimes I get in trouble.

**@InkedMag** Like the time you blamed God when you dropped a game-winning touchdown?

**@InkedMag** RT @StevieJohnson13 I PRAISE YOU 24/7!!!!!! AND THIS HOW YOU DO ME!!!! YOU EXPECT ME TO LEARN FROM THIS??? HOW???!!! ILL NEVER FORGET THIS!! EVER!!! THX THO...

**@InkedMag** It was pretty funny, actually, after the Tebows of the world thank God for victory it was quite witty to blame him for defeat. Did you catch much heat over it?

**@StevieJohnson13** Like I said, I'm misunderstood.

**@InkedMag** Do you have any end zone celebrations planned for this season?

**@StevieJohnson13** I don't plan. Whatever happens happens. I just have fun.

**@InkedMag** What do you say to people who think you are just showboating?

**@StevieJohnson13** We work hard to get to the NFL and to hustle all week and then accomplish something ... we have reason to celebrate.

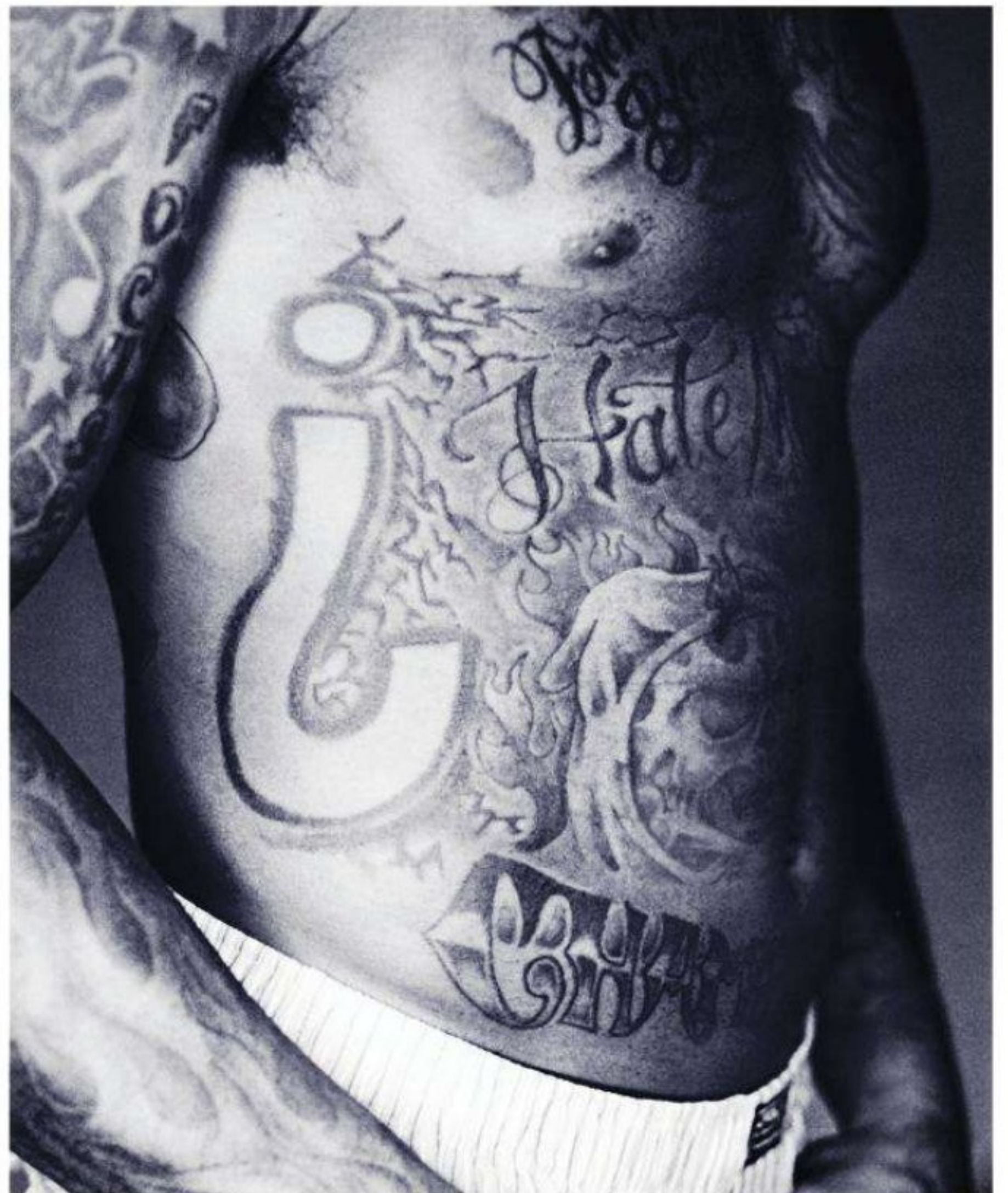
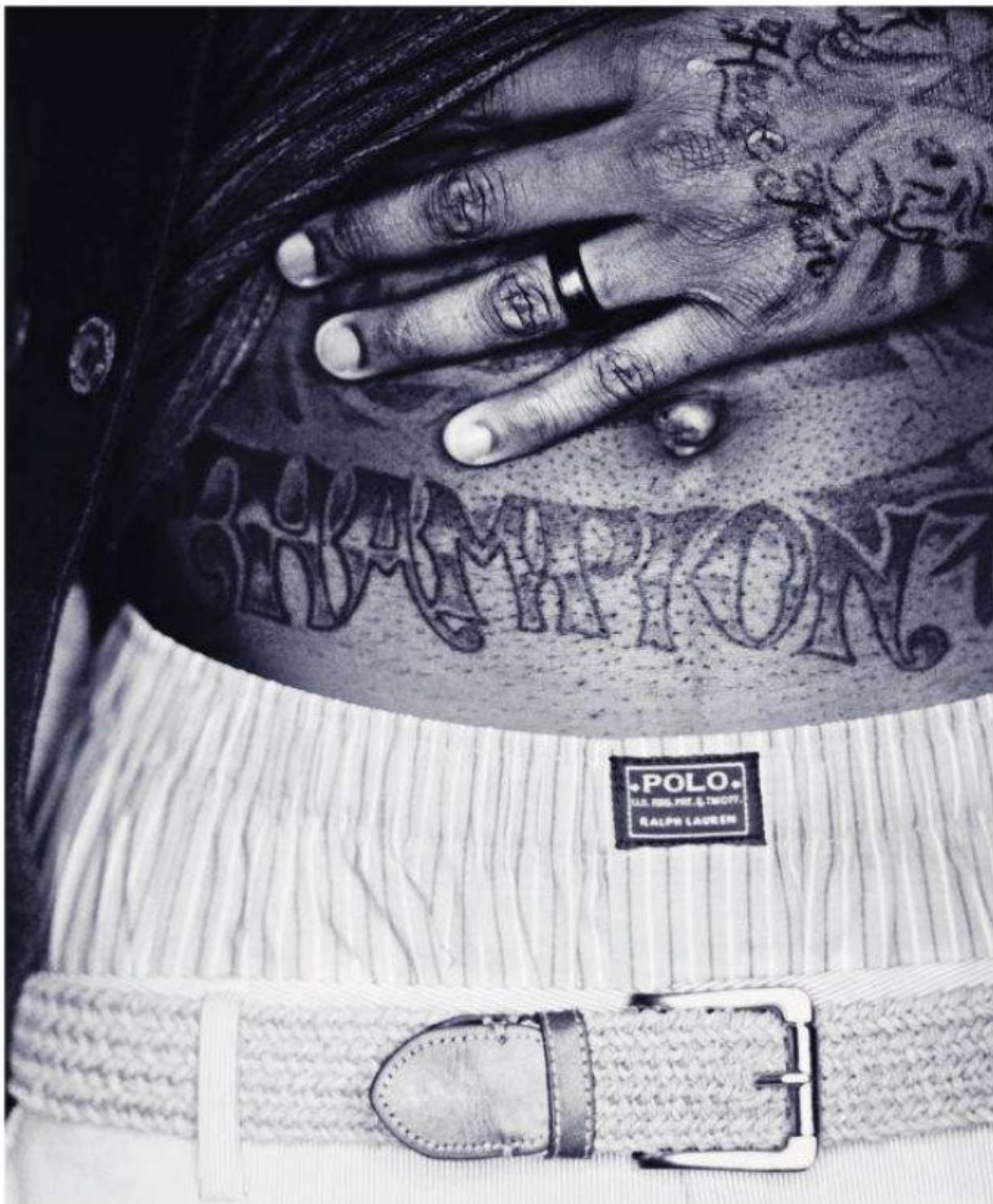
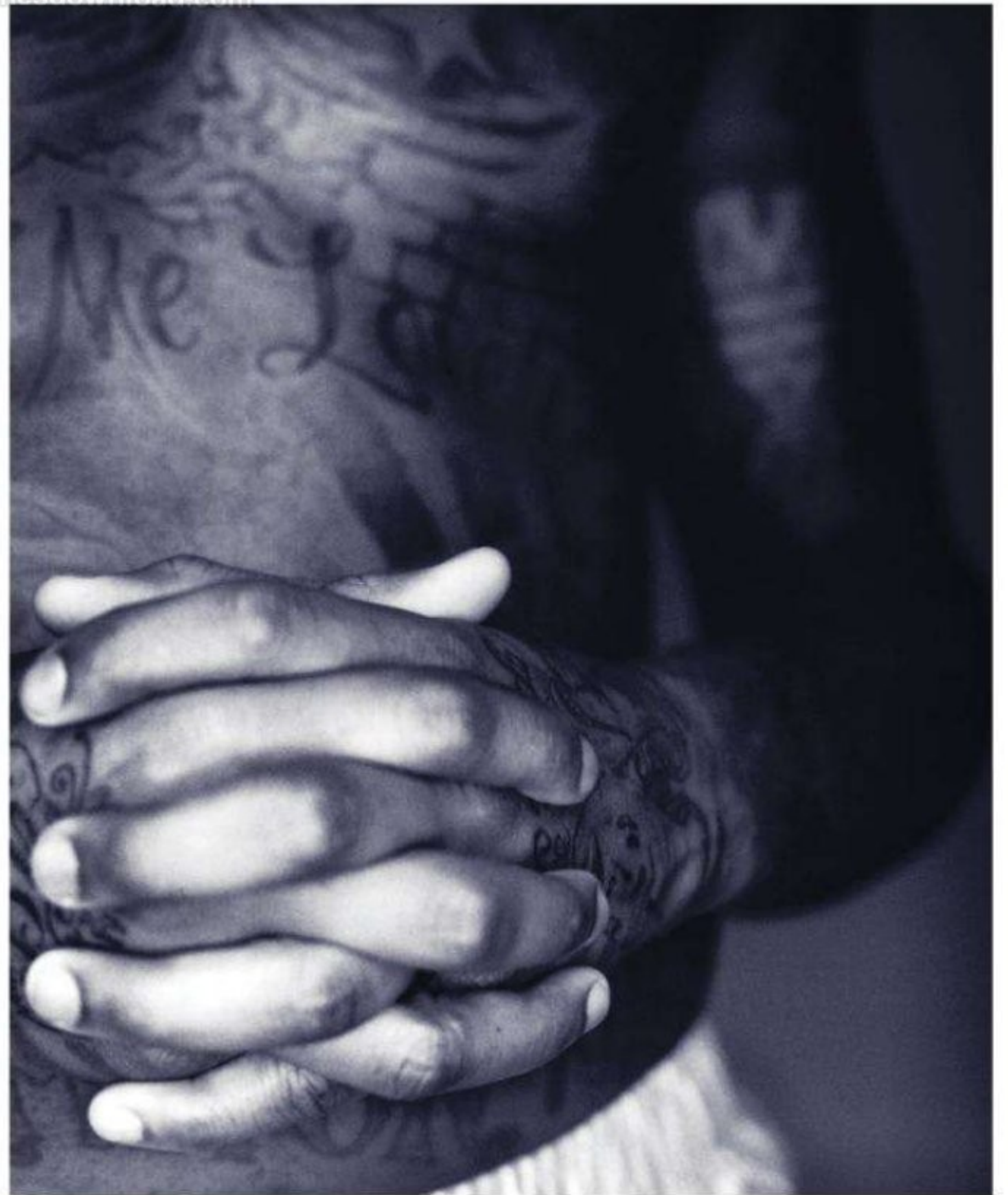
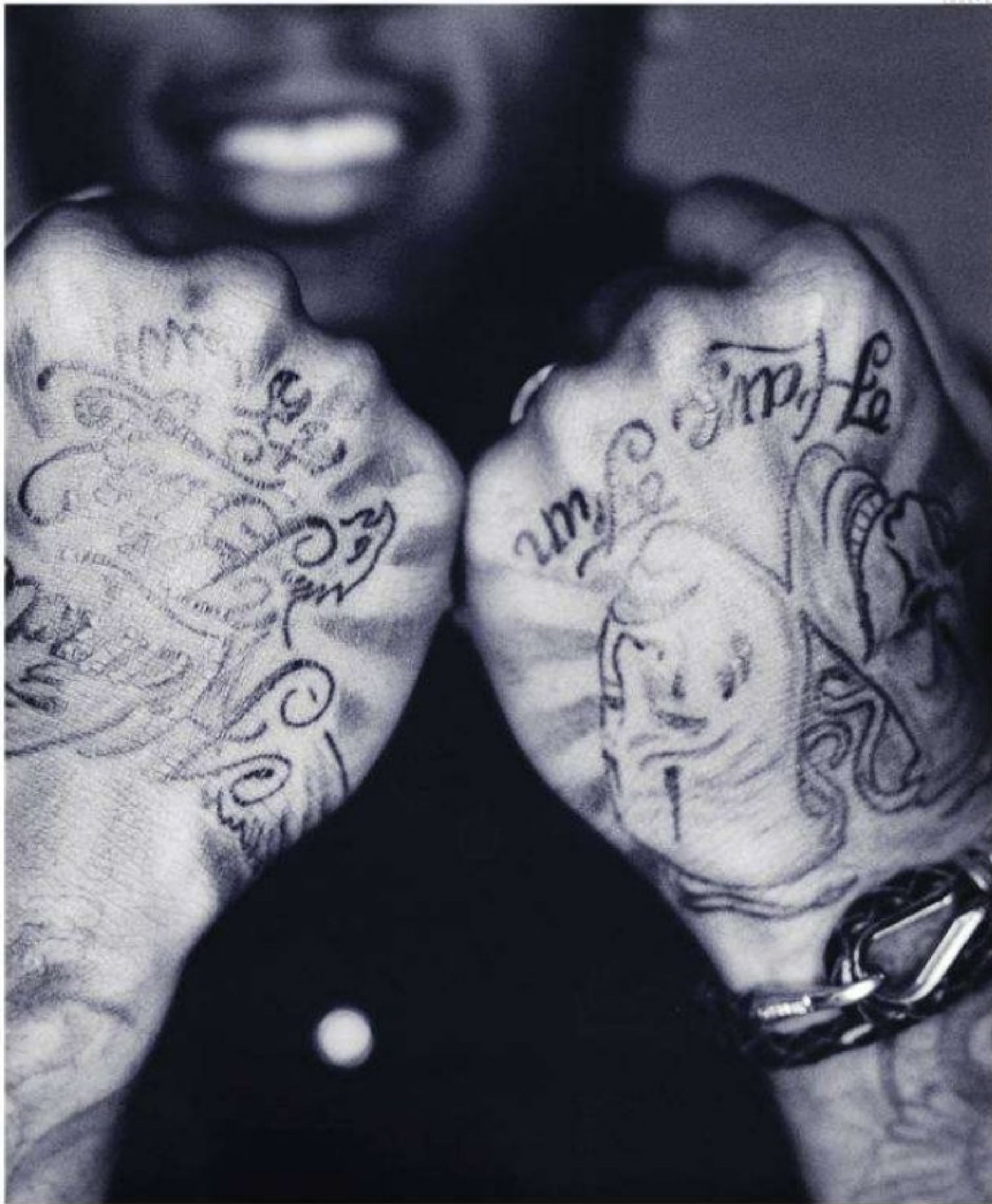






