

# Inked

CULTURE. STYLE. ART.

## THE ART ISSUE

FEATURING

### RIAE

ARTISTS OF PEACE  
FIGHTING TO MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE!

THE VICTORS OF INK  
MASTER'S SHOP WARS!

HIP HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS!  
ORIGINAL ART BY  
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MIKE DEVRIES

MICRO TATTOOS

JANUARY 2018 • DISPLAY JANUARY 22

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COVER : Riae photographed by Glenn Wallace  
ABOVE : Riae photographed by Glenn Wallace



# OF MICE & MEN



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# Inked

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# AGENDA

*Long Beach*

JANUARY 6TH

2 · 0 · 1 · 8



*Tyssa*



The year 2017 has been an interesting one, to say the least. Mother Nature wreaked havoc on parts of the world while world leaders ran amok. Well, there's a new year on its way, and with that comes hope for bigger and better things for everyone (yes, including you). To celebrate the incoming year, we decided to focus this issue on the struggles and triumphs of people striving to make their mark on this world. Their missions range from surviving a five-round mixed martial arts bout to changing the way an entire country's population approaches its future.

Writer Matt Kaplan (2) and photographer Jared Ryder (5) took us beneath the World's Most Famous Arena for a night of stand-and-bang where titles are won and lost with a right hand to the jaw or a kick to the chest. Mexican artist Jorge Tellaeche shares his amazing large-scale mural work with thoughts on his heritage and Donald Trump, while closer to home Jason Ackerman's (4) cultural commentary comes in the form of paintings that have the uncanny ability to make you smile at their satirical renderings and shake your head in disgust with their poignant political observation.

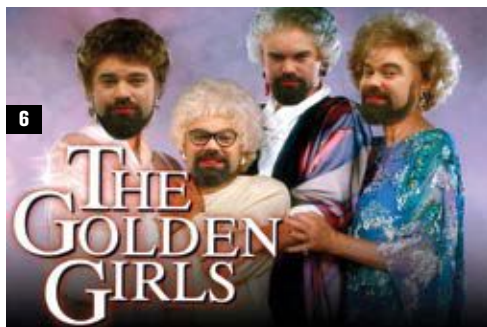
Tattoo artists TeeJ Poole and Mike DeVries contribute examples of top-notch work and views on the world of tattooing in a feature that is a must-read for every collector. Plus, Ink Master: Shop Wars winners Bubba Irwin and DJ Tambe gave Devin Preston (1) the scoop on what it took to beat out all the other talented contestants and how it felt to be recognized for their hard work...plus winning the \$200,000 first-prize money.

Inked is known for its wine, women and song, and although this issue we may be sans the song, we are loaded up on wine and women. Check out The Art of Drinking and be the first to "load up" on Holiday Cheer! Then make your way over to our stunning pictorial profiles of beautiful women in all their tattooed glory with page-after-page of inked up gorgeousness! Hit the beach with Aydubz shot by Musashi-Flores (3) and then keep it going as you meet Riae, Kristen and Jay Lynn, Katie and Lizzie.

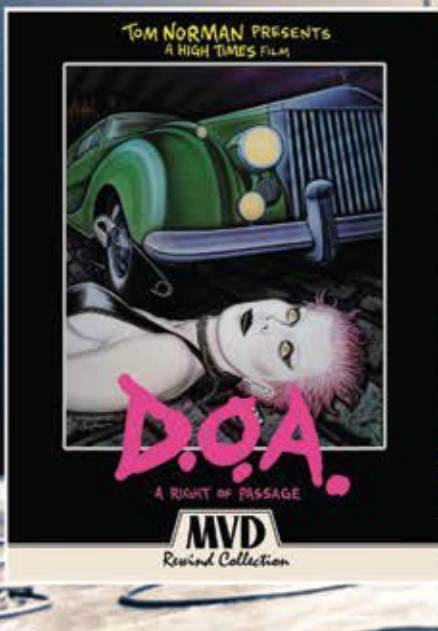
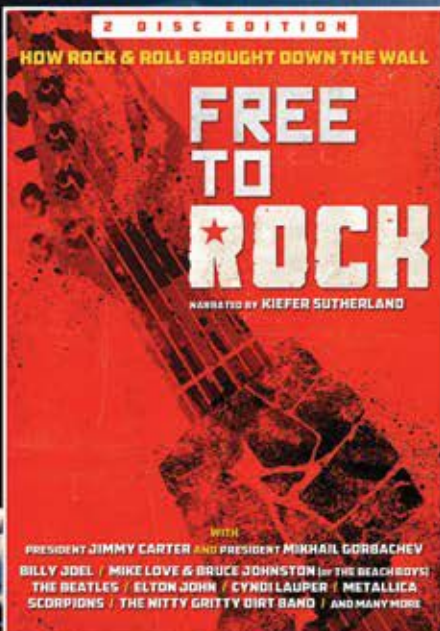
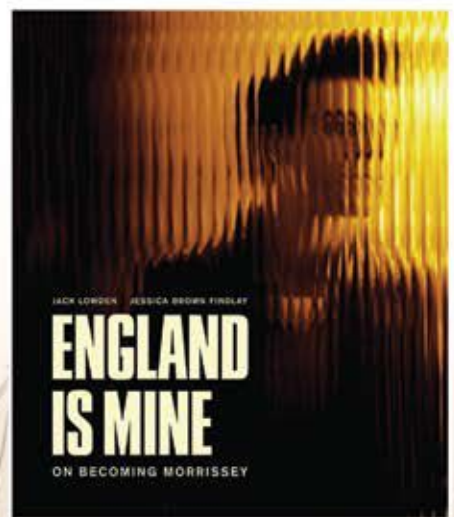
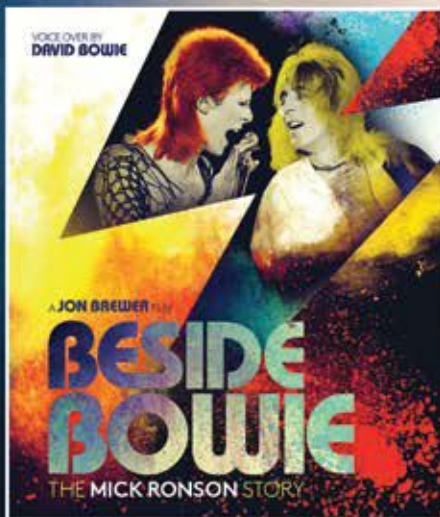
Before signing off on this issue, we felt it was only fitting to give a great big "Thank you!", to the ex-Editor-in-Chief Rocky Rakovic, the man who through his excellent writing, superior editing skills and uncanny eye for spotting what is hip helped make *Inked* the great brand it is today. (6)

So, turn the page and start enjoying this special holiday issue of hope, happiness and tattoos!

Paul Gambino  
Editor-in-Chief  
paul@inkedmag.com



# MUSIC FILMS THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE



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# LETTERS



**THE DAZZLING DOZEN.** Inked will be coming up on its lucky 13 year anniversary and never have we gotten so much mail — snail and email — as we did for "The Dazzling Dozen – Inked for a Cause" issue. In response to all the letters of gratitude, the staff here at Inked would like to thank all of you: from the incredible people behind the cameras to the facilities that lent a helping hand and, of course, to the brave women who agreed to come to New York to show their ink and tell their story of courage and strength. As this issue moves into the library of past issues we just ask that you always remember to be sympathetic to the world around you. Life can be a struggle and for some the struggle is to stay alive. Be kind.

## facebook

### INKED ANGELS

**Clay Richards** Those girls are the epitome of beauty and talent. I would be honored to have any one of them lay ink on me.

**Alejandro Franz** I have been watching *Ink Master* since it first came on TV and consider myself an *IM* master. Those girls getting their own show was a stroke of television programming genius.

**Roberta Friedman** I had been contemplating for years on whether to become a tattoo artist. When I saw that *Inked Angels* trailer, I knew immediately that was for me. Someday I hope to be an Inked Angel.

### ELAH PASKOWITZ

**Igor Kratow** I live in Russia, home of great vodka and beautiful women, but even I have to say that Elah is one of the most amazing women I have ever seen.

**Christian Fisher** Surf's up! What more could you want from a girl! Beauty, tattoos and a surfer!

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## TATTOO OF THE MONTH



BY: STEVE BUTCHER & YOMICO MORENO @STEVEBUTCHERTATTOOS & @YOMICOCART  
Want to be a Tattoo of the Month?  
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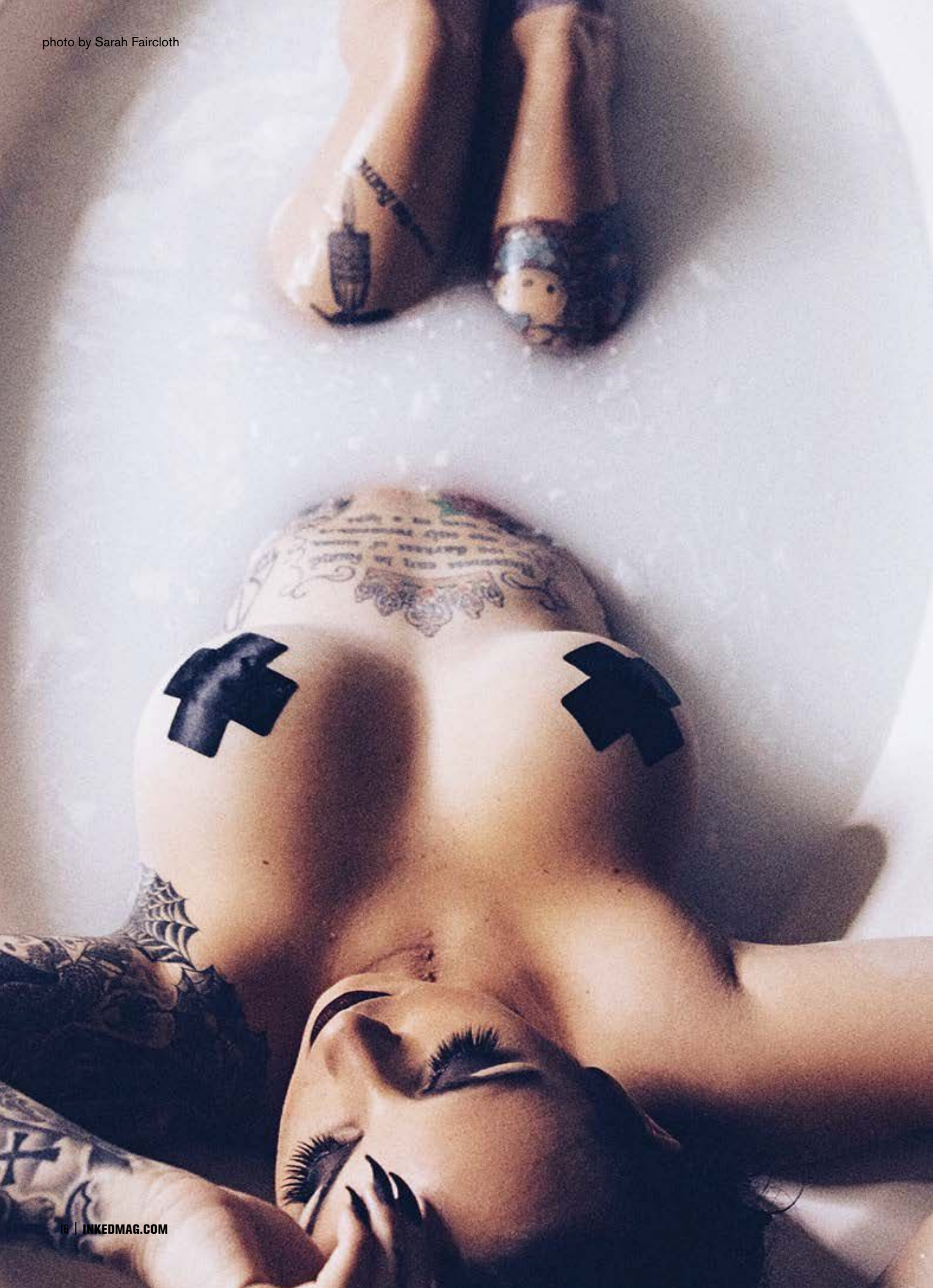
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# JORGE TELLAECHE

A young Mexican artist is breaking down the walls!

by Paul Gambino

Jorge Tellacche is not yet 40, but he's travelled the world and lived in many different countries. Presently he is back in his native Mexico expanding his art, rediscovering his heritage, and working hard redefining some of the negative attitudes Mexicans have about themselves.

