

# Inked

CULTURE. STYLE. ART.

## THE PIN-UP ISSUE

WITH SAMII RYAN

### FEATURING

KELLY EDEN

SARA X

JORDYN RYDER

ASHLEY BOSTON

SHONDA MACKEY

JOSH MARIO JOHN

FEBRUARY 2016 • DISPLAY UNTIL MARCH 14



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# Inked

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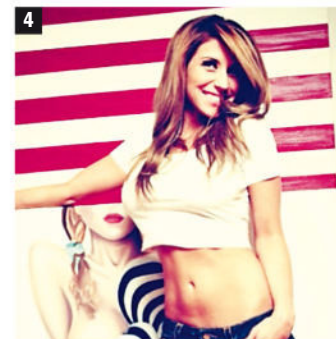
She was 24, I was 11. Her name was Stacey Williams—you never forget your first. She was in no way the prettiest of the bunch but I adored her. I held her *Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue* in my hands and flipped past Kathy Ireland (eh), Vendela and Tyra and stopped on Stacey with an 'e.' I hemmed and 'awed over which photo to clip out—knowing that after I made my decision the picture on the other side of the page would be lost, taped against my bedroom wall for eternity. Eventually I selected one of her in a shimmering metallic bikini with a striking demure look (and thusly a men's magazine editor was born?). Sadly for Stacey there were more after her, and more still, like a few of the girls in this issue that you now hold in your hands.

Ashley Boston, Sara X and Jordyn Ryder are recast in classic pin-up scenes by the magical Sophy Holland (7). A modern beauty who lives in her own fantastical land, Kelly Eden, invites photographer Brian Ziff (3) to shoot around her pink "doll" house which includes a carousel horse. Kitty Crystal (2) gets dolled up to be our modern-day cigarette tray girl. Ashley Holt provides a sweet treat by letting us into her kitchen, Nick Fierro (8) profiles the model-turned-baker. And artist GumShoe (4) lends her legs to our View story.

This issue also contains the artwork of newly-crowned "Ink Master" Dave Kruseman. Devon Preston (5) sits down with the American traditional artist for the most in-depth interview of his career. Another artisan who respects the past is Bodie Stroud, who rebuilds classic cars on *American Restoration*, Jon Coen (6) learns who customizes Stroud's body. With his new Converse sneaker about to debut, legendary graffiti artist Futura talks about the evolution of his genre while his son—a rock star in his own right—13th Witness (1) captures the creative in his lens.

Also included in this issue is a pin-up poster of my next Stacey Williams. As it is 2016 and technology has given us more than walls to decorate, you can also get the pin-up as a wallpaper/lockscreen photo on [inkedmag.com](http://inkedmag.com), along with other girls. Who is your tattooed Stacey? E-mail me below and maybe she'll be the next Inked Girl to get the pin-up treatment.

Rocky Rakovic  
Editor-In-Chief  
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**HELLO NORMA JEAN.** *What sort of woman reads Inked? Anna Moore is not Marilyn Monroe, but she plays her during photoshoots. The classically gorgeous blonde flipped through a copy when being photographed for Retro-A-Go-Go (retroagogo.com), a company that is the cat's pajamas (but does not sell sleepwear for felines). The New Age Norma Jean says that she, "Admires the creativity Inked magazine holds. It's versatile, inspiring, and simply sexy! Each individual is unique with a bold image. Your magazine truly shows how our bodies can work as a canvas." The only bad news, Anna doesn't yet have any tattoos. "With the Marilyn look, I decided to wait on tattoos." Ah, she doesn't have tattoos—yet!*

## facebook

### PAUL BOOTH

**Jeremy Bates** Damn this dude is badass. I saw him several yrs ago on a show and he had a three year waiting list. Keep rocking Paul.

**Guido Truskowski** One of most interesting and greatest artists of the 21st century.

**Mike Davis** My favorite cover model.

**Peter Vincent** Just bought it today and like always every issue gets better and better.

### IMAN SHUMPERT

**Nyoka Brabham** What I respect about Iman, you are your own man with your own style! "Shump" in a class all by himself.

### CERVENA FOX BY AUDREY RYAN

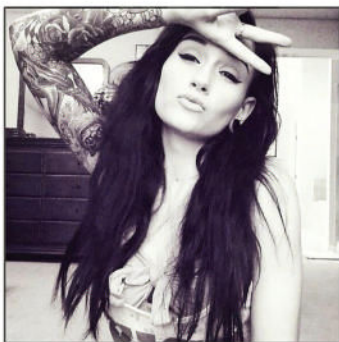
**Pina Hassan** So gorgeous: a work of art of a work of art.

### JOHN MCAFFEE

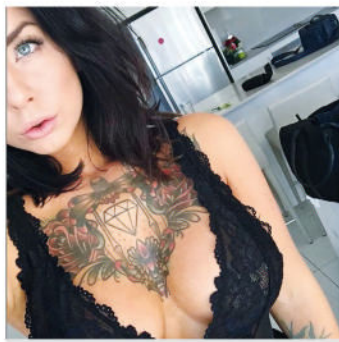
**Tanzu Dunivan Henson** The neck tie just really makes it pop.

**John McAfee** My wife says I should have worn a lighter color.

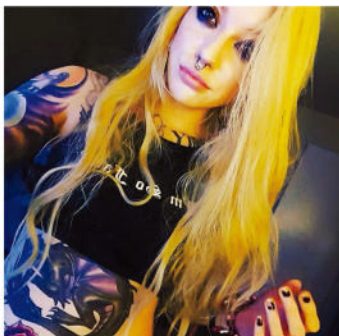
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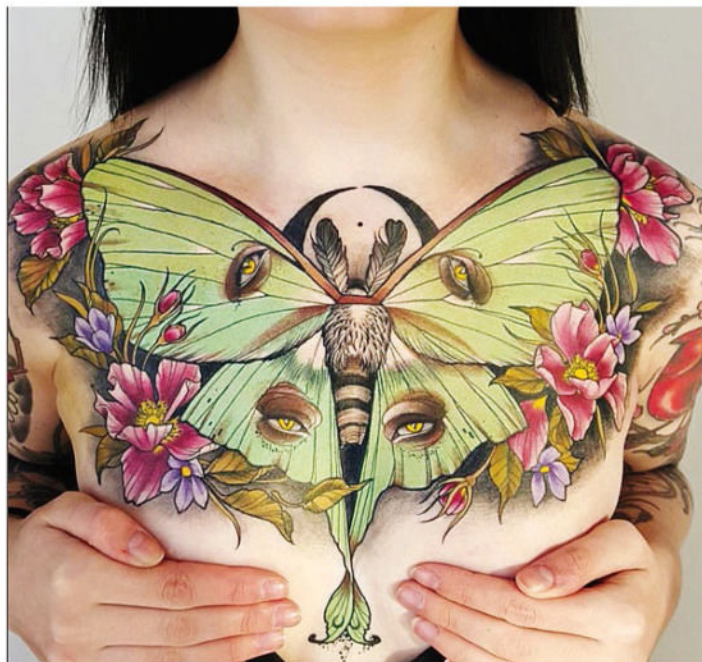


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## TATTOO OF THE MONTH



BY: SAM SMITH @SCRAGPIE  
Want to be a Tattoo of the Month?  
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INKED | MY FAVORITE INK





# MY FAVORITE INK

## SHONDA MACKEY

PHOTOS BY DANIEL HANSON

Shonda Mackey's look is eminently classic beautiful with the modern-day edge of tattoos and capped off with lusciously inviting lips. She's the total package laid before you and gift-wrapped in a pin-up outfit, a genre she loves. "Back then it was such a bold move to be so dressed up!" Shonda says. "I also love pin-up for the classiness of the girls." When asked to consider what tattoos Bettie Page and Marilyn Monroe would have if they were modeling now she says, "I feel like Bettie would have the daring tattoos like a snake or poison bottle and Marilyn would be more cutesy stuff like perfume bottles and a portrait of her dog."

Our modern-day pin-up queen Shonda is covered in ink, her favorite being her octopus. "When I was little I would always take trips with my family to the ocean and fell in love with them!" she says. "They're so alien and so smart! In different cultures they were seen as a sign of women's sexuality and femininity." The piece was done by Tom Mangold of Creative Tattooing in Grand Junction, CO in black-and-grey to give the octopus depth. The idea that one of the legs wraps around her elbow was Shonda's clever idea. "It's my favorite because I get recognized from that tattoo out in public. Even though my hair and makeup maybe changed, people always can refer back to that tattoo!" she says. For the record she doesn't eat octopus and she does like Ursula from Disney's *The Little Mermaid*. We think the Sea Witch would be a fan of Shonda and her tattoos, it is she, however, who reminded Arielle to, "never underestimate the power of body language."







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# SHE'S GOT LEGS

GumShoe  
New York, NY

It may happen in other cities but for New Yorkers it's not spring until you see new metropolitan women (often interns or recent grads who landed their first office jobs) walking terribly awkward in high heels. Like Bambi attempting to traverse the icy pond, these women have not yet acclimated to their climate. New York City is a hub of fashion, both high and low, heels being a must for the former and once a woman has mastered the tightrope she owns the streets.

NYC is the perfect place for GumShoe to paint artistry. Seen in galleries and on Gotham's streets (also LA and Seattle) are her collection of women's legs, propped up by gorgeous heels but also often held down by a wad of chewing gum. "If she was wearing cheap sandals it would be a completely different painting," the artist says. "The fact that she's wearing a \$1,100 pair of designer shoes and she is stepping in

gum is just the way the universe keeps everything in balance and I find it funny. It's like driving a Ferrari and getting a flat tire or watching a beautiful sunset with someone who has to go to the bathroom."

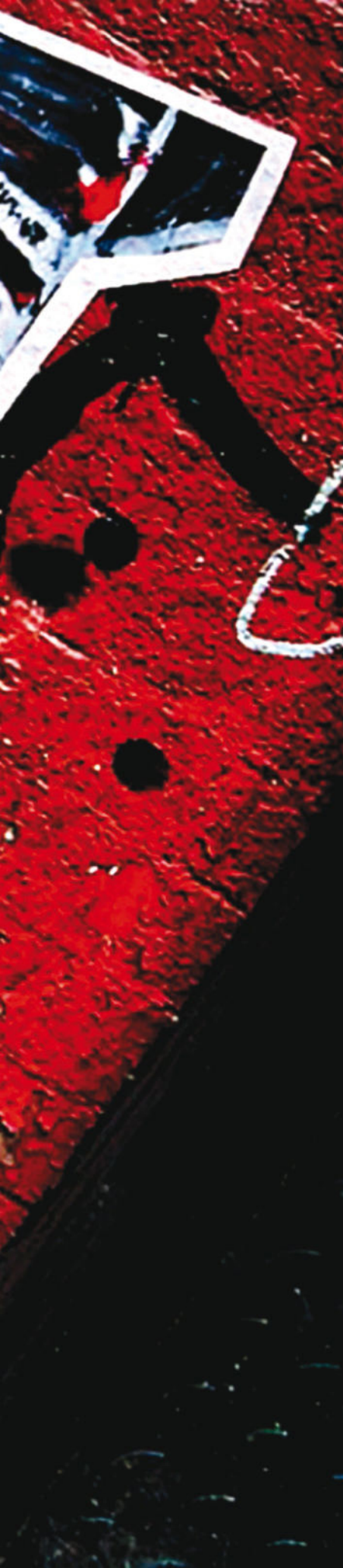
Utilizing the high heel, an object some view as a trap to exploit women, is a strong move for GumShoe. "People who don't know that I'm a female artist think I'm objectifying women," she says. "I touch on the subject of the objectification of women and even the way women objectify themselves. I shed an honest light on the subject. I feel I have the right to because I've been through it. And because it's my point of view, it gives a different perspective. It doesn't make it go away, but it lightens the subject. So fuck anyone who can't laugh at it."