Alfani for Macy's  
vest; HE by Man-  
go shirt; Sabit NYC  
tie; Bar III pants;  
Tsubo shoes;  
Silver Lining Opti-  
cians sunglasses;  
Holbrooke by  
S. Berry bracelet.









POLO RALPH LAUREN  
BOXER SHORTS AND  
BELT, AVAILABLE  
AT LORD & TAYLOR;  
HANSEN BRACELET.



ZANEROBE SWEATER;  
BLACK APPLE SHIRT;  
EXPRESS SHORTS;  
POLO RALPH LAUREN  
BELT, AVAILABLE AT  
LORD & TAYLOR; SABIT  
NYC CHAIN; 9FIVE  
GLASSES.





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TATEOSSIAN WATCH.



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"IF WE DON'T BRING  
SOME OF THE PAST BACK,  
WE'RE ALL DOOMED."  
—CRAZY PHILADELPHIA EDDIE





## CRAZY PHILADELPHIA EDDIE

BY ERIC FOEMMEL  
PORTRAIT BY TRAVIS HUGGETT

Edward Funk is known as Crazy Philadelphia Eddie to his friends and the entire tattoo industry. Tattooing since 1952, Funk has not only shaped, influenced, and equipped the tattoo business, he's also worked with other artists to protect it in New York State's highest court. And he's quite the character. In this interview, Crazy Philadelphia Eddie discusses why he wanted to unite tattoo artists, his fight against the New York City Department of Health's ban on tattooing, writing his books, and his recent experience on the convention circuit.

**INKED: You tattooed for more than 50 years, opened numerous shops, and started the National Tattoo Association. What was it about tattooing that made you want to accomplish all these things?**

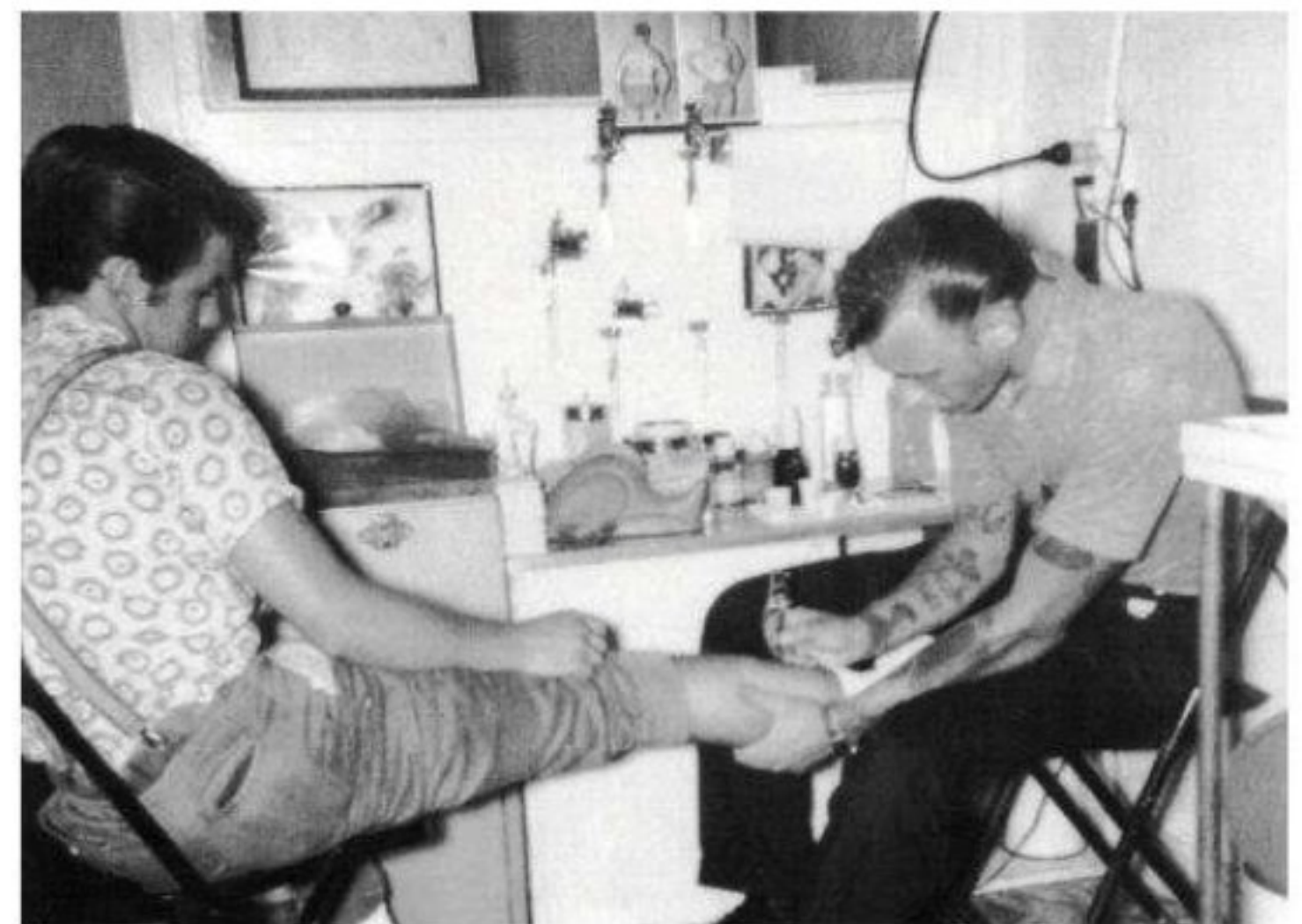
**EDDIE:** Well, I think it really had to do with Chinese food. *[Laughs.]* What made me want to accomplish these things? When I'd seen how authorities, people with authority, health departments, and city officials wanted to do away with tattooing, my goal was to protect tattooing, to keep tattooing alive and flourishing, and the way to do this was to unite the tattoo artists. In uniting,

we had power. It was money that could be collected from everyone, and you could get lawyers and fight opposing people that wanted to do away with something that has been going on since time began. Tattooing, they say, is one of the first two professions. Prostitution and tattooing—we don't know which came first, but I like them both.