**You started painting at the young and rebellious age of 15. Was graffiti part of your early work?**

Not really. I was all about experimenting with materials, realism and portraits. I guess I wasn't really that rebellious at 15. That came later!

**You spent time in Germany and I don't envision Luxembourg to be a pastel-colored environment. How did studying there affect your art?**

That time in Europe I worked mainly in ink. Very dark. I did a lot of bare trees where you could see faces and human shapes formed by the twigs and branches. However, it helped me tap into my emotions and be more real, to know that the search for your voice is an ongoing process.

**How do you bring your heritage into your art?**

In many ways, I am a product of all my experiences and I'm sure Mexico is and has always been a huge inspiration.

**Mexico City just experienced a devastating earthquake. How do you think it will impact upcoming work?**

It has not even been a week so I am still living through the aftermath. My neighborhood, La Condesa was hit very hard. A lot of my friends lost their homes. But it has been beautiful to see how we all got together to help one another. We have become stronger and are working as one. It helped us realize that even though our government is inefficient we can work without them.

It's going to be interesting to see how much. I want to find the beauty in this chaos and see what comes out from that in my art.

**What do you want people to get from your art?**

Every year it's different. I have talked about fear of change, duality, disappointment. Lately I have been very interested in talking about happiness as a decision and not something that just happens to you.

In Mexico we've had a lifestyle of disappointment with our government and are very quick to push the blame for all of our problems on others. I think it's just the easy way out. We are responsible for what we want and who we want to become. So, my work has become full of different comic figures that push you to make decisions about who you are.

**What do you think of Trump?**

How long is the article? [Laughs] Well, I think his presidency is definitely the byproduct of a global attitude. It's a wake-up call that we all need to make changes to start moving our global society in the right direction. He is an icon of hate and mediocrity, of arrogance and stupidity.



# MERRY KISSMAS



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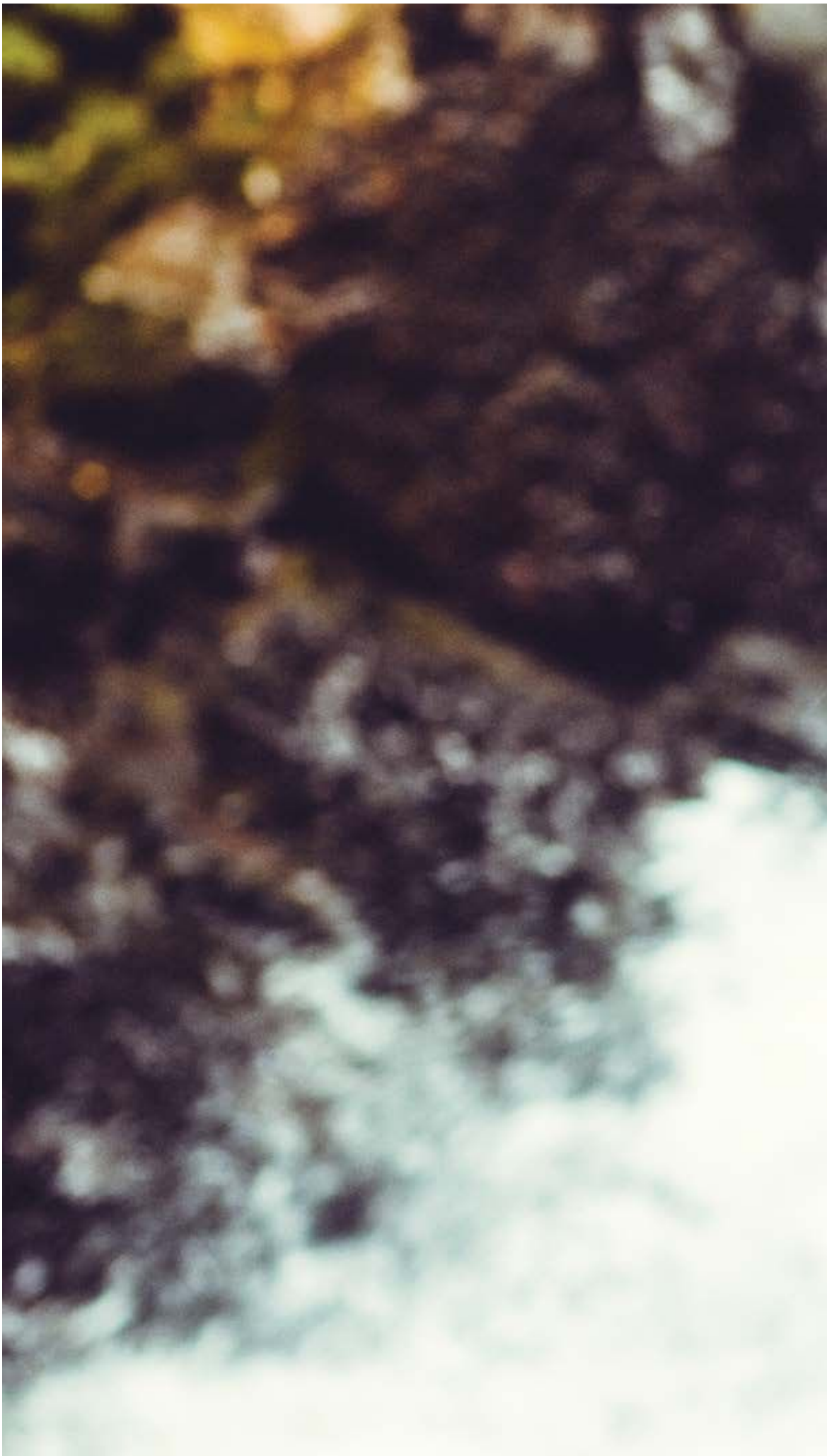
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# RIAE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **GLENN WALLACE**











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## THE FINE ART OF DRINKING

Some liquors deserve a bottle as impressive as the spirit within. These four bottles live up to that sentiment.

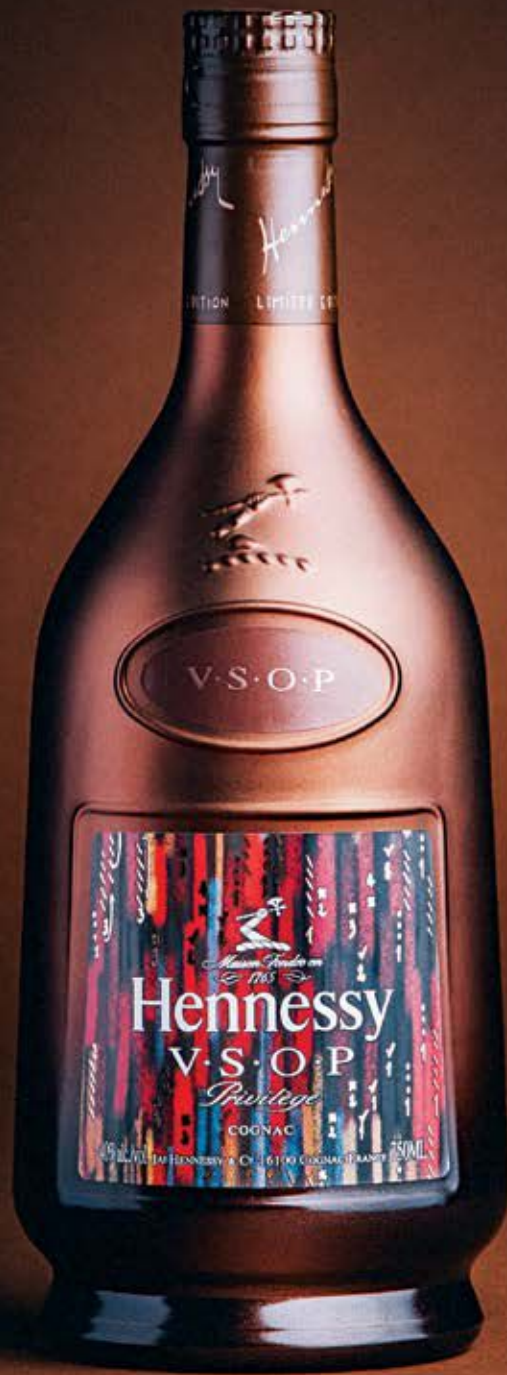
photography by peter roessler



### CAZADORES TEQUILA BLANCO

Legendary artist Mister Cartoon lent his iconic black-and-gray style to the design of the limited edition Dia de los Muertos bottle for Tequila CAZADORES. Proceeds from sales on [mistercartoon.com/cazadores](http://mistercartoon.com/cazadores) go to earthquake relief efforts in Mexico.

Cartoon included illustrations of a skull to honor the memories of lost loved ones, a rose to welcome new beginnings, and a woman to represent love and the importance of celebrating the good times.



HENNESSY V.S.O.P PRIVILÈGE  
COGNAC

LIMITED EDITION BY JOHN MAEDA

An elegant combination of art and technology. Acclaimed graphic designer John Maeda commissioned artist Giorgia Lupi to translate a musical composition of American guitarist Kaki King into a multi-hued design featured as the label on the 750mL bottle of Hennessy V.S.O.P Privilège.



#### CRYSTAL HEAD VODKA

When Actor Dan Aykroyd and artist John Alexander wanted to craft a vessel worthy of one of the world's purest vodkas, they decided on a human skull. Designed by Alexander, this stunning bottle is captivating as a piece of art and serves as a worthy container for their award-winning vodka.



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Enjoy the sweet life! Who doesn't love the taste of apple pie straight outta the oven? The answer is pretty much, no one! Well, Iron Smoke Distillery has managed to capture that flavor in a bottle... a bottle of whiskey that is! Seventy proof has never been so smooth and delicious. One liter of goodness with a bite.