It should also be known that those shapely gams you see in her work are her own and sometimes her friends, though she wants them to represent

every woman. "The paintings are based on my experiences, so when I look at them, yes, I see myself. But I hope that when other women look at them they see themselves."

Her work is about her struggle with being a perfectionist. "On first glance they are often viewed as fun and sexy. However, on closer examination, the use of iconic images and designer brands construct and then deconstruct an 'ideal'—an ideal that in my mind is an unattainable standard of what society dictates women should be. We spend money on plastic surgery, starve ourselves and buy expensive clothing and shoes in order to present ourselves the way we think we're supposed to. At least I know these things are true for me and so I find myself constantly reaching for something that doesn't exist: perfection."

Look for her legs to include "tattoo socks" this year. —Rocky Rakovic

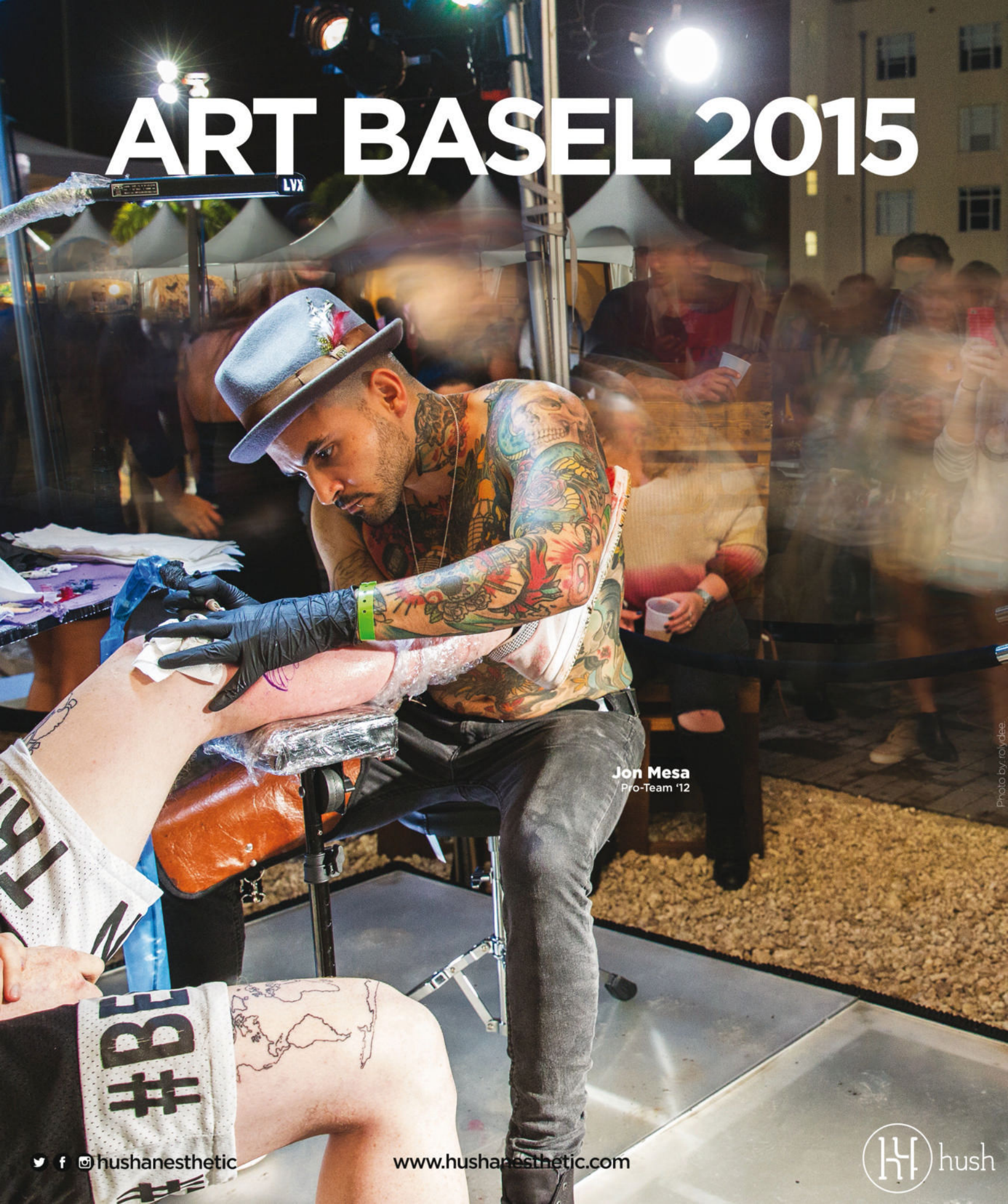








# ART BASEL 2015



Jon Mesa  
Pro-Team '12

Photo by: rolydee



# RIOT GIRL

## Costa Mesa, CA

ALIX (AKA RUBYLEE RIOT) THROWS THEM BACK AT MADELEINE'S IN ORANGE COUNTY.

### WHAT IS THE VIBE AT MADELEINE'S?

Madeleine's is a cozy neighborhood bar with a lot of regulars who treat each other like family. It's a great place to go if you want to relax and drink a stiff cocktail. I've been guilty of coming in on my days off to enjoy myself. I call it "working overtime."

### WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE DRINK?

My favorite drink is definitely a Bloody Mary. Most people will order them in the morning but the way I make them, I'll drink them anytime! I always joke with people, "That's why my hair is so red! It's from all the Bloody Marys I consume!"

### HOW DID YOU GET INTO PIN-UP?

My mother is one of my biggest influences for pin-up. She was always a free spirit, open minded and always supported my modeling. She gave me Alberto Vargas pin-up books. In one she wrote, "Nude and pin-up pictures can be classy, tasteful and taken with great respect. You can have that and be all that, without showing it all."

### WHEN DID YOU GET INTO TATTOOS?

I got my very first tattoo at 14. My friends and I would stay up all night making machines out of electric toothbrushes, guitar strings and India Ink. I tattooed my lower stomach in high school hoping my pants would cover it and my father wouldn't see it. Of course that didn't last long! When I turned 18 that's when my tattoo frenzy began. I don't like going more than a month or two without getting work done. It's almost therapeutic to me. Before I'm done with one piece, I'm planning to start the next! My body is a vessel I might as well decorate it, show my art, and share my story.





# MINDZAI APPAREL

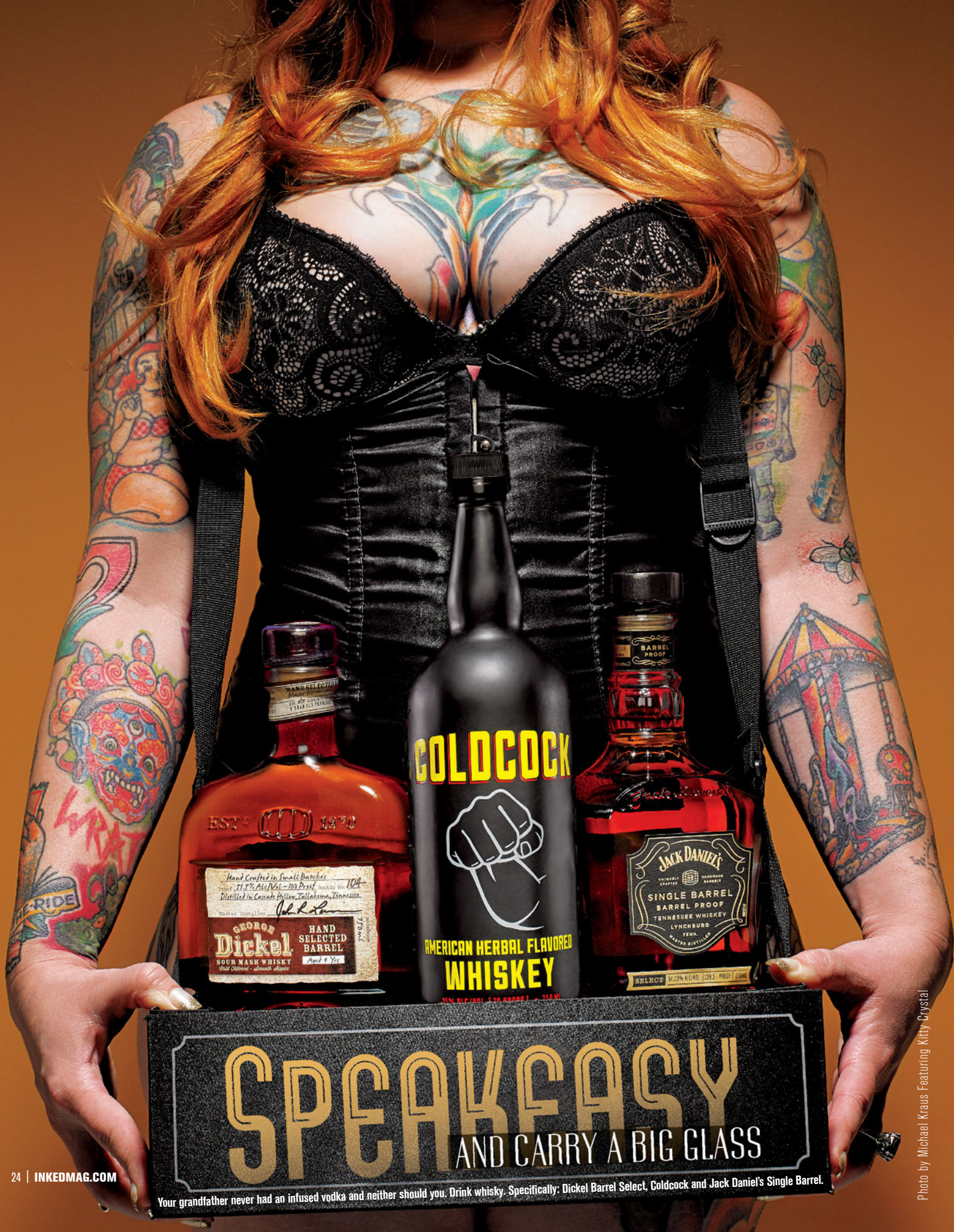
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# HELLO *D*OLLIES

Say 'Hey' to Ashley Boston, Sara X and Jordyn Ryder

Photos by Sophy Holland

Styling by Christina Pacelli

Set Design by Cecilia Elguero | Scenic Art by Doug Aldrich Make Up + Hair by Deja  
and Dee from DDProductions | Nails by Aki Hirayama

Assistants: Scott Simpson (photo), Saulu Santana (styling), Joel Teron (make up)  
and Mark Rivera (hair)

On Ashley, left...

Zest White Corset: MURMUR, Champagne Retro Contrast Seamed Stockings: What Katie Did, Floral Heels: Palter DeLiso, Lumen Earrings: Lulu Frost, Pearl Bracelet: Wouters & Hendrix Pearl Ring Set:  
Patricia Field

On Sara, middle...

Retro White Bra Top: MURMUR, Pulp White Shorts: MURMUR, Fully Fashioned Point Heel Stockings: What Katie Did, Glorified Girl Suspender: Dita Von Teese, Slip Knot Necklace (worn backwards):  
NY2YOU, Vintage Necklace (worn backwards):

Trifari with stones by Stazia Loren, Quad Quill Ring: Amanda Pearl, Vintage 1900s Ring: EatJewels

On Jordyn, right...