**As you say, tattooing has always been under fire, and it was banned in New York City and throughout much of the East Coast in the 1960s. What was it like fighting the ban in court?** It was a battle that I felt I could not lose.



**“WHEN I’D SEEN THAT AUTHORITIES WANTED TO DO AWAY WITH TATTOOING ... MY GOAL WAS TO PROTECT TATTOOING, TO KEEP TATTOOING ALIVE AND FLOURISHING.”**



I didn't feel that I had all the winning components on my side, but I felt, if I lose this, that's my life. My life was tattooing, so I had to win this battle.

**You've never done anything except tattoo?** Right.

**And you chose your profession at the age of 15?** Yes.

**And the guys before you—Brooklyn Blackie, Max Peltz, Jack Redcloud—were they always coming under the same fire from the authorities?** Brooklyn Blackie used to say—he used to get raided when I worked with him—he'd say, “We get raided three or four times a year. You have to expect to be arrested for some minor shit like tattooing a minor every two or three years.” Every two or three years you had to expect this to happen to you. It is part of the profession, part of the trade, and part of being a pirate.

**What do you remember about the New York State Supreme Court trial?** I kept saying to myself, “This judge [Justice Jacob Markowitz] is for tattooing. I wouldn't be surprised if he lifted up his robe and had some tattoos on him” because everything the health department was throwing at us, the judge was saying to our lawyer, “Don't you object to that?” and the judge appeared to be extremely fair and in favor of saving the tattooing. There was no jury. It was up to the judge. At the very end of the trial, the judge said he has heard enough, he will take everything under advisement, and give us his verdict in a short time. My lawyer said that short time could be months, could be three months, six months, a year. He said, “This is a big case, and he can't make a decision like that. He'll have to take that under advisement, and talk it over with other judges and lawyers before he can even make a decision because you can't make a decision to break the law, and you can't make a decision that is unfair.” So it would take a lot of advisement before he could make a decision.

**How underground was tattooing in New York during this ordeal?** At the time, Coney Island Freddie [one of the case's plaintiffs] lived and worked in this housing development that was a secured community where you had to come through a little gate. A security guard there would ask you who you were coming to see and phone the people. So Freddie was tattooing inside this little fortress, and therefore, he wasn't going to get arrested. He would tattoo the people, and if somebody was coming who was not welcome, the security guard would alert Fred by saying, “so-and-so is here to see you.” So Freddie was having a great business inside this little security community.

I had already been established in Philadelphia, and when the decision came down [in 1963] that tattooing could be practiced safely in the city of New York, and the health department should get officials to supervise it, and that ... it was legal to open ... Freddie and I were not interested. We were happy with what we were doing. A few



**"I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT I HAD SUCH AN INFLUENCE ON SO MANY INDIVIDUAL PEOPLE."**

people did open in New York, and then the health department came back with an appeal to overrule the verdict [in 1964], and they eventually won [in 1966] because there was nobody there to fight.

**But if you were living there, you would have fought it?** If I was living in New York, I would have fought it. Yes.

**You traveled a lot. It seems that you were always going somewhere. What effect have your travels had on your tattooing?** It improved it. It gave me more knowledge. I traveled through this country and Europe. I traveled into Canada, and I always went to see the tattoo artists wherever I went to learn what I could from them, to learn about tattooing itself, about the rules and regulations, and I just strengthened myself to where I was very knowledgeable—there wasn't anything that went on in tattooing that I didn't know about. That is because I traveled and got opinions from north, south, east and west. Yeah.

**Through your travels, did you meet a lot of people who later joined the National Tattoo Association?** Yes! In meeting all of these people in my travels, I had their business cards, which I saved. And when I had the idea to start this association, I just wrote to each one of these people and told them my plan, and being that I met them—and I make friends very easily—all of these people I met were glad to sit down and talk with me, and they agreed with what I was trying to do. It would be something that would benefit all of us, and it was very easy to start this national club.

**Was the main goal to unite the tattooers, and to have some power so the authorities couldn't harass you?** Yes, that was the main goal.

**I'm thinking, if you saved all the cards and wrote everyone, back then there were not many tattoo artists. So there were not a lot of people to contact. It was fairly safe to say, between tattoo shops, it was 300 miles, so there wasn't that many tattooers—and I got to meet them all. Or if I didn't meet them, I knew of them, and I got their phone numbers through phone books and other tattooers. I contacted each tattooer and I started this club. I thought I contacted all the tattooers in the world, but I didn't. I later estimated there were 300 people tattooing on the globe, and if we could have that**



Flash by  
Philadelphia Eddie

many in our little association-club, and each one paid their dues, we would have quite a bankroll to fight whatever steamroller came at us.

**That was in the 1970s?** Yeah.

**And you retired in 1992?** That's a tough question. I retired so many times, I don't know which one was the real one.

**But you don't tattoo anymore?** No.

**Now you've been working on a series of books about your life. What inspired you to write your books?** People. People said to me, "Eddie, you know so much about tattooing, and you lived in such times that don't exist anymore, that if you don't write it down and tell everybody, when you're gone, it will be lost forever." So I said, "Okay, I can write a book." I decided I'll do that; I'll write a book.

**What do you want people to understand or come away with after reading your books?** How things were, how things are, and how things will be. The future does not look good. The past is gone and lost forever. It cannot be brought back. But some of the ways, it would be neat to see them come to life again. And the now is now, and if you don't do it now, it will never be done. It will be lost, and the future does not look good. And if we don't bring some of the past back, we're all doomed.

**You've been to 25 tattoo conventions in the last year. What do you like about them?** The

excitement! Each convention is a little different, each crowd—although there are many people who attend quite a few conventions, conventioners, I call them—there is always a local group where the convention is held that is different than the last one or the next one. And the excitement of talking to these people, the flair and the enthusiasm that each individual has, spills on to the next and to the next. And it just keeps getting better and better. The excitement of seeing the new styles of tattooing, that will never end because tomorrow is different than yesterday.

**How do people receive you at conventions?**

The response I am getting is overwhelming to me. The kindness, the love, and the respect I get from these conventions is just—it overwhelms me. I didn't realize that I had such an influence on so many individual people.

**Is there any truth to the rumor that you threw the first tattoo convention in the United States?** No, Dave Yurkew threw the first tattoo convention in Houston, TX. And two years later I did one, forming the National Tattoo Club.

**When you threw the convention for the National Tattoo Club, what was the main goal?** To unite everybody, to get everybody together and be a union. The movie industry had their conventions and gave awards to the good actors and to the supporting actors, for the scenery, for the ideas, and I figured that if we could do that for the tattooing, there would be no end, no limits to where we could go. ■



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Clockwise from left: Wass Stevens, Sweety, Ethan Andrew Morgan, Jennifer Mei, Jim White. Right: interior of Rivington Tattoo.



The shop was founded by Morgan and famed and feared Avenue and Marquee club doorman and actor Wass Stevens, whom Morgan met through a customer. The partnership works well, says Morgan, since Stevens serves as a silent co-owner. In a city bursting with businesses and high rents, "nobody does it by themselves unless they are independently wealthy," explains Morgan. Partnering with the gatekeeper apparently has its perks, since it's common for celebrities to stop by. "But I'm not real big on celebrities," says Morgan. "It seems to be the thing nowadays to tattoo famous people and put it on the internet to show how good of a tattoo artist you are. I'd rather just tattoo and be known for what I did, not who I did it on."

Having owned So.Cal Tattoo in Los Angeles for 13 years and tattooed for more than 20 years, Morgan had a clear idea what he wanted his New York City shop to be when it opened last year. The mellow vibe of this Lower East Side operation is geared toward large custom work and allows the artists to feed off one another for inspiration. "There [are] so many tattoo shops in the city, and I wasn't interested in fighting over walk-in clientele," says Morgan. "I really wanted a shop where people could come in and create artwork when they wanted to, and stay as late as they wanted to, and make the environment conducive for that."

