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THE MOTORCYCLE ISSUE

WITH HEATHER MOSS



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On the cover: Heather Moss; photo: Mark Mann; stylist: Basia Zamorska at Kate Ryan Inc; hair and makeup: Lindsey Williams at Kate Ryan Inc.

On Heather: black vinyl bodysuit by Jessica Nicole for Peepshow clothing, vintage leather gloves, shoes model's own. Shot on location at ROOT Brooklyn.
Motorcycle: White Devil by Indian Larry Motorcycles.



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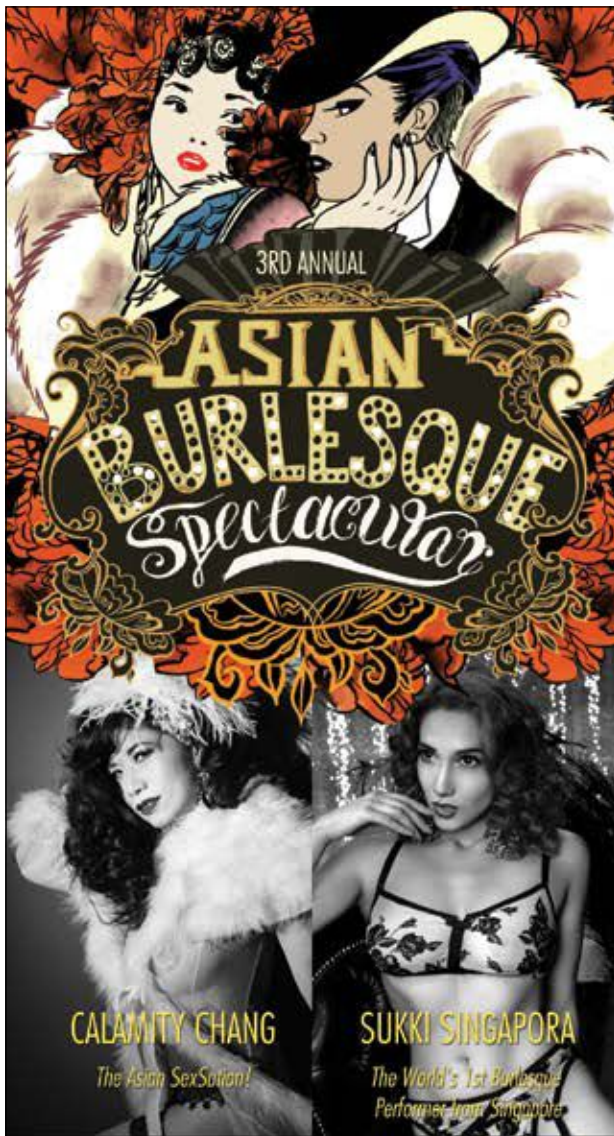
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INKWELL

You drive a car, fly a plane and sail a boat—but you ride a motorcycle. There is no autopilot on a bike. Motorcycles are like horses, donkeys and bulls, they are wild beasts with their own will that you have to finesse in order to ride. It's this trait that makes it the perfect vehicle for the tattoo community as most *Inked* readers eschew easy street for an adventure.

One of the most audacious riders on the planet is motocrosser Ronnie Faisst, who kicked up dirt in front of photographer John Trice (1). For our garage shoot, Queen Esther Hanuka got dirty—in the traditional sense of grime on her hands and mechanical gunk on her skin—which was captured by Jason Goodrich (2). The girl on the cover is Heather Moss, shooter Mark Mann (3) positioned her curves to compliment those of the top bikes coming to market this season. Working with contours is something that both body shop painters and tattoo artists are challenged by. To merge the two worlds we tapped master tattooer Stefano Alcantara (4) to curate a one-off collection of Bell helmets decked out by his selection of tattoo artists. Contrary to what the general populace may think, there is an interesting aesthetic in motorcycle accessories and style. To highlight the accessibility of edgy fashion, Rebecca Weinberg (5), who won an Emmy for styling *Sex and the City* (yet she's a biker), dressed members of RedRum Motorcycle Club.

From helmets to wallet chains and now to footwear. We are launching a new the series in which we dispatch a non-journalist expert in a certain field to pick the brain of an industry leader. In the first installment of *Insider*, DJ Clark Kent (6), a sneaker head and producer to artists such as The Notorious B.I.G, Mariah Carey and Jay-Z, sits down with Dominic Chambrone—the Shoe Surgeon. At the same time as that baby is born, we wrap-up *Lord's Eye*, John Buffalo Mailer's (7) thoughtful tattoo memoir that has been serialized in this magazine over the past few years. We were honored to publish it and hope that you enjoy the final installment. If you are new to *Inked*, where the hell have you been? Check inkedmag.com for a limited time to read *Lord's Eye* from the beginning or keep an eye out for it in audiobook-form in the future. One long, fun odyssey was the recent SuicideGirls Blackheart Burlesque Tour, performed under the *Inked* banner. Our girl on the inside was Sunshine Suicide (8) who provided us with backstage and candid shots of the girls as they traversed 46 shows in 56 days.

The above isn't a road map to this issue, but rather landmarks I hope you dig on your trip through the magazine. Approach the following pages however you see fit, but above all, enjoy the ride.

Rocky Rakovic
Editor-In-Chief
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Ed Hardy



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MAIL



COVER GIRL IN THE WILDE *How has life changed after appearing in Inked?* Seeing my little head in stores is pretty weird to be honest! I've gotten a lot of praise and recognition for it and I'm extremely proud. *Inked* is a huge magazine to be my first published shoot. *What do your cam fans think?* Everyone is in awe! They can't believe that they get to see me naked and in a major magazine. *What kind of new following did you get?* It grabbed the attention of a lot of tattoo enthusiasts, photographers and all around awesome crowd! *What does your cat think about the magazine?* She likes to take long naps laying on my miniature paper self. I think it's a possessive thing only crazy cat ladies like myself would understand.

facebook

JESSICA WILDE

Fiona Stewart West Sooo aiming to be in this one day

Jeptha Razo I thought she was Katy Perry at first glance

Adam Proffitt My God that is sexy as hell

BRIAN M. VIVEROS

George Black His (art) is so rad I would do anything to meet his girls

Marshall Schaller Now these chicks are smoking hot.

BETTY BOMBSHELL

Elizabeth LeAnne Dope AF!!

Ben Smith It's beautiful! Love the colors! Great shot.

DANGEROUS CURVES AHEAD

Stephen Westerly If I had to break-down anywhere I would hope it would be here

Grant Russell The gun door handle makes it a true suicide door

Monique M Real women have curves. But the realest women have tattoos and curves!

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TATTOO OF THE MONTH



BY: ERVAND AKOPOV @ERV2
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MY
FAVORITE
INK
ALEE
ROSE
PHOTOS BY CAREY HESS



Chrome, leather, tattoos and a little bit of sweat dance in front of the camera. It's 100 degrees on a strip of steaming asphalt but the heat index is off the charts thanks to Alee Rose writhing around on her friend's custom Harley-Davidson bobber. Rose opens up in the California sun creating striking shapes, working with the bike like it's the perfect dance partner, but she's the lead. Rose's comfort around cameras comes naturally as she is a photographer as well as a model. "It allows me to have two different perspectives, one from behind the camera and one in front of the camera," she says. "When modeling those perspectives give me an idea of what the finished image will look like which allows me to move in a way I see fit. When photographing, those same perspectives make it easier for me coach the model if needed."

Her favorite piece is her arm, done mostly by Josh Ridge, though Hi-Tone inked the Lady of Guadalupe in honor of her grandmother. "When I first decided to commit to a sleeve, I wanted something to represent growth through all aspects of my life, hence the representation of the garden. It was about a year into working on my sleeve that my grandmother passed away and I wanted to add a piece for her. My tattoos are a form of expressing myself while also honoring what is important in my life."

Because she wears the symbols on her skin and is often in front of the camera, Rose is afforded to project her self-expression to a wide audience and she is very thoughtful about her imagery. "Creating an image is personal to both the photographer and model," she says. "There is a certain story in each shot and I want the viewer to feel like they are a part of that moment in time. On a side note: a fantastic booty shot is never a bad accomplishment." 📸



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Norm writes his own script.

Everywhere Norm (Will Rise) goes he leaves his mark. Recently he moved to Hawaii, set up a private tattoo shop and put his stamp on O'ahu. A multifaceted artist—ink, graffiti, paint, tattoo machines—he specializes in lettering both on the street and in skin.

"I find limits with graffiti and tattooing only because I want more out of both," Norm says. "Tattooing allows me to do things I can't do in my graffiti just yet. And graffiti, especially illegal graffiti, is the best rush you can get."

His pedigree is enviable as he's part of the AWR/MSK graffiti family and learned tattooing from Grime and Marcus Pacheco. He's combined those two notions by inking up girls and putting them on the street. "I just enjoy drawing on people," Norm says. "So who better than Adrianna Lima? I choose someone whose photo I like and I just go to work. I very much enjoy painting and drawing on photos. Everyone loves to see beautiful women, so it's a good start already."

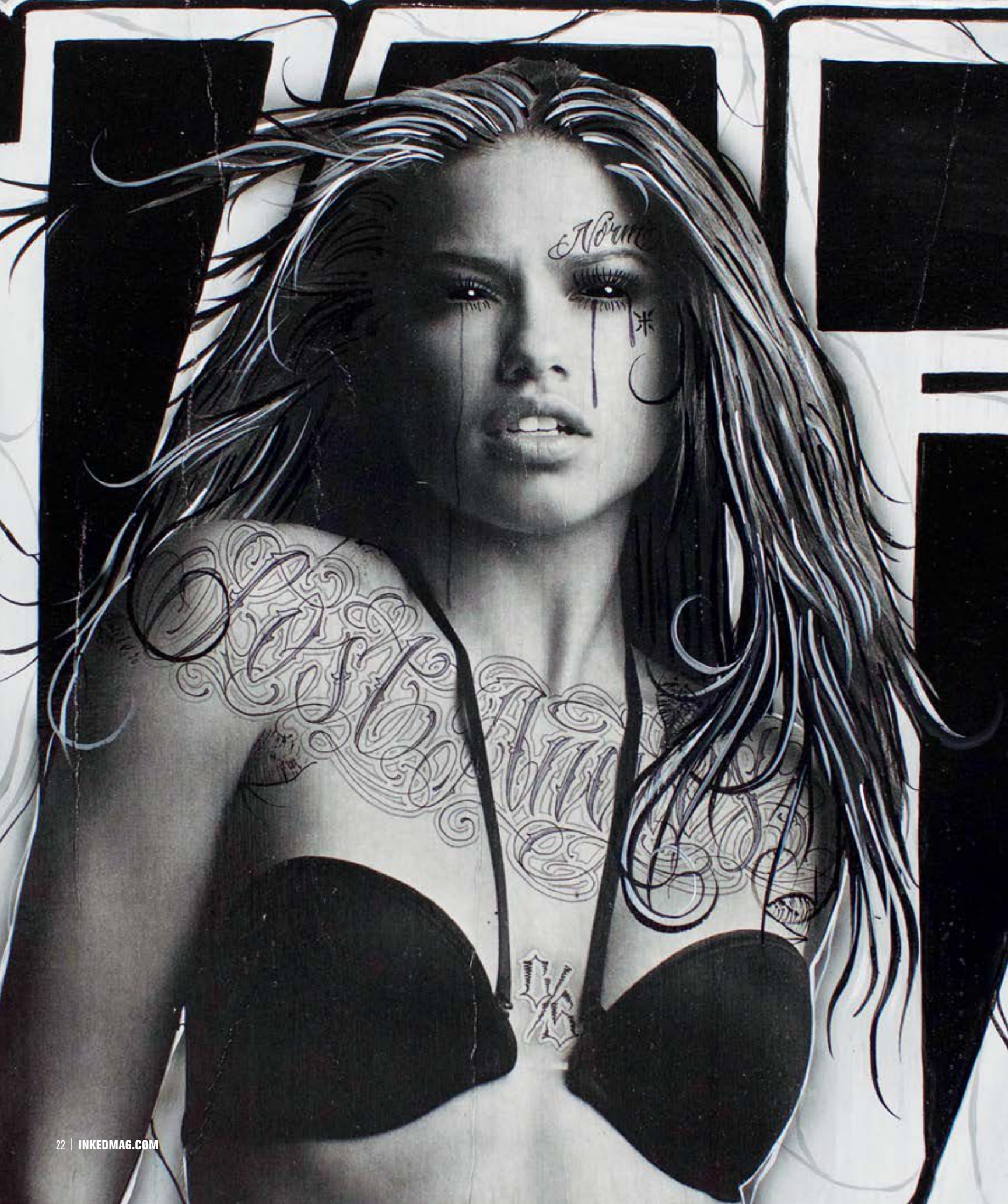
When you think about it, graffiti

writers and tattooers get more exposure than most working artists because their creations exist not in museums or galleries but in public. Thus, you are going to effect a varied viewership.

