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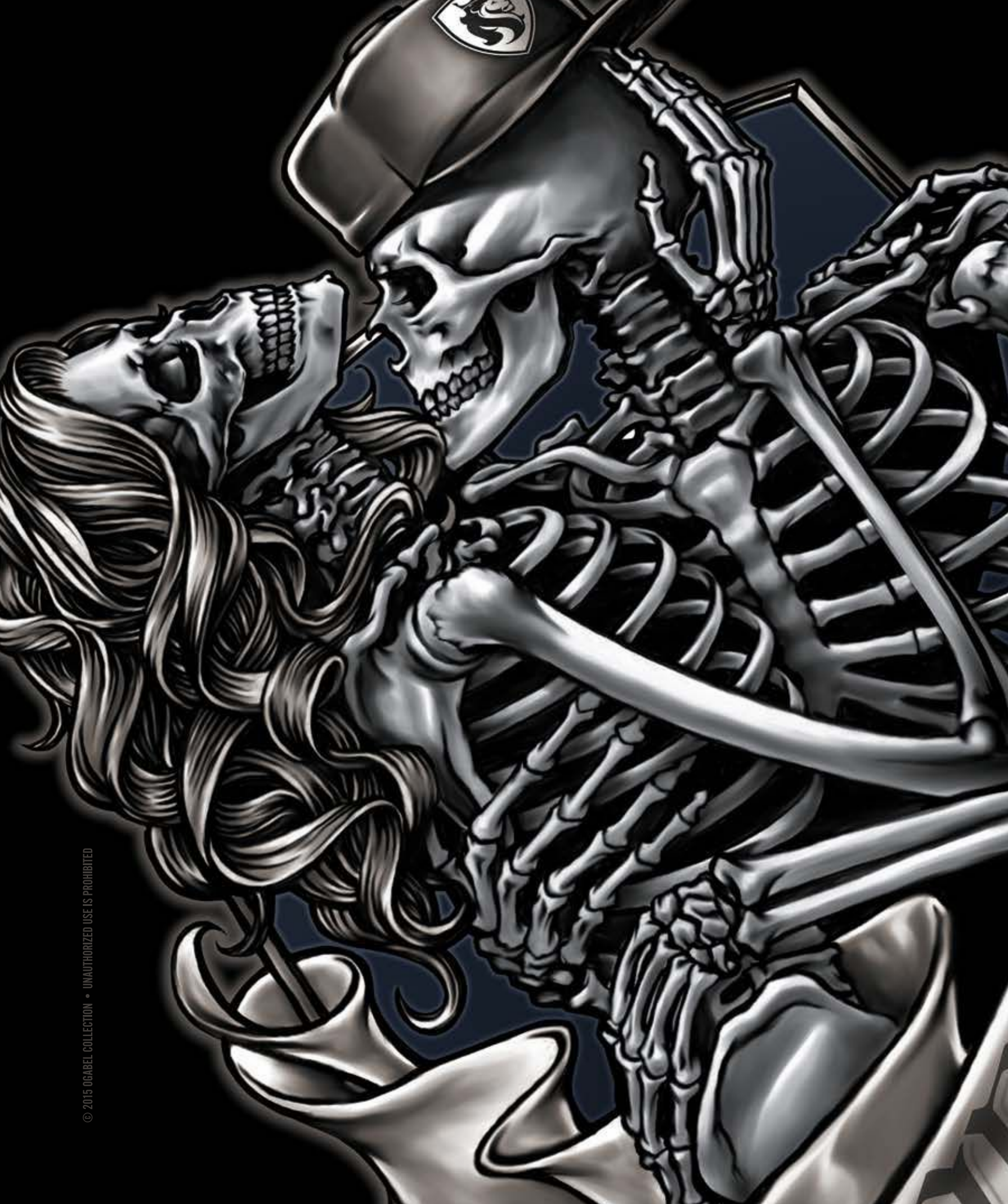
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THE
AGENDA
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JANUARY 7-8



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Welcome to our Art Issue. As with every installment of *Inked*, we ho-

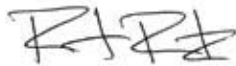
-pe to inspire you. Consider the blank space above. What would you put there? For every issue we splash pristine pages with photos, art and words, but what would you do? Like a graffiti artist gazing at a virgin wall or a tattoo artist peering at an open spot of skin, sometimes the most inspirational space is a blank one.

Among those who have transformed the following pages is Rubin415 (1), a graffiti writer whose designs were projected onto Inked Girl Ginzilla and photographed by Rebecca Handler (4). Figurative artist Audrey Ryan (5) was one of the amazing talents who reimagined our Cervena Fox shoot with deft brushstrokes. Miguel Santiago (8) not only drew the below portrait of himself with pencil, he recreated an anatomical heart, Nike Air Max and brass knuckles in an incredible realistic style.

We aren't asking for knuckle dusters this holiday season (we already have a few), but we have rounded up a few of our favorite new things for our Gift Guide which was shot by by Michael Kraus (7). Want a new tattoo for Christmas? Go see shop girl Autumn Fryer at The Grand Reaper and she'll introduce you to the right artist. She was photographed by Venom Blackbird (3).

Presidential candidate John McAfee wanted a tattoo of his campaign logo. We met him down in Lexington, TN and sat with the brash and brilliant man as he got inked by Joseph Braddy (2). Through our "Guest Spot" program we have been hooking up notable personalities with new pieces. For the latest session we got old friends, actor Adam Goldberg and the legendary Mark Mahoney (6), to collaborate on a new tattoo. Goldberg documented the process and filled the blank pages we gave him with stunning photographs and the most personal discussion between artist and client we've ever published.

What would you do if we gave you a page in *Inked*? E-mail me at the below address and perhaps your work could inspire the tattoo community in an upcoming issue.



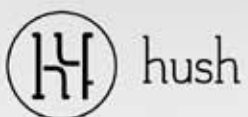
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NIKKI NICHOLE, LAST ISSUE'S "MY FAVORITE INK" CHECKS IN. *How has life changed since Inked?* I've expanded my creative interests and I'm acting. I'm also the Executive Producer for a film that's in pre-production. *Any new ink since?* Yes. I don't think I could go more than three months without getting a new tattoo. I'm addicted... Or committed. *What do you want for Christmas?* Honestly, all I want for Christmas is a million dollars. That's not too much to ask for, is it? *Other than beer pong (check out her skills @official.nikki.nichole) do you have any other secret talents?* Does flip cup count? Haha. Just kidding, but I do have a few hidden talents... They're secret for a reason.

facebook

COVER

Lechonsillo As a Mexican, that's an awesome picture!

Kareen Nuhh She's such a bad ass
Stephanie May Love it, want it. Y'all awesome...totally love your art all the art tats pictures drawing...magic

MADZILLA

Conner Sammuell Impressive, artistic, seductive

Tracy Cooper Now this is the stuff that should be done

George Daniels The Catrina makeup is on point

ALVARADO PIN-UP

Pammy Hunter My word...gorgeous

NIKKI NICHOLE

Ramiilowks Do you have any other uncensored ones?

Skull Kichi I'm in lust wit ya Nikki!

Amadeo Good lord!

BONE UP ON FALL FASHION

Michael W I need your skull

Steve Mosca Skeleton in the closet

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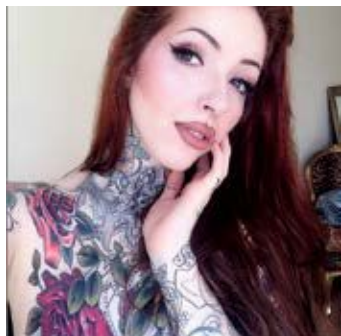
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TATTOO OF THE MONTH



BY: NIKKO HURTADO @NIKKOHURTADO ON @SCOTTMCGEACHIE
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MY
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**BRITTANY
HETZER**

PHOTOS BY NICHOLAS LAIRD





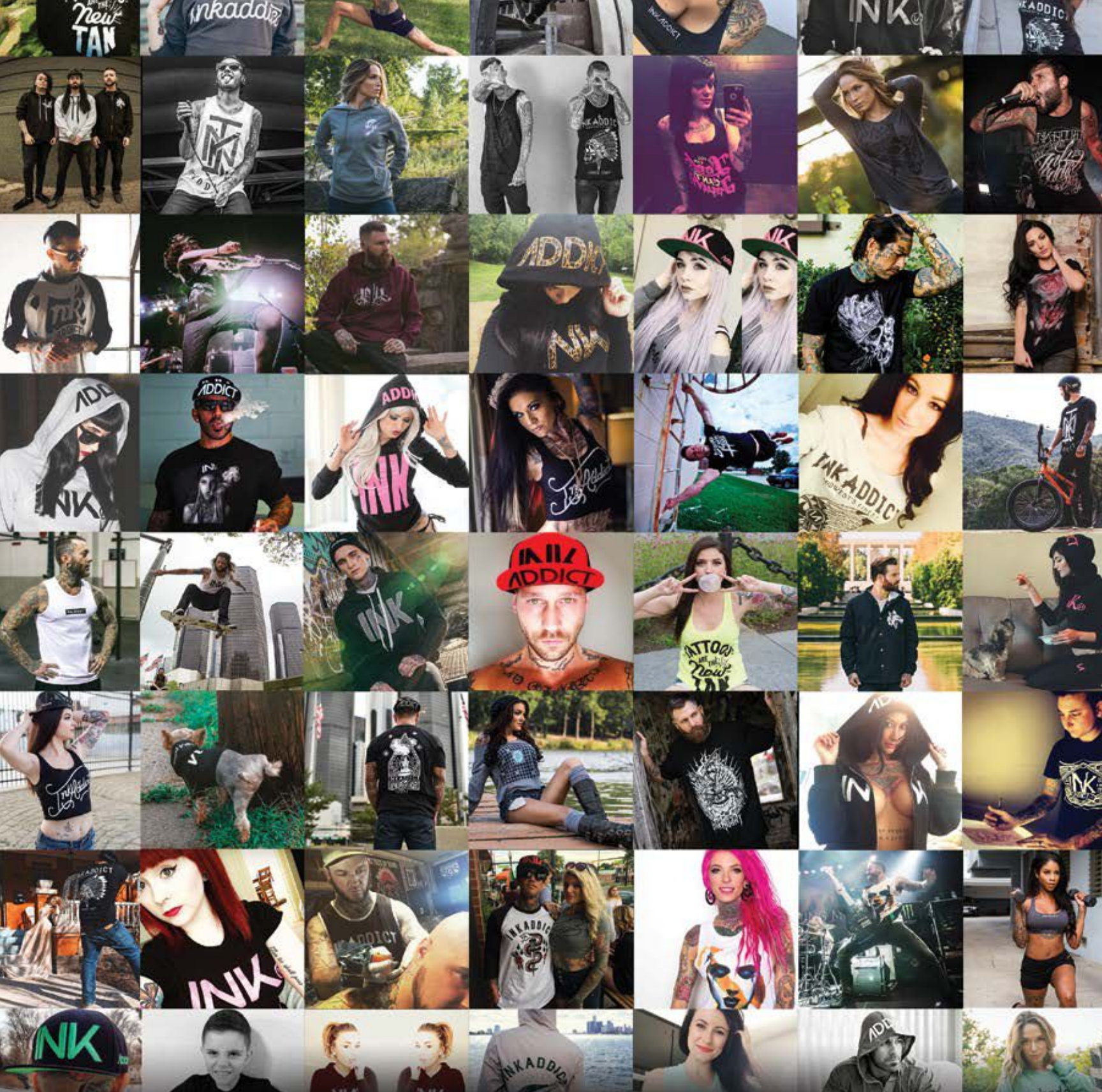
A great tattoo is a group effort. It takes a dedicated, patient client and the right artist for the job to create quality work. It's a concept that tattooed bombshell Brittany Hetzer has truly taken to heart. "I always wanted to get a tattoo for the people I love," Hetzer tells us. "I knew what I wanted, and I knew I wanted it black-and-grey. However, I didn't know who I wanted to tattoo it. One day I drove to Dallas to go see a show, and while I was there I met Rudy Hetzer, who just happened to be a badass black-and-grey artist. He showed me his work and shortly after that he started sketching out my sleeve. Now we're married and have a beautiful daughter. I love how the universe works."

And the universe, it would seem, loves her back. There's a certain serenity that the inked-up wife and mother exudes, a tranquility that she attributes, at least in part, to her growing collection of ink. "My tattoos make me feel at ease. They remind me every day of what's important to me and how fortunate I am. It gives me peace of mind. Sometimes people worry about things that aren't really important and my tattoos just help remind me of what really is."

Although, Hertzner (or @b_squared, as her Instagram followers know her) can't attribute all of her composure to her tattoos, much of her peace of mind is generated by her family, who, thanks to her husband Rudy, she is able to carry with her at all times. "My favorite tattoo would be my left sleeve. The top half is a deer for my pops. He loves to hunt. The bottom half is a gnome for my mom. She loves garden gnomes! Their driveway probably has, like, 30 of them. I'm willing to bet there will be nearly 80 by next summer. Oh, and I also have a rose on my hand for my daughter, Marki Amarosa 'Rose,' I absolutely love it!"

Before you let the fairytale backdrop fool you, just remember that like the rose that's inked on her hand, Brittany Hetzer is beautiful, but not to be messed with. She takes pride in being tough as nails, something that she tries to communicate through her style, and her tattoos. "I have both black and grey and color. I like color but personally black-and-grey is my favorite. I love the contrast and the way it's captured on camera. It also looks 'tougher' to me and I think that's sexy. Tattoos show confidence. Confidence alone enhances a woman's beauty. I think it's even better when tattoos compliment a woman's features and body type. There's nothing better than beautiful tattoo work on a beautiful woman."


