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**A**s I am writing this, the snow is still piling up outside my window with no sign of it abating. To start with it was really nice and good fun, going out building snowmen, throwing snow balls and generally getting up to snowy shenanigans; but as the weeks have gone on, I'm getting a little fed up of not being able to get out and about as freely as I am used to. This seems to be the same for all of us up and down the country.

Watching the news also I see that the inclement weather has been affecting businesses, with many having the threat of closure or bankruptcy hanging over their heads like the Sword of Damocles. This is a sorry state of affairs and can only add to the misery and uncertainty for all. We have all heard the doom mongers harping on about the state of the UK's economic situation and this got me thinking about the current state of the tattoo industry.

Recently I was having a chat with a tattooist based in the UK and he mentioned that in his small Southern town, there are at least five other tattoo studios (this is echoed all over the UK as most major town and cities boast at least five studios). He was saying that as well as his own studio, four of the others in his locale are also custom-based shops and one is a walk-in studio; the latter catering for those who want a tattoo 'now' and don't want to wait for something a little more thought-out or a bit more unique. Obviously, if you go for a one-off piece of ink, you will expect to pay a little more than you would for say, a basic piece of flash, and have the possibility of a reasonable wait. This is pretty much universally accepted.

During our conversation, he mentioned that the 'flash shop' locally to him had just put their prices up by twenty pounds on all their tattoo designs. Now you may think to yourself that to put their prices up while nearly every other business is having a sale or



reducing their prices just to entice folk to part with their hard-earned cash is a little risky or just plain foolhardy? But apparently the flash shop is still doing very well without any sort of fallout from their recent price hike.

All the other studios in the area are busy and many are filling their order books for a few months in advance, which is encouraging to say the least.

So what's happened to the so-called recession then? During my conversation with this tattooist, he came up with a very good and possible reason behind the apparent proliferation of folk wanting to get new ink. He said that in these days of the economic belt tightening, it is good to spoil yourself once in a while, and what better way than with a new tattoo?

Think about it...we all have bills to pay, especially as the current snow-bound country struggles with a distinct lack of salt for the roads and the sub-zero temperatures making many domiciles colder than your average freezer, so we have to crank up the heating a bit more than we would like to and I personally spent close to two hours driving around trying to find a bag or two of coal for my fire the other day; so we are sadly forced into spending money that we can ill-afford just to survive. Couple all this with the post-Christmas bills, and all we seem to be doing is shelling out for goods and services that we don't really see any return for.

So maybe the reason for the apparent lack of recession for tattoo studios is the fact that we all like to give ourselves a little something that makes us feel good. We as human beings need to get something just for ourselves once in a while and what better way to cheer ourselves up than with a tattoo?

Call it tattoo retail therapy, if you like. Let's face it; what other item can you buy that will be with you until they nail the lid on your coffin, make you smile each time you look at it and ultimately, make you feel good about yourself?

I reckon the government should offer tattoos on the NHS - that should keep the Seasonal Affective Disorder sufferers (including me) happy; who needs a daylight lamp? A new tattoo will suit me just fine!

NEIL

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### FREE SUPPLEMENT

#### SKIN SHOTS SAMPLER

With this taster section of Skin Deep's sister title, Skin Shots, we give you a feel for our wonderful pictorial publication

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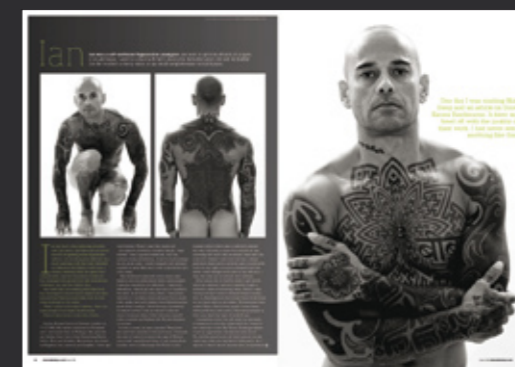
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## THE SUGAR PROJECT

The brainchild of Lisa Bolton, **The Sugar Project** is a dynamic artistic endeavour that sees tattooists from all over the world decorating model skulls in the style of the Mexican **Dias De Los Muertos** sugar skulls.

The aim of the project is to support Woking Hospice, which tends to the needs of terminally ill patients, and is in danger of closure, and Lisa has an incredible list of artists on board, including the likes of Guy Aitchison, Kamil Mocet, Gerry Carnelly, and Xam. The plans for raising funds too are brilliant: 70 skulls are set for auction on eBay on March 22nd, ten were given away as raffle prizes at the Brighton convention, and all of the finished skulls are to be documented for a book. All of the details can be found on Lisa's website ([www.squidgyart.com](http://www.squidgyart.com)) and her MySpace ([www.myspace.com/the-sugar-project](http://www.myspace.com/the-sugar-project)), and we hope that all of our readers manage to take a look at the resulting skulls and see the incredible generosity of all the participating artists...and dig deep, because trust us; you'll want a skull or two!



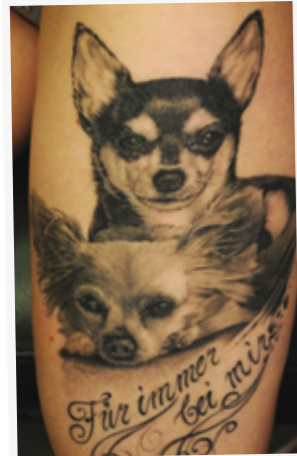
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## DIABLO JO'S ROCKABILLY DESIGNS

Want a unique finishing touch for your car that says something about you, and not about a company you don't want to advertise? Last year saw Diablo Jo launched her new range of hand-stitched in-car air fresheners which draw inspiration from her passions for Rockabilly, '50s culture, old school tattooing, Mexican folk art and the custom scene.

Jo makes each one individually by hand - no mass production techniques here, just pure inspiration and old-fashioned craft to produce a distinctive, personal, and individual touch to your vehicle. Her Mexican sugar skulls have proved to be a hugely popular range, but she can manufacture them from almost any supplied image for that final custom touch. She has now expanded into brooches, hair flowers and custom fascinators, drawing from the same roots and using the same methods to give that finishing touch to tonight's outfit, and is happy to make these either to your design or from your inspiration for a truly one-off detail. Using retro designs and fabrics to produce 3D articles from 2D images, she uses appliqué techniques to create a feeling of authenticity for each article, each one obviously being a unique piece. Jo exhibits her wares at rockabilly events, customs shows and scooterist events, along with craft and vintage fairs, and has recently launched a website at [www.diablojos.com](http://www.diablojos.com) to exhibit online.



## ANDY ENGEL'S FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY

As one of the most affable and talented tattoo artists we've ever encountered, it's a pleasure to announce that Andy Engel will celebrate his studio's fifteenth birthday on April 1st.