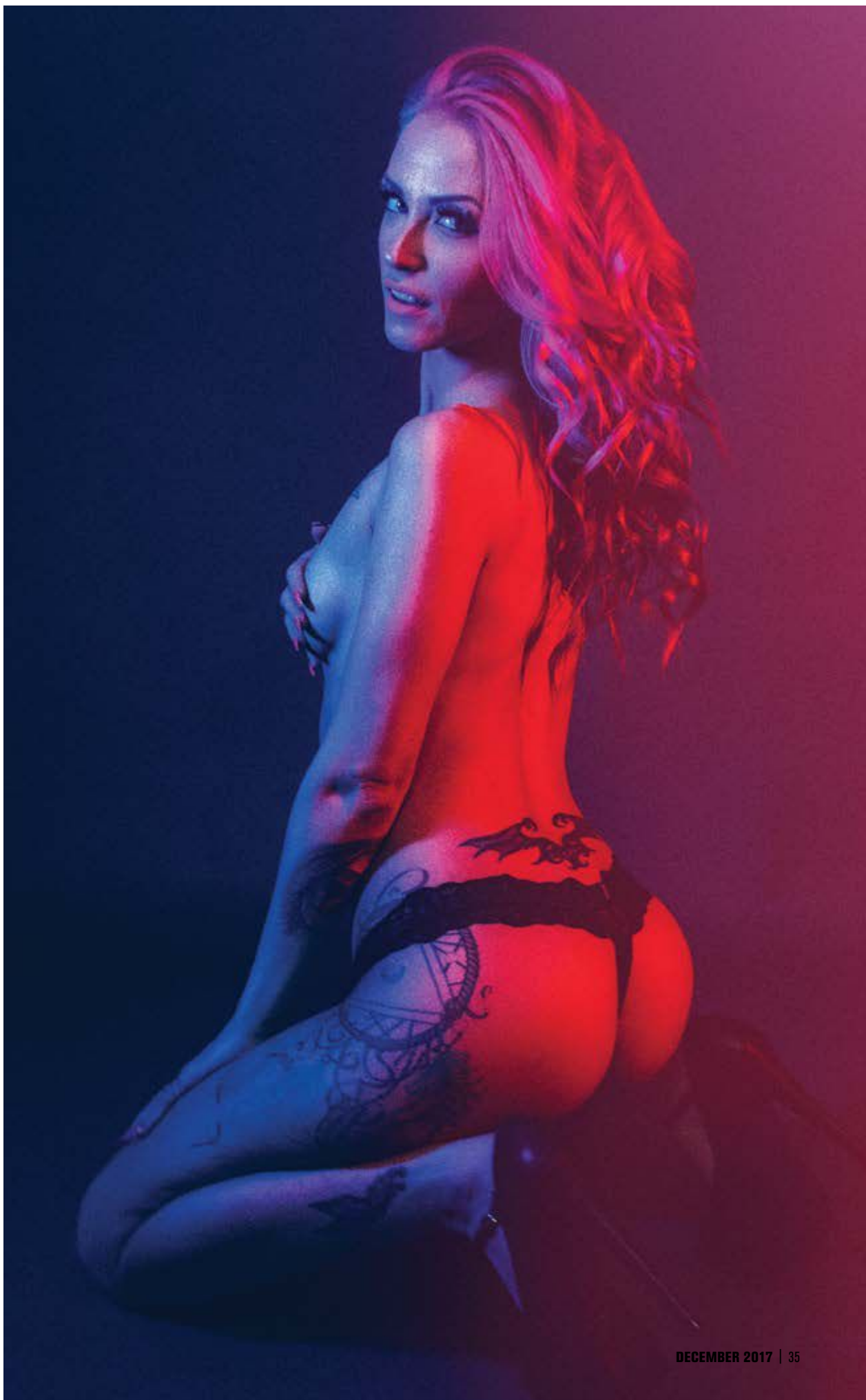
# LIZZIE

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# ALCHEMY



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Model is wearing -  
R216 Stealth Ring  
P802 Vampire  
Loveheart Necklace

Model & Photography :  
Magda Corvinus  
@magda\_corvinus

# INK MASTER SHOP WARS

Veterans Bubba Irwin and DJ Tambe win the tattoo battle



Each season of Ink Master has brought a new and exciting theme to the tattoo competition—and of course, this last season was no exception. Rookie and veteran teams of two entered the tattoo arena in the hope of taking home the title of Master Shop for the first time in the show's run. Over the past year, collaborative tattooing has been the talk of the tattoo industry—from dazzling duos conquering a thigh piece to the lucky seven member Rat Pack stealing the show at conventions around the globe. There's something inexplicably captivating about talented tattooers with vastly different techniques, styles, and backgrounds coming together to create one cohesive piece, no wonder the reality competition series wanted a piece of the magic.

This season brought together the largest and arguably one of the most talented casts of tattooers to the stage, with newcomers going head-to-head with TV favorites such as Tommy Helm, Christian Buckingham, and of course, Cleen Rock One. And although there were many talented and seasoned tattooers that could have easily been frontrunners in the competition, this season went to Bubba Irwin of Season 4 and newcomer DJ Tambe. After nearly 5 years away from the chaos of the competition, Irwin returned to Ink Master for one reason and one reason only—to make it to the finale. However, this time he was not alone. He invited longtime friend and highly-celebrated tattooer DJ Tambe to compete for the \$200,000 prize and the title of Master Shop. The pair was the first veteran team to enter the competition and the last to leave, making positive impressions on both the judges, their fellow competitors, and America at large. With Irwin's prior knowledge of the competition and Tambe's impressive breadth of styles, they stood out in the pack—pulling out a whopping three flash challenge and four “Best Tattoo of the Day” wins during their season. During the live finale, Old Town Ink impressed the judges with not one but two 35-hour master canvas back pieces and ultimately beat out fellow veteran shops, Basilica and Black Cobra Tattoo. These two tattoo artists proved they could make it work as a dynamic duo, and today they are bringing the title of Master Shop across the country as they open a brand new shop together in Nashville.

### How did you get into tattooing?

**Bubba:** I went to go get my first tattoo from my friend and I asked him if I could tattoo him. He agreed and I bought all of my own stuff after that. It was fun. Not really a crazy, elaborate story, right?

**DJ:** I was a curious kid and started hand-poking tattoos on myself. When I went to school, of course, all my friends wanted them. Eventually I made my own machine and about that time a local shop opened. I was only 17, but I went in and told them I was looking for work. They handed me a tattoo machine told me to do a tattoo. I did it. They said, “Ok, you start tomorrow.” Ever since then I have been tattooing as a profession.

### How did you develop your style?

**Bubba:** I followed a lot of my idols, Dj being one of them. Then I came up with what I wanted to do and what I wanted to get done, and that's what I've been doing.

**DJ:** I learned tattooing deep in the hood, which meant a typical day was around 10 tattoos. Ten tattoos of varying designs. That really prepared me to be the type of artist that feels comfortable working in various styles.

### Why did you two decided to work together for season 9?

**Bubba:** I've always admired his work. I watched him on Best Ink — I think I had been tattooing for a really short period of time, I want to say months, maybe a year, and I was like, “Damn, that motherfucker is so good.” Then I met him at a tattoo convention and I told him that I was going to

try out for Ink Master. Maybe a year later, in Oregon, I came out with a tattoo product and I asked him if I could sponsor him. Once I sponsored him, we became even bigger buddies. He's the most diverse tattoo artist I've ever met in my life and I don't think there is anyone more well-rounded than him.

**DJ:** Bubba and I have been friends for awhile. I did guests spots at his shop. He also knew I am a competitive person and have wanted to be on Inked Master since season 2. So when he asked me to be his teammate on Shop Wars, I didn't hesitate. I was definitely into it.

### Why do you think you not only lasted the longest as a veteran team but took the title?

**Bubba:** I'm kind of like the quiet kid who sits back and figures out everyone in the room. I feel like that was my plan all along. Also, Dj is the best tattoo artist I know and he just happens to be a good buddy of mine. I wasn't worried about going home early, I was only worried about making it to the finale. I felt like we were already in the finale from day one and being patient to get there was the hard part.

**DJ:** I think because we were friends before this and became even closer throughout the show. We didn't let the BS get to us. We helped each other stay levelheaded. Also, we complimented each other with our different technical styles. He spotted things in the tattoo that I could improve on and vice versa.

### Had you ever collaborated together before the show?

**Bubba:** Yes. It was a lot of fun and we each had our own part of the tattoo that we did from start to finish. It was challenging switching on and off, but it was fun.

**DJ:** I have been tattooing awhile but haven't done too many collaborations throughout my career. We wanted to get ready for the situation, so yeah, Bubba and I did do some collabs in preparation.

### Will you collaborate again in the future?

**Bubba:** We for sure will, DJ is a good buddy of mine.

**DJ:** Oh yes, we plan on doing joint collaborations and even have plans for one. In fact, the show has opened me up to wanting to do more collaborations in general. Like I mentioned, before the show, I had done very few and was a bit resistant to doing them.

### What was it like winning the competition?

**Bubba:** It still hasn't really sunk in, it's very surreal. Whenever I was on season four, I only wanted to make it past halfway and I didn't really expect to get that far. Then this time around, having practiced so much, I thought that we would get pretty far. When we made it to the finale, it was like “Oh shit, we really have a chance.” It's crazy and I'm still getting used to it.

**DJ:** The craziest feeling ever. The arena chanting your name. The cheering really got to me. It was very emotional and a very rewarding feeling. A totally amazing experience.

# glory : [glawr-ee, glohr-ee]

**Big time brawlin' under the world's most famous arena!**

By Matt Kaplan portraits by Jared Ryder, ring shots by Frankie Bonn







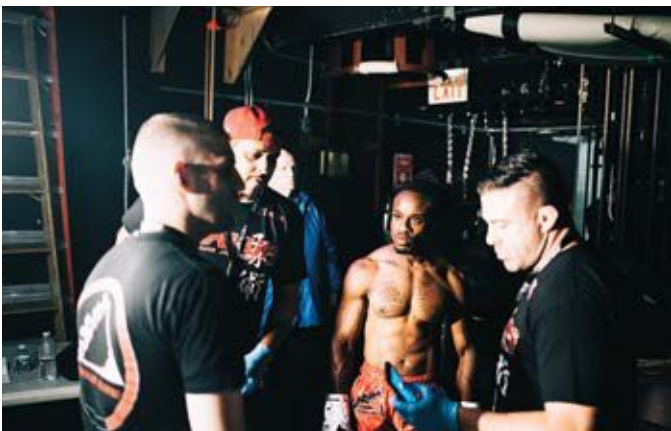


There are certain guarantees across the combat sports spectrum. At a Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu tournament well-executed sweeps, escapes and submissions are a guarantee. A mixed martial arts event guarantees a sampler plate of wrestling, judo and Muay Thai, to name just a few. But GLORY Kickboxing? These mother-fuckers are going to stand and bang, guaranteed! No chokes, no takedowns, and no ground fighting. And the fulfillment of these simple guarantees unites us in the most unlikely of ways.



On Friday, July 14, the WNBA's New York Liberty played the Chicago Sky at Madison Square Garden, but the real action that night took place just beneath the court. Downstairs, in The Theater at MSG, the promoters behind "GLORY 43: New York" paraded out some of the most accomplished stand-and-bangers from across the world.

After improbably making my way backstage, the first face I came across belonged to Terrence Hill, a veteran New Yorker who took his fight against China's Chenchen Li on just six days' notice. Perhaps more remarkable than the short notice is the long layoff for the laid-back, soft-spoken Hill, who hadn't fought professionally in five years. As for advanced scouting on Li, Hill's trainer Keith Trimble chuckled, "All we know is that he's from China, and he's gonna try to kick us."



Down the frenzied hallway from Hill, I spotted six-time kickboxing world champion Bobby Campbell warming up with the man he was sending in to do battle, Lennox Chance, a dreadlocked 42-year-old from Guyana with a 48-7 record.

"This is a do-or-die fight," Campbell said unapologetically as he and Chance drilled a right uppercut-left hook combination. Bang, BANG! "Just watch. This is what'll win it for us." Bang, BANG!

On the other side of the wall, beneath a Peaky Blinders haircut was Jonathan Di Bella, a 20-year-old Italian-Canadian whom I'd seen on YouTube billed as "The Future of Fighting." Wide-eyed, friendly and smooth-skinned, he doesn't at all look like a fighter, but who gives a shit what he looks like. He's for real. His father Angelo is a retired, two-time world kickboxing champion who broke his son into the fight game at the ready age of two. So when Jonathan says things like, "Fighting is fighting. I'll fight anyone, any time," he really means it.



Not far from the Di Bella camp was the U.K.'s Bailey Sudgen with his badass full sleeve of Iron Man's mechanical arm.

Then there was Ariel Sepulveda, a powerful Dominican who not only played minor league baseball for the Astros but also used to work kids' parties dressed up as a certain purple dinosaur. And swarthy Pavel Zhuravlev, a Ukrainian dream haunter with angry knuckles who would later pound on Brazil's Saulo Cavallari to capture the promotion's interim light heavyweight championship.