—Nick Fierro



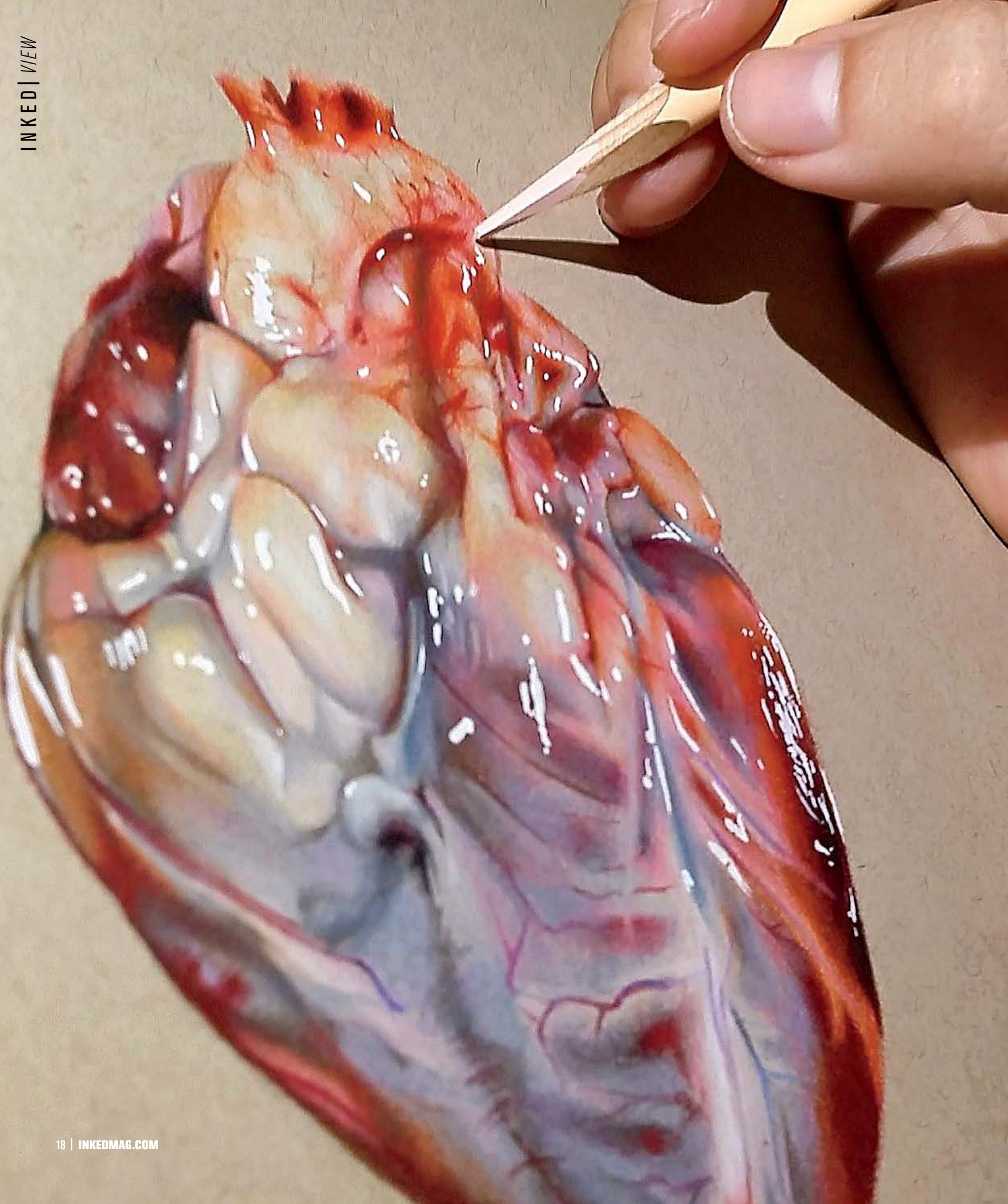
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KEEPING IT REAL

yes, these
are drawn

Miguel Santiago
Texas by way of Spain

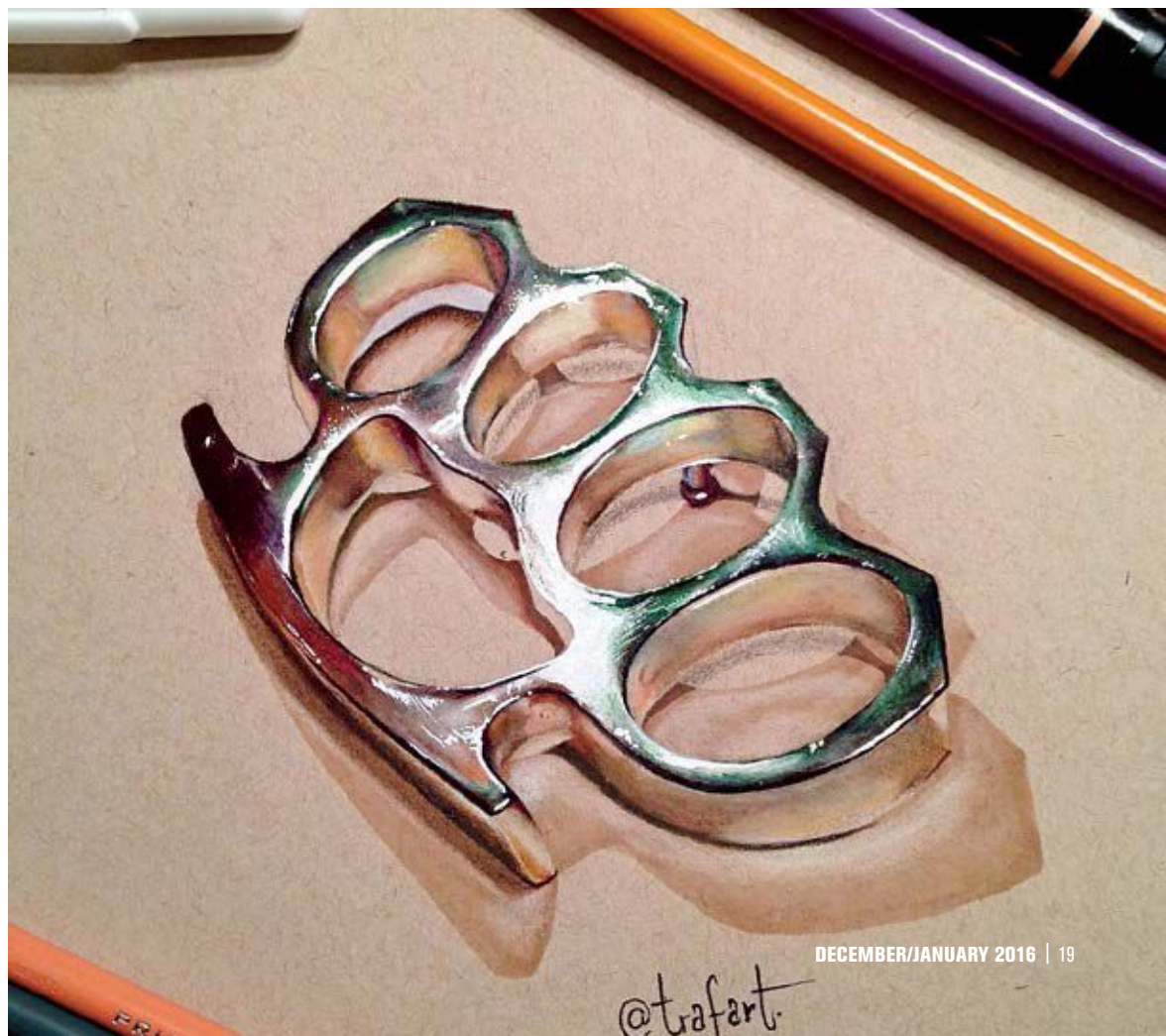
Art, in its very nature, is divisive. It serves as a method to both evoke and provoke, to reel in those who get it and confound those who don't. Miguel Santiago—or as the internet knows him, Trafart—exemplifies this dualism as he passes seamlessly from the world of street art to the world of fine art. Hailing from Spain and now residing in Texas, this actual man of two worlds has the ability to create works of dynamic depth and bold contrast whether it's with the broad stroke of a spray can or the slight, almost subliminal flourish from the tip of a colored pencil. The artist describes the continental move that caused his shift in perspective: "Leaving Spain made me realize the real competitiveness to be faced and has pushed me to give my best in order to stand out from the crowd."

Santiago's graffiti consists of layer upon layer of shadow, contour and color. "Urban culture and street art have shown me to give value to things that some people see as improper," the artist explains. "I try to incorporate that controversial part in a set of artworks that can attract the attention of people who are not familiar with this kind of art." Santiago's street art pieces are vibrant, aggressive and surreal, attributes that he also employs in his hyperrealistic depictions of everyday and not-so-everyday objects.

To refer to the artist's work as hyperrealistic is a bit of an understatement. Santiago has the ability to expand and dissect things that we see all around us—a sneaker, a faucet, a wandering eye, until they become surreal. His depictions of a transparent glass bottle, the sheen

of a metal faucet, and the glistening tissue on a human heart transform the objects themselves into something almost alien. "I make use of realism as a way of entertainment, to be able to show the people what I have inside my head in the most accurate way," Santiago explains. "I've tried to develop a way of interpreting art in a way people are not used to."

Whether you know his name and tag or not, Santiago wants his work and all art to be judged by your eye alone, without the frame of preconceptions. "I believe that society nowadays does not understand the real meaning of art and has a difficult time identifying who the real artists are," he says. "It is very easy to judge art if it is presented with high numbers [social likes, price tag] and a famous name." —Nick Fierro





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WHAT'S THE TATTOO SCENE LIKE IN PROVIDENCE?

Awesome! You're pretty much guaranteed to see a tattooed person anywhere you walk nowadays, but it's like kids comparing sticker collections the way people interact when they're showing off their skin.

HOW DOES THE CROWD REACT TO YOUR TATTOOS?

The way you'd expect them to, plenty of, "Ooh's," and, "My daughter has tattoos like you," with a dash of some, "I got this Tazmanian Devil back in '72." And of course the occasional, "Can I see?!" as you get your arm bent backwards.

WHO DOES YOUR INK?

A lot of my work has been done by my friend Chris Evans, he's always been able to take any crazy idea and execute it beautifully.

YOU SERVE COLT 45?

I consider it part of the whole trash-glam feel. Where else can you sip on your \$2 Colt while surrounded by chandeliers and hot babes? I'm often tempted to offer people two Zig-Zags for an additional fee, but not enough people get that joke.

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NICO TORTORELLA IS *NOT* A TATTOO ARTIST...

But he plays one on TV. The actor from *Younger* and *The Following* shows off his real ink.

By Kirstie Kovats | Photos by Chad Griffith



Italian-Americans fit into two stereotypes: Italians from New Jersey, whose mother can cook better than yours; and Italians from the rest of the country (their mothers also cook better than yours). Nico Luigi Tortorella is one of the latter, born and raised in the northern suburbs of Chicago.

"In my household, people were always cooking," he remembers. Sunday dinner wasn't a tradition his family could easily give up when Tortorella moved to Hollywood, his parents soon followed.

"My parents moved out to LA when I was 22 and both got their medical [marijuana] cards," Tortorella said.

Even though Mr. and Mrs. Tortorella didn't smoke pot while their sons were growing up they found themselves living in Los Angeles with "40 plants growing in their backyard." They sold the green to dispensaries and their booming business became a family affair. "There was one point where it's me, my brother, my brother's girlfriend, and my parents all sitting around this big dining room table at their house clipping all the fucking weed," Tortorella says.

While his parents cultivated a new hobby, Tortorella starred in *Scream 4* and *The Following*. Now he plays Josh, a tattoo artist on TV Land's *Younger* alongside the *Goodfellas* mistress Debi Mazar, a woman he calls "incredible."

Though the actor is significantly tattooed in real life, his role calls for even more ink. "[The fake tattoos] make me feel a little dirty," he says, "because they're not real."

Mike Maddi, a former makeup artist for *Saturday Night Live*, spends about 45 minutes applying the fake sleeves. "They are really fucking annoying to take off," Tortorella says. It takes about two long hours of scrubbing to fully remove the ink.

Tortorella is sure he would never get 90 percent of the tattoos his character Josh has, but he plans for at least one more major piece: "I want to get a lion and a cub for my Ma." Shortly after this issue goes to print we are hooking the actor up with that tattoo from Po Po.

His right arm is ink free, "I think I'm going to leave it like that." On his left bicep is a portrait tattoo of his grandfather, a World War II veteran, done by Kat Von D.

The conversation with Tortorella always seems to return to family. He didn't have a traditional upbringing we saw on '90s sitcoms (thanks to his uncle, for instance, he spent the bulk of fifth grade as an Italian boy struggling to go vegan), which is likely the reason his social ideals are very open.

"I was dating these two girls in Dallas, who were dating each other," he says. "They were always dyeing their hair crazy colors." This led to him dyeing his hair 20 different colors in 2015. Being able to share hair dye aside, joining a girl-on-girl relationship "is fucking awesome," he reports.

Inked across his collarbone is the phrase "not this. not that. beyond definition." He says, "We as a culture spend so much time labeling everybody and everything. But we are all one. [Sexual fluidity and gender fluidity] is something I live by, stand by, and represent."

His *Younger* character's love life is also unusual. Broadway actress Sutton Foster plays Liza, a 40-year-old housewife pretending to be a 20-something book editor in Manhattan. As their relationship evolves, Josh, a tattoo artist living in Brooklyn learns her real age. Naturally, the news angers him.

If the actor faced Josh's situation in real life, he'd react similarly. "It doesn't matter to me. Why the fuck [would you] lie?" Tortorella asks. "The sexiest thing is full commitment to who you are and what you stand for."

Tortorella will celebrate one-year alcohol-free on January 13, "I went like 10 solid years of boozing," he says. "I was just over it."

"If I'm going to do something, I'm going to do it in full." That go-hard-or-go-home attitude also applies to his future tattoos. "I'm at a point where I'm going to continue to get tattooed and be covered in a couple of years," Tortorella says, "or I'm going to flat-out stop."

Tortorella reveals his abs and the tattoo "niconiconico" by Max Hanson (Dr. Woo's apprentice) that rests at the bottom of his chiseled-out V. "It's kind of my brand these days," he says of the ink. Around his neck a long necklace holds 300-year-old iron charms: one Viking cross and two Viking luminaries of the moon that were found in a treasure off the coast of Florida.

Tortorella's parents are now living in Florida and working to obtain medical cards in the Sunshine State. Tortorella calls Brooklyn home, but New York City is hardly his favorite city. Neither is his hometown of Chicago. Tortorella's favorite city is LA. According to him, "the food is hands-down better quality."