Zest Black Corset: MURMUR, Retro Contrast Stockings with Black Seam: What Katie Did, Heels: Salvatore Ferragamo, Earrings: Lele Sadoughi, Vintage Stone Ring: Stazia Loren



Syrup Skirt: MURMUR  
Aster Heels: Palter DeLiso  
Oleander Ear Crawlers: Lulu Frost  
Pearl Bracelet: Wouters & Hendrix  
Ring: Patricia Field







Retro Cut-Out Swimsuit and High-Waisted Bottoms: UniqueVintage.com

1950s High-Waist Crepe Swing Skirt: UniqueVintage.com

Black Tulle Underskirt: Julie Mollo for Patricia Field

Belt: Patricia Field

Retro Contrast Seamed Stockings: What Katie Did

Heels: Badgley Mischka

Vintage Pearl Necklace: Stazia Loren

Plaza 3-Row Collar Pearl Necklace: CAROLEE

Pavé Hair Comb: Lulu Frost

Earrings: Wouters & Hendrix

Pearl Bypass Bracelet: Amanda Pearl

Wrap Ring with Floating Pearl (right hand): Amanda Pearl

Vintage Ring (left hand): Stazia Loren





MOON ROCKET



1940s Button Up Blouse: UniqueVintage.com  
Candy Skirt with Suspenders: MURMUR  
Madison Avenue Plunge Bra: Dita Von Teese  
Fully Fashioned Point Heel Stockings: What Katie Did  
Heels: Tamara Mellon  
Chain Bracelet: A Peace Treaty  
Pearl Bracelet and Earrings: Wouters & Hendrix  
Oversized Pearl Ring: Patricia Field





Sean Button Down: [morgan-lane.com](http://morgan-lane.com)  
1950s High Waist Circle Skirt: [UniqueVintage.com](http://UniqueVintage.com)  
Striped T-Bar Heels: Shoes of Prey by Janie Bryant  
Scarf: Patricia Field  
Necklace: Wouters & Hendrix  
Earrings: Lele Sadoughi  
Pearl Bypass Bracelet (right hand): Amanda Pearl  
Vintage 1900s Rings: EatJewels  
Pearl Ring Set: Patricia Field



Vintage Swimsuit: Oleg Cassini  
Swim Cap: Vintage  
Pearl Bracelet: Wouters & Hendrix  
Quill Bypass Rings (right and left hands): Amanda Pearl  
Cuff: Lele Sadoughi  
Brooch: Coro vintage by Stazia Loren  
Heels: Dolce & Gabbana





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# New Era

Room 101 gets a makeover as artists redecorate the cigar company's box.

Photos by Michael Kraus



# JOHN PAUL OGDONICK AKA JPO

NEW YORK, NY

JPO is a New York-based fine artist. His passion for the arts emerged in his hometown of Fairfield County, CT, where JPO was inspired by the eclectic tastes of his father and sister. They introduced him to improvisational styles of music. The raw emotion displayed in his work reflects his life experience, intense passion and meditation practice—an exercise that has taught JPO to open up his mind and channel his third eye. His work has been shown in galleries, and on walls, nationally, and with a revolving playlist to inspire his work, JPO is elated to share his love of art for the world to see. (@JPOart)





# JOHNNY FORD

## NORTH CROWN TATTOO

Owner of North Crown Tattoo in Jersey City, NJ, Ford is primarily known for his beautiful black-and-gray tattoos.

"There's just something about a piece done in black-and-gray tones that isn't there in color work...like black and white photos or old movies...it's magical."

(@nortercrown\_tattoo)





# RAQUEL ECHANIQUE

NEW YORK, NY

My portraits are stirred up by swirls that pull, twine, divide and modify anatomy in different directions, resulting in a sight of hypnotic relaxation. Her mission is to transform her favorite visual memories into abstract-figurative assemblages everyone can enjoy. (@raquel.echanique)



# FLORE

BROOKLYN, NY / ASBURY PARK, NJ

Christopher Florentino, known as "Flore" [pronounced Floor-ee], aims to strip away all of the filters society places on our lives, all of the habits we get stuck in, the rules we blindly follow, and the stereotypes we subconsciously subscribe to. "I try to see things simple, but you can get lost very easily in the monotonous pattern of life. Hi-def, multi-colored filters, or distractions, can mask reality; I want to deconstruct and expose those layers for what they really are, not just what they seem," he says. (@byflore)







## DAIN

BROOKLYN, NY

Coney Island Born DAIN mixes his roots in graffiti with collage to create a style that is uniquely his own. He has shown in galleries across the world including New York, Miami, Montreal, Australia, Mexico City, London, Paris and Rome. (@dain\_nyc)



# CULTURE



The character you see to the left does not inhabit a world of Dragons and Lannisters, he resides in the hills of Appalachia and he would like for you to get off his family's property—right quick. *Outsiders* is WGN's new outlaw show in which a family of mountain men and women clash with the townsfolk. More lawless than *Sons of Anarchy*, these badasses make mayhem not on motorcycles but ATVs, and they have *SOA* vet Ryan Hurst in their clan. Hurst's role with *Outsiders* is even bigger than his hulking character as he helped develop the tattoos for the show. A tattoo artistry enthusiast (who attends many conventions) Hurst worked with each actor and the artists at Pittsburgh's Up In Arms Tattoos to help create and develop their character's tattoos for the series. Much of the *Outsiders'* tattoos are pagan and naturalist based—you'll see lots of animals and trees. Of Hurst's personal tattoos, four are original and one is Superman.

## Insider in Outsiders

## BEGIN AGAIN

Remember the show that everybody told you to watch but for a few years you didn't and then one night you said, What the hell? And then you ignored all your adult duties for four days as you binged? *The Leftovers* is your next obsession. The second season is now available on Blu-ray. Catch up before the third and final season arrives later this year. —Gil Macias



## Doggy Treats

We're not sure how this didn't come to be sooner but Snoop Dogg recently released a line of cannabis products. The Paul Newman of pot offers edibles, marijuana flowers and concentrates. "Since I've been at the forefront of this movement for over 20 years now, I'm a master of marijuana," the rapper said. "So naturally, my people can trust that I picked out the finest, freshest products in the game. Let's medicate, elevate and put it in the air." Edibles may become the new cupcakes in 2016. Some of Snoop's flavor offerings are Blueberry Dream, Bananas, Lemon Pie, Tangerine Man and Grape Soda.



## JET-HOT-ROD

"We are the dreamers, creators and makers with a passion for metal and love of the open road." So says Fuller Moto, a custom car and motorcycle design shop that among their recent creations is the AWD Double Down. This rascal was a 1932 Ford Roadster but became a monster modern-day hotrod. "Jet-Hot" on the side refers to the high performance coatings that have been on 14 Indy Car winners, five 24 Hours of Le Mans wins and 4 NASCAR Winston Cup Champions. What we wouldn't give to see this bitchin' ride win the Cannonball Run.





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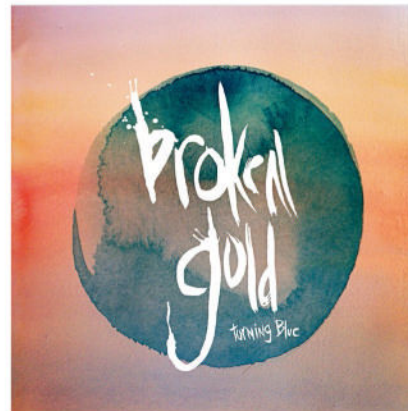
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# SO HOT RIGHT NOW, AGAIN



Zoolander 2 is your chance to see Will Ferrell jacked up and tatted up. Fifteen years after the original hit theaters, Ben Stiller and Luke Wilson finally reprise their roles as supermodels Derek and Hansel. This satirical comedy sequel once again targets the world of high fashion and sports a star-studded cast including Penelope Cruz, Benedict Cumberbatch and Kristen Wiig and various cameos from the likes of Ariana Grande, Justin Bieber, Demi Lovato and more. Stiller once again directs and this time co-wrote the script with Justin Theroux (*Iron Man 2*, *Tropic Thunder*). —G.M.



## THE INKED PLAYLIST BY JONAH BAYER

### THE BLACK QUEEN

#### "Maybe We Should"

The singer for The Dillinger Escape Plan crafts dark electro-pop with his latest project.

### DIIV

#### "Under The Sun"

This ethereal track is so spacey and repetitive it's easy to get lost inside the magic.

### ^ BROKEN GOLD

#### "Turning Blue"

Members of the Riverboat Gamblers create distortion-drenched rock that would make Dinosaur Jr proud.

### BRIAN FALLON

#### "Long Drives"

The Gaslight Anthem's frontman references emo pioneers Rites Of Spring on this Americana gem.

### FRAMEWORKS

#### "Time Spent"

Post-hardcore and screamo collide on this inventive anthem by Florida's rising sons.

### FUCKED UP AND TANYA TAGAQ

#### "Our Own Blood"

This 30-minute long collaboration isn't easy-listening but has moments of brilliance.

### IGNITE

#### "The Suffering"

SoCal hardcore icons Ignite return to the fold with more melodic, circle-pit fodder.

### NADA SURF

#### "Believe You're Mine"

Indie rock's most consistent act return with another haunting love song.

### SILVER SNAKES

#### "Red Wolf"

Silver Snakes prove that there's an understated power in simplicity on this driving anthem.

### TW WALSH

#### "Young Rebels"

This former member of Pedro The Lion channels the eighties on this indie rock experiment.

## CORSETS AND KUNG FU

Throw Jane Austen and *The Walking Dead* into a blender and *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* is what you get. In this crazy reimagining of the classic Austen tale, this group of feisty 19th century English gals would rather learn martial arts and swing swords than drink tea and play croquet. After a zombie outbreak threatens the land, their skills are put to the test. —G.M.



## Snarknado

Marvel's favorite loony, potty-mouthed antihero is finally getting his own movie and Ryan Reynolds (*Green Lantern*) returns to revisit the role. A watered down version of the character was last seen in *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*, most comic book fans were letdown, but this new version takes the hard R-rated route with a darker tone and seems to be more faithful to the comics. Everything, from his crude and vulgar demeanor, right down to the perfect costume design, seems in check. —G.M.



What happens when you take the shooting out of a first-person shooter? Far Cry Primal finds out by replacing AK-47s with sticks and stones. Players are dropped into the Stone Age, where saber-toothed tigers and woolly mammoths roam the countryside and roving tribes fight over the scarce resources they know how to harvest. Being outnumbered is much more daunting when you're wielding an axe, bow, or spear instead of a rifle, but your character's ability to tame and control animals helps even the odds of melee brawls. —Matt Bertz

## First-Person Flinger



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Looking good = feeling good. A few pieces we've seen tattooed people pulling off lately mix classic styles with hip silhouettes. Richard Rawlings of Gas Monkey Garage has a new hoodie with a built-in beer holder (\$35, gasmonkeygarage.com). Baker Ashley Holt donned this adorable Cherry Pie Apron by Sourpuss Clothing (\$27, inkedshop.com) while the heat turned up in her kitchen. And the stunning Dita Von Tease collaborated with Wheels and Dollbaby to create this saucy cardigan (\$139, wheelsanddollbaby.com) that is perfect for your own personal pin-up.