"I want my audience to get the energy I put into my work," Norm says. "Whether it be tattooing, graffiti or painting, it's all free flow. I just try to make things people will enjoy seeing; if minds are blown that's cool too. But, honestly, if I like it then I'm stoked."

—Robert McCormick







GAME ON.

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LIVE
FATSST
DIE
LAST

By Jon Coen Photos by John Trice

APRIL/MAY 2015 | 25



With any progression-based sport there are just a handful of true pioneers—the fearless few who created it and set it on course. But of those originators, it's rare to find one who is still relevant today.

That's Ronnie Faisst, one of the founders of freestyle motocross. Faisst grew up racing dirtbikes in Mays Landing, New Jersey, turning pro at 18. But when he moved to the West Coast, he was integral in a creative, new freestyle movement and destined to play a part of every first for the sport—the very first contest, the first presence at the Gravity Games, Warped Tour and X Games. Faisst was an OG of the famed apparel brand Metal Mulisha, built on the hellraisers that not only set the tone for FMX as badass athletes with nerves of steel and arms of ink, but also legitimized the sport by back flipping into living rooms around the world.

Faisst headlined the Crusty Demons of Dirt Tour and most recently starred in Nuclear Cowboyz, an arena spectacle that combined circus acts and pyrotechnics choreographed with death-defying freestyle moto. Over the decades, he not only earned respect, but four bronze metals. Yet those are not the accomplishments that he's most proud of.

"To be able to do it for 18 years and still enjoy it is an accomplishment that's better than taking home medals. It was good timing for me—moving to California when I did, being part of the movement, doing what I love. I still wake up and want to ride," said Faisst recently, while pulling wet season weeds from the backyard track at his home in California.

He's also bounced back from fractures, a broken femur, concussions, a torn ACL and multiple surgeries. And while Faisst

remains at the top of the FMX game, he's already got himself racing the Off-Road Pro Lite Truck series.

"It's a way to keep yourself going in motorsports. You might not want to be riding moto past 40. I'm not quite there yet. But you can race trucks in your 40s, all day long. I'll probably do three races this year. The sport's been around for a while, but it's on the upswing. It's got TV coverage now and there are a lot of moto dudes who have crossed over and done really well," Faisst explains.

His longtime FMX buds Ricky Johnson, Jeremy McGrath and even Twitch Stenberg are now racing trucks. Faisst counts the

Mulisha's Brian Deegan as one of the best drivers in the series.

And like every other aspect of the sport, Faisst was also on the cutting edge of the massive freestyle moto/tattoo crossover.

"I was like 14 and got tattooed by this biker guy in my town in South Jersey. His name was Al—long hair, big burly beard. He basically just did flash off the wall, typical biker tattoos," laughs Faisst, "No shading, straight outline... real basic. He used to tattoo at the 4-H Fair in my town out of a little ghetto trailer."

Faisst's ink expanded in California when he started riding with FMX godfather, Mike Metzger. Metzger was already moonlighting at Soul Expressions in Temecula and started stabbing Faisst's arm.

"He introduced me to Dan Adair, who's the owner and that's

how I got heavily tattooed really quick. Dan was like, 'Just give me love as a sponsor and send people in, and I'll tattoo you whenever you want.' Honestly, I was there every Tuesday for probably two years. I'd just give him all my sponsors' gear—sunglasses, shoes and clothes. We went from my arm to my chest and my lower legs."

He acknowledges that motorcycles and tattoos were interdependent long before he came along, but feels that FMX helped spark the growth. As Faisst met the other guys in the shop, he'd collect their work.

"It was like, 'Well, I'll have Fabian do my back.' And then Aaron Mason, who actually still works there, did both sides of my ribs and my upper thighs and my butt cheeks. Then Dan wrapped up everything," Faisst adds.

Recently he's had some work done by John Caleb at Chapter X Tattoo in Orange County, an artist he met through Stenberg.

"He tattoos a lot of guys

that are connected with Famous Stars and Straps like Yelowolf and DJ Clever. He redid the names on my neck, tied up my throat and just redid my knuckles."

While Faisst looks to rise in the off-road truck game, the fire still burns for one X Game gold before he retires. Down the road he can see a few possible paths.

"I've always been into martial arts. I can see myself opening a dojo or getting into the fashion world. Whatever I'm going to do, I am going to make sure I'm passionate about it."

We wouldn't expect anything less. ■



One Bourbon, One Scotch, One Gear

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MEET HEATHER HS GREET OF PEDALERS FORK, A BIKER (BICYCLE) BAR IN CALABASAS, CA.

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WHAT'S WITH THE BIKE THEME?

Well it was supposed to be a bike shop with a bar and the restaurant came as a bonus. Now the cyclists have everything they like to do all in one area: you can bike-shop-hang and get things you need. Chat it up with a rad bartender, have a cocktail and then grab a bite to eat.

HOW MANY OF YOUR COWORKERS HAVE INK?

Three, but not as much as me! I'm the black sheep.

WHAT ARE YOUR CUSTOMERS' REACTIONS TO YOUR TATTOOS?

Some probably want to ask me if I'm on parole and others love it. The cutest thing is when a 75 year-old lady who probably thinks I'm a prison escapee tells me how pretty me and my tattoos are.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR JAGERMEISTER TATTOO?

It's definitely the worst but the most meaningful. Long story short, my brother and I went bar hopping in Hollywood and we said we would have a drink at every bar from Vine to Highland and back. By the time we were almost done we had a great idea to get matching tattoos. I told him to pick the tattoo and where to put it. Thank goodness he put it on my foot.

PHOTO BY BRADLEY MEINZ





BERNADETTE MACIAS



FREE FLYING



Black Flys

WHISKEY IN THE JAR

JOE DONOHUE MAKES WHITE WHISKEY AND MOONSHINE

PHOTO BY WILL STYER



**HOUDIE DOG
OLE SMOKY
MOONSHINE CHERRIES**

INGREDIENTS

1.5 oz Ole Smokey
5 oz Grapefruit Juice
1 oz Lemon Lime Soda
Lime Wedge

Add the moonshine and juice into a mixing glass, shake then strain into an ice filled highball. Top with soda and garnish with a lime wedge.

**HOOCIE COOCIE
DARK CORNER
DISTILLERY MOONSHINE**

INGREDIENTS

1 oz Dark Corner
0.5 oz Pear Williams
0.75 oz Lemon Juice
0.5 oz Honey Syrup
1 dash Angostura bitters

Add ingredients into a mixing glass, add ice, shake then strain into a chilled cocktail glass. Garnish with a lemon twist.

**PEACH FIZZ
MAKER'S WHITE**

INGREDIENTS

.5 oz Maker's White
0.5 oz Creme de Peche
0.25 oz Demerara Syrup
2 dashes Angostura Bitters.
Splash soda water
Lemon Twist
Orange Twist

Add ingredients to a rocks glass, add ice and stir. Splash with soda water, garnish with a lemon and orange twist.



American Werewolves

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Nick Means

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HEADMASTERS

Five tattoo artists wrap their heads around decking out Bell Helmets' skid lids. Curated by Stefano Alcantara.

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Ride

OR

Ride

FEATURING
HEATHER MOSS
PHOTOS BY MARK MANN

Harley-Davidson

Heather Moss is one of the most amazing women in the tattoo industry. She's not just a banging body with great tattoos, she runs Timeless Art Tattoo with her husband Bobby Ross—she really is a ride or die chick. Since she is the Boss Lady, we let Heather tell her story in her own words.

There are so many daily thoughts, duties and overall love for the crew that goes into being the Boss Lady at a tattoo shop. It has not always been easy. In the beginning, even with the support of my husband standing behind me, the artists who came and went looked at me as unworthy of making decisions and demands in the shop setting. I knew two things had to happen: One, I had to stand my ground and not be shaken. Two, I had to become irreplaceable to the crew to gain their respect. Since I wasn't an artist I knew I had to make myself part of the team and that is what I did. I branded myself to my business, to my husband and most importantly to the crew that I have today. After eight years, Timeless Art is one of the best things that ever happened to me. It takes a special breed of crazy. It taught me how to work hard, respect my team and build my brand. We at Timeless Art are all irreplaceable; there is no greater feeling than the camaraderie of our team.

Chase Odem did Bobby's name on my wrist and Boog Star did my knuckles which read "Timeless." With those two exceptions my husband is responsible for every drop of ink in my body. I chose black-and-grey work because I love the way it looks. I love the subtlety of the artwork and couldn't commit to a ton of color. My husband has always been a color artist, and it's pretty much all he did when we met. Now, thanks to me, a majority of his work is black-and-grey by request.

My husband is responsible for my favorite piece, my right sleeve. It's all about time, my family and our love. The top portion reads "Timeless Love" playing off both the shop and our partnership. The clock is the time we got married; the numbers falling throughout the sleeve are anniversaries, birthdates and other important numbers. My son's name Ryland Gage is on the inside of my arm and my daughter Madison on the outer. There's a broken hourglass with sand spilling out to represent time and reminds me to make each grain of sand count. The crown on my hand is to represent the royalty of family

and is finished with 'One Love' just before my knuckles.

My tattoos make me feel so beautiful. I never really felt right in my own skin, we all have our demons. My tattoos make me feel powerful over myself, something I have control over. Finally something that was all mine; mine to share, mine to hide, mine to keep forever.

This industry is unarguably the greatest industry on the planet. There are no boundaries for those who find acceptance in the tattoo world. I was so incredibly fortunate to be Miss Milano 2014 and not only appear in Italy but to have an opportunity to represent Timeless Art and World Famous on one of the biggest scales imaginable. I do so many conventions a year, sponsoring the Phoenix Body Art Expo and my beloved United Ink. I look forward to each and every one, to see friends, idols and companies continue to grow and thrive in the industry.

The crew jokes that the shop just gets us from one convention to the next. We have been the sponsors of the Phoenix Body Art Expo for four years now and it is a huge hit every time. I look forward to it every February. I am also lucky to not only have one United Ink show but two every year in New York. I am Jackie Rubino's right hand man when I get there. That has to be one of the most well run, most chaotic shows on the planet.

Back home in Arizona, you have shops that love each other and shops that hate each other. It keeps the thrill alive. We have so much support for our local community and it really shows during the Phoenix Expo. Everyone was against such a big production coming to the Valley at first, but each year more and more join the fun. In Arizona, we wear less clothes than the rest of the country so why not decorate the landscaping?

A model hopes to be an inspiration, someone who did more than just make a pretty picture. I think people with platforms, regardless of how big or small, have a responsibility to their followers and to the industry that they represent to do something good with their audience. I really try and return every email, comment or at the least acknowledge the people who support my career. I make myself available and in every social setting to have a conversation, or give an aspiring model my advice or mentorship. I think it is so important to continue to uplift women who share the same dream but a different journey. 📌

Chain Neckpiece by Madonna & Co.; Kara Ross ring; Alexis Bittar cuff and bracelets Bike- Works Engineering; 1975 Ironhead xl 1000







My tattoos make me feel so beautiful. I never really felt right in my own skin, we all have our demons. My tattoos make me feel powerful over myself, something I have control over.