Some Italian. 🇮🇹



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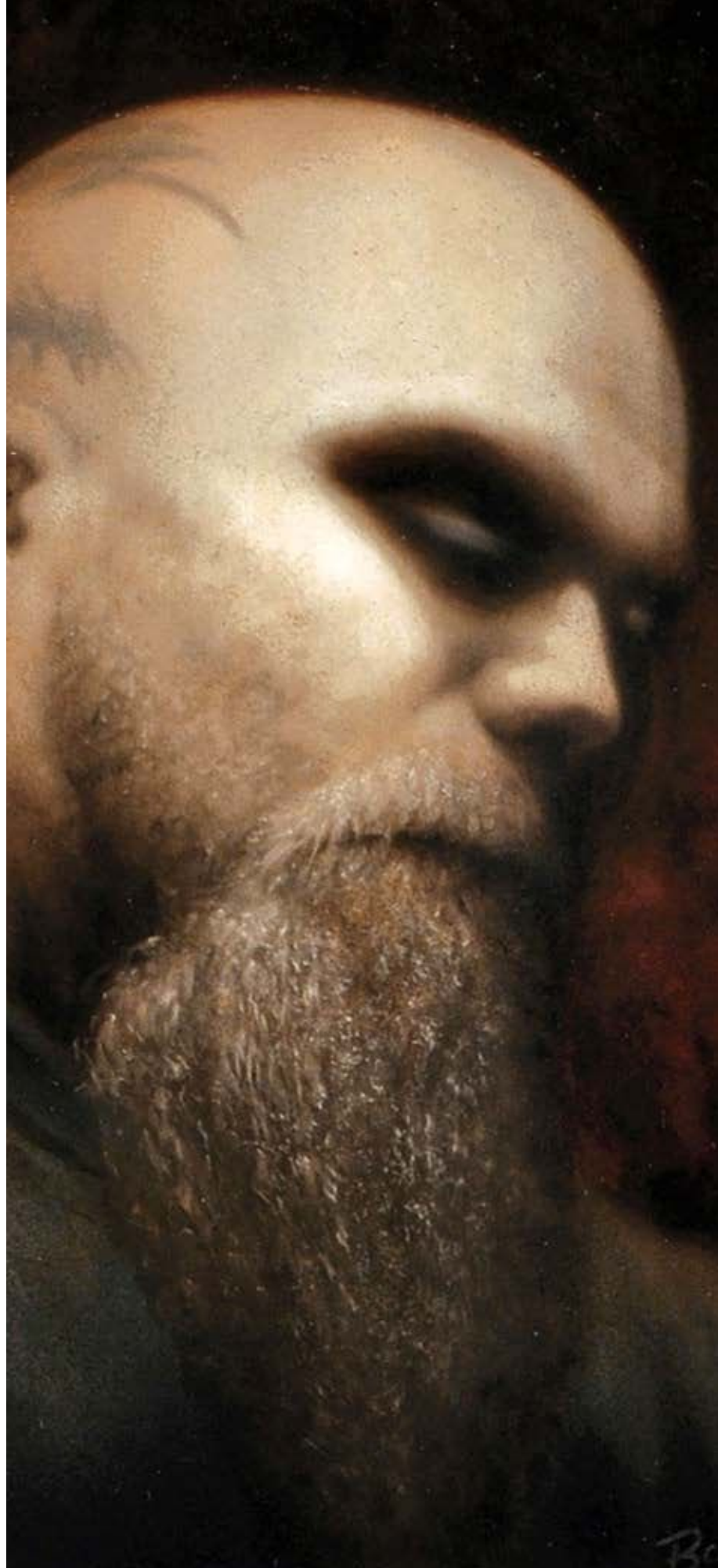
BOOTH REVIEW

The master of macabre imagery shares his dark secrets

By Marisa Kakoulas | Photos by Mark Mann







In Hell's Kitchen, on the sidewalk in front of the tattoo studio-art gallery Last Rites Tattoo Theatre, a young woman in shiny black latex is introduced to Paul Booth. Her mascara starts to run, she falls to the ground, and she begins dragging herself on her belly toward him. Wrapping her thin body around his leg, she kisses his foot, still crying. That's what it's like to be one of the original tattoo rock stars, even if he doesn't want to be. Renowned for his rich black and grey macabre tattoos, Booth's fame began in the early '90s as heavy metal gods lined up for work and even brought him on tour with them. Today, Booth still reigns as one of the most influential tattooers in the world, inspiring new generations of artists (and groupies) in the industry.

Let's go back to 1988, when you were a punk rock kid from New Jersey just starting out in tattooing. What was the big hook that pulled you into the industry?

There were two things that got me into tattooing: One was getting my daughter's name tattooed on me. I was 19 years old and a new father and kind of freaking out about it, so I went upon a suggestion by my friend to get her name tattooed on me, thinking that it would help me cope better. And it worked for sure in that department. It helped me realize this was a lifelong commitment—the tattoo just like the child. Not only did it work for that but it also intrigued me to no end. I just had to learn how to tattoo. It was perfect for me.

Tattooing wasn't trendy then. It was really more about individuality and rebellion, especially for me. Having punk rock roots, it was really a no-brainer. I loved the idea of my art becoming permanent and wearing it for life. For some reason I found myself attracted to the responsibility of it all. It made me feel like my art would have some sense of purpose beyond airbrushing murals on hot rods and bikes. The pain factor intrigued me as well; it seems to be such a necessary part of the process. I guess it always struck me as some sort of ritual.

"Trendy" doesn't even begin to describe tattooing today. How do you feel about the direction the industry is going?

Of course, with the glorification and inevitable trendiness, how could this industry go in any other direction than it has? Just like anything, you have to take the bad with the good. I see great things happening and I see sad things happening. But keep in mind, I'm the consummate pessimist by nature so most of what I do is complain. Everything out there is like a double-edged sword to me these days. On one hand, you have some super talented artists out there more than ever, which is very exciting to see as a tattoo artist who loves tattoos. On the other hand, a good chunk of what you see on the internet is not really truth. And honestly, sometimes that work is not so wonderful after it's a few years old. That's something that seems to be losing importance these days. Unfortunately, the public is not so aware of the technical side that defines longevity.

With the increased popularity of tattooing, there also comes a greater awareness amongst people that end up becoming the next generation or a new credit to the industry. So, like I said, you just have to take the bad with the good.

Are you mentally preparing for the moment when you'll be considered "an old-timer?"

I thought I was already an old-timer! I mean, when I was new, somebody tattooing 27 years was one for sure. They had been tattooing longer than I had been alive. At this point, I feel that, if you learned on acetate stencils, then you're probably an old-timer.

When you're asked by newbies to impart some tattoo advice, what do you usually offer—or do you just fuck with them?

Sometimes I like to fuck with the new kids, but usually it'll be more about teaching them something—sometimes subtle, sometimes in their face. You know, we old-timers can tell when a kid is sincere or there to truly get my full attention. Just a cocky little prick. But the sincere kids who have the spark, they're always fun and inspiring to me. I love to teach, actually. I just hate wasting my time. Done enough of that. You gotta be more than just a good artist. You gotta have some integrity and ethics laced in there to truly get my full attention.

In 2002, *Rolling Stone* deemed you "The New King of Rock Tattoos," as you were tattooing and touring with bands including Slayer, Pantera, Biohazard and a long list of others. Are you still indulging in that tattoo rock star lifestyle?

Oh, I'm just a weekend warrior now! The thought of living on a tour bus again for a month or two at a time—no, I'm OK now. I'm happy visiting my friends when they pass through town or we cross paths somewhere in the world. I am kind of a recluse when I'm home these days, but when I creep out of my lair, it's their shows I'm usually found at. Otherwise,

I just stay home and try and create some weird thing. But yeah... those rock star days.

There seems to be a lot of tattoo rock stars these days. Someone tattooing just a couple of years could have tens of thousands of Instagram followers. How does a tattooer stay above the din?

You know, I actually posed that same question amongst some friends a while back, and the best advice I got was from Filip Leu. He reminded me to just stay on my own path and stop giving a fuck. Of course, these days, I really can't ignore social media due to business, unfortunately, but I find my fun in it, so I cope OK. Like broadcasting a live ArtFusion [painting collaboration] video session from the top of Machu Picchu. OK, that was cool. But, in my opinion, I think it's as much about developing your own style as how good you are. Standing out in the crowd means being unique, therefore, it seems to be the only way to go. Tattooers are the new rock stars. Gill Montie saw it coming. He once told me the only people rock stars look up to are tattoo artists. And now here we are with more rock stars than we can handle. Amidst that chaos, some uniques are going to stand out. The question is "One hit wonder" or "Staying power"?

Recently, a face and neck tattoo you did caused some controversy on social media, and it's also interesting because you broke your "facial tattoo taboo" with it. Tell us about that piece and why you agreed to do it.

It was quite an experience for both of us. Camilo came to me, like a student looking to help him with a certain rite of passage some tattooers seek, such as I once did myself. It's about an ultimate commitment to your craft, extending complete trust in your chosen mentor, suffering through the pain in one sitting. Now just add a spritz of rebellion and there ya go. He was 30-years-old and a tattoo artist with the exact same intent as I had when I approached Felix and Filip Leu for my face. The kid had me dead to rights. So here I find myself committed to a face and neck for the first time in my career. OK, life-changing tattoo, here we go. It was very surreal to experience that catharsis from both points of view. I'm very fortunate for Camilo to have given me so much trust. And the only real backlash was just an onslaught of "can't get a job" comments, but...duh.

What's going on at your studio—what changes has your Last Rites Tattoo Theatre seen recently?

Our current roster of resident artists includes Logan Aguilar, Darwin Enriquez and Yomico Moreno. Then we have Stefano Alcantara, Jose Perez Jr, Megan Jean Morris, and quite a few other friends that can be found here when in town. I'm also open for another residency at the moment as well. The studio continues to evolve. I just added some gallery lighting to the east wall to showcase art from my tattoo artists and our guests. Pretty excited about that. I'm getting ready to build some chandeliers for the stations too, so I'm psyched to be making additions. Gotta keep those creative vibes fresh.

You mentioned your art gallery. Do you think the fine art world is taking the fine art work of tattooers more seriously these days?

Well, the "lowbrow" scene certainly is. Or the "new contemporary" or whatever they are calling it now. But the more mainstream contemporary art world, I don't think so much really. All I can do is try and represent this kind of art to the best of my ability knowing that eventually the right eyes will see it.

There's a lot of myth and lore that surrounds you. We've heard fantastic rumors about your alleged child slavery ring. Oh, and the gay heroin addict thing! Where do you think that derives from?

Oh yeah, the child slavery ring. Oh, the money I saved on my shirt printing operation those days! [laughs] I think my dark sense of humor gets taken too seriously sometimes. I have been getting a lot of "Is it true?" questions more so lately. Just human nature really. I'm just fun to hate. Hell, I even used to get death threats back in the early days for my work, and for shit I said in interviews regarding the church and such. Now, the baby-eating Satanist thing... that's a whole other story. 🍷



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BERT KRAK

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Brooklyn's master of big, bold and bright American Traditional. An innovator at Smith St. Tattoo Parlour, Krak amps up the traditional style with his consistently sharp line work and out-of-the-box color palette.



CONVERSE COLLECTIVE

BJ Betts and a roster of all-star tattoo artists transform sneakers into wearable art.

Curated by BJ Betts
Photos by Michael Kraus

LUKE PALAN

BOSTON TATTOO COMPANY

A mastermind of hauntingly vivid black-and-grey tattoos. Pulling inspiration from horror with the added twist of traditional tattoo subjects, Palan is an artist that truly pushes the boundaries of the human imagination.



HENRY LEWIS

SKULL AND SWORD

Based out of Skull and Sword in San Francisco, Henry Lewis gives a Neo-Traditional new life with a kaleidoscope of fresh color and expertly ingenious subject matter. From mysterious ladies of darkness to ferociously fierce wolves, Lewis can knock it out of the park.



JESSE ROBERTS

DARK AGE TATTOO

Seattle's incredible Japanese Traditional tattooer. Co-owner and tattoo artist of Dark Age Tattoo, Roberts is a seasoned pro at bringing spectacular Japanese tattoos to the industry.



YOGI BARRETT

SEARCHLIGHT TATTOO

Barrett of Searchlight Tattoo gives the tattoo world a side of realism that we have never seen before. The fusion of the practiced art of traditional with Barrett's own blend of intensely hued picture realism makes Barrett a tattoo artist of the future.



JOSE PEREZ JR.

DARK WATER STUDIO

A Chicago ace of black-and-grey realism, Perez of Dark Water Tattoo makes brings a fantasy of impressive detailing devoid of technicolor but packed with spot-on shading technique



SHAWN BARBER

MEMOIR TATTOO

An LA legend in the art of effortless color saturation, Barber displays incredible strength in both the areas of tattooing and painting. This artist from Memoir Tattoo is certainly one you'll have a hard time forgetting.



TATU BABY

TILL THE END TATTOO

A Miami innovator of gorgeous portraits that pack a powerful punch. This Ink Master fan favorite of Till the End Tattoo has proven tattoo after tattoo that she can tackle any style that comes her way, from new school to LA black-and-grey.



BJ BETTS

TRADEMARK TATTOO

East Coast lettering guru BJ Betts came of age in Philadelphia's early hip-hop scene. From there, he's combined influences ranging from graffiti to traditional script in an inimitable signature style. Find him at Trademark Tattoo in Delaware or State Street Tattoo in Pennsylvania.



CULTURE

STAR WARS VII: DEC 18TH

No recent film has been more anticipated than *Star Wars: Episode VII - The Force Awakens*. The buzz has been endless, the toys have already been on the shelves and either played with or packed away in the original packaging, heck, even one of the teases (not the official trailer) has garnered 75 million views on YouTube. But now, the wait is over. More than 32 years after *Return of the Jedi* hit theaters, we're finally going to see what happened with Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, Princess Leia, Chewbacca, C-3PO and R2-D2 after the Emperor bit the dust. J.J. Abrams is at the helm and also co-wrote the script with Lawrence Kasdan—yes, the same Lawrence who wrote *The Empire Strikes Back* (arguably the best of the series). May the force be with them. If you are a diehard of the franchise, you already have your ticket. If you casually like *Star Wars*, get yours now. If you don't care for the epic, there's something wrong with you. —*Gil Macias*



UBER

UBER ALLES

A novel idea from HyperInk Studios in Ft. Lauderdale, FL: free Uber rides to and from the studio (up to \$50) for their clients. "This way our clients will have a safe, comfortable and convenient way to the studio, and more so a way to get home from a late-night session." Book now as the offer lasts up until the end of 2016.



THE DOCTOR WILL SEAT YOU NOW

LA-based tattoo artist Dr. Woo has partnered with Modernica furniture and lighting company to bring us something truly spine-tingling. The fine-line phenom lent his services (and an actual x-ray of his back) to the sleek curves of Modernica's line of steel-legged fiberglass chairs. Each piece is handcrafted by Modernica's technicians with the models of the good doctor's spinal column painstakingly laid onto the front and back surfaces. The process ensures that each chair in the limited edition series carries with it a unique and subtle difference from the next. Like a snowflake, but, you know, with vertebrae. —*Nick Fierro*

DRECK THE HALLS

Sick of *A Christmas Story* and *A Miracle on 34th Street* on constant rotation this holiday season? Well, head over to the cinema to check out this delightfully demented alternative that's more naughty than nice. *Krampus*, for those who don't know the old folklore, is an ancient demonic force who is the opposite of Saint Nick—he punishes bad children on Christmas. So things don't bode well for the dysfunctional family who encounter the titular creature in this flick. Michael Dougherty, who also brought us the wickedly awesome *Trick 'r Treat*, directs. —*G.M.*





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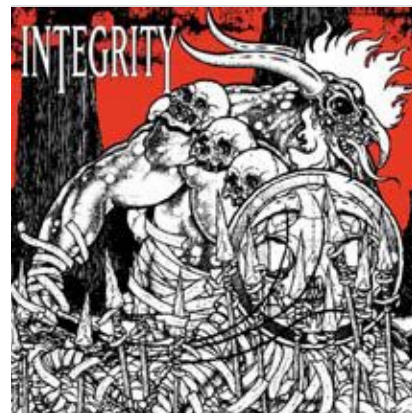
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Still Shining



Street artist Pegasus is known for spray painting a scantily clad Queen Elizabeth on an alcove in North London and immortalizing Amy Winehouse at numerous locations around the city that adores her most. The latter endeavor recently caught the eye of Roger Taylor, aka "Papi," whose company Tatt-Light collaborated with Pegasus to create a life-sized illuminated stand-up of the singer with Union Jack wings. Amy would be proud. —N.F.



THE INKED PLAYLIST

BY JONAH BAYER

THE ALL-AMERICAN REJECTS

"There's a Place"

These pop heavyweights are back with an acoustic-driven, twangy return to form.

FOXING

"Weave"

Foxing are one of the most celebrated bands in the underground and this shimmering, stripped-down track illustrates why.

INTEGRITY

"Hollow"

This isn't a new song, but the 20th anniversary remixed and remastered version of this metalcore classic gives it a new life.

MASERATI

"No Cave"

This 10-minute opus is the closest you can get to a psychedelic experience without taking drugs.

SAM MEANS

"We're Alone"

This former member of The Format returns to the fold with a tender piano ballad.

PINKISH BLACK

"Special Dark"

If you like your metal as trippy as it is dark, you'll love this raging slab of experimental gloom.