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](mailto:press@inkedmag.com).**

*When I take a girl out on a date, does she expect me to pay or is it normal to split the bill nowadays? -Karm*

Isn't this awkward? The bill comes, you stare blankly at each other for what seems like forever until one of you can't stand the awkwardness anymore and reaches for it. Why don't you save the awkward moments for the bedroom—pick up the tab. If the woman you're dating likes to pitch in too, she will let you know. If she doesn't and you don't like that, no more dates. Boom.

*My girlfriend is pressuring me to move in. How do I tell her that I prefer "the only having a drawer" stage? -Doug*

There's no sense in moving in to appease the girlfriend. You're going to look back at your floral scented bathroom and wish you could have a shower without being prosecuted about why all her hand lotion is gone. It sucks to tell someone you're not ready, man up.

*My boyfriend recently confessed to getting drunk with his buddies and being pressured into kissing another woman. He said he was so drunk he can barely remember but I'm still upset. What should I do? -Krist*

First of all, why are his buddies pressuring him to cheat? Sounds fishy. We all make mistakes, and he's brought it to your attention when he really didn't have to. You have to decide whether or not it's a deal breaker for you. No Vegas trips with the buddies for this guy.

*I am a guy on a budget but I want to surprise my girlfriend with a thoughtful gesture on her birthday, what sorts of things would you like to get that aren't expensive but would really show I cared? -Ryan*

If you're on a budget, don't get her anything. There's nothing worse than opening up a crappy gift and trying to act like you love it. Save her from that. Women are sentimental. If you give her moments, memories and time, she will be happy. Slightly disappointed, but happy.

*My new boyfriend's penis is really curved, like a banana. I've never seen anything like it before. Is it normal? -Aren*

There are all shapes, sizes and colors! Isn't that fun? Your G-spot isn't straight up, you are lucky my dear.



## Grim Outlook

Grammatical errors in tattoos are the worst. In the action-comedy *The Brothers Grimsby*, it's not the tattoo artist who's the idiot. Norman "Nobby" Grimsby (Sacha Baron Cohen) seems to think that England will win the World Cup in "Two-Thousand-Sixteen." His numeric translation? "200016." 198,000 years into the future. He may be correct though, Wayne Rooney and Harry Kane don't have the stuff to beat the rest of the world. —G.M.





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# CLASSIC MAN

Bodie Stroud isn't just a fabricator, he is a steward of history. Having rescued cars for Johnny Depp, Johnny Knoxville and Adam Carolla now you can see his work on *American Restoration*. We talk elbow grease and body ink with the man who buffs the rust off rides from the Pin-Up era.

By Jon Coen Photos by Amanda Hankerson + Lacey Criswell from Hunt+Capture









Bodie Stroud Industries, in Sun Valley, California is known around the world for the beautifully designed and fabricated custom automobiles that come out of their shop. But it's a funny story how that shop came to be.

Stroud, a diesel mechanic by trade, worked his way up the ladder at a growing rental equipment outfitter. After 13 years, he was managing 14 locations with 30 mechanics, and became a part owner.

But the company sold and the new corporate manager didn't appreciate his long hair at the time, or his tattoos.

"It really got bad when he parked in my parking spot. So, I picked up his car with a forklift and put it out back on one of the containers," laughs Stroud. "And then left for our San Bernardino location."

It wasn't the kind of environment a guy like Stroud wanted to work in, and when they let him go, it was for the best.

"I had always wanted to start a hot rod business, but I'd planned on doing it later in life, when things weren't so stressful," Stroud recalls. "But I just said, 'Fuck it. I'm going to do it now.' And that's what I did."

He opened a shop in North Hollywood and never looked back.

It wasn't long before Stroud was building award-winning automobiles like a 1956 Ford pickup that won 2007 Truck of the Year at Truck Jamboree and 2009 Best of Show at the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) show for his 1960 Ford Starliner, aka the "Scarliner." He's been featured on the Travel, Discovery, and History channels, all while digging into one-of-a-kind projects for well-known classic car enthusiasts.

Frustrated with some aftermarket assemblies, his team became known for fine-tuning parts, updating the technology of chassis to improve the drive. Stroud's been developing his own EZ-Alone tubular control arm for the market and tweaking exhausts to meet modern emission standards. What's most interesting about Stroud is that he's not strictly doing straight up rebuilds, but actually creating something new – the spirit of nostalgia with updated know-how.

"There are people that come in and want a full factory restoration and we do that. But I'm known for recreating classics so they still have that classic car feel, but ride and handle like brand new," he explains.

And for that, Stroud leans on his creative side. Growing up, he was into drawing and did a year at Art Center in Pasadena.

"It really plays a bit part of custom cars. I'm very artistic. Even though I don't draw as much now, I kind of sculpt these pieces by hand, according to what I see in my head," he explains.

And that crosses over into his extensive ink work as well. His first tattoos, 28 years ago, were freebies, done by his friends who were just looking for any piece of flesh to scratch up.

"That's why I don't show people my back," he says, cracking up, "My earliest tattoos are all cover ups now. And I covered them up with tattoos that are worse."

A good friend named Woody, who learned the art of single needle in California's finest correctional institutions, does most of his work.

"I've known Woody forever. He's worked at 5150 and all the big places out here. He's actually a roofer. He doesn't like doing color and that stuff. He'll come right to my office, we put on some music and hang out. Together, both of us just started coming up with different ideas, like the recreation of the David Williams painting of the car crash that we started on my forearm. I just love art."

And it's his creativity that has brought him an A-list of West Coast car clientele that includes Johnny Depp, Tim Allen, Jay Leno, Johnny Knoxville and Adam Corolla. He's currently working on a car for Dan Reynolds of Imagine Dragons.

According to Stroud, the most entertaining has been Knoxville.

"He's probably the craziest guy I've ever dealt with. We were out behind my shop talking after I'd had a vasectomy that went bad, so my right nut was always killing me. And tells me this story about being on *Nitro Circus* trying to do a backflip on a dirtbike and how the handlebars broke his dick. He had to have a catheter for two years. They put him in stirrups like a chick about to have an... inspection down there... while they're working on his junk. And he gets up on the hood of this car behind my shop with his legs spread open to show me. The guys in my shop are watching and he's explaining about how they're fixing his dick. It was hilarious."

But while the rich and famous always keep the bills paid at Stroud Industries, he loves working for the blue-collar guy who's been saving every cent for that custom ride.

"You've got a lot of baby boomers right now who have worked their whole life. Now they're retired and this is their dream. And they come to me and we bring it to life for them."

Because at the end of the day, Stroud has a deep regard for the tradition of not only the classic American automobile, but the American worker.

"I love the lines. I love the pre and post-War stories behind everything. I just have a ton of respect for the hard working guys of old America that put blood, sweat, and tears into their work and cared about the craftsmanship," he says passionately, "What a lot of people don't understand is that America was built on manufacturing. That's how we became the great country we are. But we've destroyed that. We can't compete with the other countries that are doing it for half the cost. Now we're known for Starbucks. I just had to replace my GE refrigerator that's nine years old. But the one in my garage from 1954 is still cranking. It's just a feeling inside and I try to keep that fire lit."





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# Cutie Pie

WITH ASHLEY HOLT

By Nick Fierro  
Photos by Stephanie Rachel Guttenplan

What is a Sugar Monster? Close your eyes and think about it...seriously, we'll wait. Did you picture a pudgy, snaggle-toothed imp? Did you envision a barrage of sticky-sweet saccharine tentacles bulging out of a three-tiered cake? How about a skeletal monstrosity with crystalline fangs and a cloudy eye? Congratulations! Everybody wins, because when model-turned-chef turned-model/chef Ashley Holt is at the helm, anything is possible, from the sickly sweet to the downright ghoulish. Founder and chef of Sugar Monster in Brooklyn, New York, Holt bailed from the speeding locomotive that was modeling back in 2009, did a tuck and roll, and landed on her feet at the top of the charts in the culinary world, and has since been awarded top honors from TLC and Food Network, not to mention praise from her most unlikely of heroes, the mighty Martha Stewart. So when this stampeding beauty of confections pauses for a moment to sprinkle a few words of advice into our ear cavities, imagine our delight when the first words out of her mouth are... "If you hate your job, quit!"

So, only a few years back, when a freshly inked Holt went toe-to-toe with her agency over her tattoos, she knew it was time to take a walk. "I quit modeling in 2009," Holt tells us. "I realized how unhealthy I was, how unhappy I was, and when I got my tattoos they told me that I couldn't come back and work under their agency anymore." At the age of 18 Ashley was plucked from a small town in Georgia, told to dye her hair a single shade, sew up her gauged out lobes and shed 20 pounds off of her already slight frame. By the late aughts, the young model was a seasoned vet, and felt that she had sacrificed enough of her identity for her job. So, instead of seeking out a new agency, she sought out a new life. "I totally understand that they have their rules, but to me I was like 'alright, I'm fucking done with this.'"

Luckily, Ashley had a backup plan bubbling under the surface: a sweet, sweet

backup plan. "I always baked as a hobby, it's something that always made me happy." Fueled by a sugar rush and unable to sit still, Holt fell back on the one thing that kept her head straight during her modeling days. "When I quit modeling I realized that I had to do something with my life, and what I wanted to do was bake." That's a bit of an understatement on Ashley's part, she didn't just start baking, she rampaged through the culinary world with the voracity that her moniker "Sugar Monster" implies. Bigger, sweeter, cuter, scarier. From over-the-top cutesy birthday cakes, to hyper realistic zombie chocolate sculptures, Holt was on a mission to climb to the top of Sugar Mountain with a knife in her teeth.

Her competitive spirit and excruciating attention to detail inevitably caught the eye of TLC's *Next Great Baker*, but her rise to stardom was no (brace yourselves) cake walk, as Chef Ashley explains, "Being on *Next Great Baker* opened so many other doors for me and introduced me to all these new avenues that I could take. I tried out for the two seasons of *Next Great Baker*, and I didn't get picked. When I got accepted for Season 3, I ended up winning the entire show. I just could not believe it was actually happening." Whether Chef knew it or not, her soufflé had not yet begun to rise. "Going from *Next Great Baker* to *Cake Boss* was crazy, it's a show that I've watched forever," Holt recalls. "And from there I was asked to be a culinary producer on a spin off show called *Bakery Boss*, and then I was asked to be a producer on Season 4 of *Next Great Baker*. It was absolutely insane. I went from a competitor to a cast member to producing a show that I had previously won."

As we pause for a moment to catch our breath, it might be a good time to explain that despite her drive, determination, and intensity, Ashley Holt is in fact, cool as a cucumber. There's a serene quality to Holt's mentality and approach, something she has recently been able to display to the world through





her tattoos, most notably, one on her forearm that reads *eat dessert first*. "It's my motto," Holt explains, "don't take life too seriously, do whatever you want. Eat dessert before dinner, no one's stopping you." After years of saying the phrase out loud, Chef decided to let her skin do the talking. "I finally got it tattooed about two years ago. Bert Krak from Smith Street Tattoo did it. I walked into his shop, it's crazy, he's one of the most renowned artists in the industry, and I'm asking him to do some shitty text work on me." The humble Holt recalls Krak's reaction. "He was like 'this isn't really my style,' but of course I question everything, and I tell all my artists that I start small and then work up to larger pieces, and he was like 'ok whatever, sit down,' and he did it, and it's beautiful."

Another piece, just as visible and equally memorable, is the text across Holt's collarbone that reads "without form." Chef recalls the text that inspired her to get the tattoo. "I was in this really rebellious stage of my life when I left modeling," as evidenced by the dynamic placement of the ink. "I felt like it was really suppressing me, suppressing my individuality, I started reading a lot, got really into spirituality. I remember reading *Be Here Now* by Ram Dass," Holt tells us. "There was this page that I turned to, and it just resonated with me. It said that you have to be without form to set yourself free, it meant so much to me when I read it that I got it tattooed." Holt reflects on her newly liberated self. "Just live your life, be yourself, go where you want to go, do things that feel right to you."