Based in the Bavarian town of Kitzingen, Andy's Tattoo Studio is synonymous with outstanding portrait tattoos and as such, Andy's waiting list is now two years long! His tattooing also extends to reconstructive nipple

tattooing for ladies who have undergone mastectomies, and when he isn't tattooing, Andy conducts seminars on both black and grey and colour tattoo techniques. Running the shop and keeping things ticking over is Heike, Andy's wife and business partner. Heike takes care of the shop's piercing and laser removal services, and also conducts lectures on shop management for studio owners and their employees in her native tongue, although we hope to bring her skills to an ARTIST friDAY sometime soon!

With a DVD planned in the near future and a barrage of amazing guest artists appearing at the studio, prospects are continuing to look rosy for the Engels and their studio. See more of Andy's incredible creations at [www.andys-tattoo.com](http://www.andys-tattoo.com).



OH BALL BAGS

In Skin Deep issue 181 (Feb '10) on page 40 there was a tattoo of Gene Simmons credited to Tony @ Ace Art Tattoos, when in fact it was created by Ken Newton at Tufuga Zoo Tattoo in Widnes. You can view said tattoo and many others at the shop's MySpace page: [www.myspace.com/tufugazoo](http://www.myspace.com/tufugazoo).

## ★ THE UK'S BIGGEST TATTOO SHOW ★

# TattooJam

Doncaster Racecourse, Doncaster, UK 6th-8th August 2010

TattooJam.co.uk is now live and brimming with information pertaining the UK's grandest tattoo convention! Held over the weekend of August 6th - 8th at Doncaster Racecourse, Tattoo Jam is stacked and packed to the rafters with world-class tattoo artists from every corner of the globe, live music from the freshest unsigned bands, traders offering a vast range of goodies, and a vibrant, electric atmosphere to tie it all together beautifully.

There are video highlights of last year's convention to give you a taste of the show and see what it's all about, plus oodles of details on the ARTIST friDAY, Tattoo Masters' Ball, confirmed artists, travel, accommodation, and ticket availability. This will be Tattoo Jam's sophomore appearance at the racecourse and the team will attempt to top last year's event with even more to tantalise and excite the senses.

### ARTIST friDAY

For those readers who may be unfamiliar with Tattoo Jam's modus operandi, the Friday is a trade-only day and therefore closed to the general public. Free seminars take place and tattooists are encouraged to relax, enjoy themselves, attend these seminars, and perhaps get tattooed by one of their fellow artists. It's our way of giving something back to the community for all of the support you have shown Tattoo Master, Skin Deep and Skin Shots International over the years, and we are truly grateful for all that you have done for us; we would be unable to compile our magazines without tattooists' photographs! Seminars will be added to the website as they are confirmed, and the aim is to provide a variety of technical and artistic tutorials to balance the day out, led by some of the foremost in their respective fields.

This is not just a day for tattooists working the show and is open to registered tattooists from far and wide, although passes will only be granted to tattooists with proof of registration in the form of health authority documentation. The day reaches its climax with the Tattoo Masters' Ball, an evening of partying and decadence featuring the Tattoo Master Awards in recognition of those artists that have excelled over the past twelve months. This year's fancy dress theme for the evening is Wild, Wild West, but please, no live cattle as part of your outfit...they won't fit in the elevators.



# FALLOUT

Seen an interesting clipping in the press? GOT something that you'd like reviewed or featured? Got some spare chocolate or beer? Send them to: Skin Deep, The Old School, Higher Kinnerton, Chester CH4 9AJ OR EMAIL: [editor@skindeep.co.uk](mailto:editor@skindeep.co.uk)



## NEW ADDITION TO COULEY'S TATTOO STUDIO

Congratulations are in order for Martin Couley as he celebrates the birth of his son, Damion Marshall Couley, who arrived on January 21st at 8.52pm, weighing in at a champion 7lbs.

We'll have to wait and see to determine if Junior's inherited his dad's artistic skills...

## LA INK SEASON 2

The impending release of LA Ink Season 2 is upon us, and a year after opening her own shop, Kat Von D's life has blown up and business at LA Ink is booming.

Kat and her core group of artists, Corey Miller, Hannah Aitchison and Kim Saign, have established the shop as one of the foremost in LA. She's got her own make-up line and a new man in her life - rocker Nikki



Sixx of Mötley Crüe. But her hectic schedule makes running her business alone impossible. She brings in her good friend Naheed as general manager of the shop and hopes that working together won't ruin their relationship. Meanwhile, Hannah tries to turn the crew at the shop into comic characters, Corey lives out his dream by creating a custom drum kit and Kim turns her fantasy of joining the circus into reality. We'll have reviews and wonderful giveaways in a forthcoming issue, but you can lay your mitts upon it from February 22nd... Available from Amazon & Play.com

### CUTTING EDGE

### GUESTS AT

### RAZOR SHARP

Razor Sharp Body Art in Salisbury, Wiltshire, will be having some very talented guest artists at the studio this year. The line-up so far consists of:  
April - Chris Hatton from Physical Graffiti  
May - Craven from Gypsy Rose  
December - Dawnii from Painted Lady Tattoo Parlour

For a list of dates that these guys are working, please feel free to visit Razor Sharp Body Art's website at [www.razorsharpbodyart.co.uk](http://www.razorsharpbodyart.co.uk). Watch out for more artists to be announced on the website very soon...

## OH, FLUFF...

In last month's edition, we incorrectly credited the studio at which Paul Seagrave creates tattoos in our Dublin coverage; he actually works at Shoreline Tattoo in St. Ives. Head to [MySpace.com/shorelinetattoo](http://MySpace.com/shorelinetattoo) to see more of his work now.

## FINELINE TATTOO OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The Cheshire town of Frodsham is home to a new studio by the name of FINELINE TATTOO.