"We're not getting the same volume walk-in-wise," says Sweety, who's been tattooing for six

## RIVINGTON TATTOO

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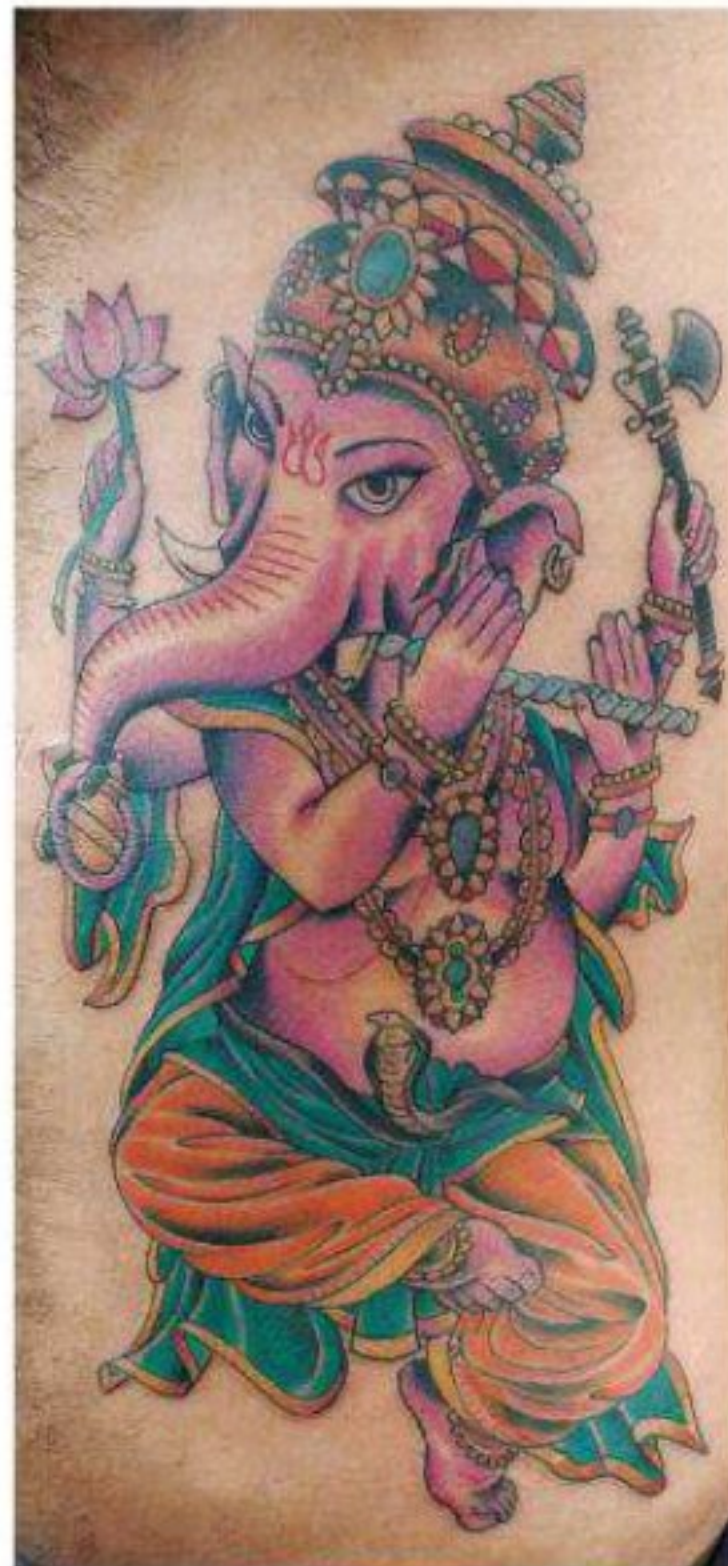
BY LANI BUSS  
PORTRAIT AND INTERIOR BY  
ALEX M. SMITH

Tattooers Sweety and Ethan Andrew Morgan of Rivington Tattoo are like night and day when it comes to their craft. Morgan, who specializes in dark imagery, is never dead set on a design. While some artists rely solely on a stencil, he prefers picking up a brush pen to draw directly on a person's body. Focusing on creating depth with shading, he'll leave the line work for last. Sweety, on the other hand, specializes in traditional tattooing, where using a stencil is standard practice for creating clean, bold lines. Their techniques couldn't be more different, but the thoughtful blend of styles coming out of year-old Rivington Tattoo is already leaving an impression on the ink world. "We work on entirely different ends of the spectrum ... I think that's where we complement each other," says shop co-owner Morgan of his and Sweety's approaches.





Clockwise from top left: tattoo by Sweety; tattoo by Ethan Andrew Morgan; tattoo by Sweety; tattoo by Jim White; tattoo by Sweety; tattoo by Morgan.



years. "But it's helped us take time with the [work]—and helped me improve my tattooing and my artwork." Within a year span, Morgan has already turned away at least two dozen artists looking to sling ink at his shop. "Either their artwork is no good or they're a little douchey or arrogant," he says. "All it takes is one fly in the ointment to screw everything up." Morgan's at a point in his career where he can be particular when hiring staff and pass on work if it doesn't suit his style. Having spit out generic flash when he first started and devoted years to doing line work, Morgan's learned the trade from the bottom up. He's a seasoned artist, but he knows there's always room to stretch. "There are a lot of people full of themselves who think they know everything about the tattoo industry," he says. "There's a whole new group of people who've decided this is what they're going to do—be a realist guy, a color guy—and [they] haven't even done two years of solid tattooing! You have to learn how to crawl, then walk. Then you can figure out how you're

gonna run. They're already waiting for accolades." "I want to be around people who want to better themselves," says Sweety, who turned to tattooing after a stint at DC Comics. "People who are good tattooers are constantly pushing themselves." And that means being able to put a fresh spin on repetitive subject matter. For Morgan, saints serve as recurring subjects, as well as his bread and butter, when it comes time to tattoo. "Catholicism and Christianity have pretty much paid my rent for the last six or seven years," he jokes. Sweety says tattooing the same things makes his work more challenging. "I've done 300 anchors. How am I going to do 301 in a different way so it's a cool image and still works as a tattoo?" Grappling with that answer is what motivates the artists at Rivington Tattoo. "When I started in L.A. there were only 10 shops; now there's over 1,000," says Morgan. "It's kicked me in the ass to get better." ■





## inked scene | PROFILE



### DMITRIY SAMOHIN

VISIT: [facebook.com/DmitriySamohin](https://facebook.com/DmitriySamohin)

**What drives you?** My love for art is what drives me to do what I do best. I mainly work as a tattoo artist, but I also like to paint. If I had more free time it would all go into painting.

**How do you advance your art?** I strive to improve on a daily basis. My clients provide me with work that allows me to try new things—new concepts come to me from clients. I often see things, talk to people, and read things that turn into ideas. My daily life is what inspires me but my goal is to deliver perfection to all my clients.

**Why do you think your clients come to you?** Because they like my work. Most come to me for my photorealism, but I have many other clients that trust me to perform other styles.

**How did photorealism become your signature style?** I always attempted to execute all styles—anything that comes my way. Photorealism is one of my favorites as it is complicated to re-create, whether a painting or a tattoo. I like the challenge. The more complicated, the better.

**What's the most difficult part of a portrait tattoo?** All portraits have a need for detail—the eyes, the skin, the hair, certain clothing. Details are what make a portrait come alive. A portrait's eyes are the focal point, so they need to speak. Eyes reveal everything!

**How do you discuss designs with your clients?** It's all about teamwork. I listen to what they have in mind, I share my thoughts, and we work it out together. It happens often that the original idea changes, especially with larger pieces. My main focus is to have my client satisfied. We will brainstorm for as long as needed.

**The subject matter of your work is culturally mixed. You have African, Native American, Spanish, and Japanese themes. How much research do you do?** I get the pictures and ideas from my clients and then we begin to execute. Certain tribes interest me and I will read about them, but I have no knowledge of all the different cultures, tribes, or races I tattoo. ■





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## inked scene | SHOP TALK



**NAME:** Sable Richter

**SHOP GIRL AT:** 21 Tattoo, Las Vegas

**People from all** over the world come to Vegas. We've had people with electronic translators as well as some with actual translators.

**I'm the one that has to deal** with drunk, "I'm in Vegas!" newbies. But luckily we don't get too many of them. We're two miles from the Strip and close at 9 p.m.

**I have some goofy tattoos from** downtime at the shop. One is a shark tooth that everyone in the shop got because, well, it was Shark Week on the Discovery Channel. Now whenever a guest artist visits they get a shark tooth. Another silly one is the kanji on the back of my ankle. We made up a game where you spin around with your eyes closed in front of a reference sign of 900 symbols, and when you stop, whatever symbol you point to you have to get. I landed on "Smooth," which is better than what my boss Charlie got. He landed right in the middle of two symbols and is stuck with "Lonely" and "Mother."

**My hardest task at the shop** is spelling things correctly. I am the worst speller. We have "Sableisms"—all the words I spell wrong—written on the white board in the back room with the correct spelling. Right now it reads, "Inicals = Initials, Mustash = Mustache, Floradalee = Fleur-de-lis."



Know a stellar shop assistant who keeps the autoclave humming and the tattoo stations organized? E-mail us at [shopgirl@inkedmag.com](mailto:shopgirl@inkedmag.com).



# Dave Sanchez

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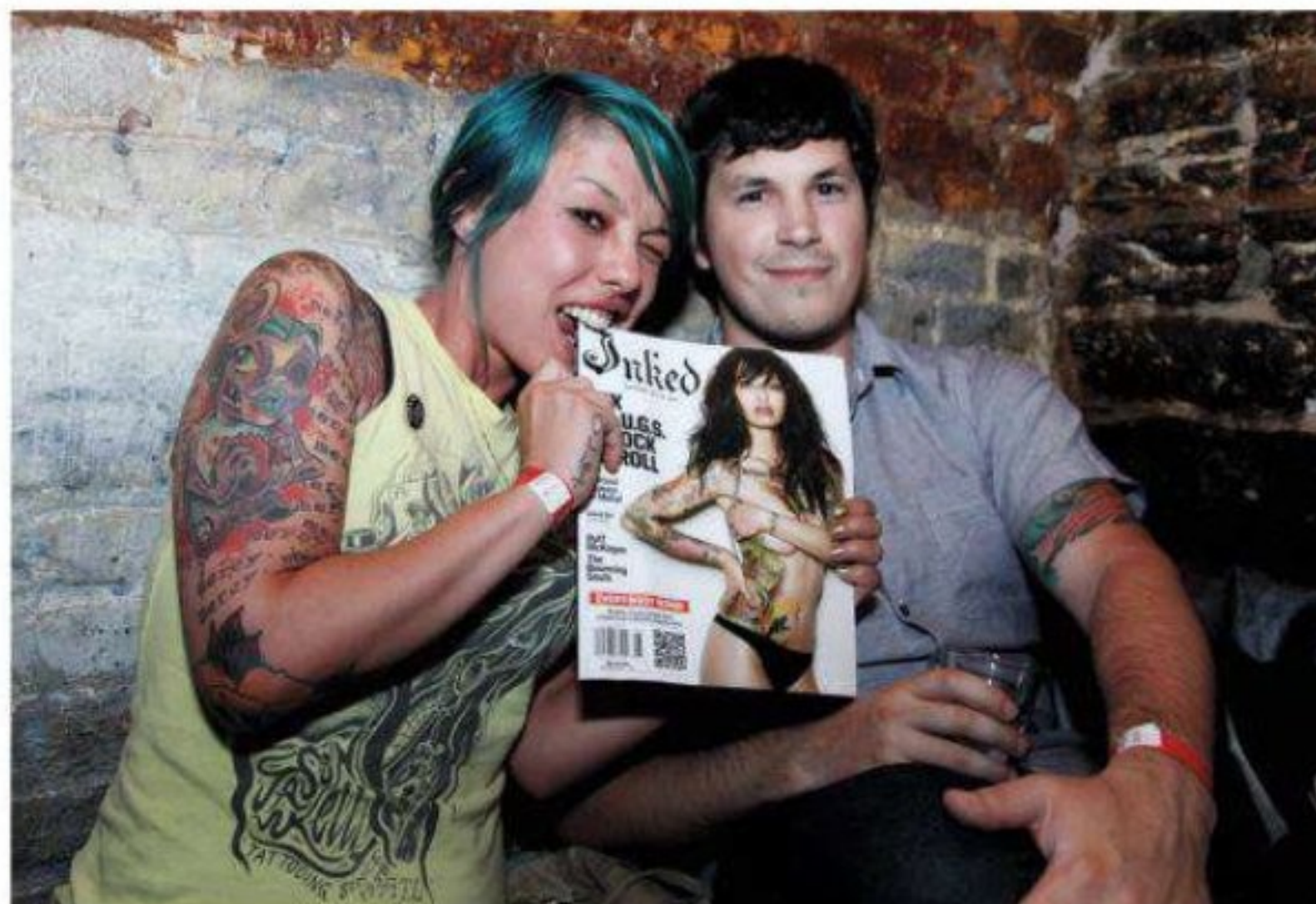