Doing what didn't feel right may have brought Ashley Holt around the world, but her passion for cooking, the fire that never quite went out, has now engulfed her life, in a good way, like how an oven makes a cake. It has propelled her into the stratosphere of celebrity chefs, including that culinary neutron star from Nutley, New Jersey, Martha fucking Stewart.

"Martha Stewart, her brand is just incredible. Everything that she and her team come out with is so beautiful, and pristine and cute. It's completely manageable for the home chef to do." Holt reflects on the hours spent in disbelief pouring over the minutia of Stewart's recipes, tips and anecdotes, "I'm just like 'who is this woman? She doesn't have time for all of this?' To see the organization that was put into her work, and her magazine, the attention to detail, I respect it so much, I mean, she's frickin' Martha Stewart." So when the art department of *Chopped Junior* called and wanted to get Chef Holt's cake on the set, they informed her that Martha Stewart would be a judge. "Pressure's on, it had to be perfect," Holt's voice begins to shake with excitement. "How many people in the world can say that Martha Stewart saw their cake in person? I made this really pretty Thanksgiving-themed cake. I did it in her style completely too. It had a braided cornucopia made out of pizza dough. It was just so golden and beautiful and shiny with raw sugar. All these fall fruits just overflowing out of the basket around the cake, there was nothing as intensely decorated on set. My friend behind the scenes called and told me 'Martha's like, crazy over it.'"

At the risk of embarrassing Chef Ashley, we will not be publishing her reaction to this wonderful news verbatim. Instead, we will merely state that she was moved, touched, and emitted an enthusiastic verbal confirmation of this acknowledgment.

So what's next for Ashley Holt, where has this path that she alone cleared led her to? After leaving behind an industry that afforded her little comfort, pioneering a sugar empire in the heart of Brooklyn, and gracing the airwaves of our idiot boxes, where does Chef Holt find herself? Back to square one, but on her terms, as she returns to the world of professional modeling.

"I've asked myself, 'am I selling myself out?'" Holt questions her situation briefly before showing us a glimpse of the bigger picture, "I've preached so much against this industry, am I just being a total hypocrite?" No, she states with a crystal clear assertion, "I'm in a much different mindset, I'm stronger now, I'm more confident, and I'm in New York. If the work is there for me, why not make the money? I have the talent that comes with it. It's not just a pretty face. It's all the other stuff that I do. I felt like if I could get out there and be partnered with certain brands, different endorsement deals, then that would just do better things for me, my brand, and Sugar Monster."

It's hard to argue with the logic of someone who's self made, someone who has dodged bullets, survived risk and become a success, but it's especially difficult to question the stone cold calculations of a Sugar Monster, poised and ready to strike.











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***Futura***  
***Watching My Name Go By***

By Nemo Librizzi  
Photos by 13th Witness



*Futura (Leonard McGurr, nee Futura2000) is the one of the most influential artists alive today. Before hashtags made you visible there were graffiti tags and Futura's name and work was splashed over the world's greatest art gallery: the New York City subway system. The legend threw up his letters along with the other incredible NYC writers in the 1970s. But what made him stand out from all the rest is that early on he pivoted from straight lettering to abstract art. This highbrow sensibility shook up the underground as graffiti transitioned from being perceived as vandalism to art. Still a creative force across all art scenes—from galleries to his "Concrete Jungle" on Houston Street in his home city—Futura is now. This month, the legendary street artist's Converse Chuck Taylor All Star II Futura (Hi \$110, Lo \$100) hit the pavement. For real insight into the man we tapped one of his art consultants Nemo Librizzi to interview the artist and Futura's son 13th Witness to shoot portraiture of the father of modern graffiti.*

**INKED: I've seen you come a long way—you were painting trains when I met you—I think '81, how long was your train career?**

**Futura:** It was broken up into two parts. It was the 10 years before that in the early '70s for a couple of years with ALI—rest in peace Mark Edmonds—and the Soul Artists. Then I had my military service from '74-'78, and post the late '70s, a return to New York. I really connected with ALI, DONDI [White], Zephyr and Boo. *The Village Voice* had the whole cars in the Christmas Issue of 1980. And that was the dawn of the shifting from painting trains to getting into alternative spaces and galleries like Keith Haring and all.

**Something happened to you creatively along the way. Maybe when you were in the military you came back and perhaps the culture had shifted when you were gone.** No doubt.

**You mentioned *The Village Voice*, and you had done letters for that car, but shortly thereafter you broke with the tradition of letters. Can you tell us what brought that about?**

When I came back I had a different mindset. I had seen the world on terms other than what I had grown up to understand and I wanted to do something different. Along with DONDI, Zephyr, Seen, Lee [Quinones] obviously and Phase 2 as kind of mentor we were just trying to find our own way. Mine, I guess ultimately can be described as abstraction because it just seemed comfortable to me. And my name always seemed appropriate. It was not to be a cliché "futuristic" but to put my work on another level. Did it work? I don't know I guess it did work.

**So your name Futura fit that style.**

That word "style" is important to us from the early era in that we wanted to create something unique and individual. There was nothing more unique than a painted subway car running in the system.

**You called the car that was published in *The Village Voice* the Break Train. Why?**

It was a play on words: there was a physical crack in the car so it was broken and it was also a metaphor in that it was also breaking tradition based on lettering. I just found myself in my own space.

**I noticed that a lot of people who burn on a train, somehow made a rough transition onto the new setting which was the gallery, museums, even walls in many cases. But your style was suitable to be lifted off a train and be on a canvas, or anywhere. So it was fortunate that you developed this approach to painting before so that you weren't forced to put a tag on a canvas, which looks ridiculous in most cases.**

Contemporary pieces "from the windows down kind of burners" don't fit well in contemporary spaces. On a static canvas or hanging on a wall, the graffiti loses a lot of its power. We couldn't have foreseen how that was going to shake down, but it turned out that I figured out the style of work before that. When galleries were trying to expose "graffiti art" it was fashionable, it was trendy and people were like, Yeah I want one of those! But critically, it didn't hold up to what was on the street or public space in real time. I think my stuff wasn't restricted by the boundaries of the canvas or a wall per se—it gave me more possibilities and opportunities. Looking at art in our community, we were trying to jump into the art world in the '80s that few got a chance to get involved in at that time. Keith [Haring], no doubt, Jean Michel [Basquiat], no doubt, but of the graffiti school there's plenty of names you could have mentioned who didn't make it into the higher art world.

**Yet the graffiti writers' work did occupy more of a public space. Why were the subway cars so perfect of a showcase?**

It was like the blood flowing through the city. We had this amazing toy train yard that we had access to. We could see our work moving through Brooklyn, Manhattan, The Bronx, on trains like the 2s and 5s that go from the tip of the Bronx to Coney Island. It was incredible to think of the amount of exposure and activity. Nothing will ever be like that again, there is nothing today that has that kind of excitement.

**And how did that start to fade?**

Other than the computers and technology there's been changes in the social structure. The graffiti movement of the '70s was possible in New York because the city was broke. It was in decay and things were just so rundown. It wasn't until the '80s and that kind of Reaganomics and a lot of loot coming back to the city.

**So it was to your advantage the city was broke and you were able to access a visible moving canvas, but since then the city is gentrified you are surfing a new wave. You started collaborating with brands and showing in galleries early-on, these relationships have only deepened. How did you make that transition?**

Well initially, it all came from relationships I had in Asia in the '90s. Big American brands were not trying to yet embrace our school of art and culture. The age of collaboration with brands really begins in Japan. By the New Millennium, a brand like Nike approaches me to ask me to work on a project. And I am one of one of the first artists along with Stash to get approached by a brand on that level. Mark Parker (now CEO of Nike) got at me early. I remember meeting him in my office, he had my book and I thought it was nice that someone had







was invested in my work, but I didn't know who the guy was. My relationship with Converse is a direct linkage to that. My allegiance to sneaker culture has only been with these two brands. Before there was a Nike in my world there was a Converse; in high school before Nike arrived as a sport shoe I wore Chuck Taylors. I was rocking Cons for many years and I got fortunate enough to get a shoe out of it, which is perfect because I am living in the brand.

**Galleries and brands are clamoring to have you involved, is there something about an object, like a shoe, that you enjoy as much as you do a canvas?**

There is a separation between those who can afford to obtain works of art on canvas and those who can afford T-shirts. And I want anybody who supports my work to have the access to it.

**Does one give you more pride than the other?**

Honestly the real rush is the packaging where I see my name. I know it is horribly egotistical but that is the way we were as writers in the very beginning. I still haven't lost that feeling of, "Oh shit that's my tag." I get off more on that than people looking at my work in a gallery. The root of it is getting up the Futura tag.

**To those not familiar with the term "getting up" it was the impetus of a graffiti artist.**

There's a book by Craig Castleman that's called *Getting Up*. Getting up is attaining some visibility, some fame and that really seeing the tag. With this shoe, I love the design, the fabric, the camo pattern on the bottom but the subtle little Futura really trips me out. We didn't know it 45 years ago, but with our tags we were all creating little brands. I think I am still very childish in that. I am still getting up. And, Jesus, I just turned 60, you'd think I'd feel up enough! At the end of the day it is not money it is just recognition and I am more into that because it lasts longer.

**So the thrill is still there?**

Sure, the excitement is still there. That's why I have been really looking forward to this project with Cons. Andy's [Warhol] foundation did a nice collabo set with Converse but that was the old Chuck, this is the Chuck II so to be one of first kids out of the box with it is very cool.

**Are you excited to see the shoes hit the streets? Like when you used to bench trains [editors note: sit on a subway bench waiting for a specific painted car go by, much cooler than bird watching]?**

I don't have a photographic memory but I will never forget benching trains, watching trains go by. The very first book I remember about graffiti it was by [Norman] Mailer with Jon Naar's photos, and the American title was *The Faith of Graffiti*, but for the printing in Europe, the European title was called *Watching My Name Go By*. I always thought, Wow man, that was so amazing and opens your mind to what it is all about. And that's still what I am doing. 📷



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# Simply RIVETING

Photos by Alvarado





Samii Ryan is the perfect modern-day pin-up. She has plump lips and classic curves yet her hair is always edgy and the tattoos scream rebellious style. The juxtaposition of Samii's fashion-forward style with the soulful notes of the Betties (Page, Grable and the rest) makes her more of a true pin-up than those still dressing to the nines of a pre-Nuclear Age. What made the originals so impressive is that their looks pushed the boundaries of modern sensibility. Beyond her personal demeanor and style, Samii is the ideal custodian of pin-up in that her own creations inspire some of the most malcontent mavens. As a jewelry and accessories designer, By Samii Ryan pieces (available on [inkedshop.com](http://inkedshop.com)) have been worn by Miley Cyrus, Demi Lovato and Ke\$ha.

**INKED: What does style mean to you?**

Style is self-expression!; style is who you are, or who you want to be. When you get dressed in the morning you should always be dressing for yourself. In a world full of Cheerios be the Fruit Loop.

**How do tattoos work within your overall style?**

They are a part of who I am. I have always been a huge art fan and when I was old enough to get my first tattoo I was hooked. I see my body as a blank canvas and my artwork was painted on me permanently by amazing artists. I am writing a story with my tattoos on my body about my life as who I was, who I am, and who I am becoming. I love being able to show off some ass and ink any day of the week.