Being around these fighters immediately before and after their victories and defeats reminded me of a few things regarding the human condition. Whether we wear gloves or neckties, mouthpieces or lipstick, we all face uncertainty, and we all hear whispers of self-doubt. We're largely defined, however, by how willingly we bitch-slap those



nagging insecurities and reject the outstretched arms of complacency. In essence, we're all fighting something, so we all need a reliable cornerman, a smart strategy, and enough balls to keep moving forward, especially when we don't want to. This isn't speculation or some unique interpretation of mine; it was all right there, as plain as day, written across the faces of these world-class GLORY fighters.

And I wasn't the only one to pick up on this theme. Union workers, hipsters and Wall Street wannabes sat alongside high-heeled Russian beauties, sunburnt Brazilian teenagers and fiery Albanians, all gripped by the action inside the ropes, all appreciative of fighting as a microcosm of the world around us. We all related immediately to the simplicity of two fighters trading strikes, and perhaps even imagined ourselves beneath the bright lights. We cheered good head movement, condemned rule breaking, and studied the fighters with rapt attention. It was as if GLORY's polished product was nothing more than a reflection of our own anxieties, aggressions and aspirations.

Then again, maybe we just wanted to see our guy beat the shit out of the other guy.

Ultimately, Terrence Hill's absence from the ring proved too long, and the bigger, fresher Chenchen Li stopped him in the first round.

On the bright side, young Jonathan Di Bella kept his impressive undefeated streak alive with a convincing unanimous decision win.

His opponent? 42-year-old Lennox Chance. Now 48-8.

In the co-main event, Albanian Elvis Gashi whooped the highly touted Canadian Josh Jauncey like he stole something, dropping him three times in the second round for the TKO victory.

After turning Mo Abdurahman into highlight reel material, American Kevin Vannostrand was too much for Giga Chikadze in the featherweight contender tournament finale and earned the lopsided decision.

The main event of the evening saw "The Romanian Gentleman" Benjamin Adegbuyi, GLORY's top-ranked heavyweight, face the heavily tattooed Brazilian bruiser Guto Inocente, a devotee of "Thug Kickboxing." Both men ate big shots and seemed at times to be dancing the Stanky Leg, but the judges gave the split decision to Inocente, who's now itching for a title shot.

If a picture is worth a thousand words, an image of the MSG crowd at GLORY 43 calls for multiple translations, as fighters and fans travelled to midtown Manhattan from China, Romania, Israel, Brazil and everywhere in between. The most amazing part of the evening wasn't a Kevin VanNostrand spinning back fist or Golden Gloves champion Joe Taylor serving Sepulveda an all-you-can-eat buffet of right hands. Hell, it wasn't even the smoking-hot ring card girls. Instead, it was the atmosphere, equal parts intimacy and violence, provided by the diverse, colorful crowd. Fight fans from everywhere gathered inside the world's most famous arena to watch world-class strikers stand and bang, and GLORY gave them what they came for.

Amidst the familiar smells of overpriced New York beer and not-so-fresh soft pretzels were flags of nearly every color and accents from nearly every corner of the globe. Punches flew, blood dripped, and somehow, for a few hours on a Friday in Manhattan, foreign tongues didn't seem so foreign. It was glorious.





# KATIE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHASE STEPHENSON  
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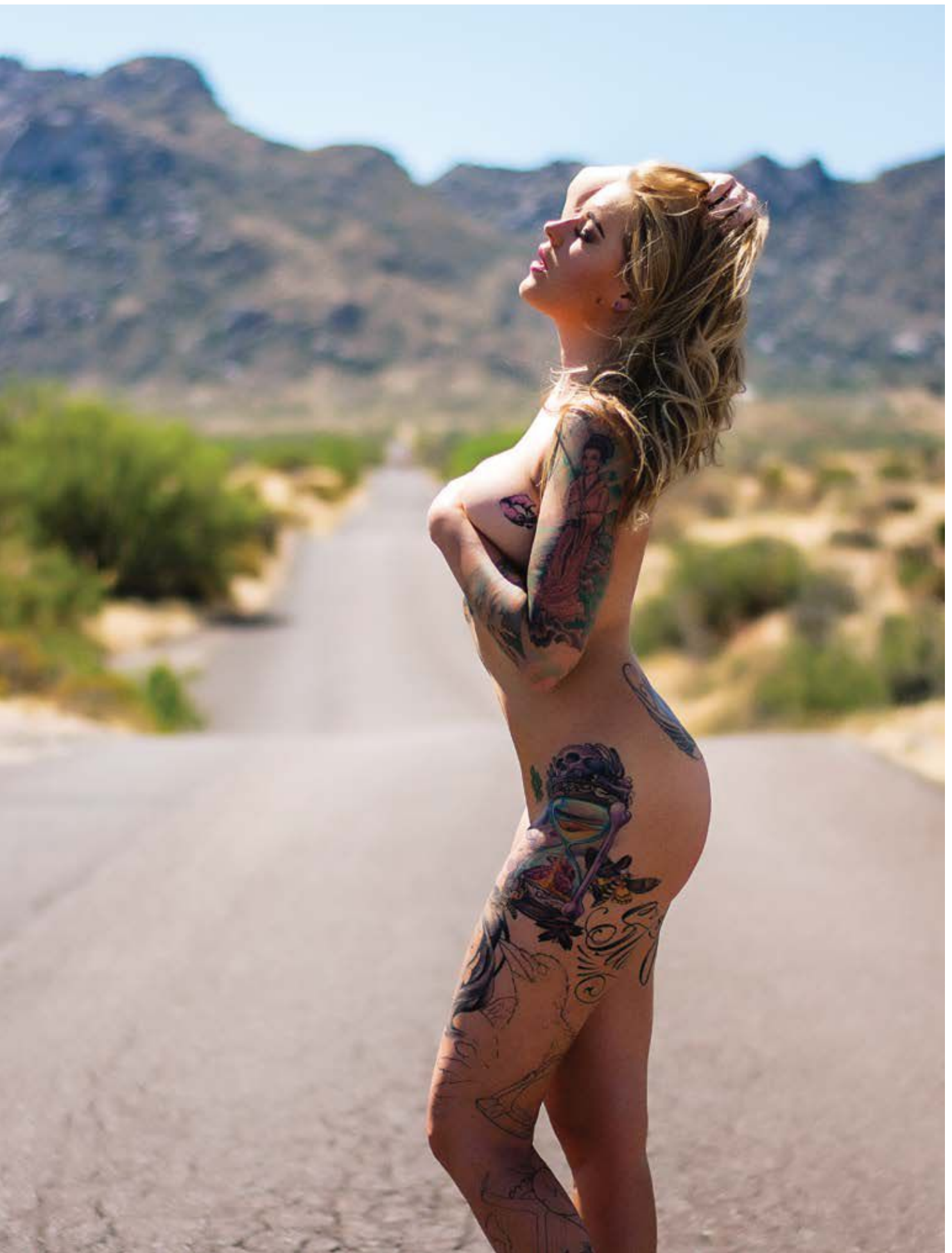










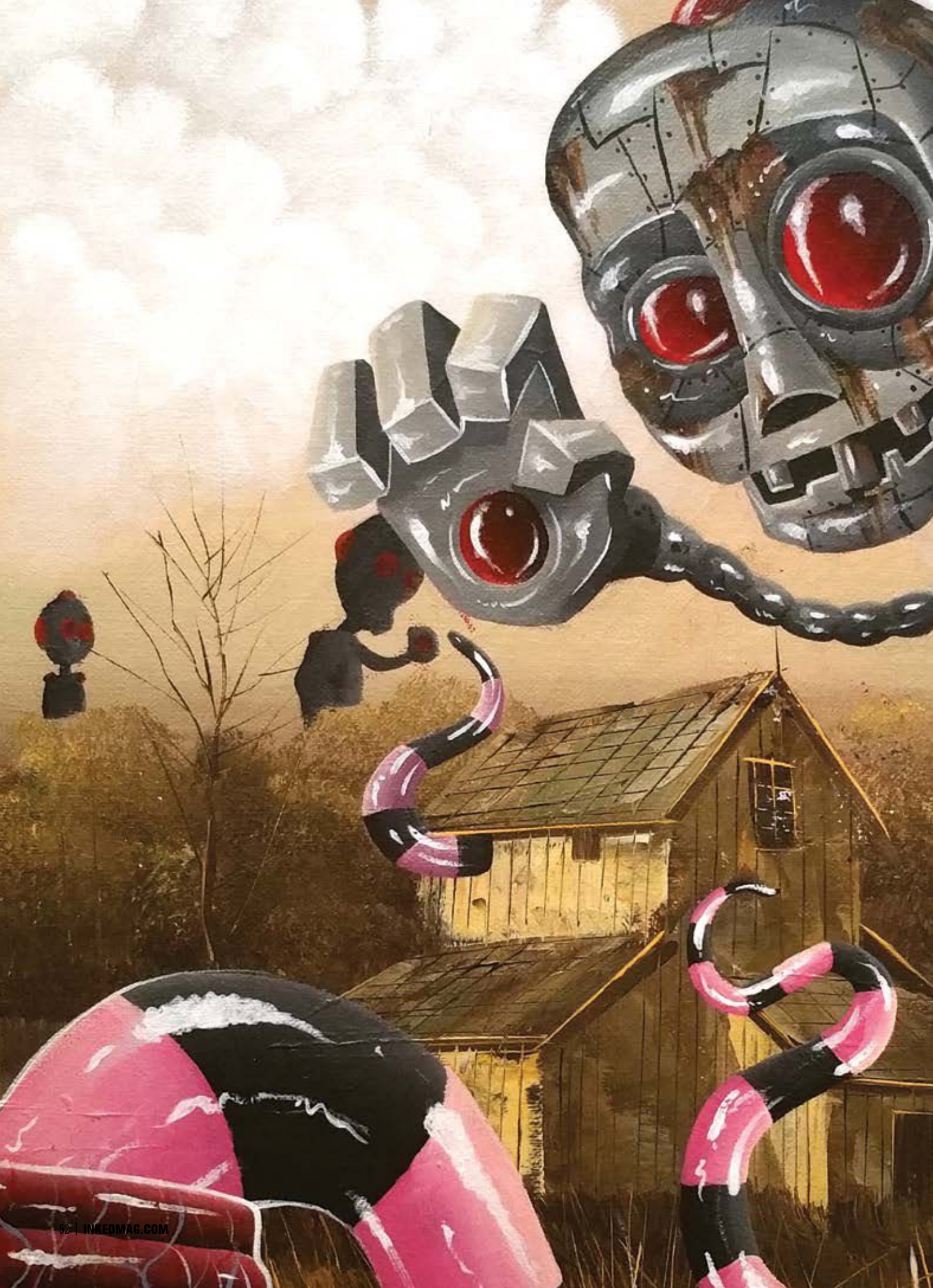


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# JASON ACKERMAN

Exercising the right of free speech  
through the power of his art

By Devon Preston

For centuries, artists have stood on the front lines of political battlegrounds, using painting, cartoons and tattooing as a means of exposing truth to the world. One of the artists who has flourished in Trump's America is Jason Ackerman. He tells *Inked* that he sees himself as somewhat of a social satirist as he carefully inks cartoonish breasts onto the caricatured body of the late Hugh Hefner. "It's doing things that are tongue and cheek, with a fucked-up skew on reality."

Like many Americans navigating the challenging political climate today, Ackerman was seeking an outlet to unleash his opinions about the chaos going on around him. However, instead of expressing his grievances with the world on Twitter or Facebook, Ackerman uses art. "With everything that's going on and not being able to speak how you want to speak because people get offended so easily, it's just better to put it in my art," he says. This approach not only satiated his own desire for truth but struck a chord with a nation that is paralyzed by corrupt politicians, fake news and the shackles of PC culture.