# inked scene | EVENTS



## INKED'S METAL PARTY \m/

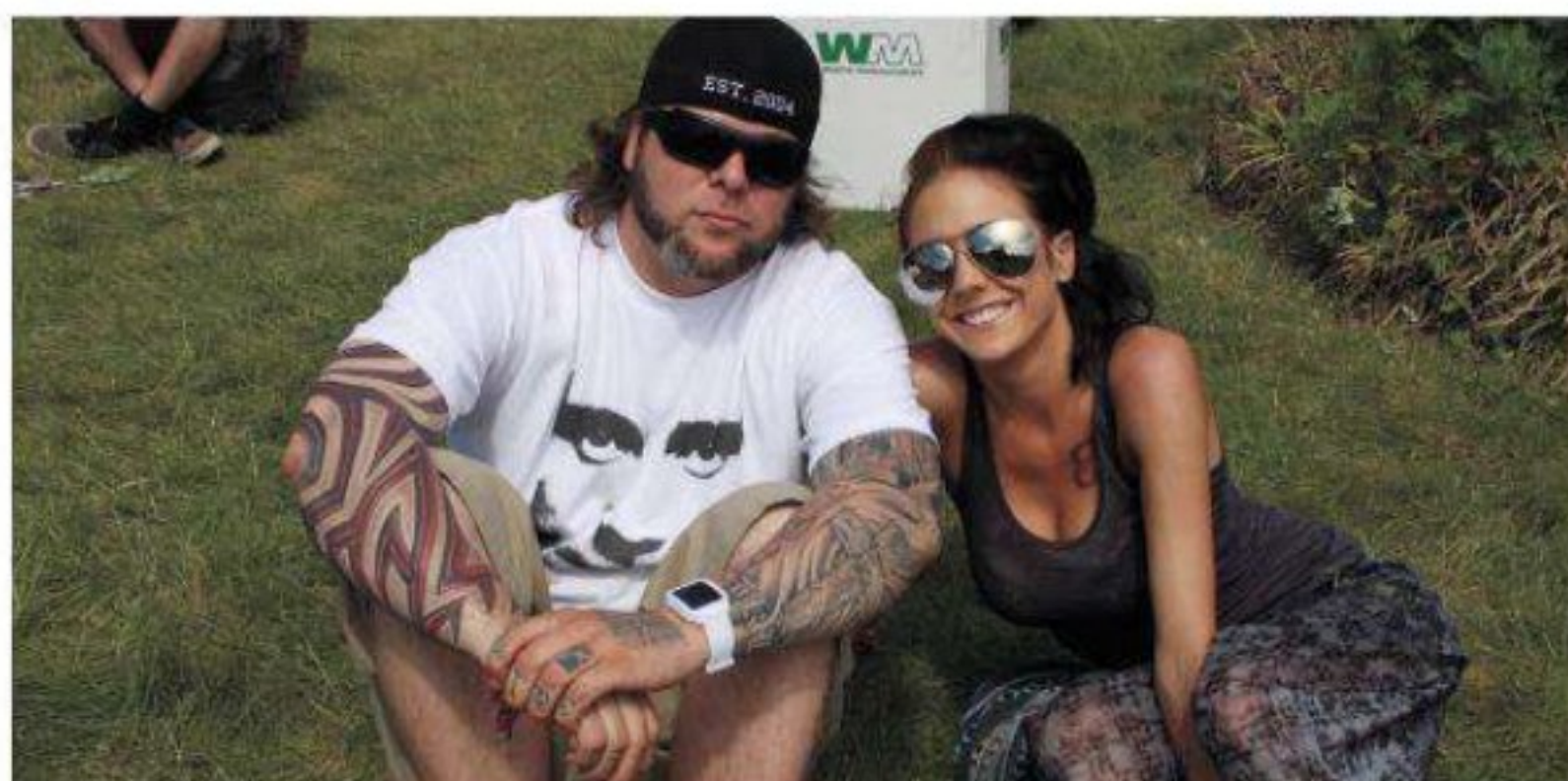
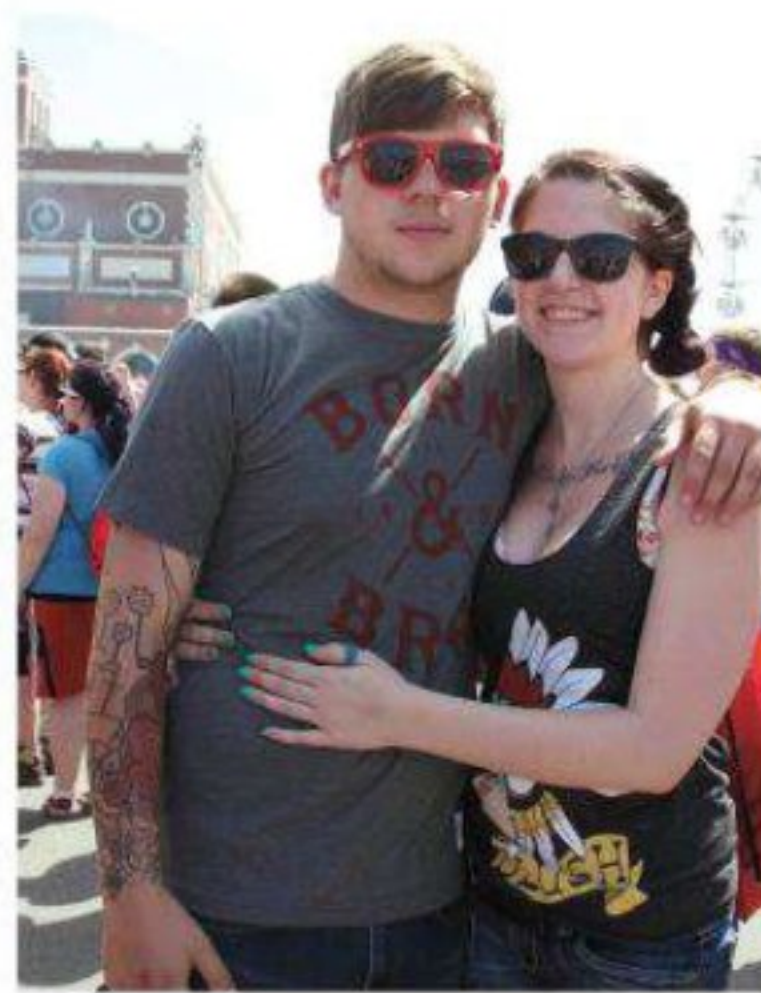
We took over Metal Mondays at Lit Lounge in New York City, invading one of our favorite dives with pretty inked chicks, metal-inspired Jägermeister cocktails, Sirius XM Liquid Metal, and *Headbangers Ball* DJs Jose Mangin and Zeena Koda, plus free tattoos by Jes Irwin.







**LIVE NATION'S BAMBOOZLE**  
The Bamboozle Festival in Asbury Park, NJ, was three days of diverse acts and ink. We caught Mac Miller, The Foo Fighters, The Promise Ring, A\$ap Rocky (we skipped Skrillex), and locals Bon Jovi and The Gaslight Anthem. In the crowd and on the boardwalk we saw Japanese, black-and-gray, tribal, and old-school American tattoos.





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## AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

Classic Americana is always enough. This design by Johnny Gargan is available as a T-shirt (\$24.95, [inkedshop.com](http://inkedshop.com)) and also as a print (\$19.95, [inkedshop.com](http://inkedshop.com)).