THE SADDEST LANDSCAPE

"You Never Asked"

This post-hardcore act channel their inner Black Flag on this chaotic composition.

SAVAGES

"The Answer"

If this syncopated song doesn't inspire you to get off the couch and smash something, you're not listening.

WEEZER

"Thank God for Girls"

Weezer's output has been uneven, but this song will remind you why you fell in love with them. This tune is a perfect example of why.

IT'S A MAD, MAD, WORLD

This bad boy, *Mad Men: The Complete Collection*, contains every single episode from the Kodak Carousel speech to the curious Coca-Cola ad at the conclusion of the critically acclaimed drama. Along with four hours of brand-new bonus feature, you also get two handmade silver-rimmed lowball tumblers and four cork coasters. Sadly, no whiskey or curvaceous red-heads included. —G.M.



FUTURE PERFECT



Sure, there's already a *Back to the Future* Blu-ray trilogy from a while back, but that one didn't come with a light up Flux-Capacitor. *Back to the Future 30th Anniversary: The Complete Adventures* also features the complete animated series, a brand new bonus disc, and a 64-page booklet. Too bad we can't jump in a DeLorean and go back in time to prevent ourselves from buying the older Blu-ray set. —G.M.

McClane For President

We'll say it: *Die Hard* is one of the greatest Christmas movies of all-time. *Yippee-Ki-Yay, motherfuckers*. All five *Die Hard* films are contained in this sweet replica of the iconic Los Angeles Tower seen in the first film. You also get five collectible villains cards exclusive to this limited edition set as well as a 32-page behind the scenes booklet. Not since Rudolf has someone so headstrong saved Christmas quite like John McClane —G.M.



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Pendant
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THE BIG BANG

Bang Bang shapes celebrities' signature looks. From Justin Bieber to Katy Perry to Rita Ora (below) to Cara Delevingne and certainly Rihanna, the NYC-based artist has had as many of his designs on the red carpet as Donna Karan. The celebrity tabloids and blogs have certainly had their say on the man's work but now Bang Bang, in his own words, presents exclusive never-before-told stories of his life tattooing A-listers and average Joes and Jills. Here's how he introduces the reader to *My Life In Ink*:

"When I was 18 years old, I ordered a tattoo kit online. The moment it arrived, I sat down at the kitchen table and got to work. I sat for hours on end, day after day, delivering permanent mistakes to my cousins, friends, and anywhere my right hand could reach on my own body. Twelve years later, and I've tattooed Rihanna poolside in the Dominican Republic, worked on Justin Bieber at 40,000 feet in the air on board a private plane, inked Katy Perry after the halftime show at Super Bowl XLIX, and etched a globally iconic lion tattoo on Cara Delevingne's index finger while hanging out in Rihanna's hotel room in the middle of the night. I've been told my life is the American dream. I didn't grow up with much, and against all odds I made it. It didn't come easy, and I worked my fingers to the bone to get here, but not a day goes by when I don't take a minute to appreciate how amazing my life is and how lucky I am to live it."

WILDE ABOUT SEX



Our resident Sex Columnist Jessica Wilde (@jessicawildemfc) is here to answer your burning sex questions—though if it burns consult an actual doctor right now. She's not a doctor, but she once role-played as a nurse so she's beyond qualified. Send your questions to press@inkedmag.com.

How can I get my husband to choose me over masturbation? -Chelsea

Most of the time a man will more than likely opt for sex over having a quick pull, but sometimes he just needs a release! Sex can be tiresome and messy, don't take it personally.

Is there a way to make my husband last longer in bed? -Jennifer

Don't be so hot, duh. Some guys get a little too excited, like when puppies piddle on the floor when their owners get home. Take things slow and grab some desensitizing man lube from the drug store.

I've been friends with a girl for a long time now and I've always wanted something more with her. How do I get out of the friend zone? -Thomas

The hardest part about having a friend that I've zoned "undatable" is that I can't imagine what it would be like otherwise. Women are hardwired emotionally to their vaginas. If you can break down her sexual walls even once she will more than likely start to have some sort of emotional attachment to you. Good luck!

Why are guys so fascinated with anal sex? -Sarah

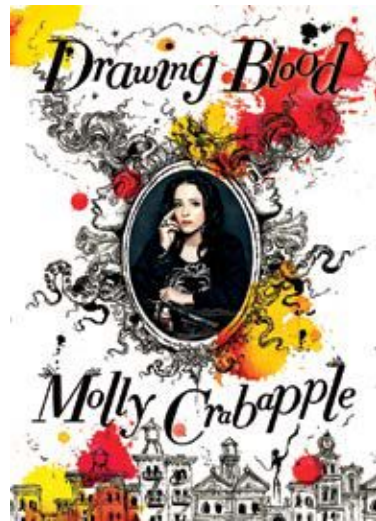
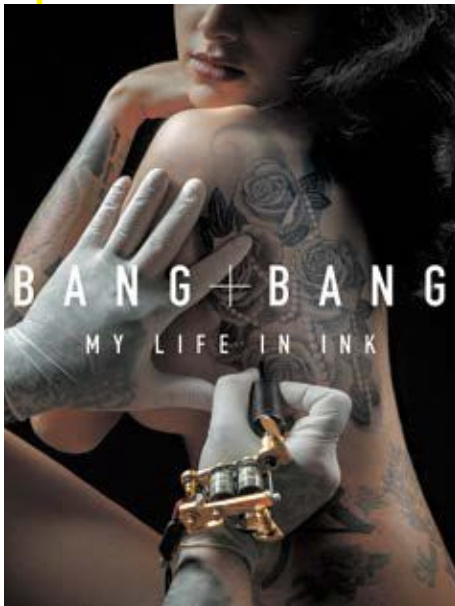
Men have a fascination with sticking things where they don't belong.

Help! I need some first date ideas/tips. Is there still a "three date rule?" -Adam

If there's a "three date rule" with her (at least), then she's a keeper. Let her take the lead on that one. As for first date ideas, you can't go wrong with dinner and drinks. Women love food. OK, I love food.

My new girlfriend has her ex's name tattooed on her wrist. Should I tell her I hate to see his name every day? I want her to remove it. -Johnny

Tisk. Names are a big no-no and clearly the fact he's an ex proves the superstition. I'm sure she doesn't like seeing his name there either! Try mentioning a cover-up idea, she will likely be flattered it bothers you.



In *Drawing Blood*, Molly Crabapple traces her journey from angsty, alty ingénue to accomplished, globetrotting artist, activist and journalist. Fortunately her life makes for an unpredictable and compelling read. Crabapple has had stints as a struggling art student, a SuicideGirl, a burlesque dancer, a comic book illustrator, and an artist-in-residence at high-end studios and nightclubs. She's been described by *Rolling Stone* as "Occupy's Greatest Artist," launched the alternative life-drawing class Dr. Sketchy's Anti-Art School, been arrested in New York and Syria, hobnobbed with pornstars, toured Gitmo, and thrown shade at Donald Trump during a Middle Eastern press conference. And of course, she's loved and lost, had some interesting sex (and some boring sex, too), met world-weary characters from far-flung places, and, like many aspiring revolutionaries before her, found meaning in the camaraderie of protest and outrage. Through it all, she's used her pen and brush to draw eyeballs, quite the refreshing departure from today's hashtag activism. Crabapple's art adds a raw element to her recollections that words alone could not create. This will resonate with those who believe in the power of art to reflect truth, and the power of one voice to affect change. —Anthony Vargas

Rolling With Molly

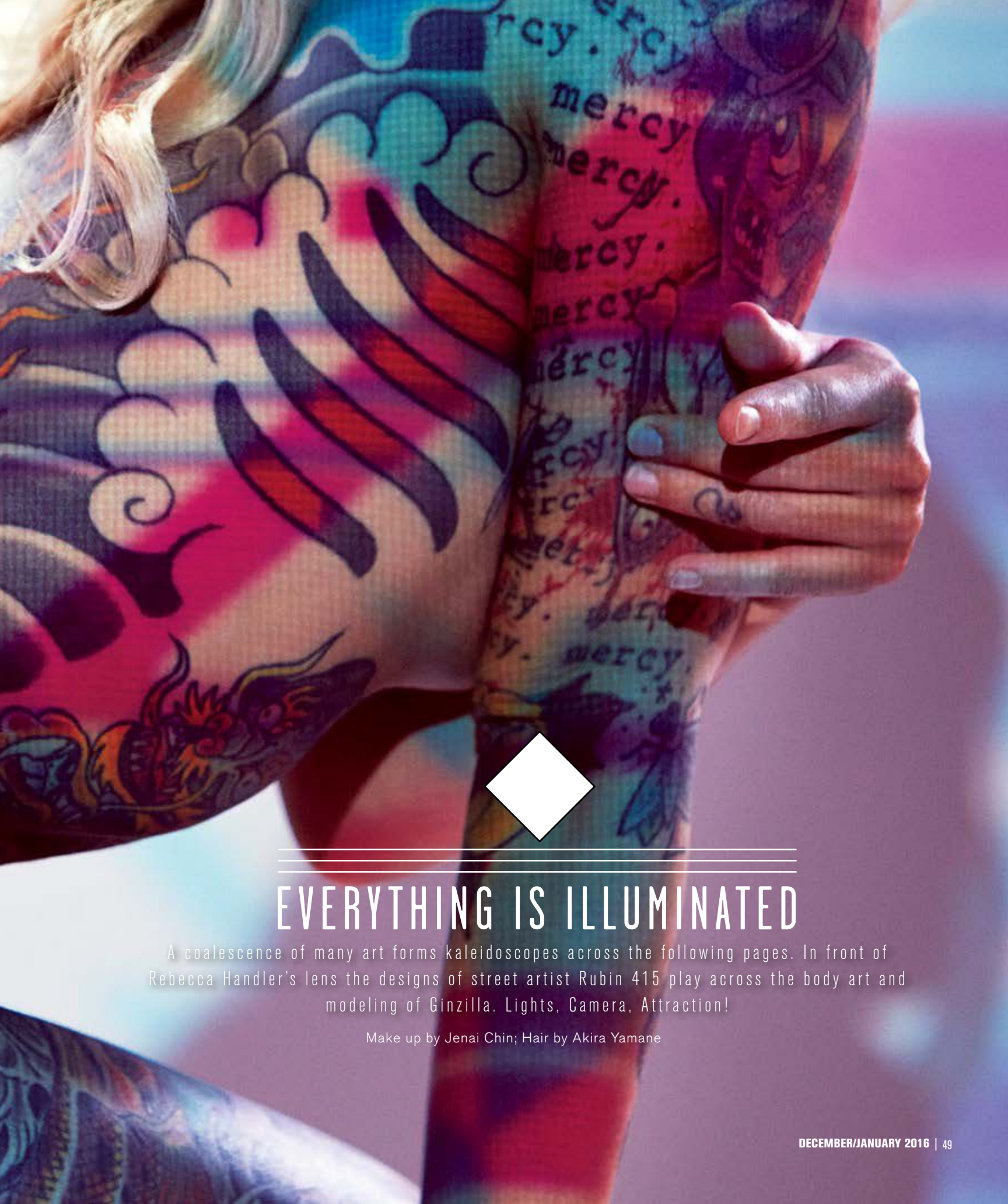


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EVERYTHING IS ILLUMINATED

A coalescence of many art forms kaleidoscopes across the following pages. In front of Rebecca Handler's lens the designs of street artist Rubin 415 play across the body art and modeling of Ginzilla. Lights, Camera, Attraction!

Make up by Jenai Chin; Hair by Akira Yamane







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INKED'S 2015 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Models: Sailor Scott and Nia Patel
Photos by Michael Kraus

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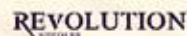


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DO YOU WANT A TATTOOED PRESIDENT?

How serious is John McAfee about becoming the next American President? He tattooed his campaign logo on his chest.

By Rocky Rakovic Photos by Tom Griscom



The high infant mortality rate

The high infant mortality rate in the United States is a major public health problem. It is a measure of the health of a nation and its people. The rate is the number of deaths of infants under the age of one per 1,000 live births. The United States has one of the highest rates in the developed world. This is due to a variety of factors, including poor nutrition, lack of prenatal care, and inadequate medical services. The high infant mortality rate is a reflection of the social and economic conditions in the United States. It is a sign of a society that is failing its most vulnerable citizens. The high infant mortality rate is a call to action for policymakers and the public alike. We must take steps to reduce the rate and improve the health of our children.

Action might once exhi

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Opinion

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Disabling If You Build a Program, They Will Center

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Stuck on Zero

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The White House and the Census

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CALENDAR

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American voters tend to back a presidential candidate who is just like them, someone who they would want to drink a beer with. I just did a tequila shot with candidate John McAfee, who is about to get the tenets of his campaign tattooed on his chest. "My campaign advisor didn't want me to do an interview with *Inked* magazine," he tells the people at Twisted Ink Tattoo in Lexington, TN. "But I told him, 'The thing about *Inked* readers is that every one of them with a tattoo is of voting age. That's one-in-five Americans. And we fucking stick together.'"

McAfee already has a few tattoos including tribal designs across his back and shoulders, his wife Janice's name in three places around his body and the name of a complete stranger he met in a tattoo shop and didn't plan on ever seeing again. "I got that one to remind myself of the transitory nature of life," he says.

As tattooer Joseph Braddy and his mentor Dave Billings look over the stencil—a design made by Braddy that may now become McAfee's official campaign logo—McAfee tells those gathered about his transitions in life from running his multi-billion dollar software company (if his name sounds familiar it is because he was responsible for McAfee AntiVirus) to doing drugs "you've never heard of" to living in his Shangri-La in Belize to being an international fugitive to being a rock star in the tech community to now wanting to serve his country at its highest office. He, like any modern president, is incredibly charming and a great listener to all in the room no matter their position in life or at the shop. But this is a rare in-person interaction between the leader of the Cyber Party and his constituents. "I'm not going to go out there and shake hands and kiss babies," McAfee says. "That's nonsense in a world that has developed software that will let me sit in my living room and reach out to every American and they can reach out to me. I think this technique will be universal in 10 years. Apologies to your babies." He's the kind of guy who you want to shoot another tequila with, and he obliges.

INKED: Why you?

MCAFFEE: The fundamental problem with America is that we have two machines, the Republicans and the Democrats, and they are both equally as vicious. They are inhuman, they run on power rather than service. The government is here for service, at least that is what Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin thought, and then that was reaffirmed by Abraham Lincoln. "...That government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." Those are really powerful words but they actually meant it. Do you think that any president in the last 50 years has had that sense of service? Fuck no, it is an office of power. They want to get in so they can make laws, spend money, rattle the sabers and intimidate smaller countries. It is totally fucked up and that is why I intend to change it. We don't want power in politicians, we want the power in the people.

INKED: Why now?

MCAFFEE: I'm 70 years-old and McDonald's won't hire me, so I have to do something. Seriously, my friends and fans have pushed me into it because I have a huge technological background. We are behind in the cyber world and I have the background. The Chinese raided the Office of Personnel

Management and made their way off with records of [4.1 million] US government employees. Including our embedded spies. And we don't know what happened to them, they could have been rounded up and killed. Do you think we could do that to China? Fuck no, because their leaders understand cyber science. It is almost like electing a President who can't read or write and him saying, "but I have advisors who can explain things to me so we'll be OK." No, we won't be OK, that's bullshit.