Bodysuit by Jessica Nicole for Peepshow Clothing;
cuff by Alexis Bittar; model's own shoes Bike-Indian Larry
Motorcycles: custom Wild Child



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CULTURE

GIGER



Last May the world lost H.R. Giger. To say Giger's art was influential is an understatement (most famously seen in *Alien*). And there's no denying that his biomechanic style transferred well to skin. *Dark Star: H.R. Giger's World* is a documentary that gives a fascinating look into the man's personal dwellings and head space. —*Gil Macias*



FLANDANA

The bandana got a smart reboot thanks to Flandana. This new look is hard in the front and soft against your face thanks to a soft sherpa lining. Already copped by Action Bronson, Drake and some lady's pug on Instagram the Flandana is the best thing to happen to bikers' faces since the invention of beards.

LIL' PINK LADY

Do kids still ride Big Wheels? They better be. If you have a little rider then you need to get her the Toddler's Biker Girl Tattoo Long Sleeve Tee (\$24.95, inkedshop.com). Call it a starter kit for a rebel without her adult incisors. The "vest" has stars, an eagle and a Route 66 patch. There is, of course a killer chain and the sleeve tattoos are pretty sweet, actually, including cupcakes, rainbows, sunflowers and pink dolphins. *Bubblegum sold separately.



ARTIST'S CHAIR

If only our middle school teacher didn't make us scrub our doodles off desks we'd have some low brow art fit for a gallery show. In that spirit the Cookie Bros. commissioned tattooer Danny Boy (Daniel Sawyer) to scribble Traditional American flash on a chair that was modelled in the fashion of old school tattoo chairs. Called the Danny Boy Chair it is perfect for your tattoo shop or home. Not enough flash on it for you? Break out a Sharpie and get to work.



*Black
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Photo: Sean Hartgrove



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HOBBIT



There's a tattooed Dwarf in Middle Earth. His name is Dwalin and he can be seen in *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies*, out on Blu-ray and DVD now. Unless they decide to adapt J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Silmarillion* for the big screen, this could possibly be our last adventure in Middle Earth for quite some time. —G.M.

DOS ELOISE



"Eloise does what she wants when she wants," Lena Dunham says in *It's Me, Hilary: The Man Who Drew Eloise*. "She doesn't brush her hair; doesn't care that her stomach hangs over her skirt, so there is a lot to relate to when you are a slightly weird child." The documentary, starring Dunham who has an Eloise lower back tattoo (scamp stamp?) details the struggle between writer and artist that hits home for any creative collaborator.

BLOODSPORT

Mortal Kombat X brings back fan favorites like Scorpion and Sub-Zero while introducing deadly new fighters to the mix. Developer NetherRealm introduces daily challenges and Faction Wars, where fighters pledge their allegiance to one of five groups. The branch that earns the most victories is granted special rewards and brutal new finishing moves to end their opponents' lives with inventive, wince-inducing flourishes. —Matt Bertz



LAST FAST?

A long roster of *The Fast and the Furious* franchise characters once again team up to defy the laws of physics and gravity. Djimon Hounsou, and Kurt Russell. Vin Diesel, Dwayne Johnson, and the late, great Paul Walker (R.I.P.) lead the pack. Michelle Rodriguez, Jordana Brewster, Tyrese Gibson, Chris "Ludacris" Bridges, Elsa Pataky and Lucas Black all got their backs. —G.M.



WE COOL?

THE INKED PLAYLIST

BY JONAH BAYER

DAVID BAZAN + PASSENGER STRING QUARTET

"The Fleeing"

This reworking of a Pedro The Lion staple gets a classical bent and new life.

CROWBAR

"Symmetry In White"

The metallic grooves on this track are so sludgy that you'll need a shower after listening.

BEACH SLANG

"All Fuzzed Out"

As the title implies, this song is a fuzzed-out rocker that shimmers and shines.

CHUMPED

"Name That Thing"

Chumped strip the feeling of happiness down to its essence with this pop-punk confessional.

FOO FIGHTERS

"The Feast And The Famine"

Dave Grohl & co. lull you into a false sense of security before erupting on this explosive rocker.

LAGWAGON

"Burning Out In Style"

Don't let the song title fool you, these punk vets sound as incendiary as ever on this melodic masterpiece.

LEWIS & CLARKE

"Triumvirate"

It's pleasurable to get lost in this quietly captivating, eight-minute-long atmospheric folk song.

J MASCIS

"Every Morning"

Dinosaur Jr's frontman gets acoustic and introspective but doesn't forget the guitar solos.

RANCID

"Honor Is All We Know"

Rancid surpass the fury of peers half their age on the raging title track from their eighth full-length.

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PIXIE INK

TEMPORARY TATTOOS

We've seen a lot of bad temporary tattoos, like a lot. But the new launch Pixie Ink comes into the market in a dazzling way. By using metallics Pixie Ink isn't trying to trick the eye into thinking the tattoos are real, they are fun, they are fashionable. Add a starburst of color to your body with one of their glamorous stick-ons.



FREDDY NEGRETE



The godfather of Chicano tattooing, Freddy Negrete, lent his immortal "Smile Now, Cry Later" designs to Project Save Art for temporary tattoos. If you ever coveted a piece by Negrete head to saveart.com where you can pick up the above for \$15.

BIKER CHIC

Iron and Glory might be the new kid on the motorcycle fashion block but they have the soul of the bikers who saw *Easy Rider* when it was first released to theaters. They boast "bad ass wares that are man-crafted in Brooklyn" including T-shirts, wallet straps and pocket knives. Iron and Glory also handles diamond engraving on objects such as flasks, cigarette cases and what they call a "Tattoo Tray" which could hold your inks or motorcycle keys or loose change.



DIALS

Clocking in at \$119.95 this piece is perfect for the nightstand or garage of any scooter enthusiast. The Vespa Radio Alarm Clock (thatsitaliashop.com) is MP3 capable and looks just like the speedometer on the classic sweet rides.



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BEST BIKES



In search of the elite motorcycles rolling out this season we fell in love—five-to-80-times over—but as our our weird lothario uncle said, “You can’t shuffle more than four dates at the same time,” we had to pick the four that we would really take home. Following are bikes that suit different needs. You may dig these or they might not be the perfect fit for you, again, our uncle “Go out and test ride before settling down.”

RSD DYNA RIPPER

The Dyna Ripper is a chopped 2010 Harley StreetBob built for the Hot Bike Power Toot in April. It features a custom gas tank and tail section from Roland Sands Design, as well as hand crafted components from over a dozen manufacturers—a true labor of love.



YAMAHA YZF-R1M



This perfect combination of brains and brawn features a high output 998cc engine with mind-numbing gyro sensors that process 125 calculations per second to measure and respond to the bikes every movement.

ANTICA IRONHEAD



Works Engineering recently completed their Antica Ironhead. Forged from the carcass of a 1975 Harley-Davidson Ironhead XL 1000 it features an early Triumph front wheel and internally routed electric with the ignition switch and relays housed in a repurposed vintage mothball closet hanger.

BMW R NINE T



This ultra customizable nod to the racers of yesterday is the brainchild of Ola Stenegard. The chopper builder envisioned the bike as a “blank canvas” so you can go your own way.

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Chasidy Lee
Nick Means Photography
Location: Custom Power Sports

IG: @c2d2
IG: @Nickmeansphoto
Chillicothe, OH





ODD COUPLE

Aaron Kaufman and Richard Rawlings have vastly different skill sets and personalities but yet they coalesce to make one of the most entertaining shows on TV, *Fast N' Loud*, and the most amazing restores and customizations out of their Gas Monkey Garage.

By Rocky Rakovic Photos by Tyler Clinton



We live in a time when most of the people who watch Food Network don't have a mandolin and a good deal of people who watch *The Bachelor* are married (also we'd venture to say a large swath of porn watchers don't have a safe word). Television needs to be entertaining but it can also be educational, even if the use isn't directly practical. I'll admit it, I'm not a mechanical person, my ride is a subway train, and I'm happy to have not owned a car in over a decade but *Fast N' Loud* is an automatic DVR for me. The Discovery show follows Richard Rawlings (bottom) and Aaron Kaufman of Gas Monkey Garage in Dallas, TX, as they find, restore and flip incredible rides. Rawlings is a business savant, from the deals to the marketing of the garage and himself he could be the other Mark Cuban of Texas. Kaufman is more of an artist—he is the mechanical and design genius who is more responsible for the product. Together they each add a different element into the alchemy that turns rust buckets into gold.

Again, I don't really know what a ratchet is (both in the tool box and in hip-hop slang), but there is a non-mechanic takeaway from *Fast N' Loud*, and that is it takes a collaboration of two types of people to be successful in a subjective business. Think about the tattoo artists you know who are virtuosos but they can't keep their business ledgers straight or they don't have the sense to market themselves correctly, I bet they aren't wildly flourishing. Kaufman without Rawlings or Rawlings without Kaufman would be as successful as the reboot of the *Odd Couple*—which should have been cancelled by the time this magazine went to the printer.

"Well, without being incredibly negative," Kaufman says of Rawlings, "I don't think the gentleman knows the difference between a bus driver and a screwdriver—let alone where to place it on the car. But with that being said, I don't have the global ambition that Richard does to take over the planet. I want to do an outstanding job and have an outlet for creativity, for curiosity. I enjoy building things and Richard, he enjoys building a business. I don't feel like Richard is on this trip to produce art or express himself, but that is fine because it gives me an outlet to do what I want. We both have different tricks."

"As I was growing up, my dad worked three jobs just to put food on the table and I didn't want to grow up like that," Rawlings says. "At a young age I had already been a police officer and a medic. The one time I saw my dad cry was when I left civil service because he thought I had it made, that I could retire and get my gold watch, and I didn't know what I wanted to do when I quit."

As he was finding his life's destination, Rawlings headed out west and did another thing that made his father recoil. "He hated it when I put on the old stick 'em tattoos from Cracker Jacks," Rawlings recalls. But when he returned to Texas he had a tribal tattoo. "He freaked out, but then got over it and the tattoos kept rolling. There was probably a time there that I was into the tribal, but definitely not anymore. Right now I am tattooing a gilded frame around it like you would see a piece of art at a museum, with a circa 1989 plate."

Kaufman came to the game later. "I have always been a fan of tattoos but the problem is that they cost money," he says. "I have always been interested in buying tools or motorcycle and car parts so I don't have a whole lot of money. Sam Chamberlain at Death or Glory, he is a big hot rodder, and he did work on me for car parts or stories."

The quintessential gear head tattoo is on Kaufman's palm and it is the four-speed backwards so that it matches the top of the shifter. "For me I love feeling the RPM, the vibration in the stick, you don't even have to look at your tachometer because you can feel what the gears are doing," he says of the tattoo Chamberlain had to hold him down to complete.

While he might be the moneymen Rawlings is a madman behind the wheel, winning the Gumball 3000, Bull Run and Cannonball Run—during which he broke the record set in 1979 as he barreled from NYC to LA in 31 hours and 59 minutes, averaging 87.6 mph. "I was thinking that if that record stood for five years I should get a tattoo of it," he says. "It is my favorite, 3159 on my forearm. That was a hell of an accomplishment."