## FOLLOW NO ONE

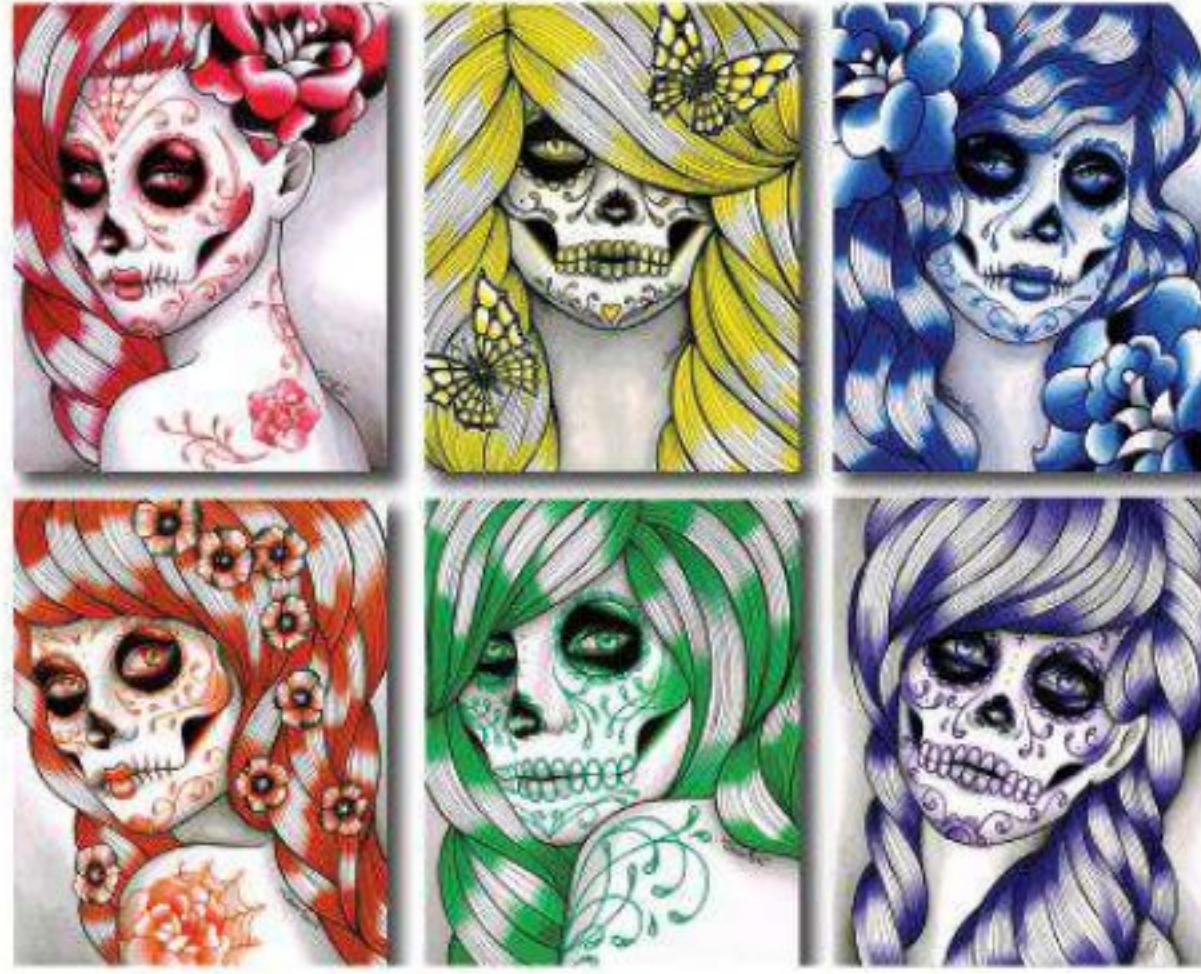
Make a bold statement in this hoodie (\$60, [inkedshop.com](http://inkedshop.com)) with art from Chris Parks and Jason Kelly on the back and the Steadfast Brand logo on the front.



## CREATURE OF THE DEEP

This gnarly octopus pendant by Gasoline Glamour (\$29.95, [inkedshop.com](http://inkedshop.com)) is made of raw brass and plated in gunmetal.





**ROY G BIV**

Artist Carissa Rose gives us a brand-new series of prints; her Spectrum Series (\$34.95, inkedshop.com) displays six very colorful—and haunted—beauties.



**FOR BABY**

Perfect for daddy's little girl ... in a Wednesday Addams sense of the phrase. Sourpuss clothing has something for the whole family. This and other baby bibs are available now (\$14.95 each, inkedshop.com).



**DOUBLE TROUBLE**

Skulls can be seen as a symbol of danger and death, or glory and the afterlife. Represent both with this Watto, Twin Skull Belt Buckle (\$65, inkedshop.com), completely handmade of steel.



**BEWARE OF DOG**

Sometimes "man's best friend" just doesn't want to be friends with everybody. Let it be known with this nickname tag (\$10, inkedshop.com) courtesy of Underground Hound.

**STYLIN'**

The hairstylist's outfit of choice, this Shears top (\$21.95, inkedshop.com) by Annex Clothing is available now.



**ART BY DANIEL ESPARZA**

The Inked Store Gallery doesn't disappoint. Get inspired by the work of artists such as Black Market Art Company's Daniel Esparza, who created this beautiful piece, titled *Victoria* (\$19.95, inkedshop.com).

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## KIM-ANH NGUYEN

Geneva, Switzerland, and Jolie Rogue Tattoo, 364 Caledonian Rd., London, U.K., [kimanhnguyenart.blogspot.ch](http://kimanhnguyenart.blogspot.ch)

"Your art will be carried on for a lifetime by someone who has ideas, feelings, moods," says tattoo artist Kim-Anh Nguyen. The neo-traditional artist spends her time traveling and tattooing between Switzerland and England. "Switzerland is still a very conservative scene that's not into tattoos," she says. "The Swiss, they ask me for the same tattoos. But people in London and clients from America are more open and excited about the range of tattooing." Because she bounces around, Nguyen's horizons have been broadened. "Traveling and discovering new places makes you want to grow as an artist," she explains. "When I travel I always try to visit places and people I'm passionate about to feed my craft." When the magical journey ends, Nguyen aims to etch "Cheers to the living, salute the dead!" on her gravestone.

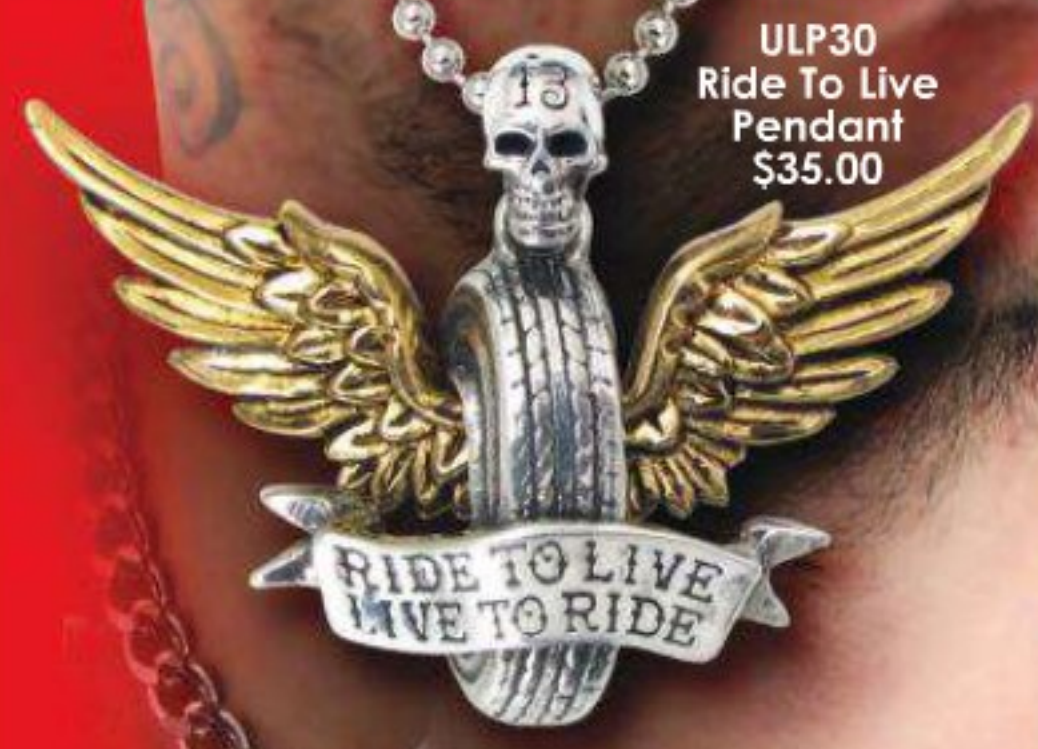


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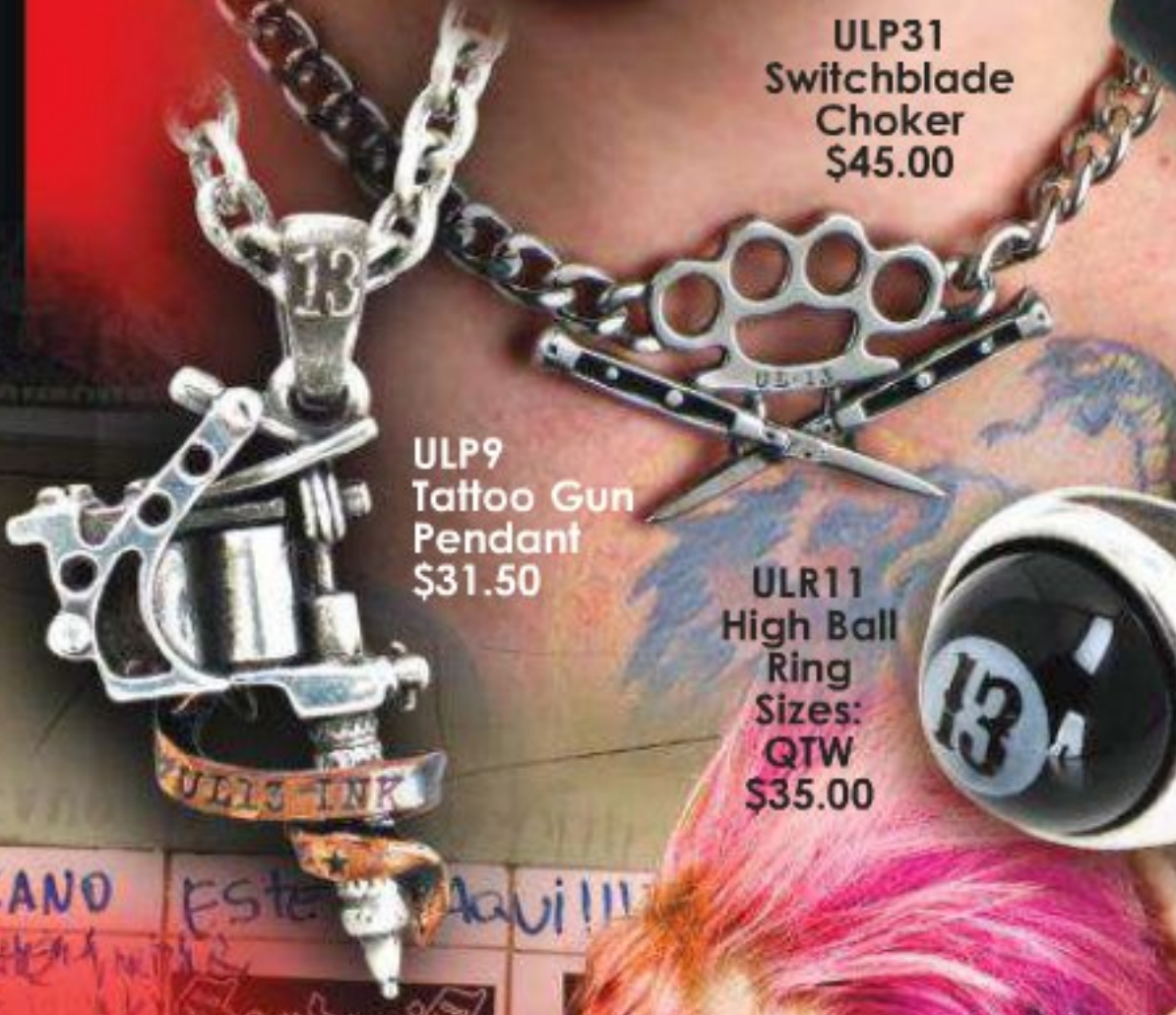
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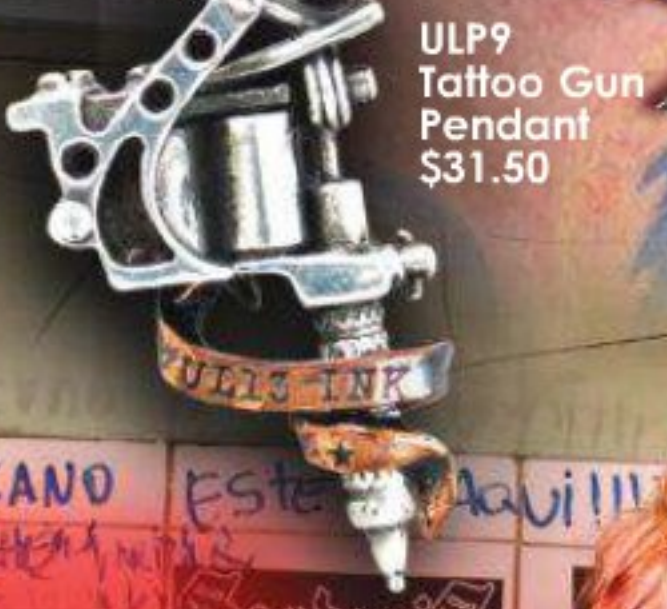