INKED: Is Edward Snowden a patriot?

MCAFFEE: Of course he is a patriot. A patriot is someone who serves America and American citizens. He sure enough served me. If not we would be in fucking ignorant bliss.

INKED: You are aware that you are cursing on tape. Are you concerned about offending possible voters?

MCAFFEE: You cannot run this country and *not* offend people. It is a life or death job. You have to make the decisions where people's lives are at stake, where people lose jobs, where cities get obliterated. I say (curse) words specifically to make people look at themselves. They can watch someone get shot on the news but can't handle someone saying the word "fuck." Jesus fucking Christ, what is wrong with those people?

INKED: Why do you think you are the right leader to make these monumental decisions?

MCAFFEE: You have to make hard decisions without wincing. Have I yet said "ouch" while getting tattooed? We want someone who understands that life has pain, and decisions are difficult, and we must bare the responsibilities of it. If you can't get a tattoo without saying "ouch" you cannot run this fucking country.

INKED: Would you give the country free Wifi?

MCAFFEE: Fuck yeah. We give you free roads. It needs to be free, everybody needs access to the greatest knowledge base the world has ever had.

INKED: Other than Technology, what do the other words you are getting tattooed mean to your candidacy?

MCAFFEE: What have we lost most? Privacy. Edward Snowden proved that. We have the microscope up our ass. I hate to say it that way but there is no other way to say it. To say it in a polite way does not get across the situation we are in. They are watching and listening to everything that we do. The government is trying to outlaw encryption so that the same conversation I could have with my wife in private would not be private over the internet. Really? When I am whispering to my wife in bed do I have to inform the government to send an agent so he can listen? Why should I have to do that on the internet which is the same thing? Do you see the insanity?

INKED: Because technology is involved you are saying that the government thinks....

MCAFFEE: They think they should have control. A fundamental human need is to be able to have privacy with your wife, between parents and children, between brothers and sisters, between business colleagues who don't want competitors to be able to find their secrets. We need privacy. It's 1984. So privacy is fundamental. That's why it is on my platform as number 1.

INKED: And Freedom.

MCAFFEE: The Patriot Act should be called the Unpatriotic Act. The TSA and the NSA don't make us feel safe, they make us feel like we are the enemy. Have you ever had a Cuban cigar? They are fucking awesome but you can't go to Cuba and get one. We have given up freedoms of movement, of expression. When the government oversteps, the people have the right to change or abolish it. If I said those words on the streets of New York City with a megaphone, I would be branded a traitor but I would be quoting the Declaration of Independence. Tell me that we haven't given up freedoms. We have lost everything. We have a mother and a father for a government instead of a servant. We have lost it; it is gone. Is Donald Trump going to bring this back? No. Is Hillary Clinton going to bring this back? I don't think so.

INKED: You talked about drugs earlier, what do you think about pot users who are in jail?

MCAFFEE: We give someone 15 years for smoking a joint so my first act would be to pardon everybody who is a non-violent marijuana smoker or dealer. Every other drug needs to be minimized. No drug should be more than a misdemeanor. I don't care what it is. If you are a heroin abuser, you are punishing yourself. It is Hell on earth and so you are being punished by the drug, the government doesn't need to punish you more. After decriminalizing the drug traffic, all the violence from the Cubans and the Mexican cartels are going to go away. Now that I said that, I will be upped on the list of people who need to be whacked if I do get to be president because they will be out of business.

INKED: How about dealing with foreign affairs?

MCAFFEE: We can't be the world's policeman, we can't go around telling other countries what to do and how to do it. They have spent thousands of years developing a culture, we can't tell them that it is wrong just because it is not like ours. That is seriously fucked up. We also can't be lending countries money, we are trillions of dollars in debt and we are going to give Iran money?

INKED: What is your biggest fear for our country?

MCAFFEE: Cybersecurity. This country is going to collapse unless someone like me takes over. The next war will not be a war fought with missiles and guns. It will be technology. We'll wake up one morning and there will be no electricity, our bank accounts will be emptied, there will be no record of anything anywhere, our airplanes will be falling out of the sky and that will be the end of America. I don't want to see that happen to us. I love this country.



U.S. NEWS

Friday Fly

Weekend Mixer

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GIFT GUIDE



TREKELL

Trekell Pro Team Artist, Kit King gathered all of her favorite Trekell products and created her signature set consisting of two brushes, eight tubes of oil paint, a Baltic birch panel and a Trekell skull print. All items come packaged in a black box with the Kit Kit logo. **\$99** trekell.com



BLUE BEARD

Since 2005, Bluebeards Original has tamed the gnarliest of beards with unique, award-winning facial hair products. Their three-piece holiday Beard Trio is the perfect gift set for the bearded man. Contains a Beard Saver, large Beard Wash, and Wonder Beard Intensive Repair in a handy vinyl gift bag. **\$56** bluebeardsoriginal.com



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Now here's a Dia De Los Muertos Sugar Skull Cameo Pendant handmade with an edge! Diamonds and Coal's white on black Sugar Skull Cameo Pendant is surrounded by tiny Swarovski crystals and hand-painted to bring out the beautiful details in the piece. A stainless steel chain is included. Enter code **INKED** at checkout for an exclusive discount. **\$1,550** DiamondsAndCoalJewelry.com



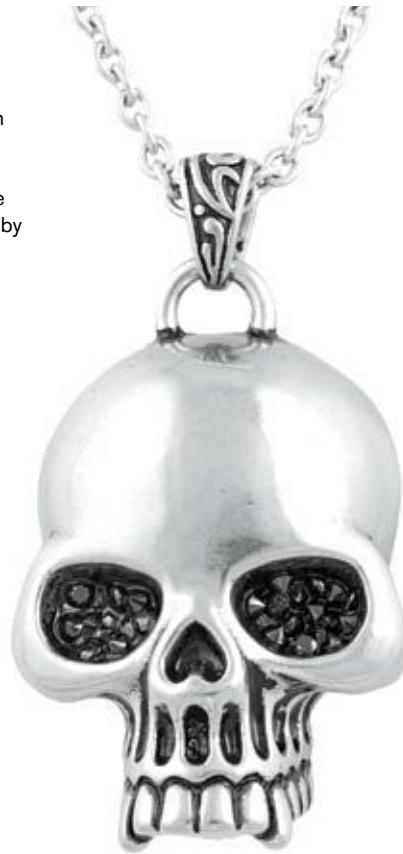
DEMI LOON

The Jessi Halter by Demi Loon is a must-have vintage-inspired top for all headturners! **\$23.96** inkedshop.com



BADCOCK JONES

We have all had encounters with wildcats. Wear your spirit animal on your chest with this latest design from Badcock Jones. The Wildcat racerback tank is made by the fierce for the fierce. **\$25** badcockjones.com



CONTROSE

Bling-out like the badass that you truly are with this "Glimmer In Your Eyes" Skull Medallion by Controse. Made of stainless steel, this stylish piece contains black cubic zirconia stones to add some sparkle to the ghoulish skull's hollow orbits. **\$29.99** inkedshop.com

ALCHEMY OF ENGLAND

Handmade in England, Alchemy's curiosities are world renowned for their original and authentic alternative style. alchemyofengland.com



The Raven ear-wing wrap, \$28.35, makes a perfect combination with the Ravenger Pendant, \$36.75. The Keeps of the Tyrian pendant, \$63.00, features a Swarovski purple Austrian crystal ball with a 16" chain.



GRAVE BEFORE SHAVE

The Grave Before Shave Beard Care Pack has everything needed to maintain a manly beard! The line-up is: a 6 oz. tube of Grave Before Shave Beard Wash, a 1 oz. bottle of Grave Before Shave Beard Oil, a 2 oz. tin of Grave Before Shave Beard Balm, and one Bass 100% Wild Boar Hair Beard Brush with bamboo handle. **\$45** gravebeforshave.com



HADES

Draco Black Platforms by Hades are super-sexy black peep-toe platform shoes with a signature spinal heel, side zipper, ankle buckle strap and a gorgeous red lining. **\$149.95** inkedshop.com

7TH REVOLUTION

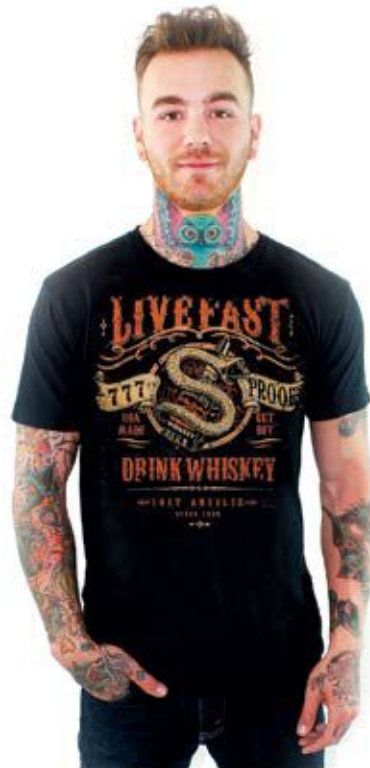
7th Revolution Clothing is all about rock 'n' roll, vintage-inspired, American made wears. 7threvolution.com



7th Revolution Custom Motors Vintage Tee is a cool, vintage-inspired, great-fitting shirt for any gear head. Better get two so you can rock one when you are working in the garage. **\$20**



7th Revolution DreamHeart Drape Tank is a drape-fitting tank with a cotton and spandex blend for comfort! The dreamcatcher design is for the badass romantic. **\$24.99**



On the first wear, the 7th Revolution SnakeBite Vintage Tee Great feels as comfortable as your favorite old T-shirt. **\$20**



7th Revolution's 7 Vintage Burnout Tank Dress is a fitted hi-low tank dress that is as comfortable as it is sexy. You'll love the feel and he won't be able to keep his hands off you. **\$30**

SCOSHE INDUSTRIES



The boomBOTTLE®+ Rugged Waterproof Wireless Speaker was recently named Best Portable Speaker and Best New Product. It comes equipped with dual 50mm drivers, 15 hours of music playback, built-in USB charging, dual pairing capability, and indoor/outdoor EQ. It fits in most water bottle cages and cup holders, has built-in music controls, is IP67 dustproof/waterproof and it floats for easy retrieval.

\$179.99 scosche.com



STEADFAST

Steadfast Brand brings back one of our favorite collabs of the year in a heavy-weight zippered hoodie with the quality they're known for. The Not-So-Secret Society design threw everyone into a frenzy of conspiracy theories and cult madness. Wear the chaos!

\$60 steadfastbrand.com



VITALY

One of the many weapons used by Japan's ninjas, the Kunai's deadly shape made it an effective weapon in hand-to-hand combat and it was even used to climb the sides of buildings to infiltrate enemy compounds. We like to think this pendant is just as versatile as the real thing.

\$50 vitalitydesign.com



RODEO FOX

The American made Slashed Tunic by Rodeo Fox can be worn as a cute top or a sultry mini-dress.

\$38.95 inkedshop.com.

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April 1st - 3rd 2016

Cleveland
January 29th - 31st 2016

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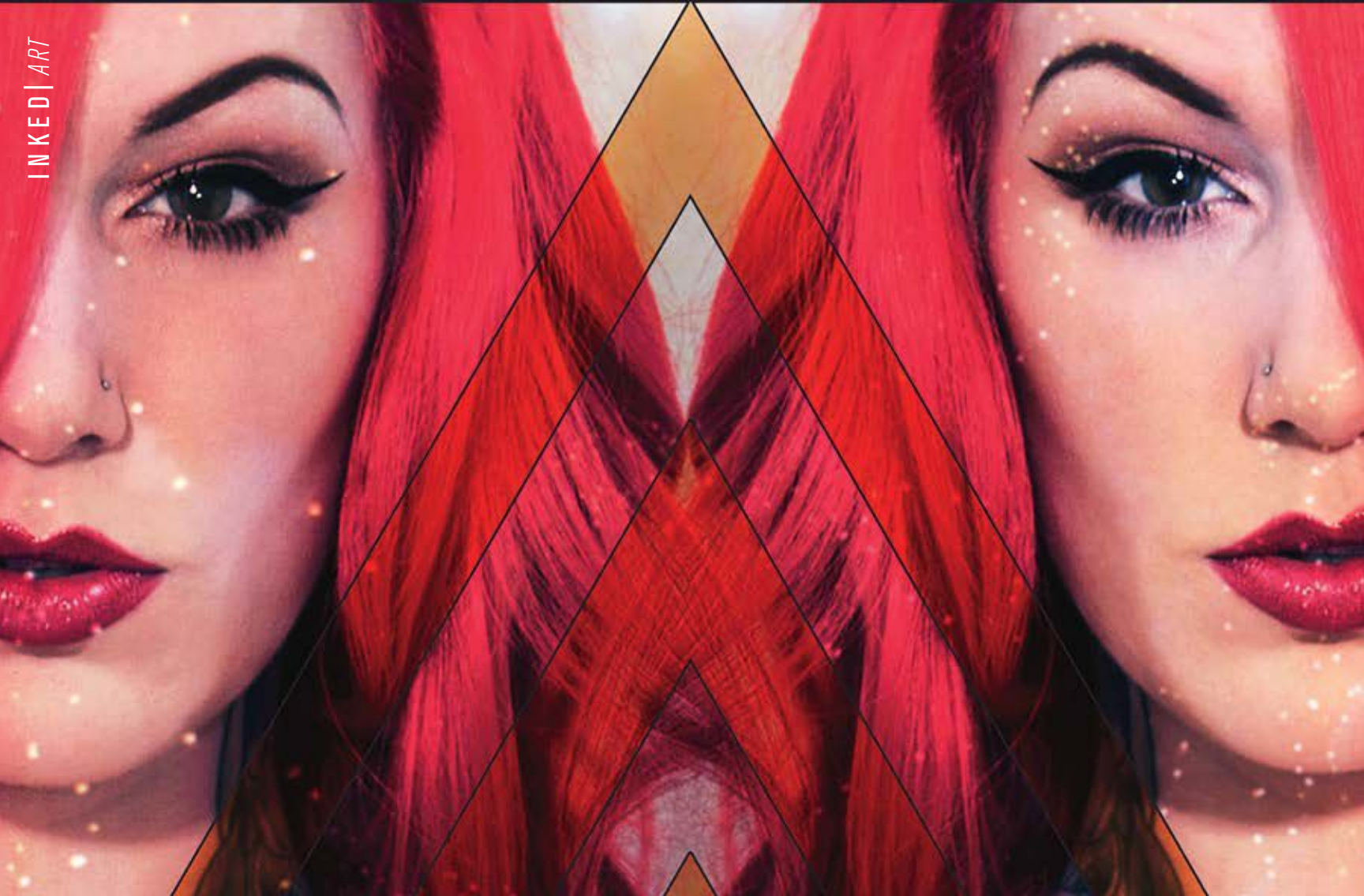
Philadelphia
February 12th - 14th 2016

Kansas City
May 13th - 15th 2016

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Iman Shumpert goes hard in the paint and in the tattoo chair. The NBA star is a warrior poet who communicates through his style, raps and ink.