"Boy, are you currently seated?" Kaufman asks when the pitchfork-arrow on his arm is mentioned. Sit. "We get a lot of fan mail. We get this one letter that is many pages, it is by Rick D---- out of Canada. The first sentence right off to the races: explicit sexual abuse in the woods, things that have happened to him, his mother's boyfriend—this is a grown man writing about his past. It transitions into these diagrams: we should make a high-compression race motor which looks like a peanut butter jar; the Pentagon with swastikas inside of it; a clear cue ball with a laser stick so you could line-up your shot; playing cards with two suits.... The last one, number 15 said, 'zero tapiture, point break, pitchfork arrow.' I was so enthralled by the whole letter. I get to the last line and I have never seen a movie that ended so abruptly or in a wonderful way as this letter. It terrified us. The letter came from a nuthouse in Canada. We looked him up, he is on LinkedIn so he works there. It was kind of a joke, whenever we were getting butt-nutty or loose we would just sa 'pitchfork arrow.' I thought I would either have to own it or get run over by it." ■





Miller Queen



By Robert McCormick Photos by Jason Goodrich Hair and Makeup by Lisa Thai Styled by Martin Waitt Shot on Location at SLNYC Custom Motorcycles in Queens, New York



WILDFOX shorts; Dr. Martens shirt; I Still Love You NYC choker; model's own bikini top and earrings



9 Questions

for
"Queen Esther" Hanuka

You've explained that you have a "Good Esther" and a "Bad Esther" on your arm, do you use the latter to remind yourself not to turn back into her or is it a celebration of your inner-bad girl?

I'm still bad, ha.

Your lovely children are also represented in your sleeve. What do they think about the pieces, did any of them pick out the type of work?

Yes, each cartoon character is what they loved so I just decided to create a piece with each cartoon character of their choice.

Do you have room for a sixth?

Yes, I plan on it! I definitely want one more child...

Who does your tattoos these days?

My latest piece was done by Freddy Negrete and it's my favorite. My father means the world to me so Freddy tattooed my father's portrait on my left arm. I'm extremely happy because Freddy captured my father's exact face—I feel like I get to see him every day now.

What is the Jewish view on tattoos?

Well from what I know it's frowned upon but now in this era what can you say? Everyone has a tattoo.

Now, since you are the Queen, some queen questions: Do you think the Queen of England would look good in tattoos?

I don't know, she's old.

Were you the homecoming queen?

No, never that, never cared to be.

Coolest Queen:
A. Queen Daenerys of House Targaryen
B. Rapper Lil Kim (Queen B)
C. Queen of the Nile, Cleopatra
D. Beauty Queen Honey Boo Boo

Queen B!

Anything else to add that I didn't touch on, or any questions of your own?

Am I currently single? Yes.

My favorite food? Pizza.







I Still Love You NYC earrings;
model's own bodysuit and shorts





BROTHER



Photos by Sophy Holland Styling by Rebecca Weinberg Grooming by Shirley Pinkson for W311 People Assistant: Maddy Talias
Interview by Rocky Rakovic Special thanks to Carly Jane Chappell Location: SouthSide Cycles, Brooklyn, NY

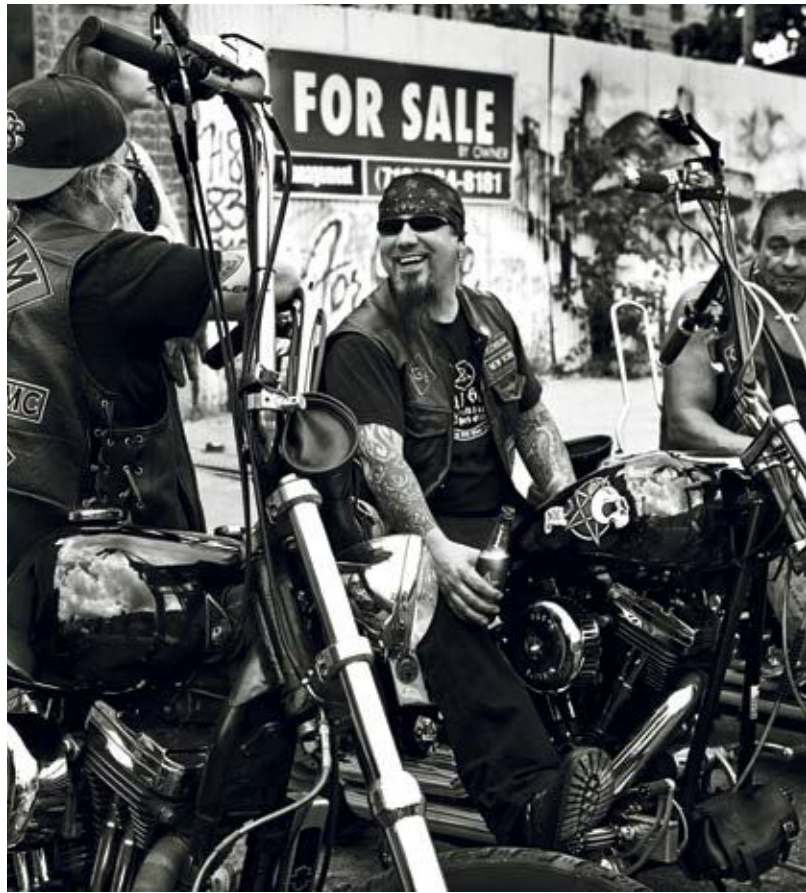
I first met the president of RedRum Motorcycle Club, Cliff Matias—a spiritual man, softly-spoken with an iron will to match—almost five years ago, and since, have slowly been introduced to key members of the club and subsequently, their wives and girlfriends. It became apparent that these people in and around the motorcycle club were earnest. They share family values and a strong bond in its most simplistic form—one that I hadn't seen before in other cultures. It is an unavoidable honesty.

So often we associate bike club members with criminals who are to be feared rather than be revered as protectors, or even thought of as regular people. The aim of the “Brotherhood” project is to show who these people really are. A part of photography that I find deeply appealing is documenting a moment that is truly honest. Posing and posturing will always have its place, but when shooting the “everyday man” the artist often finds themselves no longer in control of their subjects, but merely a bystander in the moments they capture. Much like the men and women involved with RedRum MC, after I gained the club's trust I was fortunate enough to be given unfettered access to this insular group.

When I embarked on documenting the characters I wasn't sure what would transpire but I was afforded the opportunity to witness some genuinely soft moments: Cuddling their wives, adoring their girlfriends and playing with their children, riding in unity on charity runs and laughing with each other. They are not angels but I have never personally witnessed any group brawls, nor unprovoked aggression towards the general public. Sub-cultural, tight-knit groups such as RedRum are the ideal subject for this style of documentary photography. Peek behind the curtain and into a world that you'd never normally see or will ever be witness to again. —*Sophy Holland*

Part of being in a brotherhood—be it a club, secret society, fraternity, gang, tattoo collective, blood relatives or just tight friends—is that there is esoterica which naturally creates a bond within a group. Mystique is highly valued and wholly respected. The men granted access to this arcane knowledge sacrificed to gain it and that's one thing that makes a brotherhood stronger. While they may or may not have a secret handshake, the gentlemen of RedRum Motorcycle Club's Brooklyn chapter shook our hands in the traditional manner and allowed us into their world. We call them gentlemen in the previous sentence because that's what they are.

There are good clubs and there are awful clubs. Have you ever heard of a 1%er? During a 1947 bike rally in Hollister, CA two clubs dusted up in front of *Life* magazine's cameras. As a result of the bad press, the American Motorcycle Club issued a statement that said 99% of bikers were law-abiding citizens while 1% were nothing more than outlaws. Well, the renegade clubs adopted the 1% patch—proudly. The percent symbol doesn't fit RedRum nor do they wear that patch. They have their own



On the 1st spread, left to right: T-Shirt by 7th Revolution, chain and pants by Harley-Davidson, boots by Frye. Cotton top by John Varvatos, scarf by Lost Art, watch by Biker Crossroads, chain by Harley-Davidson, jeans by Levi's, boots by Frye. T-shirt by Loser Machine, rings from InkedShop.com, pants by Dickies. T-shirt by Loser Machine, rings and bracelets by Lazaro Soho, pants and shoes by Harley-Davidson.



T-shirt by 7th Revolution, pants by Lost Art, bracelets by Lazaro Soho, wallet chain by Harley-Davidson



T-shirt, sunglasses and pants by Harley-Davidson, key tassel and rings by Lazaro Soho.

patches with insular symbolism, but if we outsiders were to give them another it would be “&.” As you’ll learn in the following conversation where Jeff Blanchard, Nial Andrews, Terrance Fowler, Joseph Figueroa and Matt Gelbke make us privy to the real club life (over a few beers in Southside Cycles’ workshop) many of their points start off with “And.” The RedRums don’t cut each other off in conversation, they add to their brothers’ thoughts. And that isn’t just a function of their dialogue, it is the inherent notion that with RedRum you can’t separate the guys. It is not “Jeff’s way or Nial’s way.” It is Blanchard & Andrews & Fowler & Figueroa & Gelbke & the rest of the RedRums who share in a brotherhood—“or” is not their vocabulary or nature.

What made you join RedRum M.C.?

Fowler: To sell bazookas [joking]. Nah, to give me chance to be with people that have my back all the time.

Blanchard: There is a lot of stuff that we have been through together. I was never sure about joining a club but I wanted to be involved with something that tested brotherhood.

How have you been tested?

Blanchard: Heads are going to butt but it is a matter of seeing if you can come back from that and give a hug.





Jacket by Harley-Davidson, plaid shirt by Kiko (available at Lazaro Soho), ring by Lazaro Soho, T-shirt by 7th Revolution, pants by Dickies, helmet by KTZ, watch by Biker Wear Crossroads

What is the difference between friendship and brotherhood?

Andrews: Your friends are around for the good times but they are not always around for the bad times. The bond that you have in brotherhood makes you stronger—it gives you a feeling like nothing else. In certain circumstances your own family can't give you that feeling as much as waking somebody up at two o'clock in the morning and them not having a problem getting out of bed and taking care of what we need to take care of.

Figueroa: There is more loyalty to the brotherhood. If Terry has a problem with somebody, I have a problem with them; if he fucked Terry, he fucked me. I have your back, I am in the middle of this shit too.

What is the direst situation that you have pulled a brother out of?

Figueroa: I don't know if we want to get into that; we've gotten into situations....

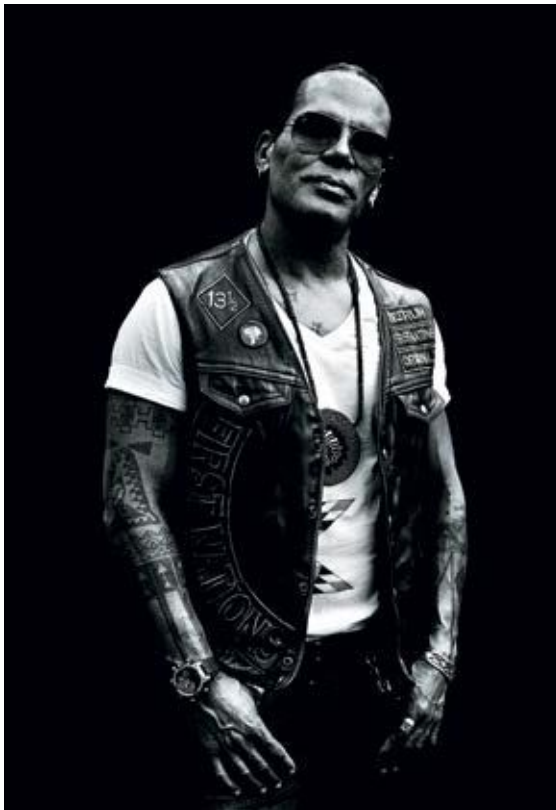
How do normal people, unfamiliar with motorcycle clubs, view you in your cuts?

Fowler: I was with this girl the other night and her friends said, "You can't be with this fucking guy. He has to be a criminal. He looks like he just walked out of prison." Listen, I don't mind that, I got a chuckle out of it because I am the farthest from a criminal that you are ever going to meet.

What has *Sons of Anarchy* done to the perception of motorcycle clubs?