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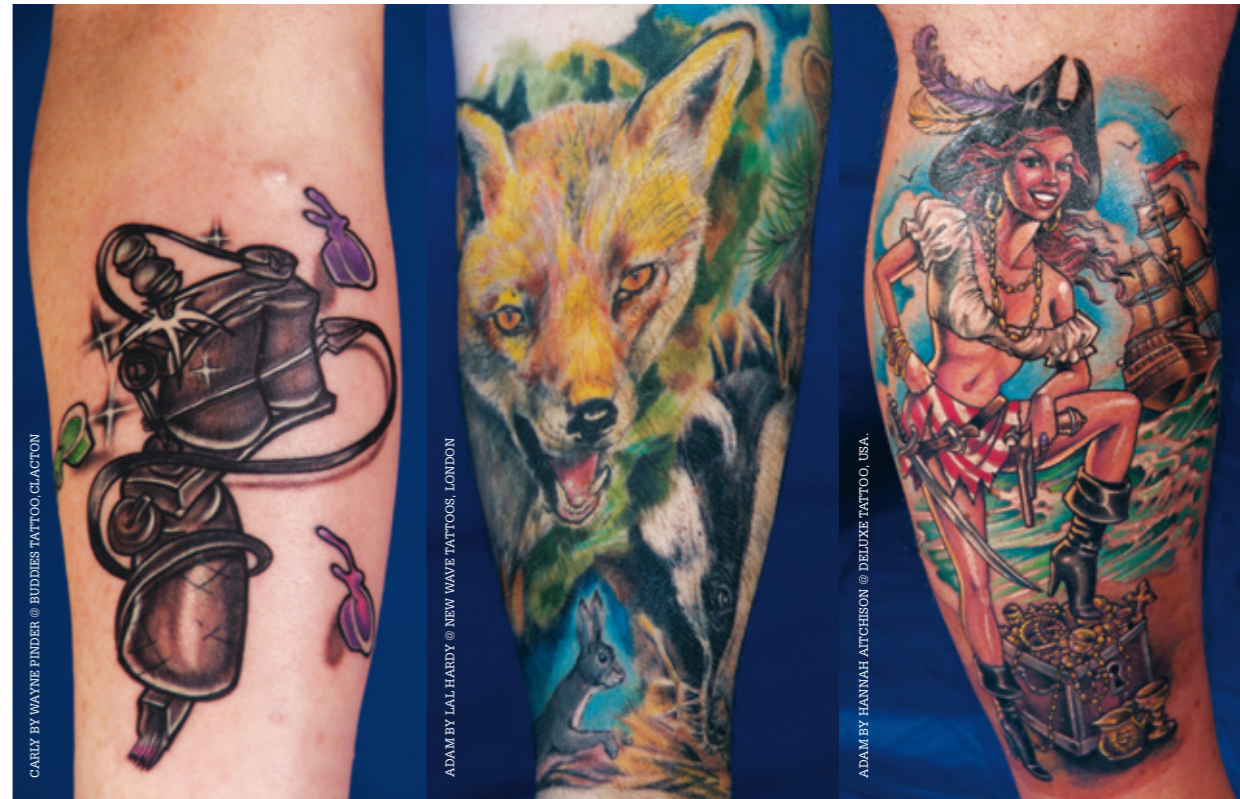
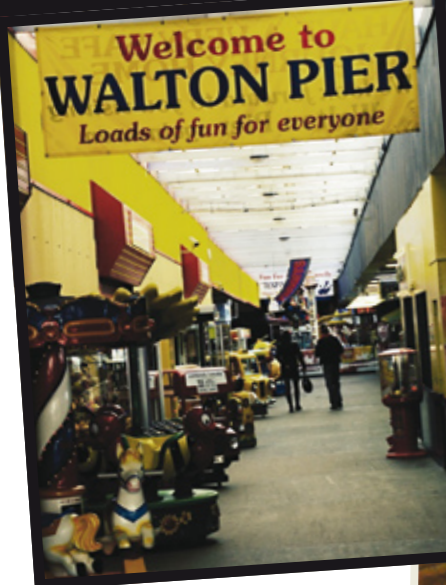
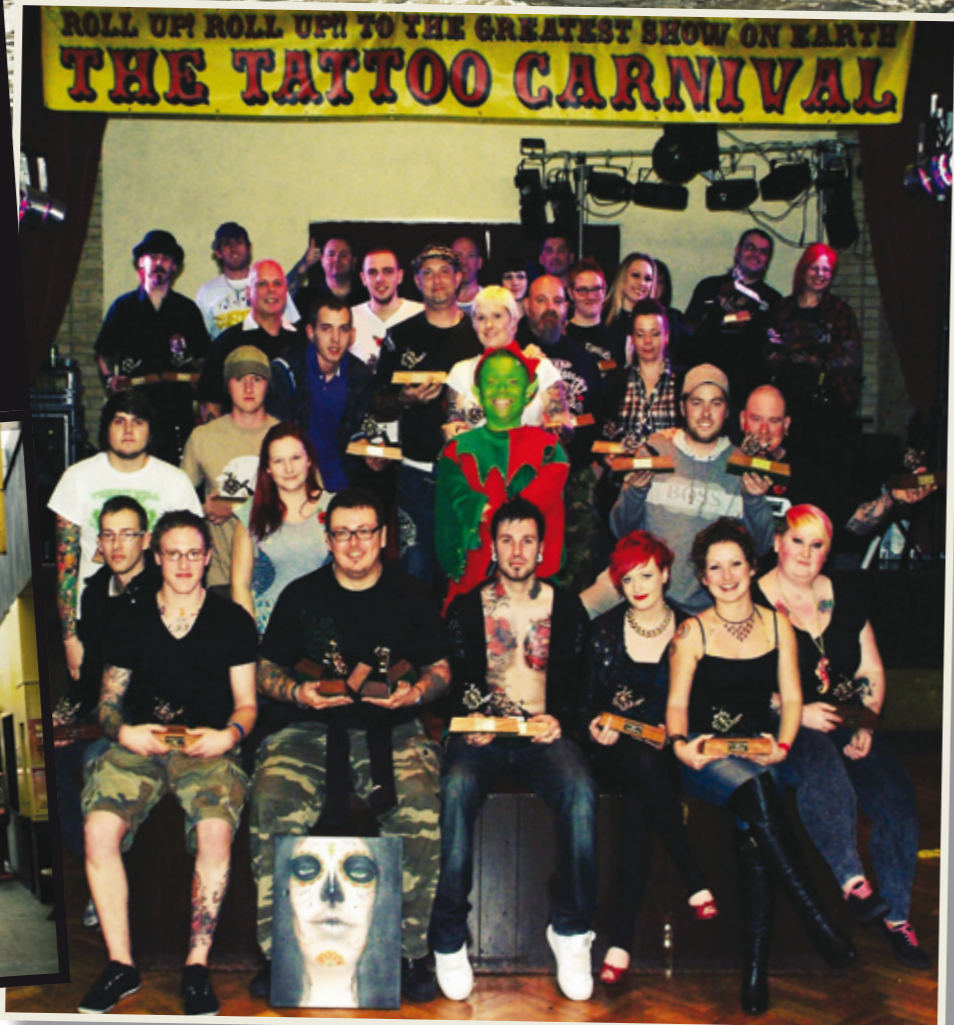


The first weekend in November saw the second convention jointly organised by Lee Symonds of Cherry Blossom tattoo studio and Stuart Salmon of Colchester Body Arts to be held at the Martello holiday park in Walton-on-Naze.



**A**gain it was a two-day show with a pre-convention party on the Friday night for the artists and traders, which I missed for the second time due to prior commitments. I did manage to get down there early on the Saturday morning, and while a lot of the party goers from the previous night were still in bed or only just coming to life, had chance to walk into town and have a look round.