By Rocky Rakovic
Photos by Sasha Samsonova
Make up by Dhyana Forte; Styled by Nadia Durham





Michael Jordan was one of the first iconic bald heads in the NBA, Allen Iverson made cornrows cool to the masses and Dennis Rodman, well, dyed his hair more colors than are in the deluxe 64 box of Crayola crayons. The Association's current coiffure de célèbre stands atop Cleveland Cavaliers' 6'5" (unclear if measured through or over his hair) shooting guard Iman Shumpert. Not since Gerald from *Hey Arnold* has the high-top been worn by such a cool cat. Even from the browline down, Shumpert is a sartorial star who wears ostentatious but slick threads and is covered in ink. Appearance aside, he stands out on the court throwing daggers from mid-range and playing lockdown defense with unreal footwork. After a mid-season trade from the Knicks last year he pushed the Cavs to make the NBA Finals and after his wrist heals he is going to stand in every opponent's way to make sure he is back in the championship again. If there is such thing as a shut-down corner in the NBA, it's Shumpert.

Are you more known for your hair, clothes or your tattoos?

Ain't nothing beating my hair. If I wear a hat, I could sneak around, but I ain't going nowhere covering it up with a hood.

Do you look at tattoos as style?

Now I do. A lot of the positioning of my tattoos are so they look good when I'm wearing my jersey.

Do you think the NBA is more tattooed because of the jersey?

Without a doubt. Tattoos show up in the NBA. A lot of football players have tattoos, but because they're padded and the cameras are so far back, you're never able to read them. Our camera angles are so close up and the lighting is right on us and our tattoos.

Do you guys clown on each other's tattoos on the court?

If somebody gets a bad one and they need a cover-up.

Do you have any cover-ups?

Yeah, I actually had a tattoo on the inside of my right arm that represented some high school friends. We had our own little team, I had a tattoo of that to represent that but sometimes it got misconstrued as gang affiliated. I made sure that I got it covered up before my daughter gets here. I put a Batman symbol over it.

Why Batman?

Batman is the only superhero that can be respected in my eyes. He's the only one that was a real person and just helped people behind the scenes. I feel like all basketball players do exceptional things financially for our families, friends and community. We help behind the scenes. We don't expect to get a trophy for it, we just do it because we care—it's where our heart is. That's the whole concept of Batman, and I like that anybody could be Batman.

True, how about your Johnny Bravo tattoo?

Johnny Bravo taught me to have that confidence and believe in myself. Johnny Bravo got beat up the whole episode, but every time he saw something that he wanted he went after it. I took from the show that whatever I want [success as an athlete, rapper and a soon-to-be father], I'm going to go get it, and if I get hit in the face for it, I should be able to take that because I want it that bad.

Do you have a favorite tattoo at the moment?

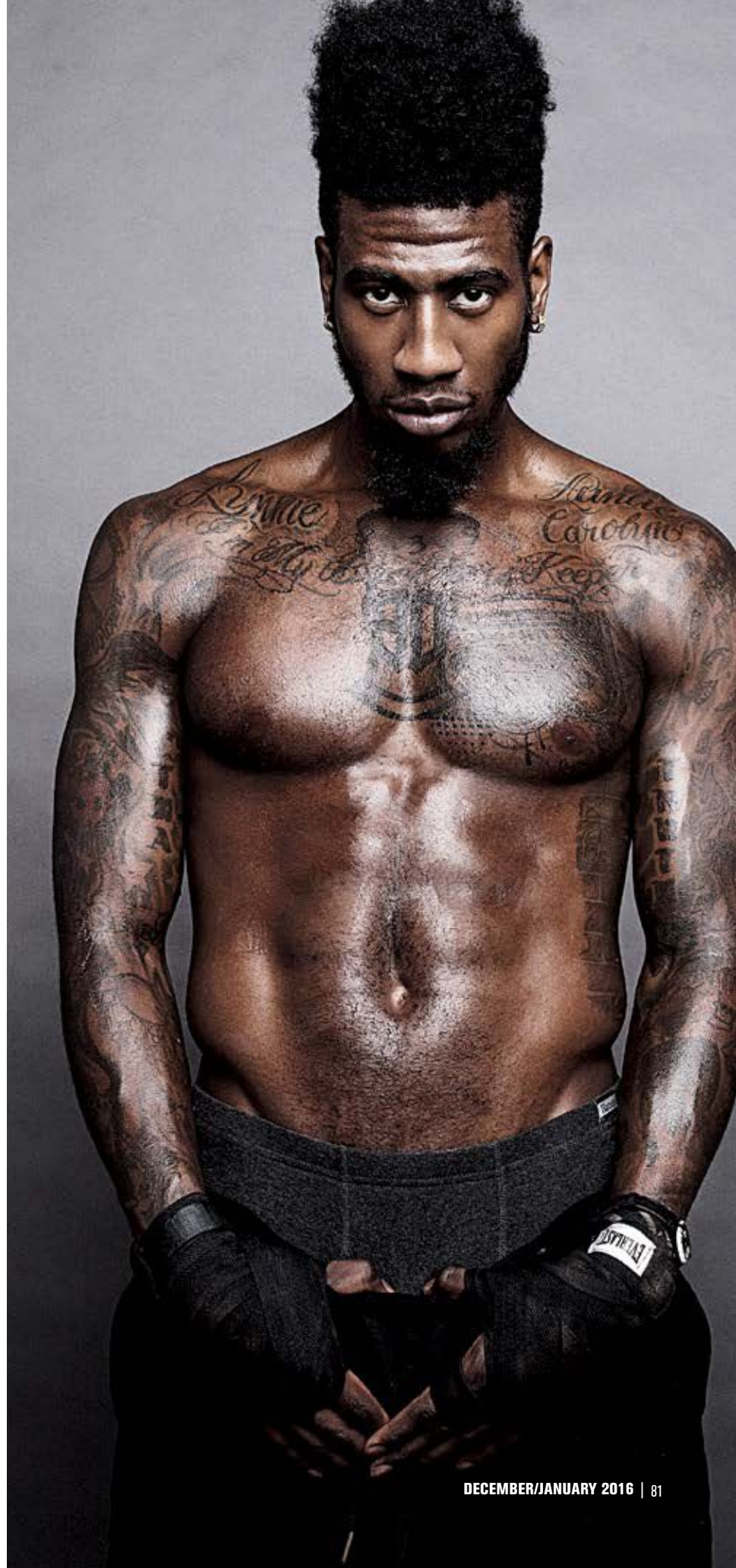
Yeah actually, I got the Green Line train system in Chicago. It's the five stops that I would usually get off on, on the West Side. It's on the inside of my arm, so if I pull my wingspan out you can see it on my left arm.

Not in green ink though, right?

Yeah, it's green. You're trying to say I'm black as hell [laughs].

[also laughs] Yep. Red shows up really well on dark skin we haven't seen too much green ink. Why do you get tattooed?

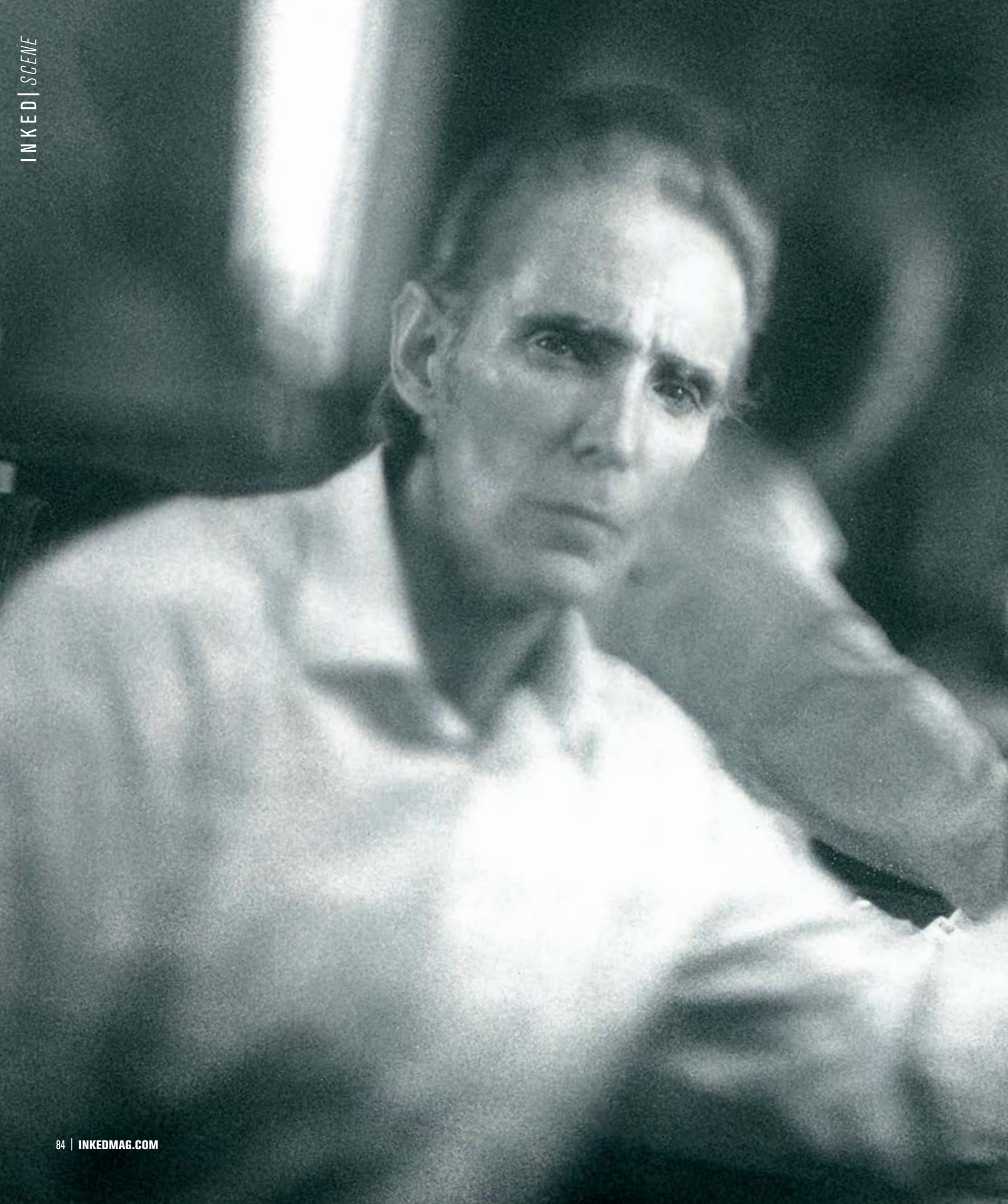
Growing up I rapped on the shy, but I never thought that I would let people (hear it). So I got tattooed to tell my story and get it out creatively. I also tatted things on me so that I could remind myself of my struggle and the things that I've accomplished. I get tatted so I can look at my story every day.

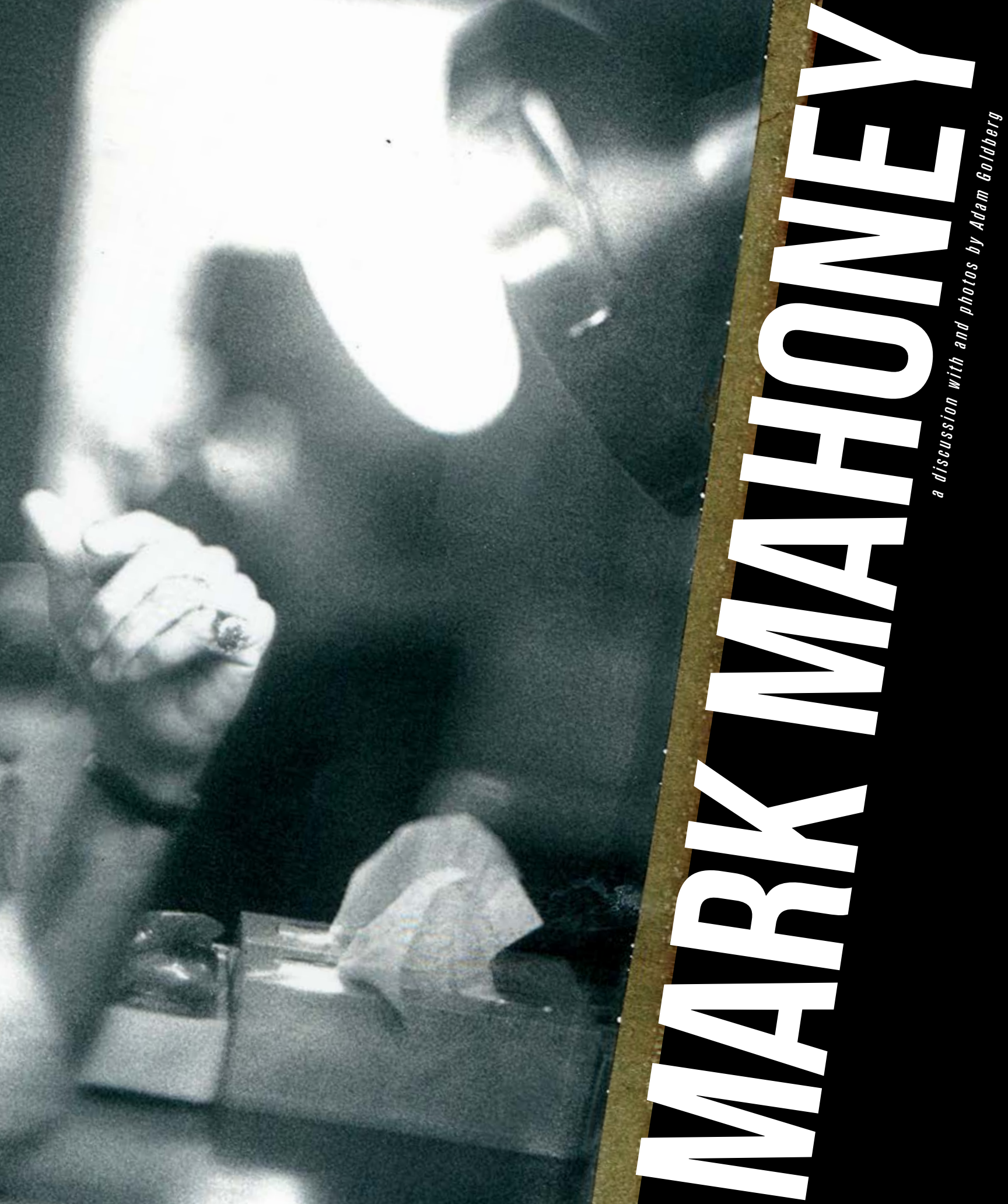






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MARK WAHLBERG

a discussion with and photos by Adam Goldberg

Two creatives, one, Adam Goldberg, a writer, actor, director and musician, and the other, Mark Mahoney, a tattooer (and sometimes actor, see *Black Mass*) meet at the revered Shamrock Social Club. They collaborate on Goldberg's latest ink then discuss the ephemeral quality of tattoos and kill the concept of cool.

GOLDBERG: OK we're recording... "Hi Mark!" This isn't awkward, we're just having a perfectly normal conversation.

MAHONEY: Let's see what we can do to stifle that.

GOLDBERG: Yeah, put two recording devices between us.

MAHONEY: Ha!

GOLDBERG: Okay, I was trying to figure out the first time we met, and I think I know when it was.

MAHONEY: I think you came down to 3rd Street, to the original Shamrock, maybe 22 years ago. Yeah, I didn't tattoo you, but you came down with Bobby. We have to talk about Bobby.