**What are your thoughts on pin-up?**

Pin-up to me is the classic sexy bombshell. They are the girls who are able to look effortless with their bums and boobs out, pointed toes, painted face, and topped off with a smile. Pin-up expresses my sexual side. She is sweet, sassy, sexy, teasing, and a classic lady at heart.

**Can one work pin-up into a new edgy look?**

I think one can definitely work pin-up into a new edgy look—I did it. I have my head shaved with blonde curly locks falling over my right ear and I have two arms covered in tattoos. I am the new age pin-up woman, a woman who isn't afraid to show her personal style while taking inspiration from the iconic pin-up era.

**When you design pieces, who do you have in mind?**

I design jewelry for the young trendy girl who has swag and just needs a little sprinkle on the whipped cream to complete her look. By Samii Ryan jewelry is bold, unique, and different. I make jewelry to show women that they can be whoever they want to be while wearing my pieces. I want them to be fearless, I want them to feel badass, I want them to feel like their inner-goddess is coming out.

**Do you design your own tattoos?**

I have never actually designed my own tattoo, however I do always think of ideas and collaboratively work with the artist to create a unique piece. I've had the pleasure of working with some amazing tattoo artists such as Josh Bodwell, Roman Abrego, Tim Hendricks, Sean From Texas, and Miryam Lumpini. I love having so many different talented artists work on my canvas.

**What do you think is your most signature physical attribute?**

I think my signature physical attribute would be my hair. I have such a unique sense of style and that comes from a combination of my clothing, tattoos and hair. I think others would say their favorite attribute of mine is be my booty—you decide.

**You semi-recently moved to LA, how has that influenced your life's path?**

Moving to Los Angeles has catapulted my career for the better. I have accomplished so many things shy of a year of living out here. From music videos for performers such as: Trace Cyrus, Falling In Reverse, K Camp x Fetty Wap, Kalin and Myles, and Moosh & Twist. I had my modeling sets featured by *Playboy* and *Maxim*. My jewelry collection is becoming more popular with female influencers and even has sparked the interest of trendy male models. The sky is not the limit for me, I'm reaching for the moon, and even if I miss I'll land among the stars. Just remember my name—you'll be seeing it a lot more in the future. ■





















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# a sharp EVERY GIRL CRAZY 'BOUT dressed man

your best accessory  
is your beard,  
and a nice coat  
and a *sweet* tattoo.

Photos by Mike Ruiz  
Styling by Izzy Ruiz for the Cannon Media Group  
Assistant: Matthew Donnelly  
Grooming: Tina Marie Zaccagna  
Model Josh Mario John





Wearing a vintage shirt, pants by Asaf Ganot and boots by Dr. Martens



Wearing Asaf Ganot shirt and pants, Bailey of Hollywood hat and Dr. Martens boots



Wearing a Other UK coat



Wearing a Perry Ellis jacket, Michael Kors Collection vest, Simon Miller jeans and Diesel Boots



Wearing Ring Jacket coat, Diesel leather pants, Michael Hockey shoes and a Faconnable scarf





# ALCHEMY



England · 1977

ULFE4  
Swallows  
Stud Earrings  
\$17.33



P742  
Keepers of the Tyrian  
Pendant  
\$63



ULFE5  
Live Now  
Stuf Earrings  
\$17.33

E365  
Wounded Love  
Dropper Earrings  
\$31.50



P659  
Gothic Matrimony  
Necklace  
\$67.20



P740  
Wounded Love  
Necklace  
\$47.25



E364  
Deadskull  
Dropper Earrings  
\$18.90



ULP9  
Tattoo Gun  
Pendant  
\$33.08



P731  
Capitaneus  
Pendant  
\$26.25

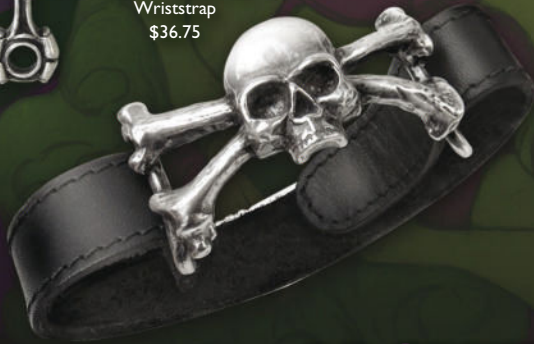


R145  
In Memoriam  
Ring  
\$34.65

ULP40  
Piston Head  
Necklace  
\$36.75



A51  
Skull 'n' Bones Strap  
Wriststrap  
\$36.75



E314  
Ivy League  
Dropper Earrings  
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Desolation  
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\$21



ULA4  
Pain is Pleasure  
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Jewellery shown not actual size



# BEARD SCIENCE

Keep your beard soft. Rub the Bluebeards Wonder Beard Intensive Repair into your face, wait three minutes and you'll be more supple than that teddy bear you slept with way past an appropriate age. \$20, [bluebeardsoriginal.com](http://bluebeardsoriginal.com)



You don't want your facial hair to smell like your girlfriend's Strawberry Suave, Beard Guyz's Daily Wash needs to be part of your morning routine (even if you are a tattooer and "morning" means "noon" to you). \$15, [beardguyz.com](http://beardguyz.com)



Beards are like our grandfathers, if you don't keep an eye on them they wander. Do you know what our grandfathers like? Beer! Tame your mane with Lesh's Beard Balm made from hops. \$16 [etsy.com](http://etsy.com)



If mustaches were called "soup strainers" beards can now be referred to as "Siracha catchers." You damn well can't wash your facial hair after every meal but Good Wipes are like souped-up wet wipes that will help you keep your best face forward. \$8 [goodwipes.com](http://goodwipes.com)



The man on the previous pages was extremely handsome, a professional beard-wearing model who has a groomer. That's not us and probably not you. We are real men, with real lush beards—walk around a tattoo convention and you might think you were at a beard convention. There are a plethora of magazines that only show super fancy men and super fancy products but again, that's not us. Here's some of our bearded readers and their takes on one of the greatest parts of being a man. Justin Kirsch uses his powers for good: he used @beards\_of\_action to raise \$10,000 for St. Jude's Children's Cancer Research and is working toward \$20,000 for the Ronald McDonald House. When asked, "Gun to your head: shave off your beard or never get

tattooed?" He answers, "I'm going to get that gun." Lane Toran gets complimented on the beard constantly but wants to remind you that "beards don't define masculinity," the men behind them do. Madison Edward Rowley can tie his mustache behind his head. He's fun at parties, once he was dared see how many bottle caps he could stash in his facial hair. "After a while I lost count," he says. "I thought I took them all out, but the next day in the shower a few fell out." Stephen Moeller (Captain of the Bearded Villains NY/NJ chapter) is happily married but wants women to know this code: "If a lady touches a man beard on the first date you better believe he's going to grab your ass right after. It's an unwritten law in the bearded world."



## INKED READERS AND THEIR SECOND BEST ACCESSORY



JUSTIN KIRSCH



LANE TORAN



STEPHEN MOELLER



MADISON EDWARD ROWLEY



## BEARD LOVE



Heidi Lavon loves James Ramsey, and his beard. "There's something about knowing that your man or someone you're seeing can grow something so rugged. I picture one of those romance novels that I snuck out of my grandmother's trunk to ogle. The man with the long curly hair, hairy chest and bushy beard has a scantily clad woman draped over his lap. Having a beard is a privilege."

## BEARD FACTS

"By the beard of Zeus," Ron Burgundy exclaimed. More iconic in history is Otto the Great, founder of the Holy Roman Empire, **swore by his beard** when making an oath.

Number of **hairs on an average man's face**: 10,000 to 20,000

**Pogonophile**: A person who loves facial hair

According to a recent survey women find bearded men to be **2xs** as attractive as clean-shaven men.

**Ambrose Burnside** was a hirsute Civil War Union Army general and the inspiration for the term "sideburns."

Braun (electric razor company) asked clean-shaven men why they didn't have facial hair. "77% responded they couldn't **properly grow out a beard.**"

Also Braun found that it takes **67 days to grow the ideal beard.**

Did you know? Beards grow 50-60 percent **faster in the summer** than they do winter.

In the Middle Ages touching another man's beard was highly offensive, even **grounds for a duel.**

35 percent of **American men** ages 18-to-24 have facial hair.

## FACIAL HAIR IN THE TATTOO WORLD

JON MESA



CHRIS NUNEZ



JASON CLAY DUNN



RICK WATERS









# PINK Lady

Welcome to the surreal world of Kelly Eden. Yes, this was shot at her house. Yes, she has that phone, and a pink throne and a carousel horse...

Photos by Brian Ziff - Hair by Esther Vasquez - Make up by Jennifer Corona  
Interview by You

## **We're a fan of Kelly Eden, and we are not alone. We asked you to interview Kelly, here's what she had to say:**

*When did you realize art was so important?* —Sage Herrera  
Probably when my elementary school teacher started putting me in the back of the class and sending notes to my mom because I wouldn't stop drawing.

*Who are your favorite tattoo artists?* —Luna Light  
There are so many amazing tattoo artists out there that I admire but all my tattoo work is exclusively done by Nikko Hurtado... I would have more tattoos if he would text me back! (hint hint)

*What is your favorite tattoo?* —Ramana Aqeel  
That's so hard to choose! If I had to choose one, it would be my David Bowie *Labyrinth* tattoo on my thigh. This was the first tattoo Nikko did on me when I was 18 years-old. Ever since I got it, I've loved seeing people light up when they see it. "Oh my god, Is that the Goblin King?" The genuine excitement coming from fellow *Labyrinth* fans is endearing and it leads me to connect with other people who share the same love for this legendary movie. It reminds them of the babe—that's a *Labyrinth* pun, for those of you who don't know.

*How has your mental health affected your life and how have you/are you overcoming it?* —A\_Typical\_Weirdo  
This is an important question, thank you for asking. It is so important to me to spread awareness about mental illness. Growing up, I suffered from several mental illnesses without knowing what was really wrong with me. I felt so abnormal compared to everyone else, I knew there was something wrong with me but didn't know what. It wasn't until my own father lost his life to mental illness and addiction, that I was able to recognize my own mental illnesses and be diagnosed.

Now I want to be an advocate for mental health and offer support to anyone who may be suffering from mental illness. Anyone dealing with mental illness knows that it's a day-to-day struggle but I've learned how to deal with my low points. It's taught me to embrace who I am.

*As someone who also struggles with depression and anxiety I have trouble reflecting anything but those emotions on the outside. You do not seem to have that same problem because you come off as being nothing but happy.* —Taylor Sebree  
Believe me, it took a lot of work and continues to be an ongoing battle. Battling with depression and social anxiety can lead to self isolation. I was only able to break free once I gained self acceptance and surrounded myself with loving, supportive friends who empathize with me. Depression is a rollercoaster, there are highs and lows as it comes and goes. When I'm feeling low, I usually shut myself off from the world for a while. I never post anything about it because I don't want to bring anyone else down with me.

*If you could live in any anime, which would it be?* —BigNoseBug  
I think I'd like to live in the *Inuyasha* world. I would have my pick of any handsome demon lord I choose.

*Did you ever have any other style besides this pastel style you have now? If so, are you embarrassed by your past styles?* —Rebecca Koontz  
Didn't everyone go through a goth phase?