Walton is what you would call a traditional seaside town with a mix of Victorian architecture through to modern buildings, which strangely enough seem to work well together. On one hand you have the old seafront three-storey guesthouses and on the other, a public loo that's the most upmarket and modern that I've ever seen; it looked more like a



CARLY BY WAYNE PINDER @ BUDDIES TATTOO, CLACTON

ADAM BY LAL HARDY @ NEW WAVE TATTOOS, LONDON

ADAM BY HANNAH ATCHISON @ DELUXE TATTOO, USA



ZUHTU BY ANDY BARBER 2 ANDY BARBERS TATTOOS



modern detached house. Walton also has the second longest pier in the country, which is taken full advantage of by the local fishing enthusiasts. Walking along the front just up from the pier is what can only be described as (what looks like) a shanty town of beach huts, three, four and in some cases five deep and for as far as the eye can see, quite an impressive sight in a strange way. Walton is also good for bird watchers; it also has fossil cliffs and seals just a little way out to sea. I can see why it's popular with such a cross section of people from

families, because of the sandy beaches, through to walkers and hikers, because of the interesting surrounding countryside. Going back to the show itself, this year's theme was naughty Santa, so the whole show had a Christmas feel to it, with everything from a Santa, complete with elf and sled through to roast chestnuts and even a snow machine. In the Artists working room, the layout had been done differently, which allowed for more working artists. In total I think there were about thirty working artists this year. Some of this







year's artists were Rebecca from Madam Butterfly in Hastings, Leigh Oldcorn and Arran Burton from Cosmic, Julie Clarke and Martin from Flamin' Gun, Dean from Braintree tattoo, Graham Hodgson from 7 star tattoo, Charlie Webster from Urban Ink, Andy Barber from New Rose tattoo, Rob Evens from Addictive Inks, Sonya from Red's Tattoo, Mark B from Suck My Ink tattoo, Glenn Symonds from Cherry blossom and even Lee managed to find time to do some tattooing himself.

This show is completely different to anything else on the calendar, a hell of a lot of work goes on before the event to bring all the different aspects together, from the props that are made for the theme, to the non stop entertainment. This is definitely not a show where you walk round once and you've seen everything because there is something happening all the time.

To try and give a list of everything that was going on would be impossible because I'd be bound to miss someone or something out. There was a constant supply of musical entertainment on the main stage for most of the weekend, with such a wide range of styles, there had to be something to suit everyone's taste. On the Saturday night there was a brilliant burlesque show, which the girls also did at the pre show party on the Friday.

Also over the weekend was Julie Clarke from Flamin' Gun in Colchester's birthday and on the Saturday night her birthday cake was produced complete with the 21 (and a few extra) candles. To say it was a big cake

Also over the weekend, it was Julie Clarke from Flamin' Gun in Colchester's birthday and on the Saturday night her birthday cake was produced complete with the 21 (and a few extra) candles.



MARK BY LEIGH OLDSCORN @ COSMIC TATTOO, COLCHESTER



CHAIQ BY MARK B @ SUCK MY INK, EASTBOURNE



SAM BY ARRAN BURTON @ COSMIC TATTOO, COLCHESTER



LUCY BY CHARLIE WEBSTER



FRITTY AND LEE BY JULIE CLARKE AND MARTIN @ FLAMIN GUN, COLCHESTER

would be a huge understatement, I reckon they're still eating it now.

Being a good boy and knowing that I was going to have a busy day on the Sunday, I retired to my caravan at around midnight.

Sunday morning arrived and after a couple of cups of tea I was ready to face the day, and at 9.30 on the Sunday morning there was already activity and that was how the day carried on, in the Afternoon, I was one of the judges and some of the work that was coming through was outstanding. What with judging and

the photography, I didn't stop all day, but at the same time it was such a good laugh that the day went by so quickly.

I can honestly say that for me this is probably the best show of the year and I really hope it goes from strength to strength. It's more of a party atmosphere than a convention and I can't think of a better way to round off the convention circuit. I'd like to thank Lee, Stu and the whole crew for the hospitality and a great weekend and hopefully see a lot more of you reading this there next year. ★

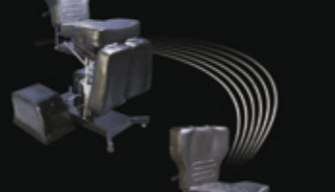




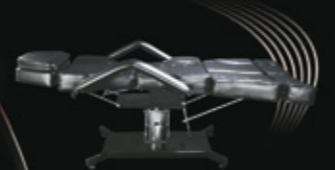
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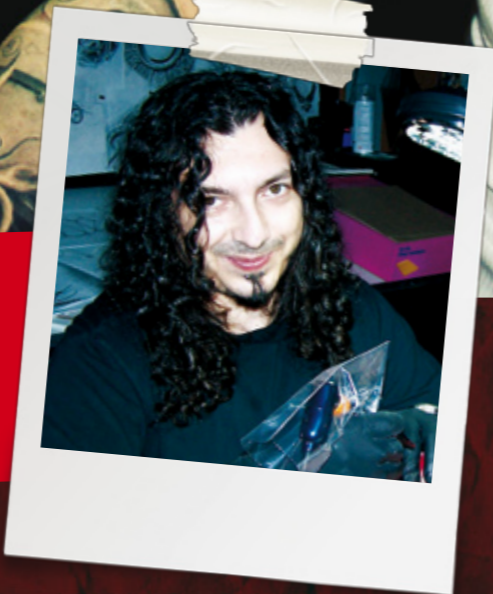
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# CAESAR TATTOO

172 AVE B, 1B, NEW YORK, NY, 10009 TEL: 646.454.9977

INTERVIEW: NEIL PHOTOGRAPHY: NEIL & CAESAR

**After spending a few days in New York prior to catching the train to the Paradise Gathering, I thought, after getting all the usual tourist attractions under my belt, it was time to do some work.** So on a lovely sunny day in September, I took a stroll into the East Village area of Manhattan. It wasn't too long before I was at the door of Caesar Tattoo. From the outside the studio is very inconspicuous, and if you weren't specifically looking for the place, you would walk straight past. Luckily, I had a prior arrangement with Caesar so after a few presses of the buzzer and a quick chat via the intercom, I was shown into Caesar Tattoo.



**O**pening the door to Caesar's studio, you are instantly thrown into a dark and thankfully cool room, deceptively large in a narrow kind of way, and as your eyes get accustomed to the gloom you start to make out the tattooist's chair and a wall strewn with past and present tattoo drawings and stencils. Below these is Caesar's creating place – his drawing board. Beside this are two huge Macintosh screens, where he keeps his website up to date, and has recently started to render some incredible works of art.

The studio is a very comfortable place to be. Being a custom studio, there is no fear of interruption from the general public strolling in, which must be very nice for both artist and client alike.

After a general gossip about this and that, I got down to brass tacks and talked tattoos with this polite and very talented tattooist.

**SO DID YOU START TATTOOING IN THE STATES OR BACK IN YOUR HOMETOWN IN HUNGARY, AND WHAT GOT YOU FIRST INTERESTED IN TATTOOING?**

I started back in Hungary, and from the first touch of ink in my body; I was hooked! After my first tattoo it was done! I knew there was no going back. A good friend of mine sold his computer printer to lend me the money to start tattooing. My first machine was a homemade one. It wasn't that bad a machine, but it wasn't that good either! At the time nobody knew about proper equipment and I learnt how to solder needles and some other instruction came from the guy who sold me the machine, but he didn't know too much either.