GOLDBERG: Bobby Pastorelli is how we know each other. I was doing a show called *Double Rush*. Bobby and I got really close. He was like my hip dad. I don't mean he was like my dad if he were hip, he was my cool school, basically. He had this beautiful Archangel Michael tattoo you did, it was just gorgeous.

MAHONEY: He really was a battle of dark and light.

GOLDBERG: Yeah, so I met you there but by the time you tattooed me the shop closed and you tattooed me in the back of a T-shirt shop.

MAHONEY: Yeah, yeah, yeah, on La Brea, in between rehab and trying to get my thing back together.

GOLDBERG: Right. But over the years I'd collect pieces, like "I'm in New Orleans, I'm gonna get a fucking tattoo in New Orleans," and then I would regret it and then you would cover it up. And then, "Oh, it's New Year's Day 2001, I'm in the Catskills. Let's see if there's a tattoo artist in the Catskills." At the time I was trying to collect vintage flash with a spin on it.

MAHONEY: But that's a natural thing to want to get tattooed when you're out on the road. It's kind of the essence of the tattoo business.

GOLDBERG: I guess it is, but ultimately, the reason I have collected so many tattoos, in part, is really because of you. So I guess you're to thank, or to blame, depending on who you talk to.

MAHONEY: Well, I'm glad that you're working so much this year so I don't feel so bad.

GOLDBERG: But these days the idea of going to someone else to get tattooed seems strange to me. With you, you're buying a ticket into a whole experience. Are most of your clients return customers?

MAHONEY: Yeah, I mean, I give a fuck about the people that I tattoo, personally. I think you and I in particular share a lot in common. I got that right away, like we both like the old shit and we both love Robert Pastorelli. I think you're one of the only people in the world, or the only person in the world that I share a tattoo with. We both got a tattoo in remembrance of Bobby. So that's something pretty special.

GOLDBERG: I remember the day I found out he died. I didn't know who to talk to, so I came here. I just had to give you a hug. And it was particularly weird because it's a bit mysterious what happened. I don't know how much people know, but his girlfriend, who was the mother of one of his two little girls, shot herself in front of him. That's all that I knew, and after that he went away and I didn't hear from. I finally spoke to him for the first time since that had happened while I was getting a tattoo in your chair years later. He called you, I think he wanted to come in to get some work done, and you just put me on the phone with him. It was kind of a heavy moment and a weird coincidence. About a week or two later, I was editing *I Love Your Work*, he called me, we planned on getting together and then he fucking died. He had been supposedly clean. I guess the theory is that you're clean for that long, then you use and your body can't handle it, right?

MAHONEY: Yeah. But I had tattooed him a couple of nights before. He seemed OK to me. But he did mention that the last thing he said to her was fucking mean. He was carrying that cross.

GOLDBERG: I felt like the loss of Bobby, even though I hadn't seen him in a couple of years, got us sort of back in the pattern of seeing each other a lot more.

MAHONEY: I think he kind of meant for that to happen. That's why he called while you were here.

GOLDBERG: I loved being around him but I always felt a little nervous, a little shy, like he was the Alpha Dog. One time he, rightfully, fucking pecked at me and I kept my shit straight the rest of the time I knew him. I'm older now so if I'm cocky or an asshole, I'm just a grumpy old man, but I was this weird combination of being totally insecure, feeling like I really shouldn't be on the set or "I don't like the way I look," or "I don't like the way I sound."

MAHONEY: And the flipside being...

GOLDBERG: And the flipside being "I'm a badass, I'm owning this shit." I've always had anxiety issues, but in a weird way sometimes your coping mechanism ends up being just as strong and powerful as the thing that makes you feel vulnerable.

MAHONEY: I think that's just the artistic temperament, to have both of those things going on.

GOLDBERG: Yeah, yeah, actually I've thought that about that with you, this dichotomy. Many people would say that you totally epitomize cool, you epitomize the hip aesthetic, and at the same time you're

like, a gentle and insanely sensitive guy.

MAHONEY: You know me well enough to know what's a front.

GOLDBERG: That's an interesting conversation to have. What is cool, and is there such thing as really cool, being really detached, really not giving a shit? Because I used to think about this with Kerouac all the time, but then you read Kerouac and you're like "This guy is a fucking mess! He's not cool, he's a fucking wreck!" James Dean, wreck!

MAHONEY: Cool is like, an outdated concept. Fuckin' cool ain't cool no more. Frenchie [Mark's younger daughter], and the other 14-year-old girls, they don't like cool guys, they like nerds and shit.

GOLDBERG: So I could have just stayed really fucking nerdy? I was like 16, and 5'2", no girls for miles, smart, but stressed out and slicking my hair back, listening to Art Tatum with the windows rolled up in my car on lunch break, pretending it was 1945 or something. But for all intents and purposes, categorized as, like, a clown or intellectual guy or whatever. But when I was 19 and I put this fake tattoo on me for a scene in acting class, it was like "Oh shit" and that was pretty much that. Got my first tattoo the same year. Whether it was an affect or not I was hooked. Now though, there's no boundaries because everybody has a tattoo.

MAHONEY: I'm afraid, and I do think about this a lot, that for a thousand years or at least when I started, that you got tattooed to be different, to stand out, and now I'm afraid that people get tattooed to be like their friends, to blend in.

GOLDBERG: Does it make you enjoy it less?

MAHONEY: You know, the act of doing it is the same.

GOLDBERG: I'm amazed because you do this incredibly detailed work and you're talking the whole time.

MAHONEY: I get into some type of Zen or whatever. My back will go out once a year, it's excruciating, but I'll sit down to tattoo and it won't hurt. Like monks who sit and study on a mountaintop.

GOLDBERG: Things are more valuable when they're rare, right? Do you feel like the work that you're doing can't possibly have the same value?

MAHONEY: There are so many great black-and-grey tattooers in just a 10 mile radius, it's daunting. There was a time me and Freddy (Negrete) and Jack (Rudy) were the only people in the world that did portraits, now there's a gazillion. For me, it is about the process. Even if the tattoo isn't that gratifying, the experience can be.

GOLDBERG: It's hard to find an analogy for tattoo art because it's ephemeral. It exists for the span of someone's life. There's kind of an inherent value in that. The world's gotten more cluttered with every



Photo by Ben Parks



type of expression or at least cluttered with venues for it. Everybody's got a movie camera in their pocket. I do it too, I make these short 15-second Instagram videos, but I also shoot with my 40-year-old Beaulieu 16mm camera.

MAHONEY: I like using 40-year-old tattoo machines better than these new ones because I think they work better.

GOLDBERG: Yeah, I dig the accessibility of the all-modern tools, but at the end of the day, I love shooting film when I take photos because I think it looks better and it makes me a better, more disciplined shooter. I have to be more selective with my choices and have to really know my "machine."

MAHONEY: That sort of gets to the question of craftsman or artist. I think one of the things that attracted me to tattooing is that it wasn't some high art. It is a craft. You use a tool, you might draw the thing on but I like to think of it as a craft. Col. Todd, who I worked with down on the Pike, would say we were tattooers, not tattoo artists. Tattoo artist was kind of an insult. I always identified myself as a tattooer.

GOLDBERG: But your eye is exquisite. Every time I've given you a photograph, you manage to reduce this insane amount of information and somehow turn it into a concise image. You must have been drawing a lot as a kid. And did you know right away you were talented?

MAHONEY: Yeah, I guess I knew I could draw, my dad could draw. I remember watching the JFK funeral lying on the carpet in front of the TV and my dad was teaching me how to draw biplanes and pirate ships. I drew a lot during those long Boston winters.

GOLDBERG: How did you hear about tattooing?

MAHONEY: An older guy from my neighborhood, Mark Hurlhey, a greaser, had moved from Boston to New York. He was going down to get tattooed. I think he was 17, I was 14. We all drove down and, you know, as soon as I walked into the shop, I knew that's what I wanted to do. One second.

GOLDBERG: What was the tattoo scene like in Boston then?

MAHONEY: Nonexistent, it was illegal. There was a guy that I was aware of that was tattooing in "Lynn Lynn the City of Sin." So it made for good business as soon as I started.

GOLDBERG: Because it was illegal there too, what was the New York scene like at the time?

MAHONEY: Bikers and stuff. The punk rock shit was starting. It didn't really happen until I came to LA in 1980. I think the California punks were more predisposed to getting tattooed. The punk scene in New York was more intellectuals and artists and thinkers, whereas the California punks were more like street kids out here. Their dads probably had tattoos. The kids in New York, their dads probably didn't....

GOLDBERG: Yeah, but meanwhile in the early 20th century so much of the tattoo scene was down on the Bowery, where CBGBs and all that would end up.

MAHONEY: Yeah, that's the Holy Land, the Lower East Side.

GOLDBERG: Man, I just can't imagine how much you've seen the world change since you started.

MAHONEY: It was literally nothing but bikers and hoodlums. 200 percent.

GOLDBERG: Right, right. So, you're about to tattoo somebody, your next client, who doesn't know what they want... That actually happened for the tattoo that we did for this piece. I came in with my old friend James. He had an ambitious Frank Sinatra portrait for you to do.

MAHONEY: He was such a sweet guy.

GOLDBERG: Yeah, and I had a piece in mind, this big Bogart still from *In a Lonely Place*. But there's no way you could do both that day, so we vamped and I came up with this idea to take a 4x5 Polaroid of my Speed Graphic camera in the mirror, and you turned it into a tattoo. Anyway, this guy's about to come in with a blank slate, what are you gonna do?

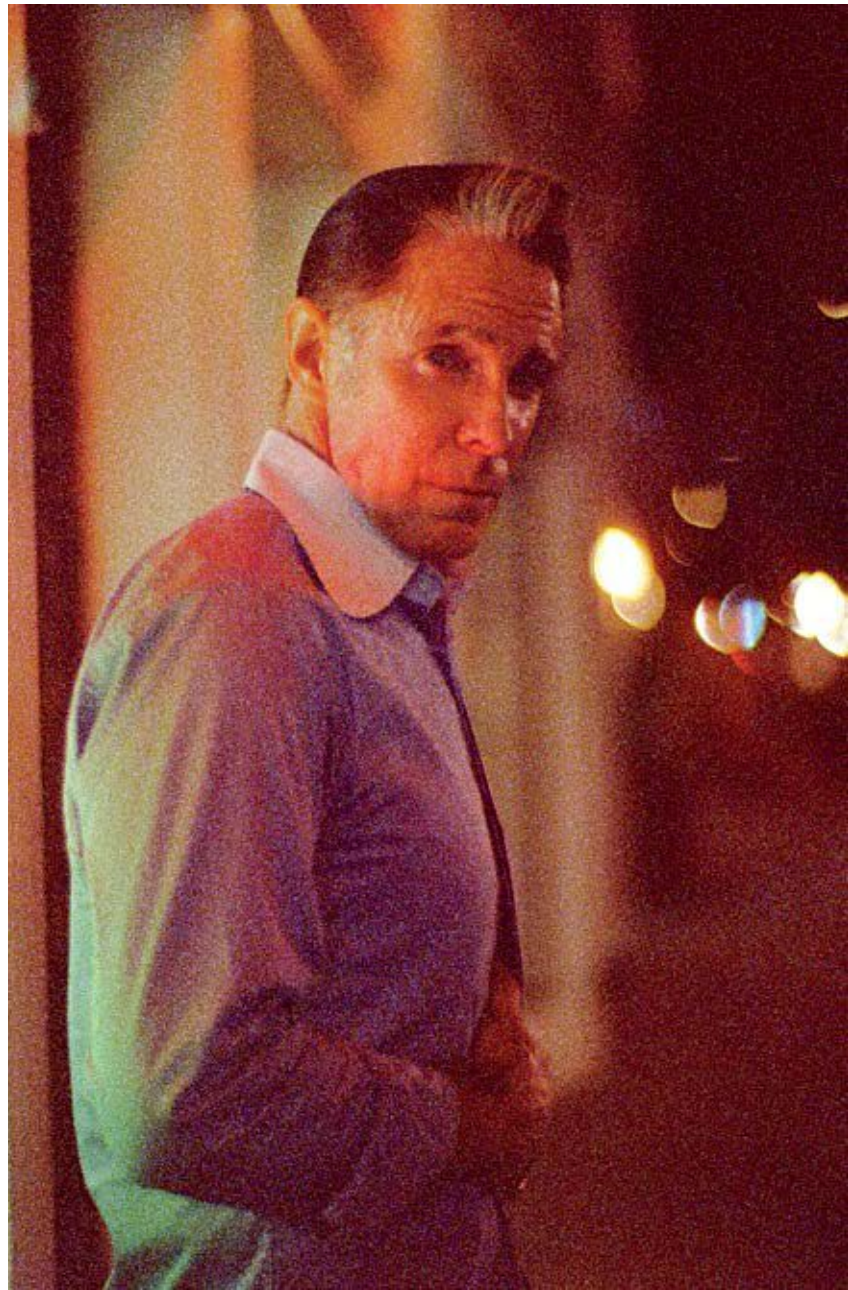
MAHONEY: We got a sleeve started on him....

GOLDBERG: The sleeve thing is weird these days. Do people come in and say...well, I know they do, I see it on Instagram, they'll say, "I'm halfway through this sleeve."

MAHONEY: It seems like that's a mid 2000s thing, you know. There started to be TV shows and people would come in with nothing and say, "I want to get a sleeve." How do you know you want a sleeve? Down, boy.

GOLDBERG: I would imagine that over the years have you become more selective about the clientele?

MAHONEY: Y'know, uh....not really. 🍷



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RYAN MULLINS

VISIT: [INSTAGRAM.COM/RYANMULLINSART](https://www.instagram.com/ryanmullinsart)

YOU'VE BEEN TATTOOING FOR FIVE YEARS NOW, HOW'S YOUR LIFE? I'm privileged enough to wake up and do what I love every day. I get to make art and tattoo for a living. It doesn't get much better than that. Except maybe winning the lottery.

DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL TRAINING? No, I'm self-taught. I never took drawing or painting classes; I would just go to artists I looked up to and try to sit there and watch for hours upon hours or until they got sick of me. I'm a real visual person; I find it easier to watch something done then duplicate it compared to being told what to do.

YOU DO A LOT OF REALISM WORK. ARE THERE ANY STYLES YOU'RE HESITANT TO TATTOO? I specialize in realism and mainly tattoo in that style, but I do get to mix it up and do different styles occasionally. I wouldn't say I'm hesitant to tattoo other styles, as I feel I'm a well-rounded tattooer, but I definitely respect script tattoos and heavy line work.

WHY DO YOU THINK THERE ARE SO MANY TALENTED ARTISTS IN HESPERIA? IT SEEMS TO BE A LITTLE TATTOO MECCA IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE. It's the water! Well, what water we have left. Hesperia is a really small town in the middle of the desert in California, there's not much to do, so I think artists are able to sit down and focus more on their tattoos.