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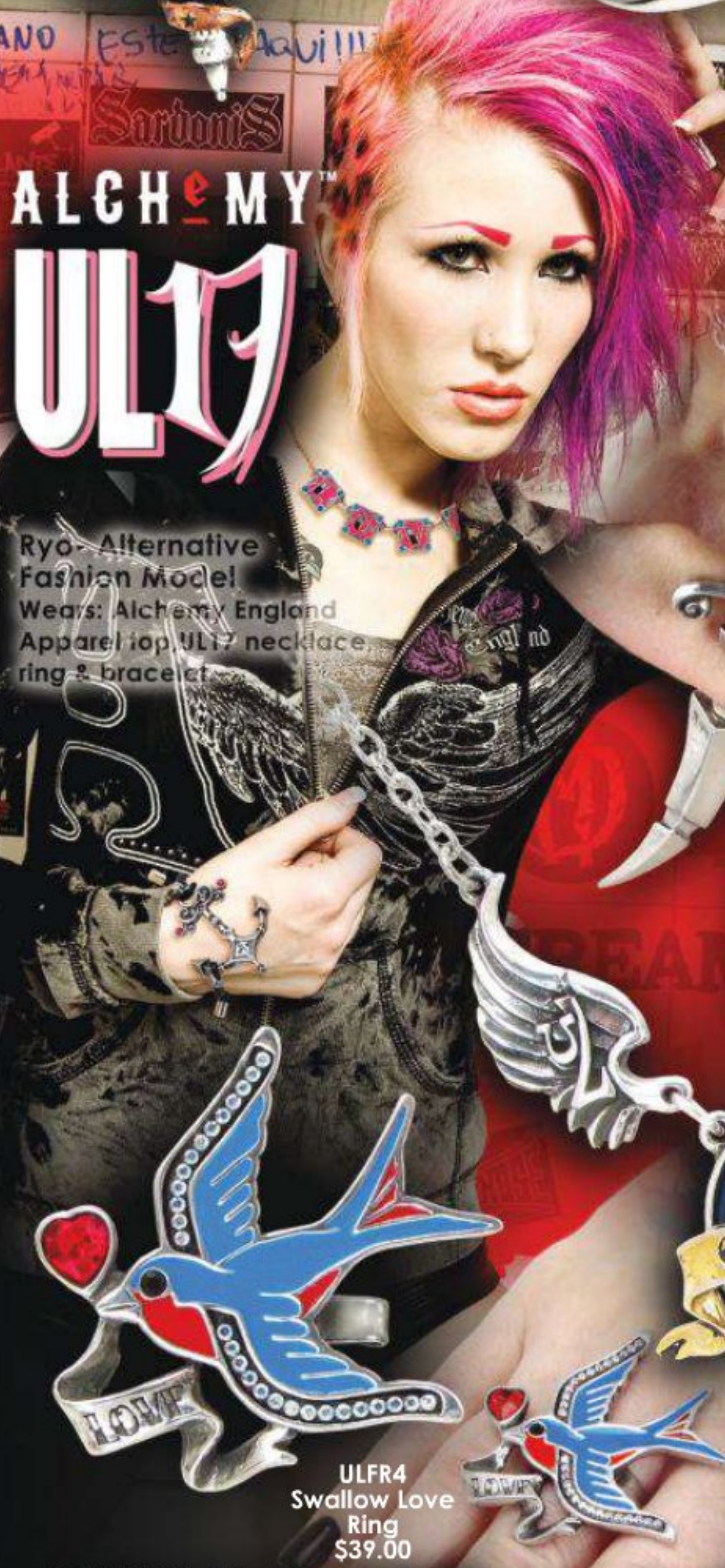
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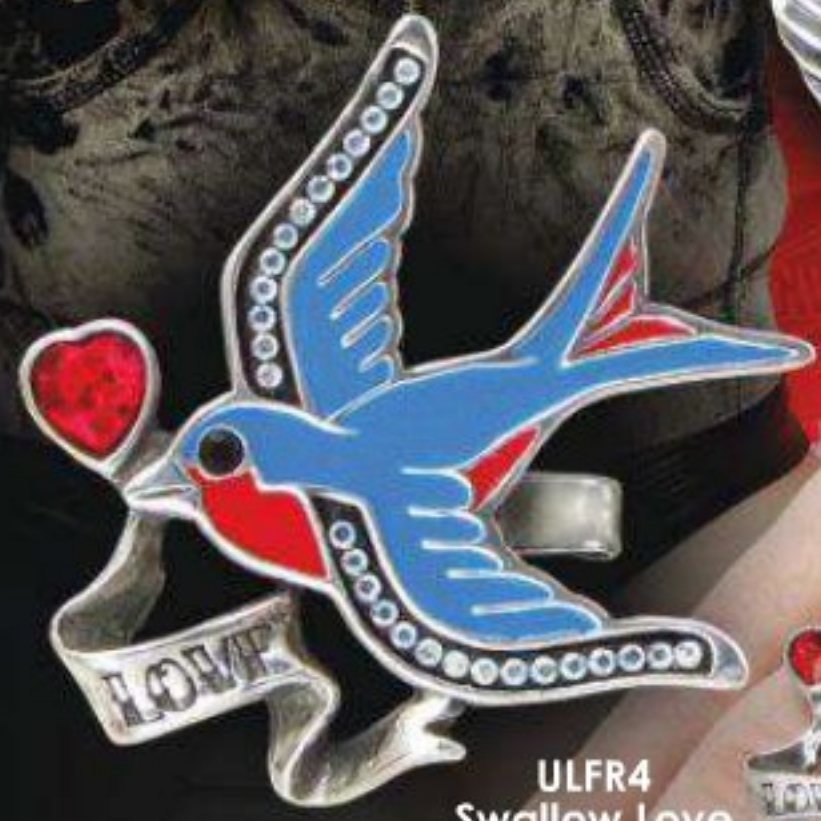


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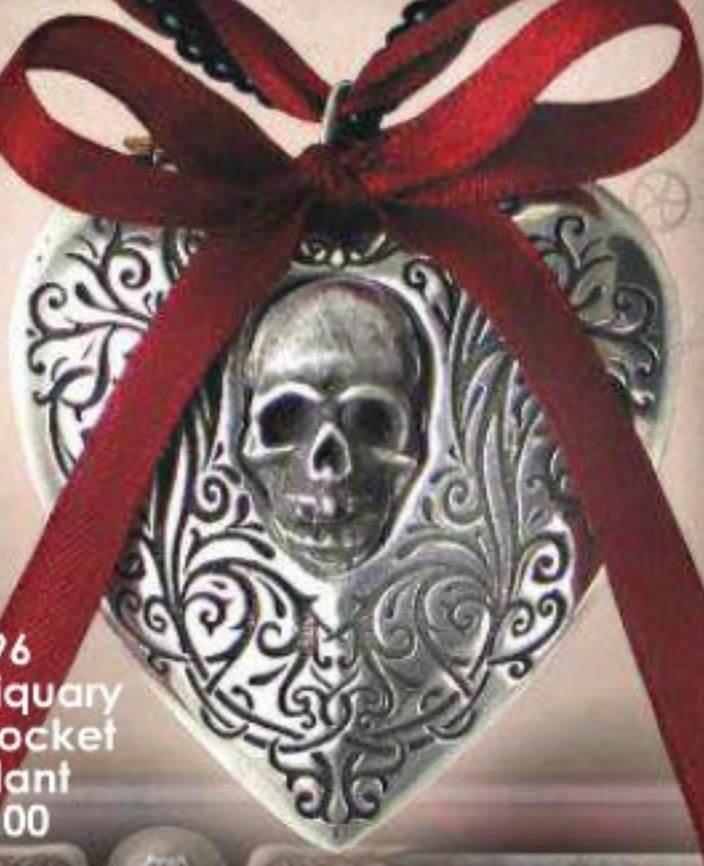