Although Ackerman's rise to recognition in the fine art world comes at a time when the American people are fighting against both the system and their fellow citizen, the transition from machines to brushes wasn't the effortless experience that some might expect. Yet, despite an initial awkward phase, Ackerman found his voice as a painter. "I could no longer speak my truth through tattooing," he explains. "So it was just a natural evolution to go to painting and be able to create for me."

Since catching his first big break as a painter, his first solo exhibition *Blessed with The Living Gallery Outpost* in New York's East Village, Ackerman's saw his artistic vision come full circle. "When I did the political caricatures, I didn't really intend on doing them as tattoos, I just wanted to see what people would say," Ackerman says. Yet news of flash featuring a sobbing Hillary Clinton spread like wildfire within the community and today he's booked solid with tattoos that push the boundaries of free speech and artistic expression.

To those who are wondering if Ackerman views his art as a form of protest, he is quick to clarify the purpose of his paintings. Instead of making statement, he uses his work as a means of inspiring people with diverse backgrounds and opinions to strike up conversation. "At the end of the day, as a painter if I got you talking then I did my job," Ackerman says. "Whether you're talking good or bad, I did what I'm supposed to do."









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# CULTURE



## THOR: RAGNAROK

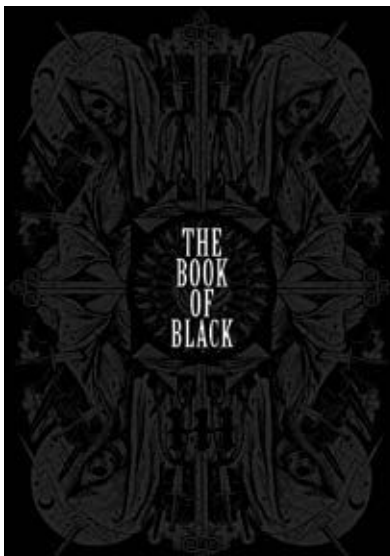
While we anxiously await the summer 2018 juggernaut Avengers: Infinity War, Marvel is giving Thor: Ragnarok to hold us over, and it's a mini-Avengers outing in its own right. An imprisoned Thor (Chris Hemsworth) finds himself as a contestant in a gladiatorial death match somewhere across the universe. There he is reunited with the Hulk

(Mark Ruffalo). The two team up to break free and race back to Asgard to stop Ragnarok (that's basically "the end of the world" in Asgardian). This time, the all-powerful villain is Hela (Cate Blanchett), and Thor will need all the help he can get to stop her, even if it means accepting the help of his two-faced brother, Loki (Tom Hiddleston). —*Gil Macias*

## THE BOOK OF BLACK

From fine art to street style, the aesthetics and motifs of the gothic are entwined with the heart of today's alt-visual culture. Featuring 137 illustrations and over three defining chapters "Gods & Monsters—The Kingdom of Darkness" and "Dark Arts/Higher Power", The Book of Black provides an exploratory visual narrative through which to reveal and celebrate the artists, aesthetics and styles of today's gothic visual arts, presenting seminal gothic artworks alongside emerging artists of today. Available from Luarence King

— *Paul G.*



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— *PG*



## STAR WARS: THE LAST JEDI

The next chapter in the Star Wars saga is here with Star Wars: The Last Jedi, aka Episode VIII. When we last saw Rey (Daisy Ridley), she had just met face-to-face with the reclusive and legendary Jedi master Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill). Little is known about the plot, but it seems Rey will continue to fulfill her destiny, seemingly to train with a conflicted Luke. Meanwhile, Poe (Oscar Isaac) and Finn (John Boyega) are up to the usual resistance good-guy stuff. The mysterious, dark side puppet master Supreme Leader Snoke (Andy Serkis) and his star pupil, Kylo Ren (Adam Driver), are the Sith baddies. Many old faces like Chewbacca and R2-D2 are set to return, but this will likely be the final and bittersweet appearance of Princess Leia (the late Carrie Fisher). —*GM*



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HAWK 10th ANNIVERSARY



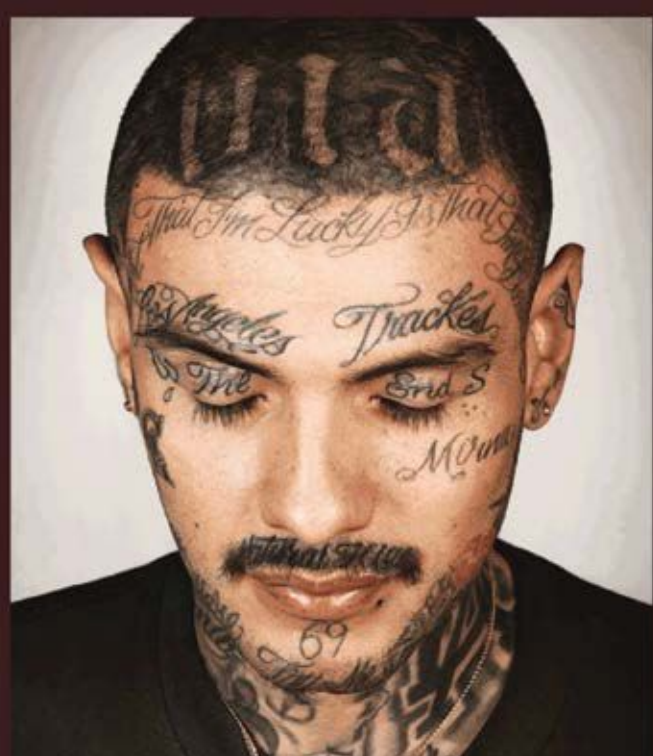
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## Dead Men Walking

Photographer Steven Burton set out to photograph realistic portraits of former gang members who are trying to escape the revolving door of death and prison. For these men and women, the aftermath of gang life is not only carried within — it is also scrawled across their faces and bodies. Skin Deep uniquely highlights the impact tattoos have on the way a person is perceived by showing what each participant might look like without them. — PG

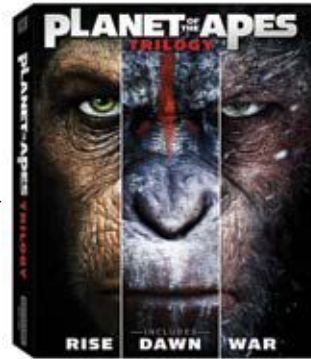


## JUSTICE LEAGUE

DC scored bigtime with their first solo female superhero movie, Wonder Woman, which went on to be the comic-based box office champion of 2017. It was critically praised and a welcome entry into the iffy DC cinematic universe, especially after the lukewarm reception of Suicide Squad and Batman v Superman. Let's hope that Wonder Woman injects some much needed fire into this first, and highly anticipated, all-star DC team up which also features: Batman (Ben Affleck), Aquaman (Jason Momoa), The Flash (Ezra Miller), Cyborg (Ray Fisher) and yes, a resurrected Superman (Henry Cavill). —GM

## PLANET OF THE APES TRILOGY

Go ape this holiday season and witness the evolution of Caesar with this all-new Planet of the Apes Trilogy which features: Rise of the Planet of the Apes, Dawn of the Planet of the Apes and the recent mind-blowing finale, War for the Planet of the Apes. Special features for War include all-new exclusive deleted scenes and behind-the-scenes featurettes. — GM



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# A BLESSING...for those who RIDE HARD and LIVE FREE

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May the rain fall behind me,  
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May the angels guard my travels,  
For they know the road ahead of me.

Keep me safe through  
Swirling turns and rolling hills,  
Let the eagle guide me  
To the mountaintops.

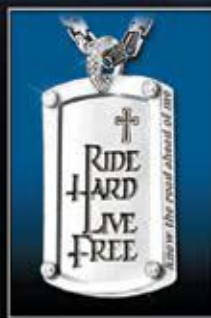
Let the moonlight guide me  
Through the night.  
Let the air of spring  
Breathe life into my soul,  
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stainless steel



Boldly sculpted  
design with:

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- Tire-shaped bail
- Sculpted chopper  
and cross



Reverse side

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Words from the "Biker's Blessing" are etched around the sides

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# WILDE ABOUT SEX

Jessica Wilde (@JessicaWilde) 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).

**I've been dating this woman for three months and I can't seem to reach orgasm. Her voice just ruins it for me. How do I tell her to be quiet without sounding like a dick? -Justin Mitchell**

Are you into bondage, Justin? If you don't have the balls to tell her to quiet down, try placing one in her mouth. If you're not into gagging your significant other you might just have to man up and tell her that her vocals make you soft.

**How do I make two women love me at the same time?- ridiculouss**

How does this sound like a good time? One woman is enough work as it is. Women know everything, and if they don't know everything they will eventually find out. I suggest working on how to please one woman for now. Good luck!

**I've been wanting to sleep with this girl for a really long time but I'm worried that when/if it happens I'll be so infatuated with her beauty that I won't last long enough to satisfy her. How can I prepare for that not to happen or handle it if it does?- Shane**

If you made a girl cum too fast, how would you feel? Chances are she is going to be extremely flattered that you are so turned on with her. Now if/when this happens you will still need to take care of business so you're going to have to put your money where your mouth is, so to speak.

**Is there such thing as lasting too long? - crodemon**

YES! There is a common misconception that long, drawn-out sex is good sex. In reality it's about intensity and the quality of the orgasm. Honestly, if it's longer than 20 minutes, you're doing something wrong and I'm already thinking about what I want to eat after.



## Eviz Mini Plus

Home security has come a long way. The new Eviz Mini Plus is one of the best compact indoor cameras and it can mount almost anywhere. The camera offers a 135-degree viewing angle and two-way audio that lets you talk to your family back at home. However, there's more to this camera than just a cool way to keep an eye on the dog. With its 1080HD recording capabilities you can even use this camera to livestream you and your friends engaging in the fun activities that, well, the average security cameras are set up to catch people doing. And it's under \$70!



Instead of bringing someone holiday cheer this season, bring them some holiday fear with this exclusive collector's edition of the controversial '80s slasher flick, *Silent Night, Deadly Night*, a Christmas-themed horror movie about the disturbed Billy Chapman who goes on a slay ride through town, dressed as Santa, to "punish the naughty." No, this is no *Miracle on 34th Street*. Order the deluxe edition (limited to 2,000 copies) through Shout! Factory and you'll get the Blu-ray along with an exclusive 18x24 poster and an 8" Billy/Killer Santa action figure designed by NECA. — GM

GAME OF THRONES:  
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This Complete Series box set is coming to Blu-ray, so you'll have plenty of time to venture through Westeros again with hours of bonus features before the next season arrives. If you already own every season, the Complete Seventh Season is also available on its own with new bonus content including audio commentaries and two new BTS featurettes. Act fast, because there's a limited-time bonus disc containing "Conquest & Rebellion: An Animated History of the Seven Kingdoms," which explains the events that transpired thousands of years prior to Season 1. — GM

## Shin Guard Chic

You spent thousands getting those shins tatted up...and damn it was painful. Let's not scar up that black-and-grey portrait and/or endure any more serious pain out on the field. Here's your chance to still look fashionable while keeping those legs safe from the "errant" mud-caked cleats heading for your shins and not the ball. So, next time you hit the field slap on these Pro-S shin guards from G-Form. — PG

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By Devon Preston and Paul Gambino

# TEEJ POOL





When you hear the words "doctor" and "tattoo", you don't typically imagine an individual filling both categories, am I right? However, in the case Teej Poole, it's OK to refer to him as Dr. Tattoo. Poole, a European-style, black-and-gray realism artist, has impressed tattoo enthusiasts from across the country and around the globe with his impressive technique and expansive understanding of artistic principles. Elegantly blurring the line between the prestigious world of academic fine art and the grit 'n' grime of tattooing, this doctor of art defies every stereotype in the book. Throughout his mere seven years in the biz, he's garnered a healthy client base, as well as plenty of fans who covet his individualized interpretation of realistic surrealism. Within his work, he seamlessly weaves together realms of the conscious and subconscious, permanently embedding dreams, fears and fantasies into the skin. Poole is an artist and an influencer in this industry that every novice of the craft needs to keep their eyes on. Because when it comes down to enlightening the malleable minds of the next generation to what it means to be a great tattooer, there's no better way than analyzing the impressive artistry that Poole produces day in and day out.