**HOW ABOUT THE STERILISATION SIDE OF THINGS AT THAT TIME?**

My father was a vet so I had access to the proper sterilisation equipment thankfully. I also had a doctor friend, so I asked him about the proper procedures for sterility as well. I knew it was only a matter of time before I started as I was a college student then and I needed to make some money. That was back in '92-3 or something. Back then we had socialism; that's when the Russians were leaving the country after fifty years in power. Soon after Capitalism came in; the first tattoo shops opened. People like Boris opened in '96 for example and started straight away as a professional. I also started around this time



but at that time I had a grandmother to take care of, so I needed a certain amount of money to look after her and to be honest; I wasn't brave enough to risk opening a shop of my own. So there was nobody to teach me, so I am completely self-taught.

**SO BEFORE WHEN THE RUSSIANS WERE IN POWER, WAS TATTOOING OUTLAWED?**

It was, but it took place underground and they were not artists, they were more the Jail-type tattoos. Like tattoos on the knuckles saying 'Punch', in Hungarian. These were done with a sewing needle and cotton drawn through the skin. At that time my first order was with a Dutch tattoo supply company and it was not long after that I got a connection with my friends' sister over here (USA) and she brought me some equipment from here too.

**WHAT ABOUT TATTOOING INFORMATION, WAS THERE ANY FREELY AVAILABLE IN HUNGARY AT THAT TIME?**

There was no information at all and I am not the most sociable person, I am more like a hermit! (laughs) So I didn't know too many people to ask about the techniques involved.

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN THE STATES?**

I have been here for seven years now, I first started out in North Carolina, because my buddy was there but we didn't like it so we moved to Florida. Then after six months I moved to live in the north in Tampa Bay, then Largo. I did some work at Kingpin tattoo supplies then Lucky's also that's where I got my first tattoo job, It wasn't so great and the owner wasn't too kind to me. I did have other jobs on the side but I wasn't making any money. Also when I first came over I didn't speak any English at all. This obviously was a ☞

**I FOUND DOING A FINE ART COURSE OVER HERE WAS MOST HELPFUL TO MY TATTOOING. IT REALLY HELPED ME IMPROVE MY COMPOSITION AND LIGHT SOURCES TREMENDOUSLY.**





huge problem. Not long after, I met up with my business partner, Nick who taught me a lot of my English as well as other tattoo techniques.

We opened up this studio last March so it's brand new. I love it here.

**IT MUST BE QUITE HARD WHEN YOU MOVE TO A CITY THIS BIG TO START GETTING A REPUTATION...**

That was the problem. I have been around the city for a few years and had a little bit of a clientele and I have done many guest

spots around New York. I was on the road a lot; mostly in Florida. I have slowly got a couple of magazine articles and they have brought me some big clients. One guy from Las Vegas has flown over regularly to get both sleeves from me. I also have had a guy come over from the Channel Islands too.

re-touching the work if it needed it.

I found doing a fine art course over here was most helpful to my tattooing. It really helped me improve my composition and light sources tremendously. It was for only one semester but I really miss it. I'd love to go back but I have to keep the shop open and the course is five days a week.

This is different, as I get people come in here they sit down and say; 'do whatever you want' this is not like still life drawing, it's designing. Every customer that comes in here has a different idea and a different

perspective; it's not easy to pull it all together, but I love the challenge that it brings me. It keeps my mind trained.

**I HAVE NOTICED THAT YOU WORK A LOT IN BLACK AND GREY BUT I ALSO NOTICED THAT YOU DO SOME AMAZING COLOUR WORK TOO. DO YOU PREFER TO WORK IN ONE PARTICULAR STYLE?**

That's a good question as I have had some criticism about my soft shades from other artists but I have some pieces that that are more than five years old and the shading is still there and

**I DO GET MANY HISPANICS COMING IN AND I HAVE TO POLITELY EXPLAIN THAT THEIR SKIN SHADE ISN'T NECESSARILY SUITED TO MY STYLE OF TATTOOING. I DON'T WANT TO RIP THEM OFF SO I HAVE TO BE DIPLOMATIC WITH WHAT I SAY.**

**DID YOU FIND THE TRANSITION FROM CANVAS TO SKIN DIFFICULT TO MASTER OR DID IT COME EASILY TO YOU?**

It was very annoying in the beginning! I tried so hard but it wasn't too risky in my hometown. Lots of people knew that I could draw better than most of the tattooists in my town, so I already had some clients lined up before I got my equipment. I spent a lot of time re-working the jail tattoos, so there wasn't too much of a risk of messing them up! Also as they were local there was always the chance of



**I AM TRYING TO DO ABOUT THREE CONVENTIONS A YEAR. I HAVE BEEN AT THE PHILADELPHIA SHOW, NEW YORK SHOW IN MAY AND I PLAN TO GET TO THE PARADISE TATTOO GATHERING IN ALBANY AS I HAVE HEARD THAT IT IS REALLY GOOD.**

it seems to hold up well to the ravages of time. After about nine months the skin is settled and the only thing that might change is the structure of your skin. I do get many Hispanics coming in and I have to politely explain that their skin shade isn't necessarily suited to my style of tattooing. I don't want to rip them off so I have to be diplomatic with what I say.

**SO THERE IS JUST YOURSELF IN THE STUDIO AT THE MOMENT?**

The original plan was that Nick would move up here too but he has been in Florida for too long and likes the warm weather down there!

Nick comes up to do guest spots for a month at a time and maybe I'm looking for a third guy to work here too but it's tough to find the right artist.

**HAVE YOU WORKED AT ANY TATTOO CONVENTIONS OVER HERE?**

Yeah, I am trying to do about three conventions a year. I have been at the Philadelphia show, New York show in May and I plan to get to the Paradise Tattoo Gathering in Albany as I have heard that it is really good.

**OH IT IS!**

I don't want to go to too many shows, as with my work it quite often needs a second pass, what I call a polishing session. What happens when I do many of my pieces is it always fades back. The polishing sessions usually takes place to bring the highlights and light shading back giving the tattoo a better look. Tattoos don't need to be done and finished in one go to get the desired effect. This can be awkward sometimes if I start on a guy at a show, they will have to travel back to New York to come and see me for more polishing; but the work looks better for it and isn't that the idea? To end up with a beautiful tattoo?

Whilst at the New York tattoo convention, I met Konrad from the Cheyenne Hawk Company and since then I will use nothing else. I love the Hawk! I am currently in the process of selling ↻







all my other tattoo equipment. There many different parts to a coil machine but with the Hawk it has so few moving parts, it just works perfectly for me straight out of the box. There is nothing to go wrong with it and I don't have to worry about the technicalities, just the tattoo!