Fowler: Jeff can answer that one, because I shouldn't say what I'm thinking.

Blanchard: It blows everything out of proportion. They did show how clubs work, but it was a drama, they were killing 60 guys a week.



You'd be out of members in less than a month.

Fowler: We'd all be locked up and there would be more trucks exploding on the highway.

Blanchard: It was entertaining. If a biker said he didn't watch it, he'd be full of shit because every biker watched it. But it was a drama, that's it. There are some great things that they did show, some of the great parts of the life: the hierarchies in clubs, the protocols, all that kind of stuff, but in the end it was just total entertainment.

Agreed, but that is the most public representation of motorcycle clubs.

Figueroa: Unfortunately, meanwhile we are the guys that would help if you really needed it.

Andrews: And we want to be ambassadors wherever we go.

Fowler: You want to be polite without bringing some flowers.

Blanchard: I mean if we have a Prospect [a man essentially pledging the club] with us we'll have him blow somebody. [joking]

Andrews: I don't think people know how many charitable donations are made by motorcycle clubs. It is a huge number.

What philanthropy are you involved in?

Blanchard: Every year we do a St. Jude run.

Our president Cliff Matias organizes different rides up in the Catskills. We do a Purple Heart Association run locally. We have done book drives for under privileged kids. We do a Native American scholarship run. That has been going over 12 years. It is a fun ride, we start at the Bull [Charging Bull statue on Wall Street]....

Andrews: Well, the National Museum of the American Indian.

Fowler: And we go up to Bear Mountain for their pow wow.

Andrews: And we always donate, I think last year we donated \$2,000 for one of the traditional dancers.

That plays against the perception one has when they read "RedRum" on your back.

Figueroa: I was originally with a group called Legion of Doom and there was a set of us called RedRum. We floated away and Cliff said we were going to stick with RedRum. Everybody thinks its "murder" backwards so you have to kind of clarify.

Please do.

Figueroa: We are all about positivity. But the first thing that pops into people's minds is *The Shining*.

Fowler: So many times you'll be in a bar and



T-shirt and wallet chain by Harley-Davidson, jeans by Levis Custom, bracelet by Lazaro Solor, watch by Biker Wear, sunglasses

somebody will come up saying "Redrum, redrum." Shut the fuck up.

Figuroa: It is a badass name. Guys will say, "You got fucking murder on your back." No we are the opposite of that life.

Can we walk through the patch or is it a sacred, esoteric, thing?

Fowler: The three skulls represent brotherhood, the black bandanas represent the struggle between the Mexican people and their government. The peace sign speaks for itself, the war paint are of every denomination of man: white, red, yellow, black.

It's clear that the patches mean the world to you.

Figuroa: Guys work hard for it. You can buy three-piece *Sons of Anarchy* patch online and unfortunately some dumb guy is going to learn his lesson, riding around his Honda with one on when an outlaw club finds him.

Why are you "prospecting," Matt?

Fowler: Don't fuck this up.

Gelbke: I have always been intrigued by the club life. I am a union worker so I am fond of the brotherhood you get with groups of likeminded guys. It's what drew me in; it's what keeps me interested. The brotherhood, a common bond, right or wrong, weak or strong. I know I will be here for them and I trust that they'll be there for me too.

Figuroa: I have been able to watch who would fit and who wouldn't fit for the past 15 years. Between the guys we are prospecting now to the guys we used to have, it is a big difference. I had to watch this guy who was a pain in the ass, everywhere we went there was something going on and he was involved.

Where is he now?

Figuroa: He passed away. So it's life is a bitch, it comes back to bite. And I prefer what we have now to what we had when it was harder. We got rid of the bad seeds and every time we lost one we got four more great dudes. Not those guys who are going to rob, rape and do all that crazy shit. We are not hardcore, we don't need to be, people see us and they know that we are tough. We are the guys who are going to shake people's hands. People want what we got.

Andrews: And what we got is brotherhood. We never ask what brotherhood can do for us, we ask what we can do for brotherhood. I want to help in any way I can and that is what brings us closer together. The closer you get to brotherhood the more enlightened you become. When we all come together, when we are wearing the same patch, we have the same common goal.

Blanchard: The club opened my eyes to look at people differently. I am still learning constantly which is great, and it is not just about the club life, it is about life in general.

Fowler: Before I met these guys I was very selfish. I had my own real family but I never felt brotherhood with my real brother. I doubted that brotherhood even existed when I couldn't find it at home. But when I found these guys I knew I found brotherhood. I like to roll alone once in a blue moon, but nobody is more than a phone call away. If something goes down everybody zooms to the scene. That is what brotherhood is to me and I don't think I can find it anywhere else. It took me a long time in my life, I just turned 50, and I finally feel like I fit in somewhere. I wandered through life not fitting in until I found these guys. I found brotherhood. 🍻



Shirt by Route 66, pants by Dickies, bracelet and ring by Lazaro Soho.

Suicide Girls

Adventure. Excitement.
A SuicideGirl craves
these things.



The counterculture collective of beautiful women spins pop culture in a dazzling and sexy way on stage. Performing under the Inked magazine banner, the SuicideGirls' Blackheart Burlesque Tour titillated 46 crowds in 56 days—you should see the amount of nipple tape on the expense report ledger.

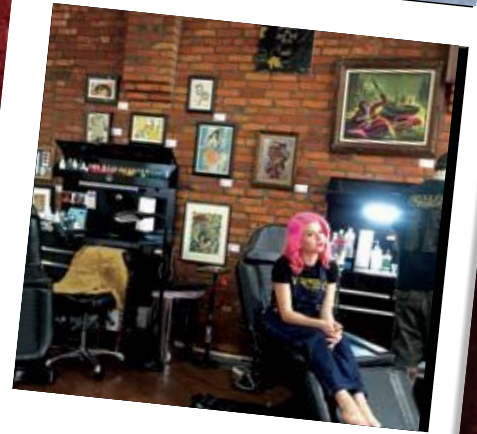
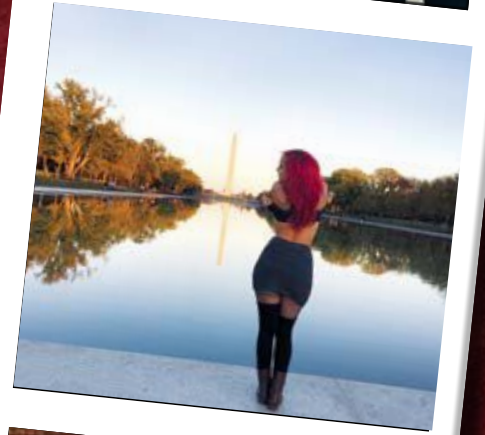
For what *Vice* described as, "sort of Comicon meets burlesque nerd orgy," the Girls twisted geeky tropes like *Star Wars*, *A Clockwork Orange*, *Game of Thrones* and *Zelda*. A favorite performance was Sunny's rendition of "Part of Your World" from *The Little Mermaid* (don't act like you don't know it, tough guy). She belted out: "Fishes with tits they don't get too far, legs are required for bumping and grinding. I want to feel my, what is that word again? Oh, twat."

Like sailors getting their swallow tattoos after 5,000 miles at sea, the SuicideGirls got their new black heart tattoos to represent the tour at Red Tree Tattoo Shop in Columbus, OH. They also managed to take in Disney World, see Zoomanity in Las Vegas, meet the Naked Cowboy in Times Square, see if there is a basement in The Alamo and managed to snap a few photos in SG swag outside the White House.

The Blackheart Burlesque tour kicks back up in April, starting in Oakland, CA and then weaves its way around the US and Canada. Do you like half-naked tattooed women and partying? Of course you do, you are reading *Inked*, come see the SuicideGirls in the flesh.

Photos by Sunshine Suicide





Road Trip!



THE SHOE SURGEON

PHOTOS BY RAMIN RAHIMIAN

DOMINIC CHAMBRONE

BY DJ CLARK KENT





Dominic Chambrone, better known as The Shoe Surgeon, started customizing shoes while he was in high school, but the cobbler has come a long way since his days of air brushing AF1 Mids. Sneakerheads across the globe dropped their jaws at the sight of his work on a pair of Banned 1s. Chambrone is a household name in the sneaker game, having created custom kicks for everyone from Justin Bieber to Fat Joe. Famed sneakerhead and record producer DJ Clark Kent is known for his sick sneaker collection so we had him sit down with Chambrone to talk kicks.

DJ Clark Kent: Why "The Shoe Surgeon?"

Chambrone: When I first started customizing I was like 16 or 17. Then when I moved to Charlotte it was like "Man, I need to have a name for myself." I was brainstorming for months, probably a couple years. One time we drove up to New York City, me and my brother and my friend, and we went to the Bape store, back when Bape was super dope, and we ran into Pharell Williams, who is one of my idols. I was super inspired by New York City and super motivated. On the drive back through Virginia I just came up with the name The Shoe Surgeon. Originally it was The Shoe Surgeons, with a friend, but we kind of had a falling out so now it's The Shoe Surgeon.

I want to ask you what's your favorite shoe, not your favorite sneaker, but your favorite shoe? My favorite shoe is like a moc toe boot. My favorite one is called the Shaboyan. They don't even make it anymore, it's a discontinued model.

And your favorite sneaker is that Flyknit 3. Yeah, because it's so damn comfortable and when I'm on my feet working all day long it's like putting on a warm pair of socks.

Some would say you're a customizer, I understand that you're a cobbler as well. How do you see yourself? Starting out I was definitely a customizer, I was basically customizing shoes to make them my own. I came across a shoe repair shop and started learning shoe repair. The difference is knowing all aspects of shoe making, and that is not just customizing sneakers.

How would you say you' became so good, being self-taught? From fucking up so many times.

Tell me about your first reconstructed shoes? The ones that went to Niche in Charlotte. Oh yeah, that shit was crazy. That's why the whole Charlotte thing was something that I had to experience to get me where I'm at today. Before that I was just painting shoes and gluing stuff on the shoes and it just wasn't holding up, this was back in 05, 06 maybe. Then I ran across this store called Niche Market. I went in there and it was like a dope streetwear store that I'd never seen in my life. I went up to the owner and told him that I customized shoes. He was like "Oh yeah I've heard that before." A lot of dudes would just put rhinestones on Air Force 1s and paint them and stuff. He gave me a Vans Chucka, I forget the model, it was a kids size so he wasn't scared to let it go and he said "alright bring it back to me and we'll see what it is." That's when I just went nuts. I had the Vans stripe lasered with the Niche logo, I actually had it sewn at a shoe repair shop, they also did some stitching on it. I was just trying to watch and have them show me how to do it. It was a mom and pop shop; they just fixed shoes all day. I needed to learn how to do that.

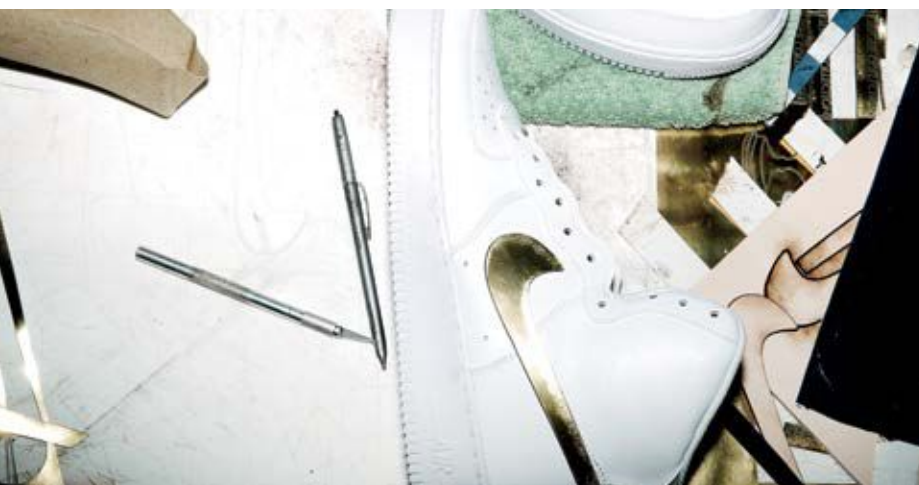
When you're deciding that you're going to reconstruct a shoe, what inspires you to do what you do? It can be anything. Just searching new materials, then looking at a material raw and being like Okay I want to turn that into a shoe, I want that to be the toe. It's kind of a process that just naturally happens while I'm putting the shoe together.