**Where are you from?** I was born and raised in Graham, North Carolina. I had a great upbringing by my mom, grandmother and grandfather. My mom was a single parent raising two children, my sister and myself, with only the help from my grandparents when they had it to spare. My mom always made it happen for us, meaning that if we wanted something she would provide it and make sure we didn't go without. Most of the time that meant she went without instead.

**How did you get into the arts?** I started being "artsy" as early as five years old. In fact, my grandfather has a drawing I did of a dragon, which was probably actually a dinosaur, that I did 26 years ago. All through school I had a penchant for art and in 2007 I began studying at North Carolina A&T State where I majored in visual arts and design.

The only reason I took this major is because it didn't require a math. So for the next several years I concentrated on oil painting and Spanish baroque art. I received several accolades and was even considering becoming an art professor after getting my Doctorate.

**What about tattooing?** I have been tattooing for seven years. This has been the longest I've ever stuck it out doing anything besides sports. I did start with a traditional apprenticeship, but it only lasted a couple of months because the guy that was guiding me quit. I learned most early on by YouTube and watching Bob Tyrrell and Paul Booth. By year two and three, I had met up with Scotty Whitaker and he put me great situations with the people I look up to the most. I would take what they were doing and try to implement it to my style I was going for at the time. The best thing that happened to me at that time in my career is that I got a critique from Sarah Miller while we were waiting for food at the Primanti Bros. in Pittsburgh after the Steel City show. She put a lot of things in perspective for me. I was also able to get insight from Robert Pho and he told me, "You can only do what you see." Those words stick with me everyday. Josh "I'm going to bring the" Payne gave me the most anxiety when he told me my work didn't have black but I was using black. It took me some time, but I realized that he was saying saturate your black and so I did from that point on. Paul

Kirk is one of my besties and he gave me the knowledge on how to make and save money in a career that can make a broke man rich and a rich man broke in the same breath.

**How has your tattooing changed since then?** The way I approach a piece now as compared to early in my career is my use of rich, dark areas. I also keep a good amount of open skin so there is contrast and complement, with neither one overpowering the other. I also use small needle groupings when tattooing to try to saturate the skin as efficiently as possible.

When I first became a tattooer, I would tattoo only stuff I was comfortable doing and that still happens today. I can say the clientele that I had when I first started tattooing only came to me because my prices were very low and my quality was better than most in the area at the time. Most think I don't tattoo a lot of darker skin clientele and that I only tattoo fair skin people, but the fact of the matter is I will tattoo anyone no matter what the tone of the skin is as long as they have an understanding that what's bright on someone's fair skin will not be the same on dark skin.

**How has the industry changed since you started?** In the last five years the industry is making a lot of changes. The change I speak of is rotaries—coils are still being used worldwide, but if you were to go to a convention five years ago the sound of coils would be echoing throughout the building. Now the venue is loud with the entertainment, as well as the crowds of people, but not so much the sound of the machines, because the sound you'll hear if close enough is a high buzz, like from an electric toothbrush. The other change is the amount of expos and conventions there are these days as well. Seems like there's one every weekend throughout the year. The last thing that has changed is the amount of sponsored artists. It seems like the industry has a blueprint of the NBA and how to set up teams and rosters to promote their product. It's beneficial to both parties at the end of the day and helps keep the industry progressively moving forward with new product and better ways of creating tattoos.

**What influenced your style?** I would have to say my style is influenced by the

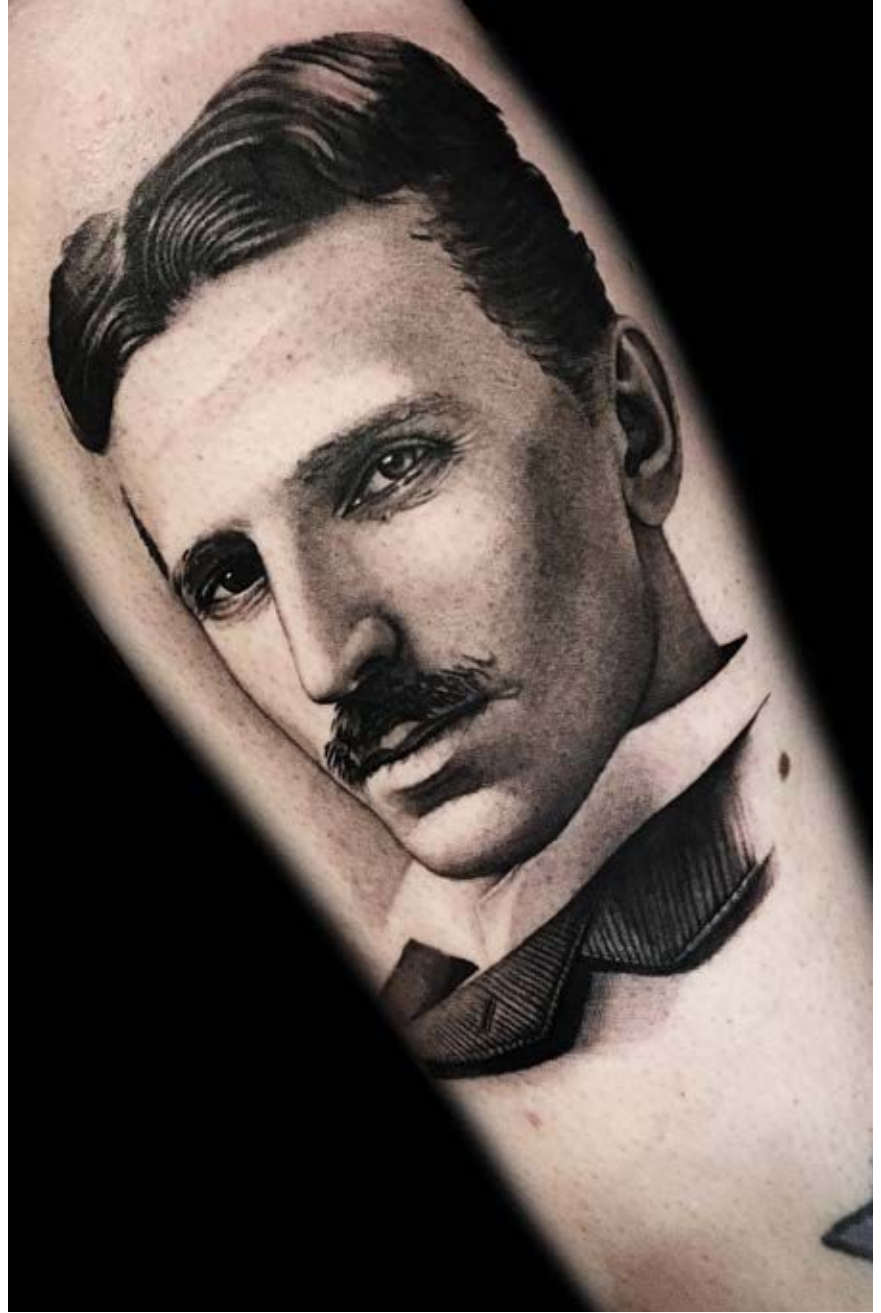
European style of tattooing. I try to bring as much contrast and detail together, so that my work will be as pleasing and easily identifiable to look at from a distance as it is from being up close. On the technical end, the use of rounds has changed my approach to tattooing by being able to get a texture feel right besides smooth gradient transition.

**What led you to work in surrealism?** I began to add elements into my portraits to help narrate the composition. The portrait is just the focal point in the mix of emotion from the complementary elements added. I try to bring the eyes throughout the whole piece instead of them being fixed on the portrait. There so many great portrait artists and the only way to really set yourself apart is by composition. I think I'll continue to grow with this because it gives my mind the most thought while creating it. If the composition seems difficult, then it was definitely fun to tattoo and that's what I'm trying to do is have fun.

**Have you ever worked in color?** I am a black-and-grey artist, but in the beginning I was doing more color than black-and-gray. I decided to turn towards black-and-gray because color wasn't giving me the detailed and realistic look I was going for. All of the artists I looked up to were amazing black-and-grey artists and I wanted to be like them. Tye Harris did a color rose on a neck about seven years ago and that made me want to do color flowers, but that was short lived. I think I would rather be good at one specific thing and try to "Nikko that," or master it.

**What are some challenges being a tattooer?** The challenge that occurs more often than not, as a tattooer knows, is when to turn it off and have a day off. Vacations aren't vacations if you have your phone with you because emails and Instagram are a constant distraction from reality. But without those things you may not be able to take a vacation, and that may be my most challenging aspect of tattooing.

**What are some of your lifetime goals?** In the next 10 to 20 years, I plan and hope to have an amazing shop full of amazing artists that I can work alongside. I would like to see one of my kids become a tattooist so I can pass along the knowledge I've gathered in my career to them.







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# LAZER LIZ

FOLLOW: @LAZERLIZ

## How did you get into tattooing?

It was a rather natural process for me. I was always artistic, and I went to art school in Israel. I also always liked tattoos; my dad has them so it wasn't ever unusual for me. A few years after I moved to the USA I went into a tattoo shop and asked to be trained. I started apprenticing and soon enough, tattooing became a big part of my life.

## Do you have any special training?

I learned the basics as an apprentice, of course, plus years of practice. Like with anything you do, the more you do it the better you become. Also working with and around other artists is definitely good for learning new tricks and perfecting the skill.

## What are the major differences between color and black-and-gray pieces?

Well, it's a different approach overall. With black-and-gray you are not working with so many different tones and colors so it's easier. Color is harder in many ways to be able to do it right. And it ages differently.

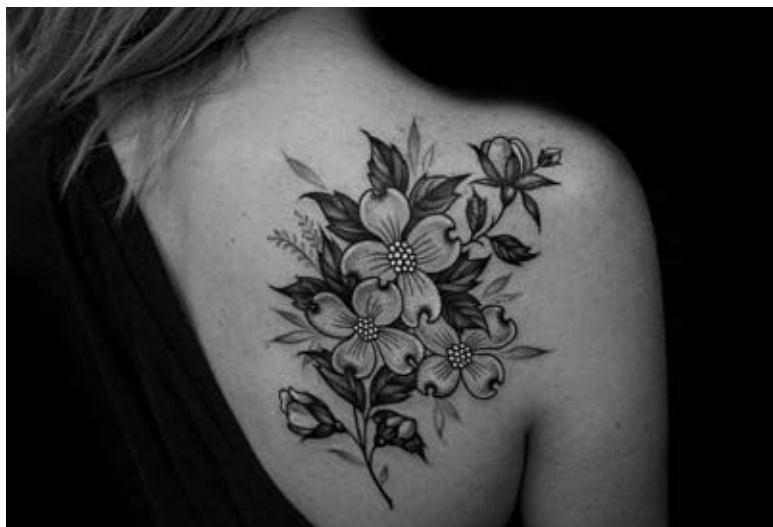
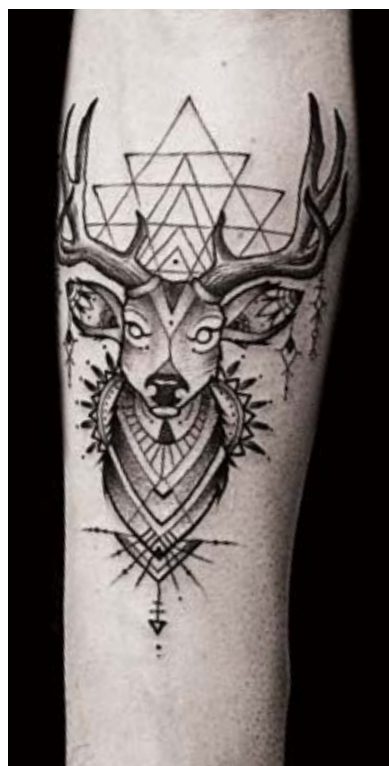
## Which tattoo artists do you admire most?