**SO THE SUBJECT MATTER AND THE FACT THAT A PERSON HAS CHOSEN YOU OVER OTHERS TO GET A TATTOO FROM YOURSELF MEANS A LOT THEN?**

Oh yes, very much so! That's why I always put their names and where they come from on my website. I think it is only fair to give them some credit for the tattoo too.

**IS THERE ANYTHING THAT YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO TATTOO BECAUSE IT WON'T LOOK GOOD IN A FEW YEARS TIME?**

There is no such thing. You have to bend the

**WHILST AT THE NEW YORK TATTOO CONVENTION, I MET KONRAD FROM THE CHEYENNE HAWK COMPANY AND SINCE THEN I WILL USE NOTHING ELSE. I LOVE THE HAWK! I AM CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF SELLING ALL MY OTHER TATTOO EQUIPMENT.**

rules from time to time on an idea or design but I don't think that there is anything that can't be done given time and thought into the piece. Collaboration is key to a good design. Often the customer has ideas that I haven't thought of and we talk about these

ideas and try and incorporate them into their tattoo.

**DO YOU LIKE TO FREEHAND YOUR DESIGNS OR DO YOU DO A DRAWING FOR THE CLIENT?**

It depends on the design and placement. Certain things cannot be freehanded as it can take forever.

When I do painting style tattoos I have to draw them first. It would be too hard to freehand on first and way too time consuming.

**I CAN SEE BY YOUR WORK AND TALKING TO YOU THAT YOU ARE INFLUENCED BY A LOT OF PAINTERS AND ARTISTS, ARE THERE ANY TATTOOISTS THAT YOU GAIN INSPIRATION FROM OR ARE INFLUENCED BY?**

Too many! I couldn't even name them. Every nation have their own great tattooists. I love the work by the Czech guy - Zhivko or Topi from Poland or Victor Portugal, Hernandez from Spain and so on and so on...

**YOU ARE THE FIRST PERSON THAT I HAVE INTERVIEWED THAT HAS MENTIONED ZHIVKO...**

He is a genius! Genius. He is very, very good. I love his work.

I like many painters too, I like Raphael very much, Michelangelo for his drawings. I never learned about Art history, I just see their work in books.

I am currently working on a Frank Frazetta/Chet Zar tribute sleeve at the moment and we

are nearly finished, The piece incorporates many of Frazetta's famous pieces; it's nearly done. Some of the work shows well when he moves his arm and you can see different angles and perspectives of the work. The difference between a good tattoo and a great tattoo is placement.

You can learn to tattoo in about five years I would say, then a few more years for realism but if your mind is not prepared or you don't have the artistic background or mind set; then you are stuck. You cannot be outstanding, you are just going to be one of the millions, you know?

You have to put your heart into each design and not many people appreciate all the hours that a tattooist puts into designing the piece before the tattooing starts. These are hours that you don't necessarily get paid for but they are imperative to get the tattoo correct.

I charge a certain amount an hour and if I would say that a tattoo will take say, eight hours but then asked for payment for the other eight hours I have spent drawing and researching, I would not get many customers!

I don't want to rip anyone off and if the customer leaves here happy, then I too am happy. I would say that an average time tattooing for me is about five hours at a time. It gives me time to look at the work progressing and it is about the right amount of time for the customer. Two hours is too short as the first hour, I am just warming up.

**IF THE CUSTOMER LEAVES HERE HAPPY, THEN I TOO AM HAPPY. I WOULD SAY THAT AN AVERAGE TIME TATTOOING FOR ME IS ABOUT FIVE HOURS AT A TIME.**

**IS THERE ANY TATTOO THAT YOU WOULD NOT WANT TO DO?**

I will not copy anyone else's tattoo. That is just wrong.

**IS THERE ANYTHING THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO PASS ONTO ANYONE WANTING TO BECOME A TATTOOIST?**

I would say practice your drawing and art constantly but also try and draw on toned paper. It is a similar colour to the skin and you can use this to help you work out where the light will fall on a certain place and helps you build up layered tones. It is a very good way to learn to draw.

About four or so years ago I saw an article in a tattoo magazine about a tattooist called George Bardadim from St Petersburg and his email address was on the article. I emailed him over some images of my work to see what he thought and he told to go and take some drawing classes. I was so pissed off that I did just that! And he was right; it made such a difference to my tattoo work. So a big thanks to George for his helpful advice, although I

didn't think so at the time! You can learn tricks from anyone!

**WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN A FEW YEARS TIME?**

Maybe another artist here who is prepared to learn and deserves to be here. Someone who learned the way I did. I can only teach them the way I know but it doesn't mean it is the right way.

**WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO THANK FOR HELPING YOU OVER THE YEARS?**

All my customers. First of all for the credit and their skin. Also everybody that deserves it. They know who they are. George Bardadim and Costa, my drawing teacher. He is an amazing talent. ★





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For ten years, Dave Wiper has worked in one of Wakefield's oldest and most historic buildings, The Old Vicarage, with its secret tunnels connecting it to the 12th Century Cathedral and neighbouring Masonic Hall, and not to mention its ghostly inhabitants.

**D**ave is one of the tattoo industry's straightest talking members who doesn't pull any punches, he just gets his head down and gets on with crafting his solid and unique tattoos. He has built a reputation for creating outstanding, complex and stunningly bright Biomechanical tattoos, but he is also more than capable of making very delicate and gentle works of art too. He also has a reputation for his razor-sharp wit and withering put-downs, so woe betide anyone who says anything out of turn!

### HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN TATTOOING?

Through one of the greats, the best tattooist of his time, Dave James. He used to tattoo me when I was younger. I used to run down to his shop in my brother's work clothes after I saw a tattoo he did on my mate, and as my brother was over 6 foot 4 and I was only 5'5", he would ask me, "Has thy bin poorly, Dave?" and I would just sign the book and go for it.

### SO HOW DID YOU GET PROPERLY STARTED? WHEN DID YOU THINK "THIS IS WHAT I WANT TO DO"?

I used to get chased out of loads of tattoo shops for pestering them about where they got their gear and they wouldn't tell me. Half of them threatened to crack me so I had to be quick. So I pestered Dave (James) for years and years, till he broke.

### DID YOU DO A PROPER APPRENTICESHIP, THEN?

No, he just showed me the basics. He told me his philosophies: "Keep your head down, get on with your work, don't bother about what anyone else is doing, just bother about what you are doing." That was the best advice he ever gave me, "If someone is slagging you off, just ride it, don't let 'em bother you."

### WAS DAVE JAMES LOCAL?

Yeah, he was from Wakey (Wakefield).

### SO, I GUESS YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AROUND WAKEFIELD?

Yep. I've been in this building about 10 years.



### IT IS A PRETTY COOL PLACE!

It ought to be; we are in the fucking basement with the fucking air conditioning on full whack!