What inspires you in design? Nature, architecture, the way things are put together, how something wears. If I'm making a shoe, I'm not just trying to make it look cool. I want to make it feel good. I want to make it so that someone could wear it every damn day.

Which other reconstructors do you respect? I would say Red Ribbon Recon, he goes by Jester. I respect some of the new cats and what they're doing, but I respect Jester for doing stuff that no one else is doing and not following the trends.

What other cobblers do you respect? My favorite cobbler is actually in Los Angeles and he goes by the name of Raul. His place is called Willie's Shoe Service.



What other designers do you respect? I have quite a few friends that are designers. I respect that it's not easy to design something and make it sell and make it cool, not just copy someone else. I respect Javier Laval of Android Homme, Josh Brubaker of Clear Weather. He used to be the head designer of the Supra sneaker brand. Of course I respect high fashion designers like Rick Owens, and Ann Demeulemeester, Raf Simons.

I notice you have a very serious relationship with Android Homme, tell me about how that happened. That was actually another life changer. I was friends with Javier of Android and I just wrote him on Facebook asking how to learn design. He was pretty open and asked me to come down to LA and intern for him. That was dope. I never ended up moving to LA but we kept a close relationship. A few months later he hit me up and asked if I could customize a pair of his shoes for the VMA's. I customized a pair for Will.i.am and drove them down to LA. He introduced me to Justin Bieber's stylist. It was kind of a domino effect.



Now those Jordan 4s, tell me about that. I originally did those for my friend who was the marketing director at Supra and it was a gift I did for her. I wanted to do python Jordans. Then a month later another guy did it. That's kind of what created the whole market, I made a pair, this other guy made a pair and it was game on.

Then you did one for Fat Joe, you did those hi tops, the olive green ones, how did that happen? Fat Joe actually hit me up directly through Instagram. He sent me a message saying he was a fan, I sent him my number, he called me personally. He asked if he could have them in a month. I ended up just buckling down and doing it for him and they turned out amazing.

Could you get a project done in one night? Yeah I definitely could, and I have.

I know you probably have a ton of stuff that you're working on right now, is there anything that you could tell us about? I'm working on my own collection. I've actually been designing on a computer and drawing sketches of my own line, no customized Nikes.



If you could collaborate with a designer or a brand who or what would it be? I guess I would go back to one of the high-end crazy designers like Christian Carol Poell or Rick Owens.

You're starting to put out your own line. What will the focus be, sneakers, shoes, boots, or accessories? It's going to be handmade sneakers and boots.

Basically sneakers and boots on a luxury level? Right. 🐶

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BY JOHN BUFFALO MAILER
PHOTOS BY KATRINA EUGENIA

As they all converged at V-Bar St. Mark's, Josh's restaurant, Rocky, Katrina, and Buffalo all raised glasses once again, celebrating the fact that their journey had finally come to a close from where it had started two and a half years before at Bill's Gay 90's. Buffalo was shocked that Rocky did not laugh him out of the bar when he suggested that they run the entire 80 pages he had written about this experience over a serialized year's worth of issues. Shocked was more like it, but pleasantly confirmed that there was still at least one editor out there who had the balls and vision to carry on a dying art that once was a common pleasure to be had through the medium. Long form non-fiction narrative. Damn, Rocky has balls, Buffalo thought to himself as they caught up on life and what had transpired since Rocky had introduced him to Lord. Rocky was happy to see that Katrina and Buffalo were still very much in love. In fact, more so than ever, he couldn't help but notice.

Josh was late, of course, but nobody seemed to care. They felt like athletes who had just completed a tough marathon and were now enjoying the sweet spot in time before they must once again saddle up and prepare for the next match. When Josh did arrive, it was as if they had all somehow known from the start that this was where they would wind up at the end of this particular journey. It was unusually comfortable. But there was something gnawing at

Buffalo's stomach. A small ounce of nervousness due to a promise he had made Josh. From the start, in order to give Josh the freedom to speak candidly with him, Buffalo had not only promised to show the piece to him before he handed it in to Rocky, but had also sworn to throw out any parts, or all of it, if Josh did not like what he saw for any reason. What the fuck was Buffalo going to do if Josh decided he wanted him to scrap the whole thing? Two years of work down the fucking tubes. Not to mention, how would he explain that to Rocky?

So, Buffalo was merry with the rest of them, but would not rest easy until he heard back from Josh on what he thought of the piece. That night, as he got back to his apartment, Josh Lord finally got to read the piece Buffalo had been promising to write for the past two years, the piece that in many ways would follow him as closely and as permanently as if it were tattooed on his body, another page of the scrapbook.

And as he went through page after page of this unique and bizarre journey, Lord had this thought in his head, "When you put something down, on skin or on paper, for all to see, the scariest thing is that it's no longer solely yours. But, when all is said and done, after reading myself through the eyes of someone I entrusted to explain who I am to the world—faulty as it may be in parts—I have to say, the danger that comes with grasping at permanence, feels like it just might be worth the risk."





Inked has been serializing John Buffalo Mailer's literary tattoo memoir. If you missed the earlier installments visit inkedmag.com/buffalo



JASON CLAY DUNN

By Charlie Connell Portrait by Mark Abramson

Season Five *Ink Master* champion Jason Clay Dunn is in a very unique place in the tattooing world as he straddles the line between the tattoo world's old school and the new generation. Dunne made his own machine and learned the trade under a pretty brutal apprenticeship—just like all of the old timers. Yet it was some slick SEO marketing, a massive internet presence and multiple appearances on *Ink Master* that caused his career to soar. Dunn wasn't just a long shot to win the TV competition, the odds were against him even getting off the plane in New York. After years of dealing with crippling anxiety issues that forced him to tattoo underground, Dunn considered himself a winner just for showing up. "It was all about getting to live again and not being stuck in my little world," Dunn explains. "For the lonely dude that was in his house and had no life to have a voice—what an amazing thing to be that person." Now he doesn't just have a voice, he has the crown.

INKED: Let's start off with the obvious, what does it feel like to be *Ink Master*?

DUNN: I don't think words can actually describe it. For me, it's an amazing thing on a personal level since it was a matter of overcoming so many struggles. I don't really consider myself an *Ink Master* per se, I feel like I'll always be an apprentice in life. To me it's just a TV thing. If you want to give me the title, cool, I'll take it. But I'm the type of person that will never stop learning. I think that once you feel that you have mastered something is the moment that you don't know shit.

What made you want to learn to be a tattoo artist?

I just knew that I had a passion for tattooing. I don't think I've ever been a natural artist. I was never that kid in school that could bust out amazing drawings, for me it was always a struggle.

Where did that passion come from if it wasn't from a love of drawing?

I don't know. To this day I'm still amazed when I see the color green or blue on someone and I think, what the hell is it doing there? It shouldn't be there. It is still fascinating to me. I love it. I see it on the body and think

how can it even be real or possible? I'm still amazed that we can even do this and take this craft to this level.

Was it strange to get into the competitive mindset for the show?

Absolutely. I think that people need to realize that competition tattooing has nothing to do with real life tattooing. In real life tattooing you don't have three hours to set up, eat, go to the bathroom, talk with the customer and then have all this pressure after going with no sleep. I was on two or three hours of sleep a night for two months straight. Tattooing is when you mold something together to put something beautiful on someone or a fun night out with the boys where you end up with a token tattoo. The show is totally opposite of what is actually going on in tattooing.

Do you think that TV has driven tattooists to brand themselves in a manner that they never have before?

I'm probably a good candidate to discuss that topic. I don't have the skill set that some of the people I admire have but I do have a lot of marketing background. Nowadays, my tattooing is just trying to catch up with my marketing. You just have to have one or the other. It took me 21 years in the business and getting on TV and marketing myself on the internet for me to get top dollar for my work. At the same time, there is a certain point where your work has to deliver.

You were on the show twice, did you have any reservations about coming back?

I told them no for over a month. The first time I did it I didn't even want to do it. I just so happened to go out to the audition with a friend of mine and the first thing they ask was what am I doing here. I told them I didn't know what I was doing there honestly. I said, I haven't flown in 25 years and I have a panic disorder, you're going to have to hire a fucking donkey to get me to New York. I guess they liked my smartass humor, they told me to come back the next day to be filmed. Two days before I went out there me and my girlfriend at the time went to a mall and I couldn't even stand on the second floor of the mall. I had such an extreme panic attack. I was in tears asking her how the hell am I going to do this? How am I supposed to go

to New York and do this competition and be a man and look good on TV and all this stuff when I can't even drive on a freeway? But I went to the airport with her, we got on a flight and the rest is history.

What was it that convinced you this time around?

I said, you know what, this show was so much bigger than me and so much bigger than tattooing. All last year I was getting emails from people with panic disorders and anxiety saying what an inspiration that I had become. I thought that if I can help one kid somewhere get off the couch somewhere it's worth two months of suffering for me. It was really never about the money for me. It was never about the fame at that point. I thought it would kill me going back on there, honestly.

Do you feel like being on the show has helped you learn to deal with your disorder?

I think that it's been the best thing that ever happened to me in my life. It got me out of this comfort zone. Now I've flown to New York 6 or 7 times. It's given me my life back. I don't care what any tattooers out there might say about me because it took something like *Ink Master* to make me live again and become the man I always wanted to be and it feels amazing. I never did conventions, I never had too many friends. People always ask what the best thing about being on the show is—dude, I've got 15 something new friends from season three and 15 new friends from season five. I can do things even though I am scared and fearful, I have friends that I can meet up with. I can guest spot anywhere in the world, it has given me a life back.

That's an amazing thing to get out of the show, so much more than what you would expect a person to say.

Well, you're talking to a guy who was tattooing for several years before I had to up and leave everything in a second. I was shaking so bad that I couldn't tattoo for a couple of years. I became an agoraphobic where I couldn't leave my parents' house for two years. I had to rehabilitate myself and teach myself just how to walk outside. So

it means the world to me. And the fact that I was able to influence people... words can't even explain how much it means to me. If there was ever a winner who truly appreciates their win it's me.

Did you find that because you were so happy to be there that it affected you as a competitor?

I think it did help me the second time because I was able to have a different mindset about what I wanted out of it. I knew that it was bigger than me, I knew that the world will be seeing me in a certain way, I wanted to make my struggles a part of the story. I didn't know I was going to have a panic attack on the twenty billionth level of a skyscraper or whatever. That was no fun.

So much of the show is about being technically perfect. Do you always feel that same pressure to be perfect when tattooing?

I used to strive for perfection, I used to want everything perfect on me. The truth is this—tattooing is more about the experience than it is about the actual tattoo. I've gotten some badass tattoo work done by guys who were kind of dickheads. I have little tattoos from the guys that I have taught at my shop. Are they perfect? No, but they mean more to me than all of the dope-ass expensive work that I have spent money on.

Being tattooed is an intimate experience for both people involved.

It is and people forget that part of it. If you are sitting there putting pain into someone's body for six hours straight that's an intimate thing. You get to know them very well. My customers, I don't like to call them customers and I hate the word canvas. I like to call them friends. They become close to you. They are the ones that make my life rich. I know more than the bartender does, I can give you dirt on anybody. They spend more time with me and I'm inflicting pain on them.

Part of the idea of *Ink Master* is that you have to do all the different styles of tattooing. How do you think that that helps you as a tattooer?