Oh my! I have a lot. From different styles and all corners of the world. To name a few: Susanne Suflanda Konig, Justin Ryan Olivier, Emily Rose Murray, Valerie Vargas, Gianluca Fusco and Diletta Lembo. Abby Drielsma and Xam the Spaniard. Also Rodrigo Souto is an all-time peony magician. That's just the tip of the iceberg.

## How do you see the black-and-gray scene evolving?

There are lots of different styles of black-and-gray now. But tattooing in general is evolving. Many different styles are now available, not only in black-and-gray. With all the new tools and the exposure, tattooing has become more professional, widespread and dare I say accepted. Amen to that!

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#### HOW DO YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE?

That is a difficult question for me to answer. I like to think my work has a style of its own, but if it needs an actual term, I consider myself an illustrative artist. I also feel like my work is constantly evolving with my current state of mind. My state of mind, especially this year, is somewhat chaotic. Ideas come quickly; sometimes they are clear and other times they are out of focus.

I had two open-heart surgeries this year, one in March and another in September. I had an aortic dissection and aneurysm. The condition is very rare and highly fatal. Most people who have a dissection in the heart have 24 to 48 hours to live. Within four hours of being at the hospital that night in March, I was in surgery. It was all very sudden and extremely unexpected. After such a major surgery your life changes pretty drastically and immediately. That first week I spent in the hospital recovering I remember as a haze. I woke up with a "push button" device that would feed me fentanyl, one of the strongest opiate painkillers on earth, 100 times stronger than morphine. My throat was extremely sore and I had a pretty bad cough after getting my breathing tube removed. So with that I was also given codeine cough syrup and a variety of other drugs. All that in combination with my newly disfigured body led me to a very different emotional head space. This affected my art style.

For example, after my first surgery you might notice that my color palette changed. Drug references became more prevalent in my art. I felt like for the first time I was delivering art more intimately. I wanted to illustrate what codeine cough syrup made me feel like, and what it felt like to be on so many different drugs at once. Looking back I realize that this could sound like a perpetuation of drug use but it's not. For me, it's a moment in my life where a circumstance, outside of art, affected my art style.

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# LONDON REESE

FOLLOW: @LONDONREESE



## How did you get into tattooing?

I grew up skateboarding, listening to punk rock and metal—tattoos were everywhere. In junior high and high school, I was quite obsessed with tattoo art and started designing tattoos for myself and for friends. I even drew freehand designs on people for lunch money with markers and pens. After awhile, people started encouraging me to learn how to tattoo. So, while studying fine art in college, I started learning how to tattoo by getting tattoos from and watching some great local artists like Nathan Esteras, Marco Gomez and others. I was hooked. It took me a couple of years to get decent and decide to do it fulltime because I was still in school and didn't know that I could actually make a career out of it.



## What led you to work in realism?

I remember studying the oil paintings of Claude Monet and the illustrations of Leonardo Da Vinci as a kid in grade school. I was obsessed with the difference between very loose, impressionistic paintings and very sharp defined sketches and paintings that could all somehow create the illusion of realism. It fascinated me and still does. I started practicing life drawing really young and tried to imitate the masters that I was exposed to.

## What inspires you as an artist?

Music and traveling inspire my work and me more than anything else. Seeing the world and creating a soundtrack for my adventures is everything.



## How has social media impacted your work?

Social media has drastically impacted my work. I'm inspired, daily, by hundreds of insane artists who post their latest work at all times of the day. I see something epic that someone else has done, on skin or a mural on a 150-foot building, and think to myself, "Damn, I have to step up my game!" So, back to work I go with a brand new motivation to be better.

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# NICO PEREZ

FOLLOW: @INKBYNICO



**How did you get into tattooing?** I was born in the country of Uruguay in South America. My parents immigrated to New Jersey in 2000 when I was 11 years old. I have to say: I never thought I would have become a tattoo artist. I was always involved in art but didn't think I could ever make a good living from it. It all started about eight years ago. One day, while I was finishing my senior year in high school, a friend of mine was going to go get a tattoo from her cousin at his shop and she asked me to come with her. I happened to have my sketchbook with me and the next thing I know, he offered to teach me to tattoo. I apprenticed for about a year before I started tattooing full time.

**What led you to work in black-and-gray?** When I first started I was doing a lot of color, but I have always loved the look of black-and-gray tattoos. I like the smooth and classic look to them. I also wanted to stick to one specific style and try to master it.

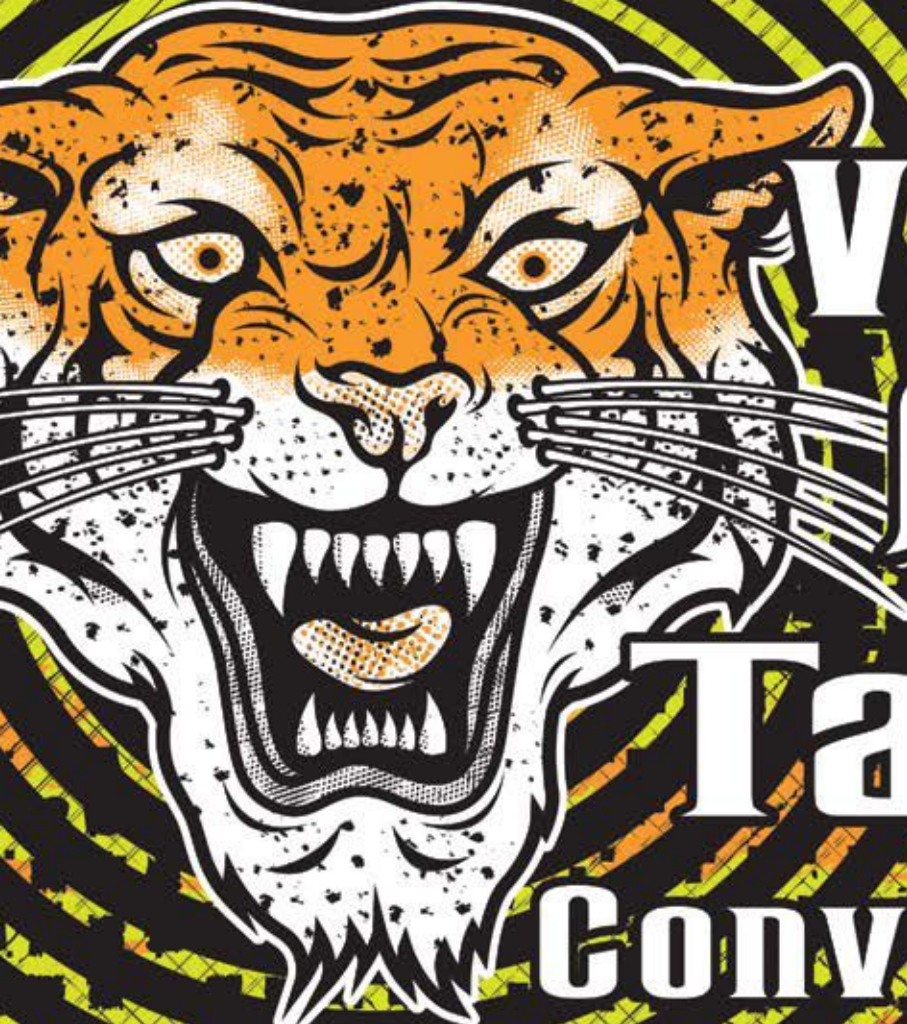
**What inspires you as an artist?** Definitely looking at some of the best tattoo artists' work inspires me to try to reach that level of greatness. I dream of one day becoming a world-known black-and-gray tattoo artist like Josh Duffy, Paul Booth, Victor Portugal, Carlos Torres and Carl Grace, to name a few.

**How has social media impacted your work?** Social media for me has been nothing short of amazing. It is helping me get my name out, not only to people around me but also to people all around the world.

**Where do you see yourself in the next five years as an artist?** In five years, perhaps my dream of becoming an internationally known tattoo artist, traveling and tattooing all over Europe and other parts of the world, will eventually come true.

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# KRISTEN

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By Devon Preston

# MIKE DEVRIES

Mike DeVries is a tattoo industry icon. can claim the title of icon. One of the great color realism artists of the last decade, DeVries helped pave the way for countless tattooers by introducing the world to techniques and ideas that have monumentally changed the art of inking skin. This California artist happened upon tattooing as a career by chance and turned a golden opportunity into a 23-year legacy that continues to thrive to this day. He's traveled the world, inked thousands of tattoos, and owned his own shop, just a few of the myriad accomplishments DeVries has been able to cross off his bucket list—however, he's not slowing down any time soon.

**How did you get into tattooing?**

I was working in construction at the time and ran into by an artist I knew from the shops I was getting tattooed in throughout the years. His name is Jim Hayek and he told me he wanted to tattoo me because he knew how it was such a big part of my life. A few weeks later I got in his chair and he started talking about how he needed an apprentice and I just said, "I'd be all about it!" I guess I can't say it was a traditional apprenticeship but it was enough to get me on my feet. Jim definitely taught me enough, though, and I have to give him props and a huge thank you!

**How do you describe your style?**

Well, technically a lot of people know me as a color realism artist and I still consider myself to be that, but over the past six or seven years I made a decision to start mixing it up. I started doing a lot more black-and-grey and I tried to get away from doing portraits every day because everyone and their mom was doing color portraits. I guess you can say I'm not one that likes to do what everyone else is doing so that was a big reason why I made some adjustments.

**What led you to work in realism?**

I was always attracted to realistic art. I specifically remember while Jim was teaching me I brought in a tattoo magazine that had a feature on Tom Renshaw, who was making insane black-and-gray realistic tattoos of animals. That stuff blew me away and I remember asking Jim, "How the heck is this guy pulling this off?" Jim told me a few little things and to this day, I remember exactly what he told me! Jim was a color bomb guy, but also dabbled in a little color realism such as color pin-ups. So I decided to try what Tom was doing but in color. That's how it all began. Right around that time Bob Tyrrell was blowing my mind, and when I met Mike Demasi, we instantly connected because our styles were similar. That was all at the beginning of the color realism boom. Nikko

was right there too, and I looked up to his work. Also at that time in 2003 Cory Cudney and Robert Hernandez were producing insane work that made me work harder and put forth more effort to try and reach that league.

**What inspires you as an artist?**

Nowadays you can get "inspiration overload" just by jumping on social media. Phenomenal tattoos are being done daily by thousands of artists. If you just stop for minute, slow your scroll, and take it all in, it's crazy to see where realism has come. That is what keeps me going!

---

*I'm just going  
to keep  
working hard,  
learn and try  
and get better!*

---

**What sets you apart from other artists?**

At the end of the day you have to remind yourself you're just a tattoo artist. Tattoo artists get a lot of love and that could be good or bad depending on how that artist takes it. I see way too many tattoo artists with these huge egos. That's not cool in my book! Like I said, there are thousands of great tattoo artists nowadays, so in essence Demasi currently just being able to lay down a good tattoo isn't enough anymore.

Staying levelheaded and providing great customer service is what I would say sets me apart. Not everyone has an ego, but there's a lot, enough for me to answer this question in this fashion. I was one to always say, "Even if you may not be the best, if you provide a great experience for your client they will come back to you. Plan and simple. If you are the best and you gave that client a shitty experience then that's not cool. Yeah, they got a great tattoo, but they might not come back to you for their next piece." That's how I look at it anyways.