### SO IT'S NOT ALL THE GHOSTLY PRESENCES THAT MAKE IT COOL THEN, 'COS THEY DO SHIT YOU UP?

What? When I found the Heresy tunnels that lead up to the Cathedral and across to the Masonic Hall! And we are on the Time Team website! It is the oldest building in Wakefield.

### SO, WHO DO YOU LOOK UP TO, IF ANYONE?

Mother Nature! How can you draw something 'original'? You can never ever draw something original that no one has ever seen. You can draw from memory, so you have got to have



**YOU HAVE GOT TO HAVE SOME FUCKING ARTISTIC FLAIR OR WHY ELSE BE IN IT? YOU'VE GOT TO BE ABLE TO THINK, TO SEE IT, TO DRAW IT.**

seen it to draw it. That's why Guy Aitchison's Biomechanical stuff you can see in Nature, that's why I aspire to Mother Nature; she is the greatest artist in the world.

### WHAT ABOUT IN THE TATTOOING WORLD? WHOSE STUFF DO YOU LOOK AT AND THINK "YEAH, THAT'S OK"?

It changes that much, dun it? I could just name all the artists that are up there now but, you know, there are artists who no one mentions now like Tom Ptolemy; fucking unbelievable artist; Darren Stares; another good artist, still up there, still putting good work on.

### YOU MUST RATE GUY AITCHISON, THOUGH?

Yeah, yeah. You know, years ago, Nick Baxter was doing tattoos of pixelated furniture and how many folk would have noticed him back then? But now 'cos he is putting realistic stuff out, everyone is like, "Ooh yeah, he is my favourite artist."

### SO IS THAT WHY YOU TRY AND STAY OUT OF THE MAINSTREAM AND DO YOUR OWN THING?

Just do my own thing, keep my head down, get on with my own thing, and if folk like it they will come and if they don't, they won't come.

### IS THAT WHY YOU LIKE DOING BIO (MECHANICAL)?

I just like tattooing! It's better than stacking shelves! I do it 'cos I always wanted to be a tattooist.

### SO YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN INVOLVED IN ART?

I could draw when I was a kid; I even had stuff in an exhibition when I was a young 'un for my school. I was the top of my class and my year in art at school, and there were some good artists in my school. I can remember one lad who left school and went to art college, got a degree in art, and is now delivering fucking exhaust pipes for a living!

### DO YOU THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE A BACKGROUND IN ART TO DO THIS JOB?

Yeah, you have got to have SOME fucking artistic flair or why else be in it? You've got to be able to think, to see it, to draw it.

### WHAT DO YOU THINK TO CONVENTIONS?

They are alright. You get to see some good folk, good work and that. But then you get the wannabe tattooists who manage to get through into the supply room and get hold of the gear and haven't got a fucking clue what they are doing!

### DO YOU THINK THERE SHOULD BE STRICTER REGULATIONS IN TATTOOING?

Oh without a doubt, yeah. Fucking hell, I've seen some right abortions come in here, and they are as proud as punch of them, think they are fucking ace and you can see they are dogshit! ➡





**=DO YOU THINK IT SHOULD BE THE ARTISTS OR THE GOVERNMENT WHO REGULATE THE INDUSTRY?**  
It should be the Government.

**DO YOU THINK THAT WITH THE ADVENT OF THE REALITY CELEBRITY TATTOO SHOWS, IT HAS KIND OF...**

...Fucked it! Without a doubt! I bet eBay could tell you that! Folk see people on the telly and think, "Fuckin' 'ell, I wanna get on telly, I wanna be famous, I wanna do this, I wanna do that," instead of just being who they are, getting on with it, you know?

**NOT A FAN THEN, EH?**

No, definitely not. Nothing against the people involved, just the concept. Tattooing was doing well, tattooing has always been there for the people who want it, but because they have made it so mainstream now, I think it will double back and fucking eat itself.

**HAVE YOU NOTICED A CHANGE IN CUSTOMER SINCE THESE SHOWS HAVE BEEN ON?**

Yeah, 'cos every bugga wants a tattoo on their bastard neck!

**IS THERE A LIMIT TO WHAT YOU WOULD OR WOULDN'T TATTOO?**

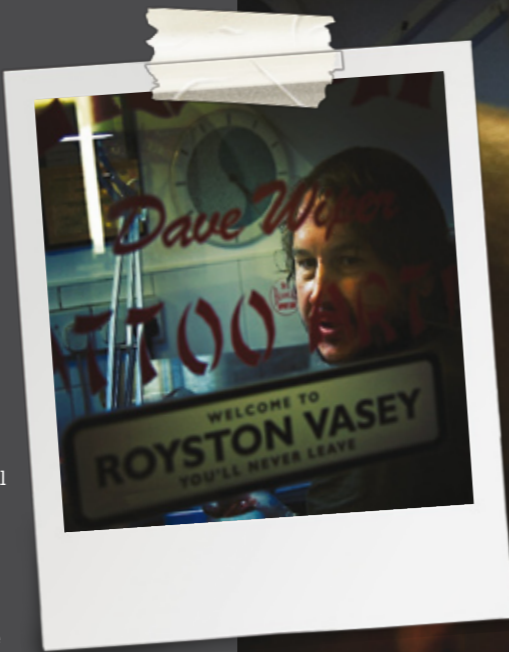
I would do owt as long as the brass is right. I wouldn't do anyone pissed up or under age but if someone wants to ruin their life, I will do it for them - fuck 'em!

**WHAT IS THE SHITTIEST JOB YOU HAVE EVER DONE?**

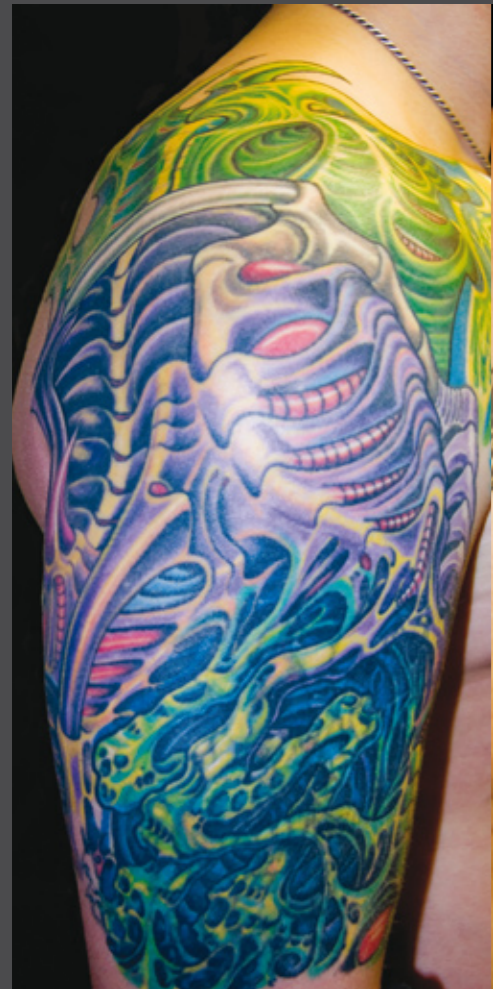
Grading tyres to be re-moulded. I worked for a Welsh bloke; I used to call him "Jock" all the time instead of "Taff", just to wind him up! Because we used to work next to the railway lines I would say to him, "It's gonna be packed out with fucking train spotters here later on", and he would say "Why's that, then?" "Cos Ivor the Engine is coming through!" I lasted there all of a couple of week!!