*What does your landlord think of your doll house?* —Thalia Zuniga  
Well, my old landlord loved it! I have yet to have a conversation with my new landlord. So let's keep it a secret so I don't give him a heart attack... 🐶



















# Sandi Dick

Photo by Jim Parks







**“This photo is NOT being used in the magazines, but the ones they are using are BETTER! I think this photo speaks in many volumes. I was terrified that I would hate this photo and all of the ones similar, yet they became my favorite! I do apologize if it is a little more revealing than some would like. Just please understand the hard work, time, sweat, and years it has taken me to get to where I am, all while having a lung function of 16 percent!”** Sandi Dick wrote on Facebook as we were laying out this feature. The photo in question is the one you see here, it was not originally sent to us, but we agree with her and scrapped our layout in lieu of showing a strong, beautiful woman fighting for her life against cystic fibrosis. She's an inspiration, as you'll discover in the following interview. Sandi parts with these encouraging words, “Never ever, ever give up! You can be whatever you want to be. Just push hard, work hard, and strive for that goal! You can make it happen. I know this, because I did!”

By Christina DuVarney

**You write in your blog that this is your “last shoot.” You are in full control of this interview. Please share any advice, thoughts, stories, secrets—anything goes.** Tell you who Sandi Dick is? I am a loud mouthed Italian biker from West Virginia. I am a published model, poet, writer, retired Hooters Girl and blogger. A wife, daughter, sister and aunt to amazing people. I tend to wear my heart on my sleeve and get screwed, because of it. I am an avid volunteer. I love helping others when I can, especially animals. I am very rare and unique. I'm like Tigger, because; “The wonderful thing about Sandi, is Sandi is the only one.”

**Why do you feel that this is your final shoot?** My health is slowly starting to decline and it is sadly inevitable that it will keep doing so. This shoot is going to take every thing I have, but it will be worth it. So, unless there is a miracle in my future, I doubt I will have the energy for any more photoshoots.

**What does it mean to live everyday knowing there is a chance it could be your last?** To me it just means that you need to love harder, smile bigger and laugh louder everyday.

**For those who don't know, what is cystic fibrosis?** Cystic fibrosis is a very complex and confusing life threatening disease. Long story short, it is a lifelong genetic disease that causes excess mucus to build in your body blocking your lungs and digestive system. Which combines together making both breathing and absorbing nutrients very difficult and debilitating.

**When did you first learn you had cystic fibrosis?** I'm not 100 percent sure, actually. I always knew I was sick and in and out of the hospital. I don't ever really recall *not* knowing I had cystic fibrosis, as most people are born and diagnosed at a very young age. Normally leading to short lives until recently with new treatments and medication advancements.

**You said that you have pushed yourself harder than ever before to prepare for this shoot. What does that entail?** I have always pushed the envelope when it comes to my health, however it has been more difficult in the past year as my lungs are only getting worse. After getting the call about *Inked*, I realized quickly that the words, “end stage” didn't have to mean the end of everything. It only meant the end of how I used to do things and I needed to redirect the way I was living daily in order to have a successful photoshoot for the magazine. Because of that I have been exercising my lungs by doing short bursts of activities at least once a day, and in doing so I have seen a big difference in my overall well-being.

**Has that helped to improve your health?** Yes. I was needing to wear oxygen 24/7 and now I am only needing to wear it during physical activity. Which seems like nothing in writing, but in reality it's such a huge difference. And a great one.

**Why us?** *Inked* magazine is in a way the Holy Grail of tattoo publications. I remember thinking “Once I get more than a tramp stamp I'll be in that magazine!” When I first started my modeling “career” many moons ago.

**You model chiefly for Beautiful Disaster Clothing, why that brand?** I've seen and modeled for a lot of different designers and clothing lines, but none of them sum up my attitude and lifestyle like Beautiful Disaster. I've always said I was a beautiful mess, which is funny to me now to be working with, Beautiful Disaster Clothing.

**You've pretty much told hospice and cystic fibrosis to suck it—you're doing things your way. What did it feel like to hear your doctors say you're at the end?** When I first heard the actual words I felt my heart shatter. I sat on my mom's lap, at 28 years-old, crying like a child in my hospital room. Repeating over and over how unfair it was. I'd say in that moment I was the most vulnerable I've ever been.

**You've also said that staying alive is all about a positive mindset. What gets you through each day?** The fact that I should be gone is one of the main reasons I can always see the bright side of things. Also my husband and family are a huge support system for me. I fight everyday to stay here with them as long as I can. I also believe that a good smile can help you get through the hardest of times. I see no reason why someone should be upset all the time with a disease that you can't change. It seems pointless to me, because you lose out on the beautiful thing we call life that way.

**Tell us about your newest ink, the watercolor tiger, why did that have so much meaning to you?** My tiger tattoo, aka Bradley, is by far my favorite tattoo at the moment. The tiger is the symbol for lungs and that really stood out to me—how strong a tiger is and how weak my lungs are.

**Do you want more?** Of course! Many many more! The next one I get I will be 65 individual roses as a sleeve on my left arm. Hopefully, I can make this happen one day!

**Do you have advice for others fighting the disease?** Never give up on your dreams just because you have a disease. The disease doesn't control you unless you let it, so always go for your goals. Keep a positive outlook about everything, because, cystic fibrosis will never be gone. Instead of being upset about something that isn't going to change just smile and think of the great things you do have. Never give up and remember to always smile! The only thing in life we are promised is death it is what you do in between birth and death that matters.

**What would you like to be remembered for?** My silly side, determination in life, my smile, my heart, and my will to help others.

**Any words of wisdom?** Always chase your dreams no matter how big or small they may be. Never let anything hold you back, because only you can stand in the way of reaching your own potential greatness. Oh, always smile, eat cake, and get tattooed! 🍷









# DAVE KRUSEMAN

By Devon Preston Portrait by Sean Scheidt

Season 6 of *Ink Master* was perhaps one of the most dramatic seasons in the history of the series. There were incredible tattoos and failed tattoos, rivalries and alliances, even the show's first "showmance." And while 18 contestants had the opportunity to illustrate their talents for tattooing on camera, only one artist walked away with \$100,000 and the title of Ink Master. And that artist is Dave Kruseman. Dave Kruseman is a modern-day master of American traditional but beyond being

a superb tattooer, he is first and foremost a family man and a hardworking business man. Throughout his lifetime, Kruseman has expressed an invulnerable magnitude of devotion to producing rock-solid designs that built off of the foundations of American traditional, as well as the ability to maintain an undeniably authentic sense of self by displaying continuous respect for the art of tattooing and his fellow tattoo artists. Kruseman used the motivation of his loving family

and his reverence for the established practice of American traditional tattooing to preserve the endurance needed to survive the storm of the competition and prove to the world that a traditional artist was a force to be reckoned with. Claiming the title of Ink Master was no easy feat for Kruseman, but in the end, it was Kruseman's 20 years in the tattoo business and his undying determination to impress the nation with the style of American traditional that won him the ultimate prize.



**Did you think that you were going to be crowned Ink Master?** Absolutely not, no way. There wasn't a thought in my mind that I was going to win that thing. But the closer it got, the more hope I was getting and I remember standing there on stage, my hands were sweating, I had sweat running down my back, and I thought to myself, Jesus Christ, I could really win this thing.

**Did you imagine that you, Matt, and Chris would be the ones in the finale? Or were there other artists in the competition that you expected to go farther?**

You know, you never know. Some great tattooers got sent home early and it was like Russian roulette. You didn't know what was going to happen down in those rooms and what decisions they were going to make. I felt like all of us had our equal flaws on the show, all of us had our ups and downs, and in the end it's just a game and I'm stoked that I won.

**Although you did win, was there anything that you wished that you could have gone back and done differently?** I think at one point in time I thought about throwing the towel in, it was when I did the challenge on the back of the girl's neck. But I remember talking to my wife that night on the phone and she basically put me into check and said that I could not do this. I faced the challenge and put my big boy shoes on and walked across the yard by myself.

**We remember that episode vividly. Did you ever feel like you were presented with unrealistic challenges as a method to keep viewers engaged in the show?** I think at that point when I did that challenge, more than anything it was an eye-opener for me to realize that anything can happen to anyone at any moment. That's when I realized that whether I won the flash challenges or not, it wasn't going to matter. The canvases are the the ones with the crazy ideas and if everyone in that row has a crazy idea, no matter what type of advantage you have, if you're a solid, good tattooer you're going to have to figure out how to translate whatever it is into something good.

**We know it's only been a few months, but how has your life changed post-Ink Master?** I definitely think that my life has

changed in public. Every time I go out in public, people recognize me now. I've never really been one to be in the public eye and I feel like it was my job as a tattooer to go on the show and do what I do best. I feel like I went from being this really unpopular guy because no one really knew who I was, and now I feel like the whole world knows who I am. Every place I go, people are like, "Hey you're Kruseman, you're the guy from the tattoo TV show aren't you?" I'm definitely taking selfies on the regs.

**This season of Ink Master was different because you got to compete alongside your apprentice, what was it like competing with someone that you've worked with in the past?** To me, it was a win/win situation because I knew from the start when we decided to go on the show that [Duffy Fortner] was going to give it 120% and push forward, and I couldn't be more stoked and proud of her. We were definitely the team that made it the longest and that's something to be said just in that.

**And with the theme of this season being Masters and Apprentices you were obviously the master with 20 years of experience, but do you remember when you had your own apprenticeship?** I do remember when I had my own apprenticeship. An apprenticeship when I learned to tattoo was a lot different than it is today. When I learned how to tattoo we actually had to know how to draw. You physically had to go to the library and go check out a book to reference. I think that the tattooers in today's society have it made so much easier than we did because they're handed 20 and 30 years of knowledge over a week's period of time.

**Do you think that having 20 years of experience helped you in the competition?** I do think that it helped me in the competition. I went in there and I was not a jerk and I showed the judges respect, which really helped me. I didn't go in there with some crazy *attitude* thinking I was better than anybody else, I just realized that we're all in this game together and I tried to hold on as long as I could.

**Looking back on the show, do you like how you were portrayed on camera?** I do like how I was portrayed, and you know why? It's because that's exactly the

person that I am and I think it's funny how so many people want to blame editing for looking a certain way on TV. The bottom line is if it came out of your mouth, you said it. But I'm stoked with how I was portrayed. I feel like I was portrayed as the exact person that I am in everyday life and I knew when I went on that show that my ultimate goal was to respect the judges that I obviously do, and to be good for tattooing.

**Of course you weren't the only artist with a memorable personality on the show, what did you really think of runner-up, Chris Blinston's iconic overalls?** My comment to that is that I couldn't be happier that they let me dress in the clothes that I wear everyday.

**Now going back to how you were portrayed. Some of the other competitors and judges gave you the nickname "Safe Sally." Why did you end up choosing to stick by what you know instead of taking risks like other contestants?** You know, I think that the most important thing for me was that it's not necessarily that I played it safe, but that I have too much integrity to give somebody something that's not going to be 100%. At the end of the day, TV show aside, people are still going to have these tattoos when the show is done. As long as I could give them a cool, nice, crisp tattoo, that's what it was all about for me. It was never even about the money for me, it was about showing America what a nice, cool tattoo is.

**We know that people are going to be excited to hear about your master canvas, but obviously you had a bit of a challenge when your first canvas dropped out. What went through your mind when you got the call from Dave Navarro?** When Dave Navarro first called and told me that the guy had backed out, I was infuriated. But the little dude inside my head told me to calm down and that everything's going to work out the way it's supposed to. And now, I couldn't be more stoked with the outcome of this tattoo.