**What other mediums do you work in?**

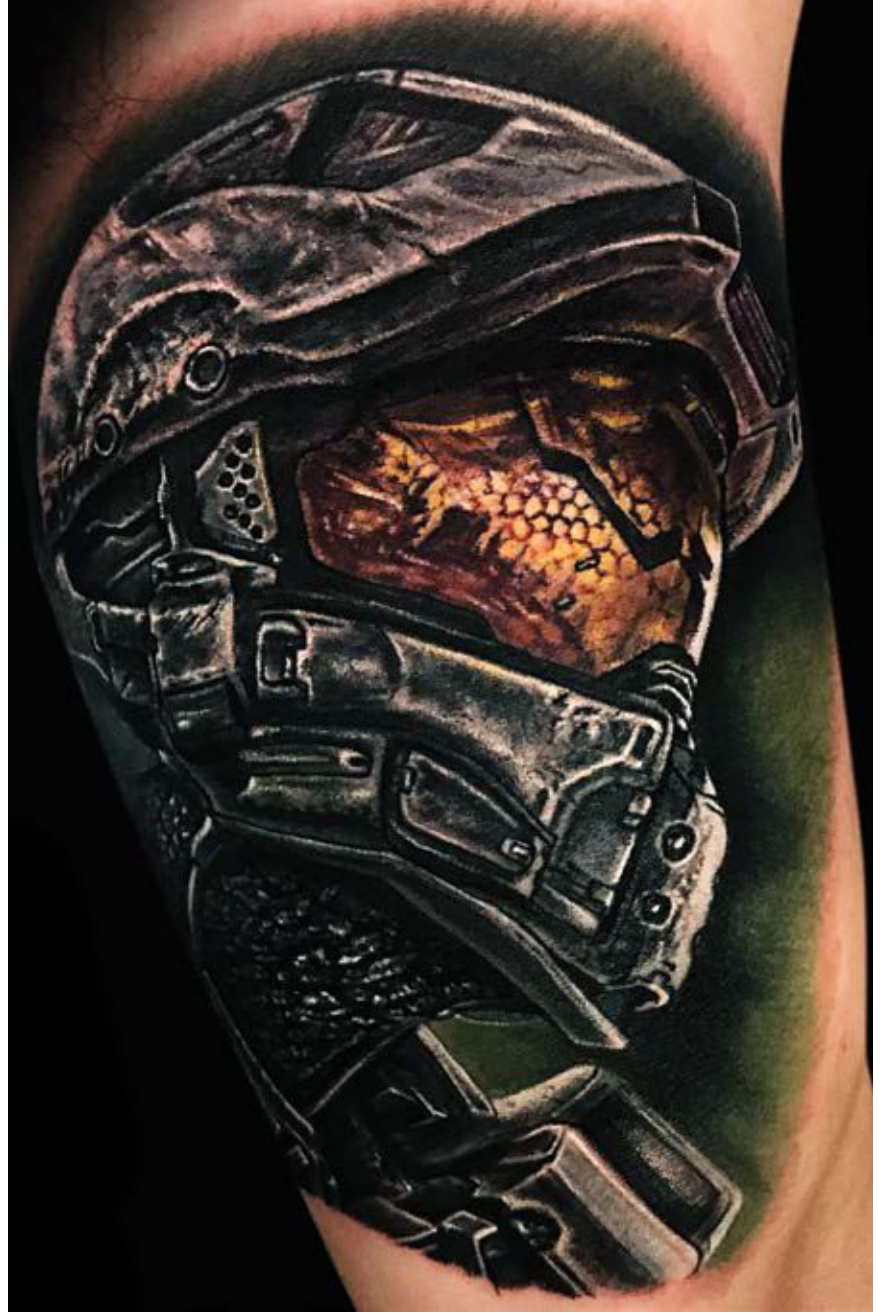
I painted a lot. I did a lot figure drawing and other types of art that focused on the head. It got difficult to balance it all. I know it's important, but it started to wear on me, especially throwing a family in the mix. In a way it started to feel like that's all I did for years. It's kind of like being a construction worker, getting off work then you start remodeling your house and work on it every day after work. Sure, you can do it for awhile, but a time comes when it becomes too much. I believe that is one of the biggest struggles with tattoo artists is how to balance their time. Long story short, I don't sit down and paint like I used to unless I specifically get invited to an art show.

**How has social media impacted your work?**

I believe social media has had an impact on every tattoo artist that is active or at least spends a little time checking out people's posts. Tattoo artists are killing it on the daily! That makes everyone step up their game, or at least try harder. You never want to just settle.

**Where do you see yourself in the next five years as an artist?**

I've answered this question in just about every interview I've ever had and I think it's going to be the same answer and it will probably always be the same. I'm just going to keep working hard, learn and try and get better!










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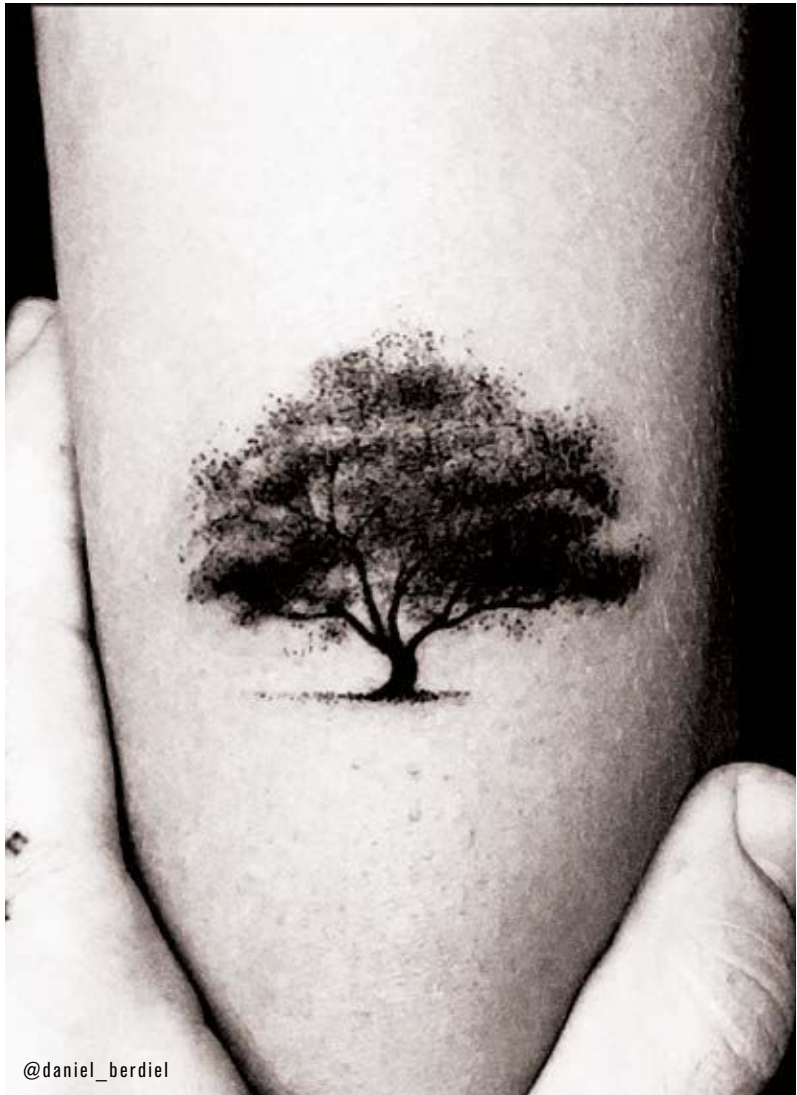
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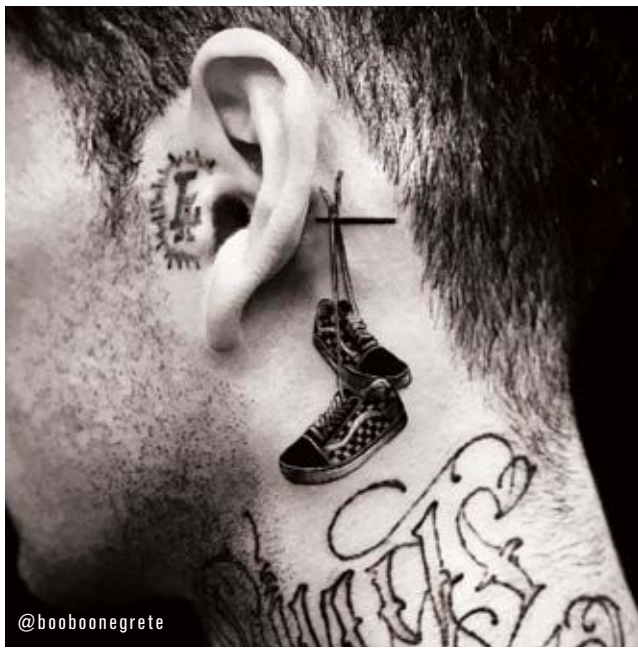
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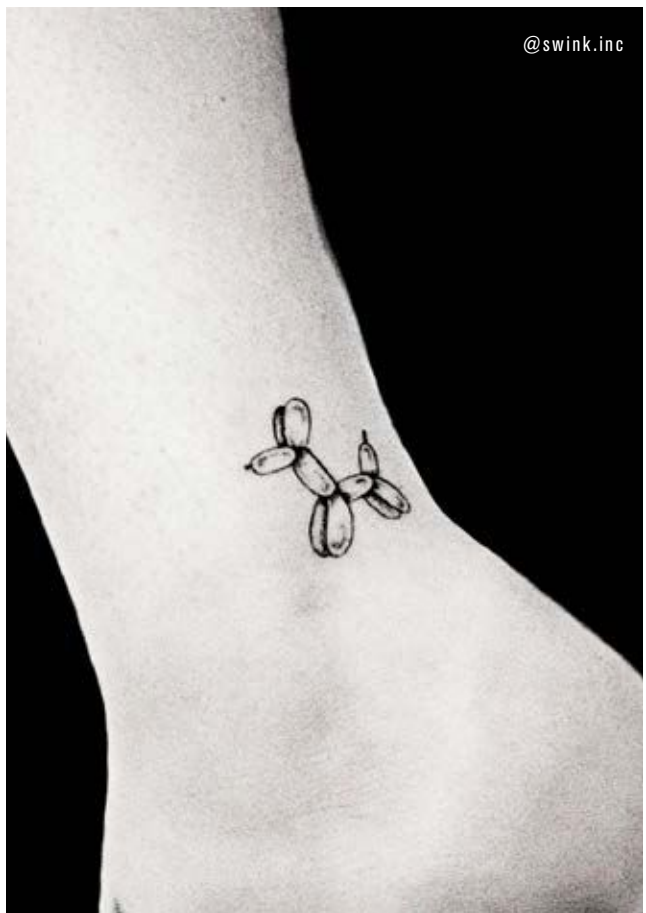
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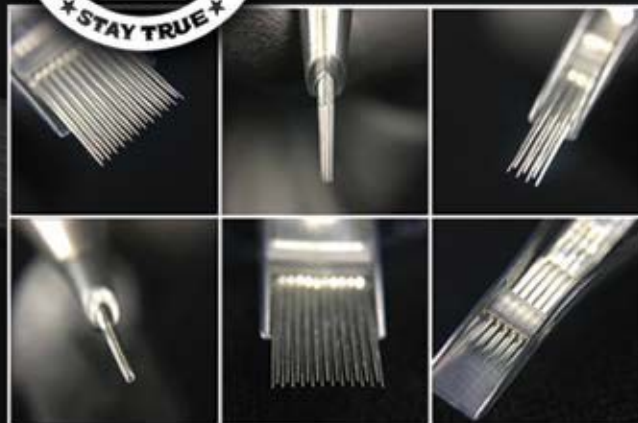


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