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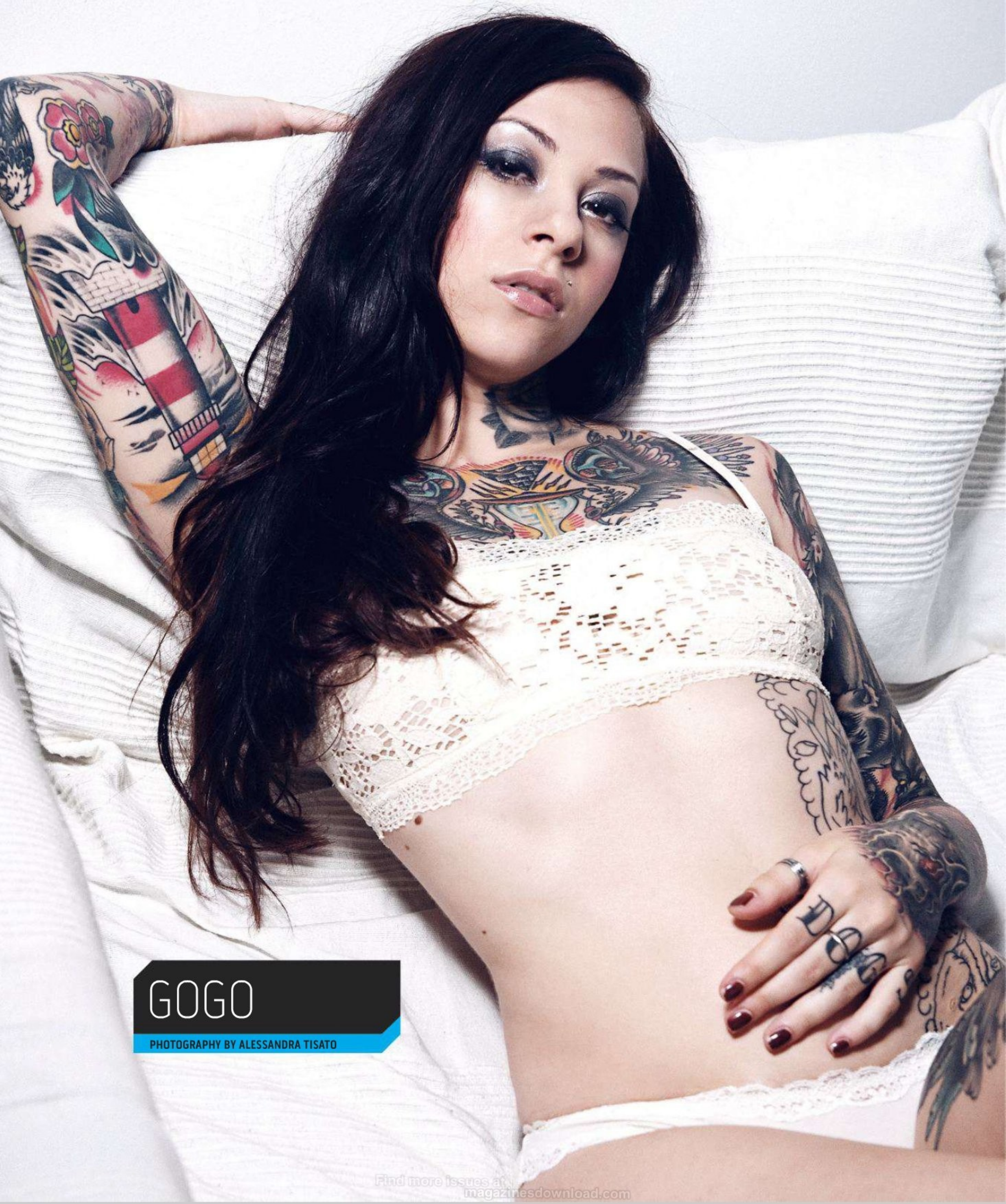




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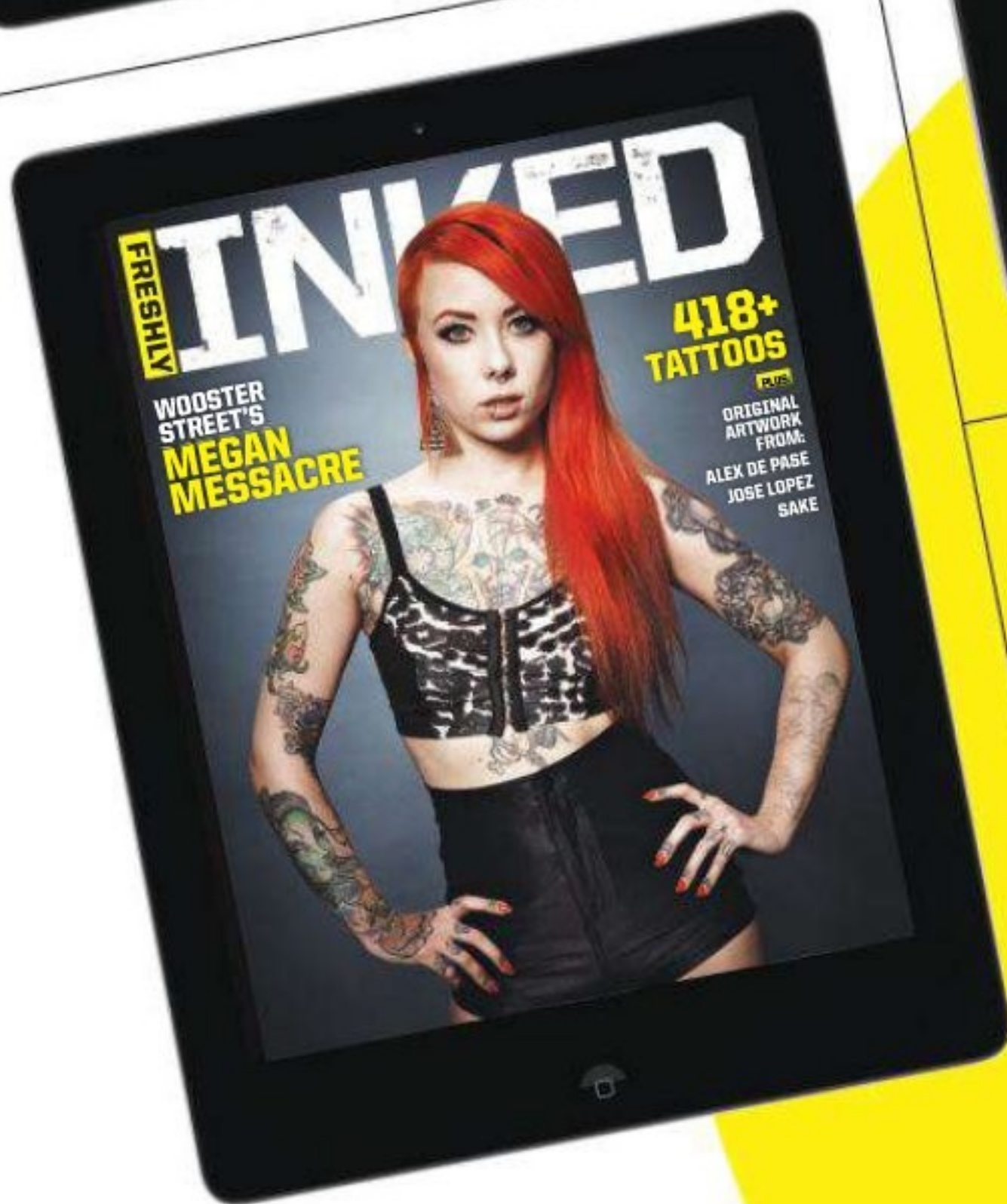
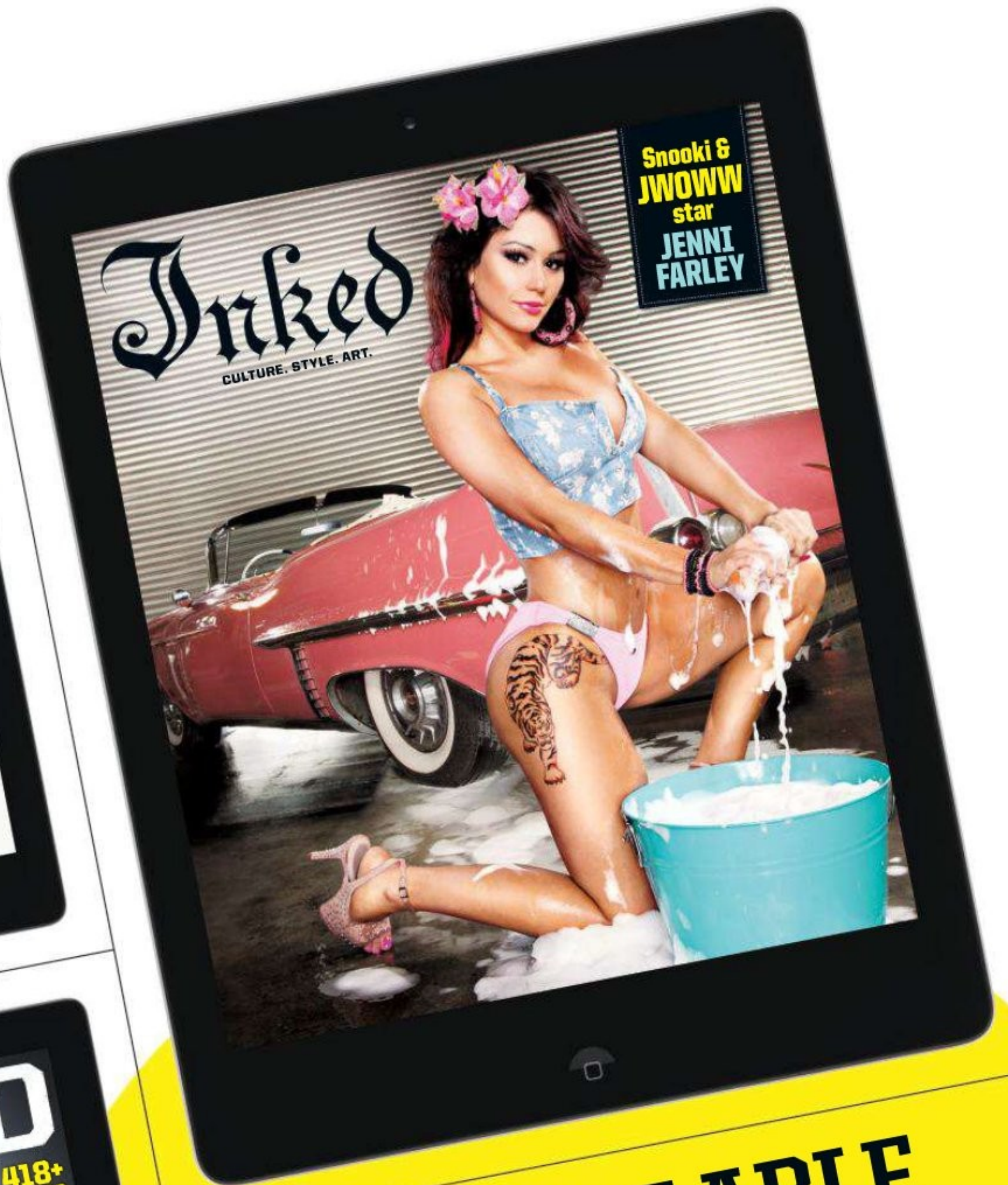




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