**And what went into creating this intricate traditional piece (pictured to the right)?** So basically when I decided that I was going to go with an American traditional tattoo, I thought to myself, You know what, if I just do a big snake and an eagle and I do it huge and plain, America is not going to be

impressed. I had to push the bar on traditional tattooing, so that's why the tattoo was so busy because I needed to impress America too, on top of impressing the judges. It was almost borderline too much, but I think that it was undeniably a beautiful tattoo. When it was just Chris and I, I thought that if this tattoo doesn't win then I don't understand this game. There's no way that you can take a classic American tattoo and not think that this one is going to stand the test of time.

**Do you think that today's new tattoo clientele are distracted by the new and exciting styles that haven't really proved that they can stand the test of time?** Yeah I definitely do. And at the same time, I look at those styles of tattooing and I think to myself the same thing that America is thinking. It's amazing and it really does look good. I feel like if it's done correctly it can last a little longer, but a majority of that stuff hasn't been around long enough for people to understand.

**And as a traditional artist living in the age of realism tattooing, do you ever wish that you could go back in time and tattoo in a different time period when traditional was first evolving as a style?** I do wish that I could do that, but for more reasons than one. I know that it was such a taboo thing back in the day and I think it would be cool to be a part of something that was like this secret underground movement. It's really in the public eye now, which I do love, but I would really love to see what it was like back then. Shit, more than anything I'd love to time travel and see what tattooing was like back then.

**Do you feel that you had to prove yourself more as a traditional artist against all of the realism artists on the show?** Not towards the judges, but I got the vibe from the rest of the cast that I wasn't a threat. I don't know if they looked at my tattoos as some childish form of tattooing, but to me that's the tattooing that should hold the most respect. Because without traditional tattooing, none of these people would have jobs as tattooers. I will always be doing traditional tattooing because that's how [tattooing] was started and it's really the only way it's going to end, because it's the only thing that lasts inside the human body. ■











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# DAVID CORDEN

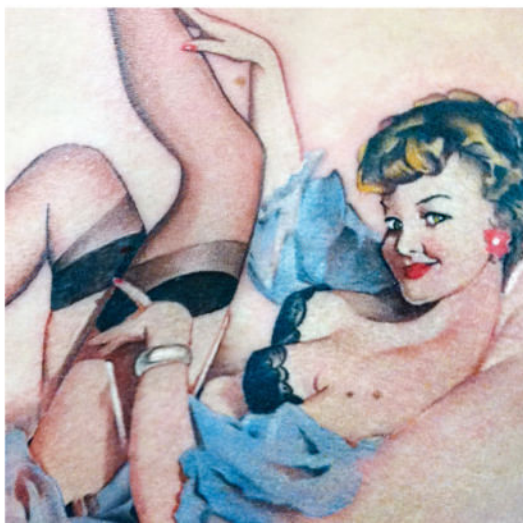
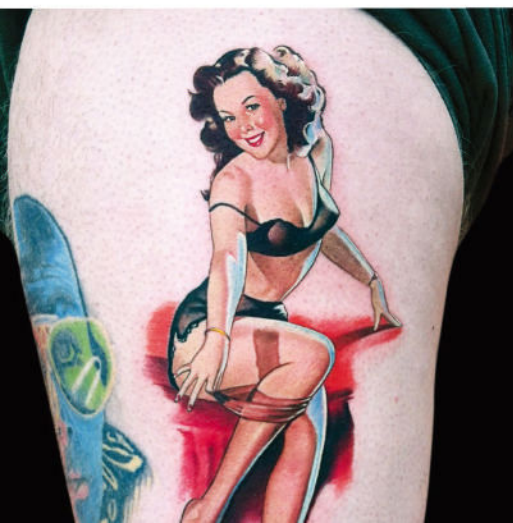
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**WHAT IS YOUR TATTOO ORIGIN STORY?** I walked into a local tattoo studio with a design that I had drawn for myself. The owner, Jim Gambell, asked me who had done the artwork. I told him it was me and he asked to see more of my work. I was actually a ventilation engineer at the time and had been for about 15 years. He didn't tell me he intended to offer me a job, so I didn't come back until four years later. He was working on a sleeve for my cousin who called me in to bring some of my drawings. At the end of the day he looked at my work and offered me an apprenticeship. If it hadn't been for the gap of four years I probably would have turned down the offer, but in that interim I had become better educated in what was possible in the world of tattooing so I was in a better position to understand what an amazing opportunity I was being given.

**HOW IS THE PHRASE "I AM STILL LEARNING" IMPORTANT TO YOU?** It's something that will always be true for me. I will never be as good as I want to be and that keeps me trying and pushing to learn. We have one shot to get it right. A person's skin is not a canvas that we can walk away from and then come back to when we feel more in the mood. Clients have long waits for appointments and save up for that day so we have to be in top form for them. If you feel you know it all and have nothing new to discover then it will get boring quickly and that isn't fair on anyone.

**WHERE DO YOU SEE YOUR WORK HEADED IN THE FUTURE?** I'd like to make the time to learn to paint. I would love to produce something for myself to keep. All of the work I do is for others so when I finish it leaves with them. I'd like something I could hang on my wall and be proud of. ■

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# ERIC MARCINIZYN

VISIT: [INSTAGRAM.COM/ERICMARCINIZYN](https://www.instagram.com/ericmarcinizyn)



**WHAT INSPIRES YOU TO CREATE ART?** Everything I see, hear, taste, feel, experience, makes me the person I am—growing and changing every day. It has to come out some way. Art has always been my voice and means of expression.

**RELIGION IS A THEME WE SEE IN YOUR TATTOOS, DOES IT MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU PERSONALLY?** I was raised in a Catholic home, and I have the utmost reverence for anything spiritual. Growing up, I spent more time every Sunday looking up at the church ceilings than I did looking forward. The beauty in those visuals inspired me both spiritually and artistically. I was fortunate to be exposed to such beautiful artwork before I was even aware of what I was taking in. In religious artwork, everything is presented in such an understandably human way. Each element contributes to how you feel what you are seeing. I try to approach my artwork the same way, adding or taking away until the feeling is properly conveyed.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE CURRENT STATE OF TATTOOING?** Our generation is blessed with the tools of social media and lifestyle publications, but we need to use these things appropriately, and maintain the elements of this lifestyle that attracted the unique individuals in the first place.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL BE THE NEXT BIG MOVEMENT IN TATTOOING?** I think that tattooing has grown to a point where it can be understood and appreciated by most people, whereas before it was only intended for a specific demographic. With the art finally in the public eye, those in positions of authority and influence are using tattoo art as a new means to express their taste, value, sophistication, and status. This has driven the value of "tattoo fine art" up, and enabled artists to support themselves in a beautiful way, with the freedom to push tattooing as fine art further than it has ever been. ■

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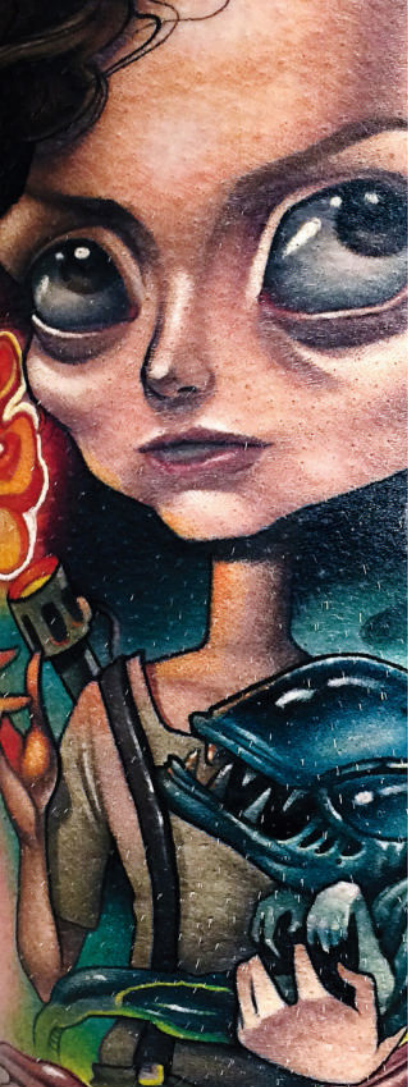


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# KELLY DOTY

VISIT: [INSTAGRAM.COM/KELLYDOTYLOVESSOUP](https://www.instagram.com/kellydotylovesoup)



**THE EYES ON YOUR CHARACTERS ARE SPLENDID. HOW IMPORTANT ARE EXPRESSIVE EYES IN YOUR ART?** Thanks! I think it goes without saying that eyes are arguably the most key weapon in forming expression. We're drawn to eyes because they help us understand each other without all those pesky words. Being someone who wears a lot of black and listens to a lot of The Cure, you'll be shocked to know a lot of my characters sport sad eyes. But I try to give characters the appropriate emotions. I don't think we need to stick to "cartoon" characters that are only smiling or zany or smug. I'm all about an opossum who feels lost or despondent. Or an armadillo overcome by his almost orgasmic reaction to ice cream.

**WHAT DO YOU HOPE SOMEONE TAKES AWAY WHEN LOOKING AT ONE OF YOUR PIECES?** I hope people connect to my work. I know that sounds like some small thing, but I like to believe I make work for misfits and weird kids, basically people like me.

**IF YOU HAD TO DESIGN YOUR OWN TOMBSTONE, WOULD YOU DRAW YOURSELF AS ONE OF YOUR CHARACTERS?** Oh God no. Maybe if I was the self-hating type and I wanted to punish myself for all eternity. But all I would do would be nitpick my drawing as a ghost. That's the worst type of ghost. Just a self-loathing sad sack that sits next to her own grave saying things like "I should have tilted the head to the other side because now the balance is off" and questioning the line weight and how much black is in the piece. Plus I'd be forever tormented by the representation of what I used to be. All corporeal and alive. But if I was forced to draw my own tombstone I'd definitely want to play to my strengths. So honestly I might just asked to be buried with one of my cats and I'd draw them on my tombstone. Which I immediately recognize is the single most depressing statement I've ever made. ☹️

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## LAUREN STARKILLER

SHOP GIRL AND ASSISTANT SHOP MANAGER AT  
PUEDMAG CUSTOM INK IN TORONTO, CANADA

Puedmag Custom Ink is different than most shops I've been in. Walking in, it's clear there's a strong commitment to the arts beyond tattooing. The owner and primary artist, Luis Fernando Pudedmag Vinueza is originally from Ecuador so there's also a fun cultural aspect in the shop. The other primary artist, Dom, is from London, England and the two have a great dynamic.

The newest artist, Reny, formally an apprentice is from South Korea—watching her and Luis communicate through broken English was always an entertaining experience—but they managed to always be able to communicate through their art and create amazing pieces together.

Puedmag Custom Ink is very involved in the community here in Toronto. We created and hosted open houses which are always a blast! For our Halloween open house this year, we created custom Halloween flash and all the artists dressed up and had a great time. It was an amazing experience to see what everyone's ideas were of Halloween, being that they're from all over the world. We have artists from, the Ukraine, England, South Korea, Ecuador, Germany, Indonesia, and Vietnam so everyone brings their own style and "flavour."

Managing a team of artists is both challenging and fun, keeping everything organized and running smoothly is important in this industry but everyone works together to keep the shop running like a well oiled machine. My favorite part is getting to know the clients as most of them are long-term, hearing different ideas and seeing Luis design amazing custom pieces for each person. We have clients travel to us in Toronto from all over the world and it's always exciting to hear what they're interested in and why they've travelled so far to see us.

Overall, it's a great dynamic in the shop and always a positive atmosphere. If you're looking for a shop in Toronto, Canada with an extremely high quality of work and professionalism, this is the place to go! 📍





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