It's funny, back when I started that's how we all were. Very few people were niche marketing themselves. I



believe in niche marketing in tattooing, that's why I became a specialist in big epic work and stuff like that. But I feel like it's important to be able to work in all different styles because that's your bread and butter. You first start out by doing walk-ins and you need to be able to do whatever walks in that door or else you don't eat.

How did you find your niche?

For me it was a combination of two things. I love doing Japanese style imagery. The style lends it self to amazing flowing tattoos that hold true and solid for a lifetime. Then there was the marketing side of me that said Hey, if I can get a guy to get big work—guys who get Japanese work tend to get big work—then I've got a customer every couple of weeks. If I can get five of those guys to come in every week then I've filled up my week. So, for me, it was a marketing thing. I was working underground for a while due to my anxiety, I had to do what I could to bring them to my door. It's amazing how word of mouth and the internet can launch careers. Man, I can trace my whole career

right now to one tattoo of a koi fish that I have online. I've had people fly in from all over the world based on this one tattoo that they saw.

Before your anxiety forced you to work from home did you work in a traditional shop setting?

Oh God, yes. I started the old school way by making my own gear, tattooing friends, and going around telling people that I was a tattooer when I didn't really know shit. Eventually I ended up getting a traditional, hardcore apprenticeship. I earned my way into this business, don't let anyone tell you I didn't. I worked for about two-and-a-half years under Buddy Tanner. I remember walking in there and I literally swept around their apprentice and just never left. I worked 83 hours a week for no pay. Was it stupid? Yeah. Would I do it again? Fuck no. But I do know this, it was a humbling experience to have grown men talk shit to you.

You are easily one of the more recognizable tattooists on *Ink Master*. Did the producers of the show change your look into the one we know today, or is that all you?

Apparently I look like a fucking cartoon character, I had no idea. I showed up the first day and all these guys are there with their beards chopped and all kinds of coloring shit in their hair. They told me about how they had been in makeup and had all this stuff done. I'm like, wait a minute, they didn't do shit to me. I just talk funny and look like a fucking garden gnome and that's what they wanted to see on television. I'm like, do something to me, put a streak in my hair or something.

You have any future plans in the works right now?

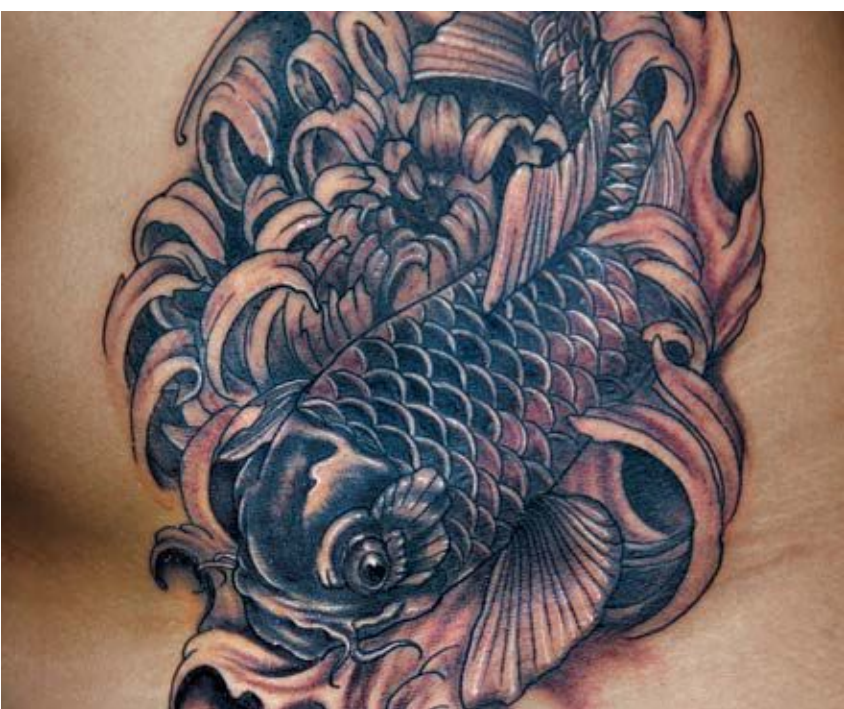
Right now I'm looking forward to doing a lot more conventions. I want to meet the friends out there that want to come out and see me. I want to take pictures, shake everyone's hands, tattoo 'em, and thank them for voting for me. Other than that, nothing exciting. Just out looking for a girlfriend.

The fame from the *Ink Master* victory has to be helping that search.

(Laughs) I did not know that the desire for garden gnomes was so high. 🐉



Mark Abramson photo





JESSE LEVITT

VISIT: [INSTAGRAM.COM/JESSELEVITT](https://www.instagram.com/jesselevitt)



WHAT OPPORTUNITIES DOES BIO-MECH OFFER THAT OTHER STYLES DON'T? I suppose Bio-Mech and Bio-Organic tattooing offers the freedom to create something 100% out of your head with no rules or boundaries attached to it. It also gives the artist the ability to have fun rendering something that just simply looks cool, without being tied down and restricted to specific subject matter. You can make it look however you want which is really fun.

HOW IMPORTANT IS THE CLIENT'S BIOLOGY TO THE TATTOO THEY RECEIVE? The location of the piece on the client's body and their musculature is everything when laying out a Bio piece. I work with arms and legs the most, and it can sometimes be a challenge to design things that flow the way they should with that part of the body while still

experimenting and doing it in a different way every time. I think it is very important to continually grow and change up the way you are doing things while still keeping the flow of the body in mind. Bio-Organic and Bio-Mechanic art always looks best when it fits and flows with the body in an interesting way.

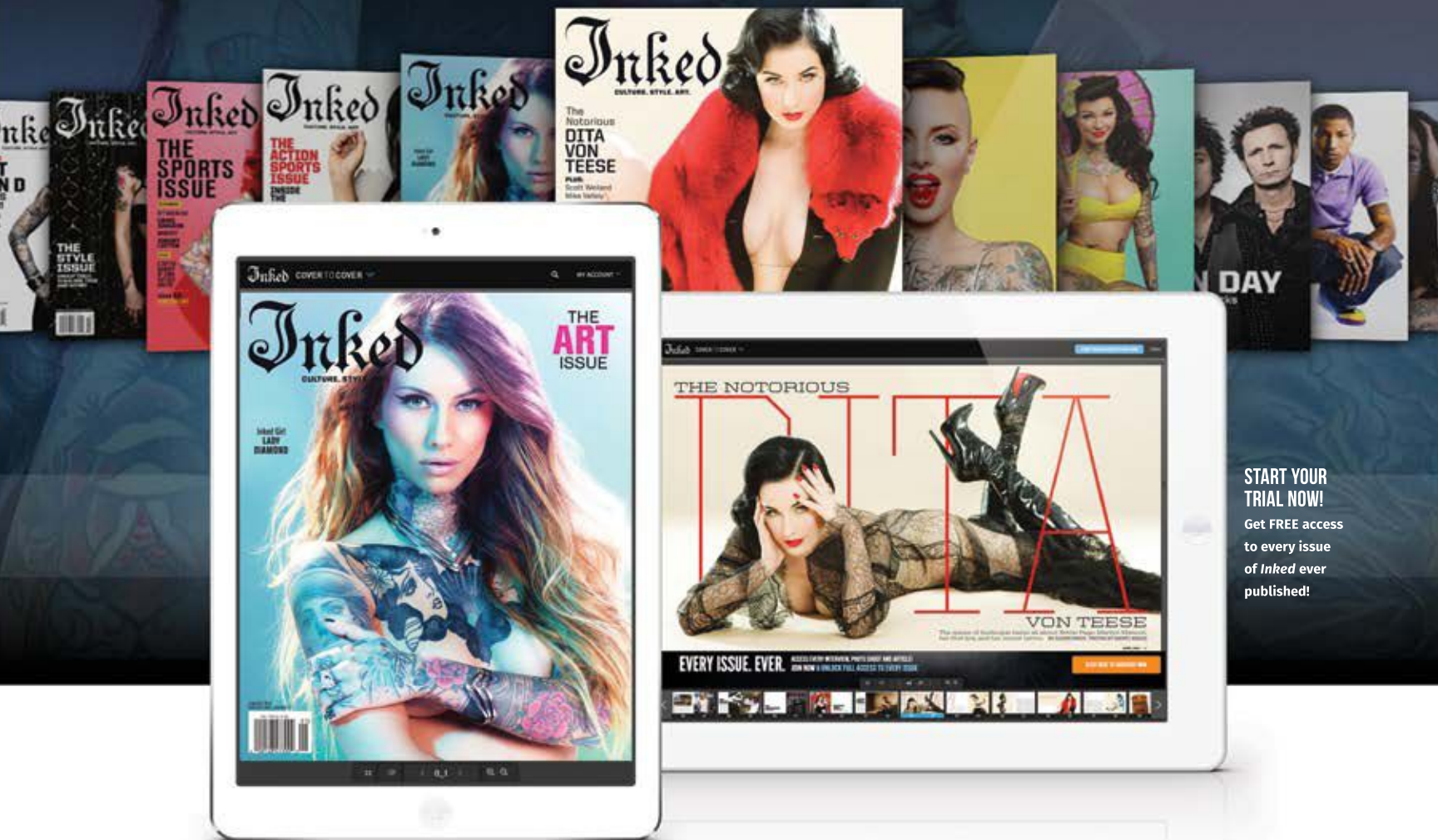
DO YOU HAVE TO BE IN A CERTAIN MOOD TO BE CREATIVE? I have to be in a good mood, be excited, and looking forward to my appointment every time. If I do this I will always be able to come up with something new and cool! If I wake up and im not feeling pumped about my appointment, or I am in a bad mood, I will do something to change my head and get stoked about making a sweet tattoo. 🎧

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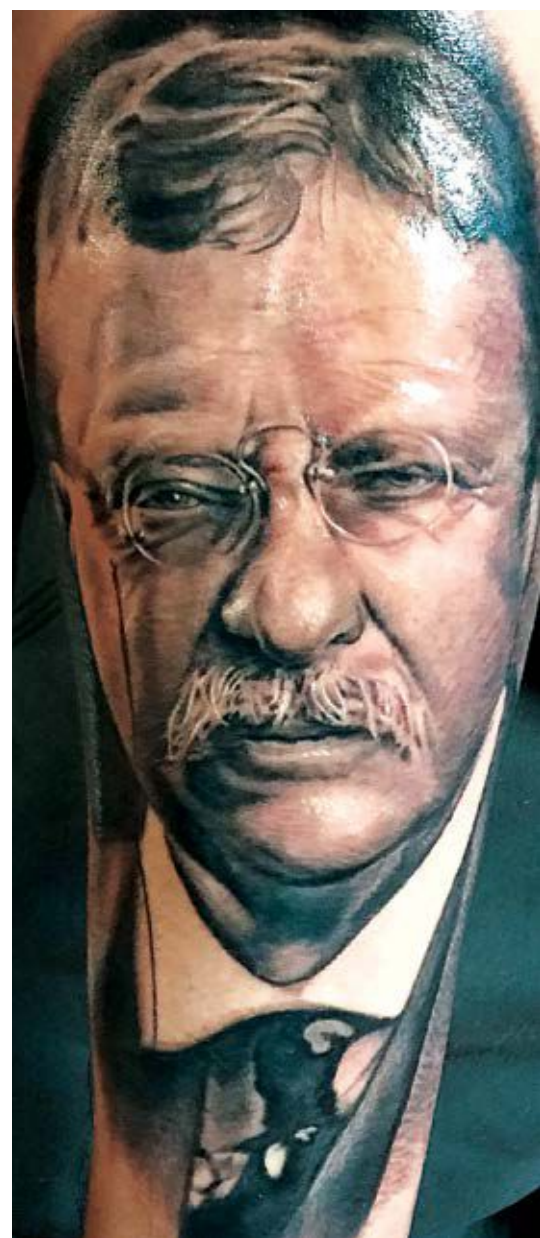
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WHAT LED YOU TO WORK IN HYPERREALISM? I enjoy the challenge of getting it to look exactly like the photo, while at the same time making it a little more dynamic. It's fun.