AS SOMEONE WHO DOES A LOT OF POP CULTURE-RELATED TATTOOS, DOES YOUR LOVE OF THE SUBJECT MATTER AFFECT YOUR WORK? You have to detach yourself, but there is a big difference in doing a tattoo that you're really into versus doing one that you're not really feeling. I definitely give each one 100 percent and take pride in it, but there's just a different level of excitement you bring to the tattoo. 🐾



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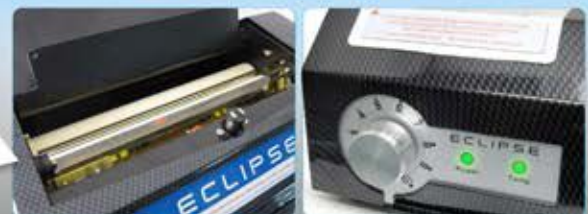


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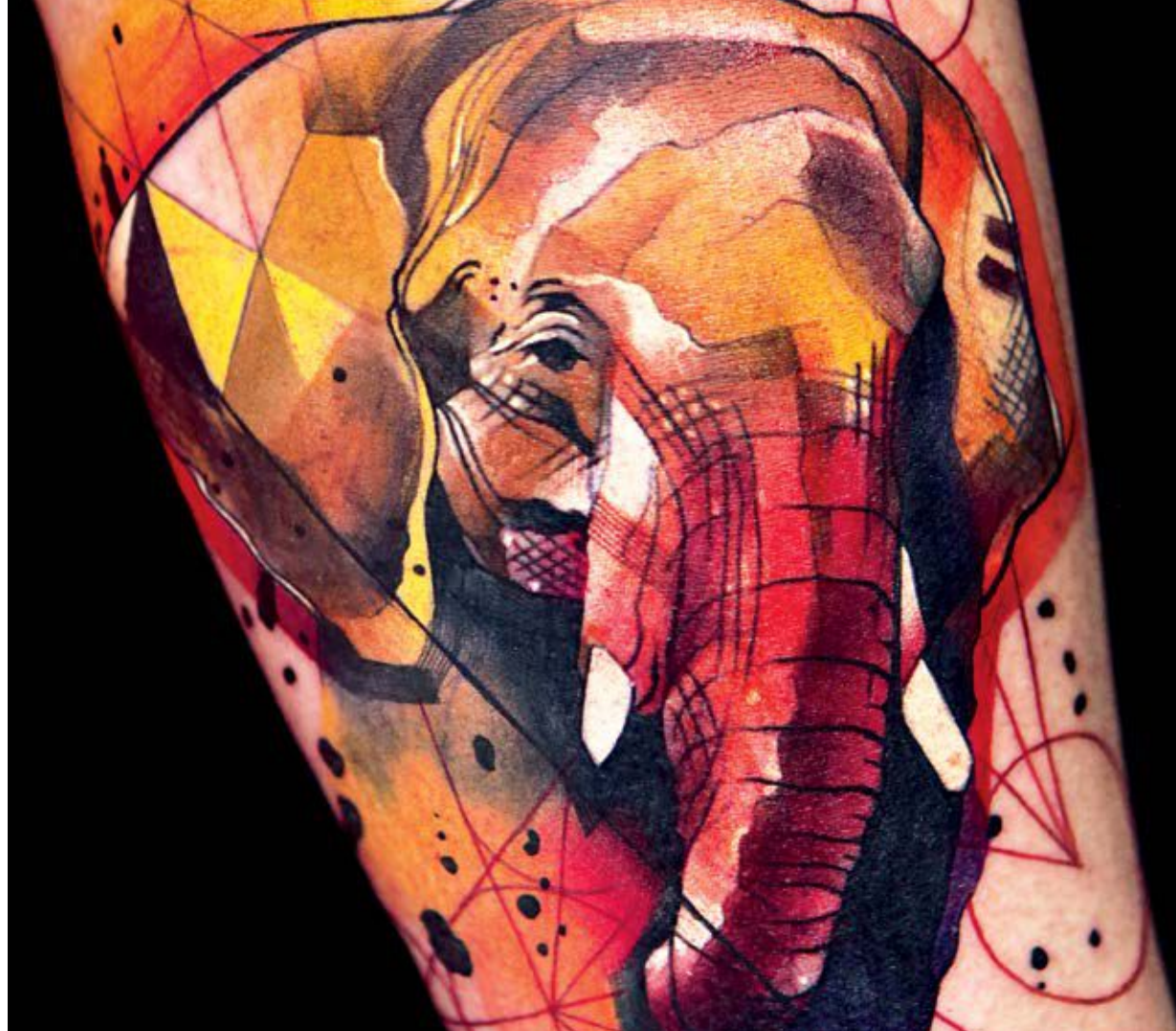
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IVANA TATTOO

VISIT: [INSTAGRAM.COM/IVANATATTOOART](https://www.instagram.com/ivanatattooart)

WHAT LEAD YOU TO WORK PRIMARILY IN A VIBRANT COLOR PALETTE OVER BLACK-AND-GREY? For me it was a natural artistic transition. I started tattooing using mainly black-and-grey and learned all the shading techniques, but after I started working with colors, it was an immediate click. The vibrant, bold colors give my tattoos different dimension and make the design stand out more. I love to tattoo animals, birds and flowers or look for inspiration in nature. Nature is so colorful that it is a never-ending inspiration when it comes to color combinations.

DESCRIBE WHY YOU CHOOSE TO COMBINE MULTIPLE STYLES OF TATTOOING INTO YOUR DESIGNS. I create several layers in tattoos combining various styles for a dramatic effect. It gives me more creativity and I feel like it enhances the visual aspect of the tattoo. Of course the styles have to be harmonic and aesthetically pleasing to create a design, it involves extensive research and creativity. I don't stick to any rules, I create freely what is visually appealing to me. Moreover, my style is constantly evolving, redeveloping, and I'm adding different techniques, for me it is an indefinite process.

WHAT INFORMS YOUR ART? My travels are a great source of inspiration for me. I love to travel and discover new cultures. This kind of inspiration is essential to me. Traveling makes me a better person, it keeps my eyes and mind open. It makes me not be ignorant towards other cultures and people's perspectives. It makes me more tolerant and giving. When it comes to all the "input" I am receiving on a daily basis, I would start from within. This is where all my inspiration begins and grows. Life in general is very inspiring to me—people in particular, their nature, their opinions, attitudes, destinies, their souls, the interdependence of the universe. I am thrilled how everything works and keeps my mind occupied and entertained. 🐼

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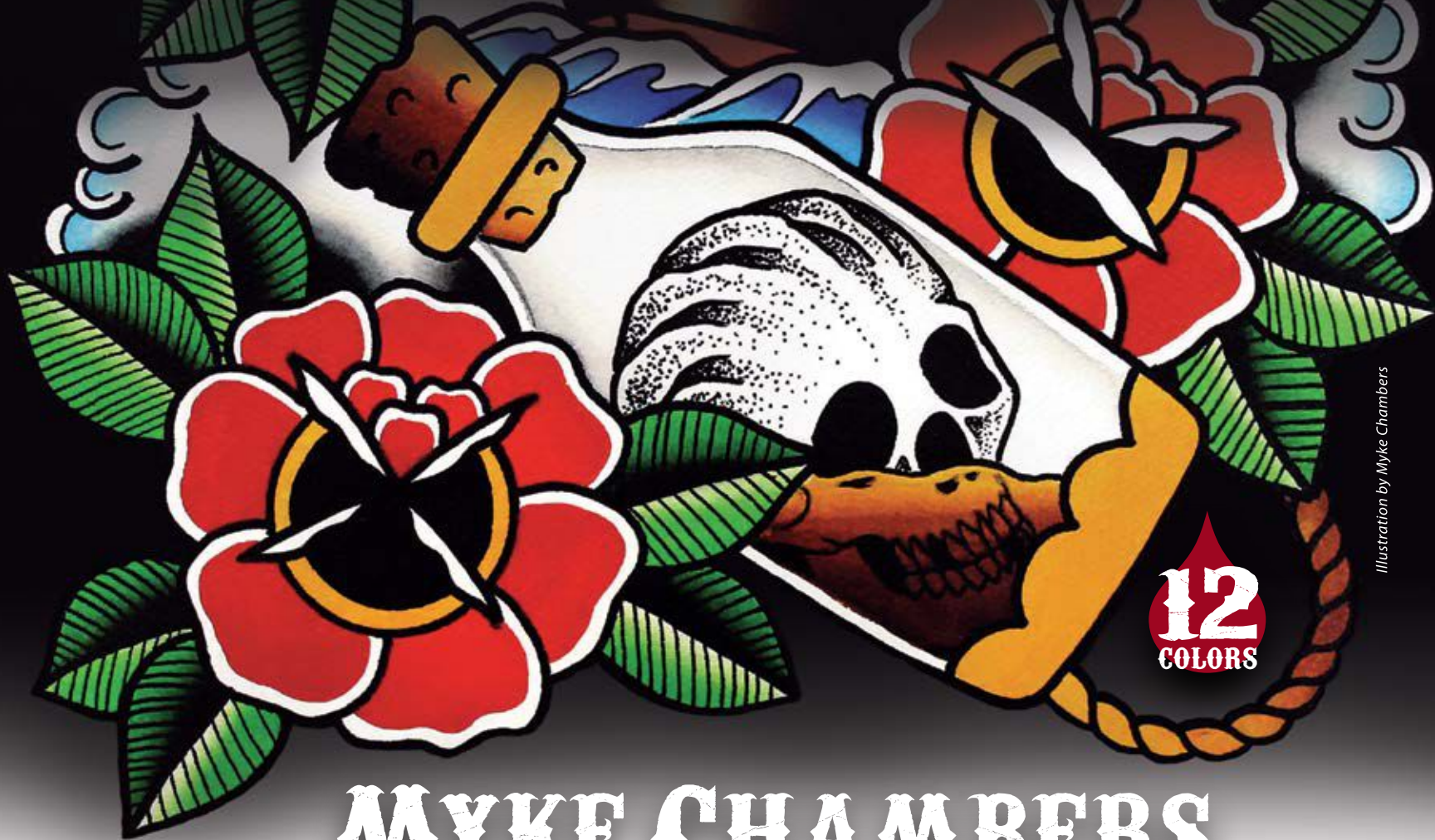


Illustration by Myke Chambers

MYKE CHAMBERS

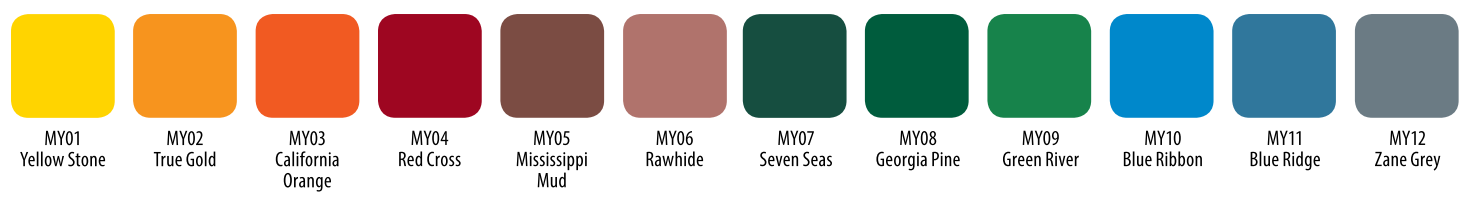
SIGNATURE SERIES



Myke Chambers has evolved a unique brand of Traditional Americana tattoo art. His art is instantly recognizable with rich, saturated hues and strong symbolic images inked in his unmistakable style. Presented here are 12 of his favorite tattoo hues mixed perfectly to Eternal Ink's high standards. This set simplifies the ink selection process with unique hues that will create the high impact color and contrast seen in Myke Chambers' tattoo art.



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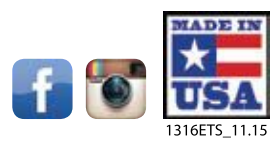


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ANDREW MARSH

VISIT: [INSTAGRAM.COM/LITTLEANDYTATTOO](https://www.instagram.com/littleandytattoo)

WHAT DROVE YOU TO TATTOO IN THIS STYLE AND COLOR PALETTE?

My work is spontaneous and free with no restrictions. I don't really plan anything, apart from portraits where there's a bit more structure, but otherwise I throw a bunch of different techniques into my work. I get bored easily and I want to push things as far as I can, so I try thinking of new things and styles that keep me interested and excited about what I'm doing. I basically found my color palette through trial and error. I'm not afraid to try anything. I've been doing custom work and my style and use of color has just naturally evolved to where it is now, but I like to add new colors every now and then to keep it fresh.

WHAT INSPIRES YOU TO CREATE SURREALISTIC ART IN YOUR TATTOOS?

I'm pretty much just inspired by nature and a cheeky bit of geometry. As far as music, it's either hip-hop, usually Non Phixion, or '80s power ballads. When it comes to traveling, I think moving to Australia last year had a massive impact on my work even though I didn't realize it at the time. But my work has changed more in a year than in the seven years I've been tattooing. It has had a big impact and I recommend any tattooist to get out there!

WHAT LEAD YOU TO YOUR 'NO RULES' APPROACH TO TATTOOING?

I'm not really sure, but tattooing isn't restricted to reality so why be rigid? Be free with your work, it's more fun. Plus with my style I can get away with anything and I like the idea of drawing all over a design like a child and basically ruining it.

DO YOU WORK IN ANY OTHER MEDIUMS BESIDES TATTOOING?

I don't even do any flash or prints. It's line drawings and tattoos only. I used to do other mediums a few years ago, but it just doesn't really interest me. Now I just want to tattoo. 🐼




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NICK MEANS PHOTOGRAPHY



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AUTUMN FRYER AKA BUTTON SUICIDE

SHOP GIRL AT THE GRAND REAPER
SAN DIEGO, CA.

I met Chris Primm from The Grand Reaper for the first time as a client. At the time, I only had small tattoos and I wanted to go bigger but I was unsure about my ideas. Chris was very supportive and he encouraged me to branch out as I expanded on my pieces. I admired his work and over time, he became my primary artist. Chris worked for another tattoo shop at the time but the owner of the shop eventually moved away, leaving Chris to start a shop of his own. I had always told Chris that I wanted to work at his shop so of course I jumped at the opportunity to be the shop girl. In September of 2014, Chris opened The Grand Reaper in San Diego and I have been the shop girl ever since.

It feels so good to be a part of the support system level of creative artistry, although sometimes that means putting a feminine spin on things. I am by no means a "girly-girl," but I am talented when it comes to setting the aesthetic for a space. I love metal music just as much as the next girl (I've seen Slayer five times in concert), I just don't need to hear it all the time and it doesn't work for every customer. So I mixed some softer musical elements in with the metal they already played. There were grumbles at first, but now Justin Hartman is always asking me to "turn on my girly shit" these days.

I think that the right environment can not only make the customers happier, but can help the artists to do better work. Even when there's no work to be done, it's still the best job that I have because cancelled appointments equal long lunches over cocktails and pool tables. And who knows, there may be room for advancement in my tattooing career. I have been trying to convince Chris to let me tattoo, but unfortunately the only thing I can draw is buttons. I told him that I could be "the button girl" and people could come from miles away just to get one of my perfect little buttons somewhere on their body. I don't think he's sold on the idea just yet, but I am still working on it.

Even if I just stay shop girl, there is nothing better than working for these incredible artists in the heart of America's Finest City. Chris is booked for the next six months, so we don't tend to do small tattoos that someone wants on a whim. People come to this shop because they want something more. These artists are like creative alchemists, taking any idea and making it into something better than you could have ever imagined. They take the abstract and make it real. And I get to help them do it, week after week. 🐍

Photo by Venom Blackbird



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