WHAT DO YOU TELL A CLIENT THAT BRINGS IN A DULL OR WASHED OUT PHOTOGRAPH? I ask them to bring in other photographs and we discuss what will work better. If there are no other photographs, I can work on it in Photoshop. I always find a way to make it work. Sometimes an old photograph has its advantages, like keeping the portrait vintage looking. It depends on which route they want to go.

WHAT'S THE TATTOO SCENE LIKE IN CHICAGO? The tattoo scene in Chicago has a heavy traditional influence.

Most of the founding tattoo shops in Chicago were opened back when only the traditional style existed. A lot of current business owners came from those shops, so the traditional legacy has been passed on. We're not surrounded with too many realistic artists.

DO YOU MOSTLY DRAW/PAINT CELEBRITIES? No, I also like to paint and draw retro toys and candy, nostalgic things that people can relate to.

IS THERE A PORTRAIT YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO DO, BUT HAVEN'T HAD THE OPPORTUNITY? There is not one in particular. Things from my childhood are fun to tattoo, like characters from '80s movies: the original Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Robocop, Back to the Future, to name a few. 🐢

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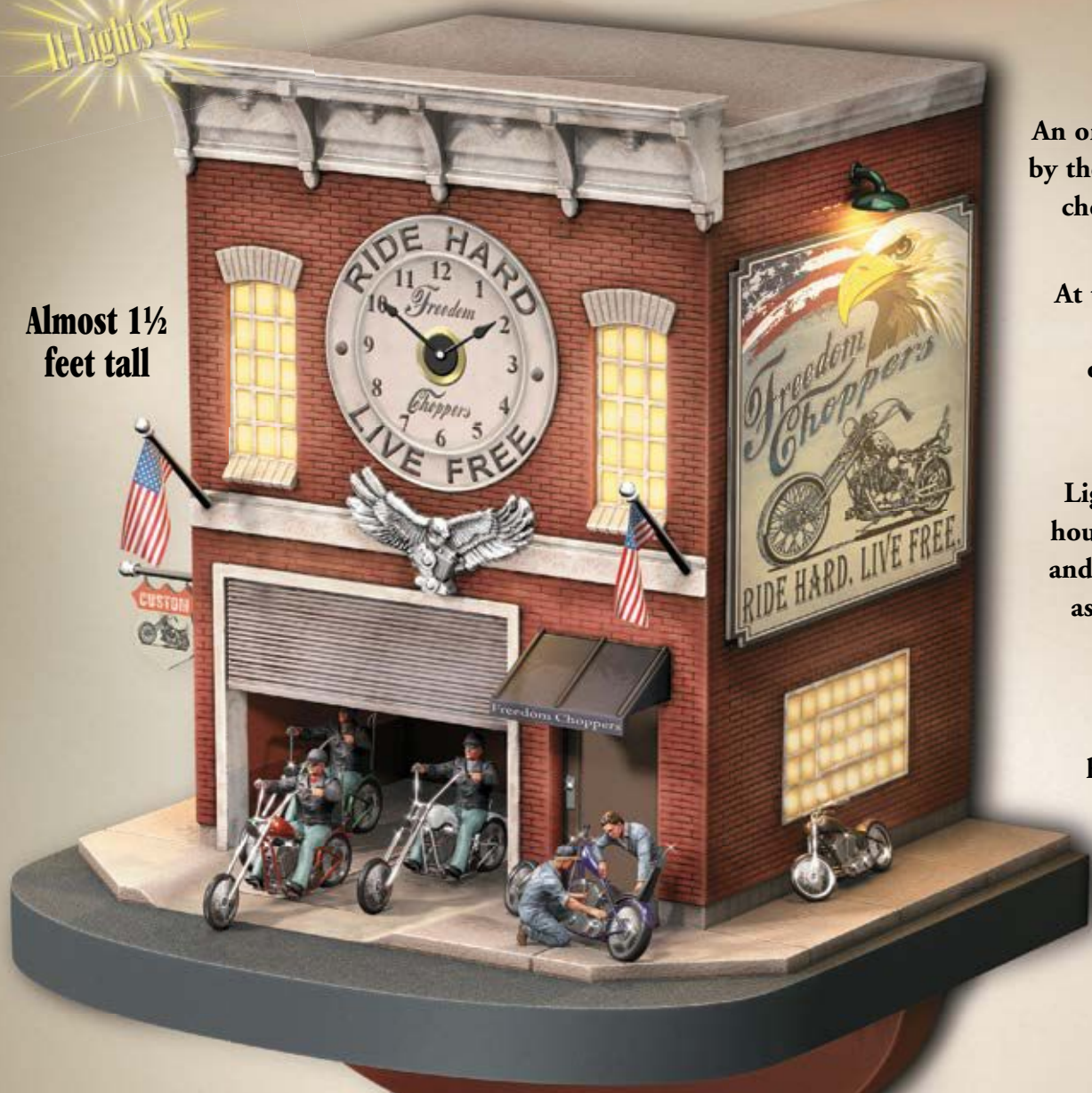
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HOW HAS BEING A TATTOO ARTIST CHANGED THE WAY YOU VIEW FORM, LINES AND COLOR? I've found I look at the way I design things very differently since I started to tattoo. When I was painting and drawing for pleasure or for the odd bit of commissioned work, all I was really thinking about was getting what was in my head down on paper. I never really thought much about contrast and line weight, etc. I think when you start tattooing that's one of the most important things you pick up. Sometimes keeping things a little more stripped down and simple can yield a better result so as long as the idea is clever or well thought out, you don't need to cram as much in as possible. You just need to do it solidly and cleanly.

WHAT TATTOO STYLES HAVE INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST? I don't think I've been influenced by one style. I try to take a little bit from everywhere. I really like the way large Japanese work has such a flow to it, so I try to incorporate some of the things I think contribute to that in my own larger work. I love how American/European Traditional tattoos use a more limited and solid palette and a bolder line so I try that kind of stuff out in my own way. I think I've taken influence from so many styles, it's impossible to name one as such.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE A CLIENT TAKES AWAY FROM A SESSION WITH YOU? Hopefully a nice tattoo and the impression I'm not a total prick. 🐶

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GINA EATON

TIGER SHARK TATTOOS, ABINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

What's best about my shop is the environment. When you step in you automatically feel at home, whether you work here or are a client. The guys have a way of making the experience enjoyable but more importantly comfortable. We've taken the one thing we all have in common—the art of tattoos—and established a family. Some mornings I am off to a bad start, but I'll walk in and someone will pull a prank on me and I just can't help but be in a better mood.

Our shop is located across the street from a bar so every now and then we'll get some really drunk people who stumble in looking for a tattoo but mostly, the customers are fun. My boss has the tendency of telling the older guys I'm single so they ask me out for drinks and telling the younger girls that today is my last day so he's looking for a replacement if they're interested. These girls really try to take my job!

Lamar is the snake I am wearing, but we have all types of reptiles and animals in the shop. We've had a chinchilla and we've even had a baby alligator at one point. The guys have a habit of messing with me. One day they bought rats for all the snakes, fed them pizza crusts and kept them in an empty trash barrel. I had a little too much to drink the night before and wanted to take it easy but, hungover, I had to clean out all the rat poop and pizza crust from the trash barrel so we could throw things away again. It was torture. 🐍

Photo by Christopher Beauchamp



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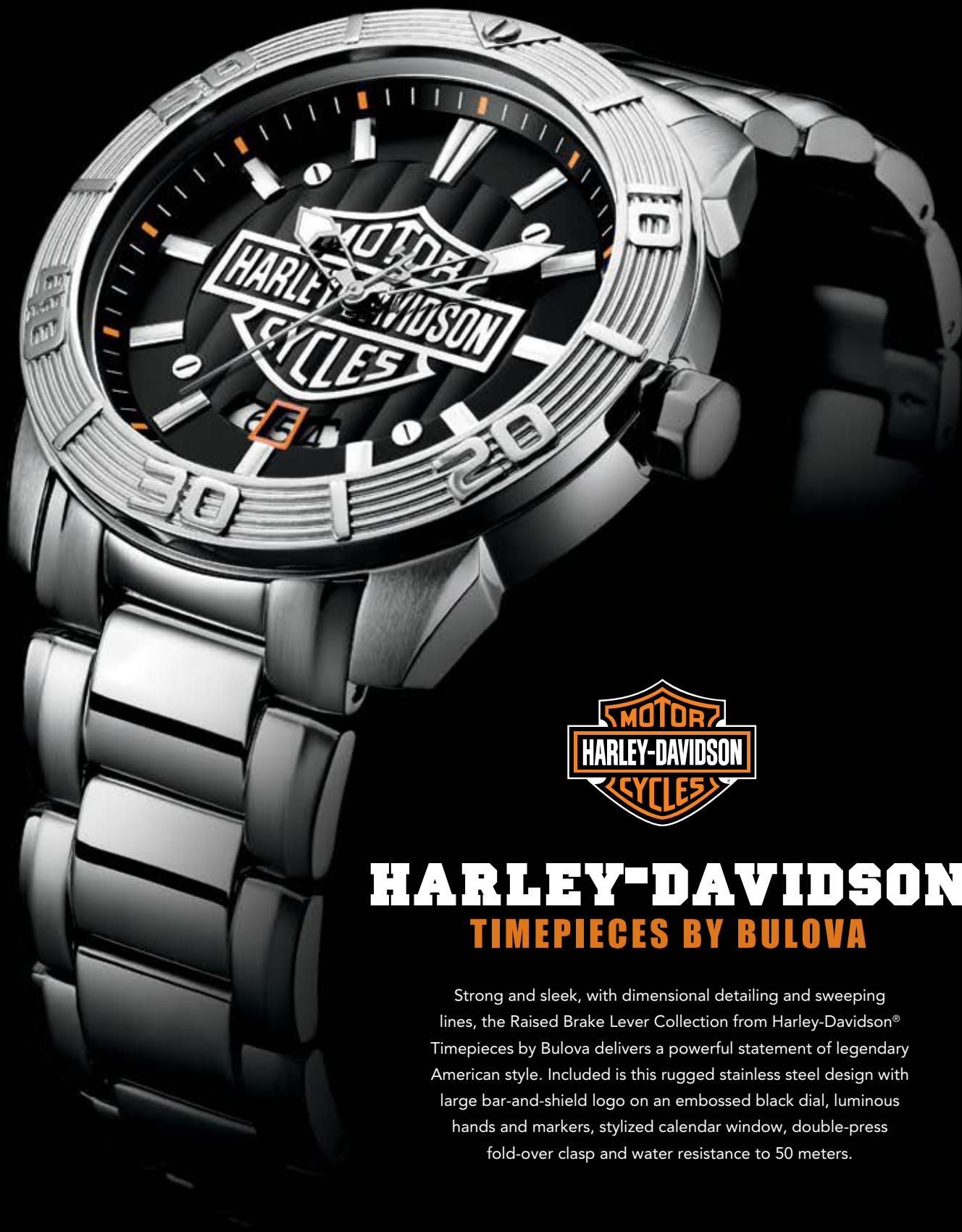
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HARLEY-DAVIDSON® **TIMEPIECES BY BULOVA**

Strong and sleek, with dimensional detailing and sweeping lines, the Raised Brake Lever Collection from Harley-Davidson® Timepieces by Bulova delivers a powerful statement of legendary American style. Included is this rugged stainless steel design with large bar-and-shield logo on an embossed black dial, luminous hands and markers, stylized calendar window, double-press fold-over clasp and water resistance to 50 meters.

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL HARLEY-DAVIDSON® DEALER FOR MORE INFORMATION OR CALL U.S. ONLY TOLL FREE: 888-980-8463

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