**SO HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN TATTOOING FOR A LIVING?**

10 years. Before that I was on therapeutic



**BECAUSE THEY HAVE MADE IT (TATTOOING) SO MAINSTREAM NOW, I THINK IT WILL DOUBLE BACK AND FUCKING EAT ITSELF.**



earnings 'cos of depression. You know, sometimes I used to turn up at the studio, see folk waiting for me and feel such pressure that I would just keep on driving and end up in North Yorkshire somewhere!

**WHEN YOU FIRST SET UP IN TATTOOING, DID YOU FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BREAK THROUGH?**

Yep. How can I put it? My doctor helped me set up in tattooing, through therapeutic earnings, because it was meant to help me get back to integrating with folk. I've just, you know, had some bad times in my life. I can remember, I used to wait for my neighbour to go out to her bin, watch her go back into her house then run out to my bin, just so I didn't have to talk to anyone.

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN ON WITH YOUR BODY SUIT?**

Years! I have about another 5 years left on it. I don't like pain so I can only stand a couple of hours a week on it!

**SO HOW DID IT COME ABOUT?**

I went to a convention in Sheffield, had a nosey, met Steve there, had a wander around, saw some other artists, kept going back to Steve and I knew it was him I wanted to tattoo me. He is so underrated it is unbelievable; I think he is one of the best artists in this country, without a doubt, and to say he has been doing it 25 years and he is still putting stuff on that blows you away. He hasn't just fallen by the wayside; he just

keeps on improving and improving. He is definitely my top artist.

**SO IS IT HIS DESIGN OR COLLABORATION?**

Some of it is his but I got three pictures from Guy Aitchison to include in the design - I have to credit him when I show it, say some of it is his and that Steve has tattooed it.

**YOU HAVE A REPUTATION FOR DOING TOP-NOTCH BIO, BUT WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE RECOGNISED FOR OTHER STYLES?**

I'm not bothered! If I can do it I will have a go and do it to the best of my ability; I'm not just one-trick pony!

**DO YOU TAKE ARTISTIC CONTROL OF A CLIENTS TATTOO?**

I do it to how I want to see it, and that's why people come, 'cos they see my work. I have done some tattoos where the person has had a lot of input, but it has looked a right load of dogshit when it was done, 'cos they haven't let me go my own way, but if they would have let me do my own thing, I think it would have been way better. I mean, I take on board what they say to me and, well, just throw it out the window! Then when I have done it, they will say, "Yeah, that's just how I wanted it" so we must have gelled a little bit!

**PEOPLE LIKE TO BOAST ABOUT HOW BUSY THEY ARE, BUT I'M NOT INTO ALL THAT SHIT**

**YOU GET A LOT OF REPEAT CUSTOM.**

Yeah, they come for the banter! (laughs)

**WELL IT ISN'T FOR THE TEA 'COS I HAVEN'T HAD ONE IN ALL THE TIME I HAVE BEEN COMING HERE! HAVE YOU NOTICED A DROP IN BUSINESS DUE TO THE CREDIT CRUNCH?**

Er, yeah, well, tattoos are a luxury, aren't they? You ain't not gonna pay your gas or leccy bill are you - a tattoo just goes on the back burner - so yeah, of course we are feeling the recession. People like to boast about how busy they are, so you think their wealth is gonna be big, but I'm not into all that shit, it's steady. I'm surviving, I do my hobbies and I'm still here!

**YOU GO SCUBA DIVING A LOT. HOW LONG HAVE YOU DONE THAT FOR?**

Years! I took it up in the winter time 'cos I get depressed with the dark nights, you know, and I can't get out hunting or walking so I needed something to keep my mind occupied. ➔



**SO WHERE DOES SCUBA DIVING TAKE YOU THEN?**

Er, under the water? (laughs). It just takes me to places that other folk don't go. If you have never been scuba diving then you won't have seen what I have seen! You know, there's loads to see in this world and I wanna try and see as much of it as I can. Life is too short to worry about stuff, you have just got to go out there and enjoy yourself; if you don't enjoy yourself, stop doing it. If people didn't like what I was tattooing then I would stop tattooing, but it's because people like what I'm doing and keep coming back, you know, people with a bit of knowledge, who know a good tattoo from a bad tattoo, that's why I'm still here! I know I'm not the most punctual man in the world, but, when I am here, I do try my best.

**IF IT ALL DROPPED OFF TOMORROW, WOULD YOU WORRY?**

No, I've lived it; I've done it and done my best while I was here and there are too many things out there that excite me. There are a lot of

**I'VE DONE IT AND DONE MY BEST WHILE I WAS HERE AND THERE ARE TOO MANY THINGS OUT THERE THAT EXCITE ME.**

tattooists out there that I would love to get work from, but, it doesn't go with the theme of what I have already got, you know?

**LIKE WHO?**

I would like a portrait of my mum by Bob Tyrrell, but is she gonna look any good with an organic background? I love Kev Shercliff's wildlife stuff as well.

**I GUESS FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU?**

Oh yeah, without a doubt, we piss take a lot but that's the way it is. The biggest honour I had was when my mate asked me to be a pallbearer at his mum's funeral, which meant a lot to me.

**I GET THE IMPRESSION FROM TALKING TO YOU IN THE PAST THAT YOUR MUM WAS IMPORTANT TO YOU?**

Oh yeah, she believed in me. I remember

entering a drawing competition at school and the picture ended up in the Wakey Express. I got up on the Friday morning and my mum had the paper open on the kitchen table and she was as made up as I was. My dad always said I was a distance drawer, you know, my pictures looked better from a distance, the lousy bastard! My dad did support me though; whenever my pen ran out, he would go down to William Hill, put on another bet and get me a new bookie pen to draw with!

It's like, now, whenever my kids want to draw; I go to IKEA and get them as many pencils as they want.



**WOULD YOU EVER CONSIDER TAKING ON AN APPRENTICE?**

Well, we have got Razor, and you have got to fit the bill, and Razor fits the bill. He was fucking about at home and I saw potential. I knew he was right because he wasn't asking questions all the time, now if he had been trying to pick my brains all the time I'd have known he knew nothing, but he didn't, he kept his gob shut and just watched.

**DO YOU TAKE AND ACCEPT CRITICISM?**

Oh yeah, of course I do. I know I'm not the fucking world's best and I can take criticism but I can't take it off someone who is shit. Now if it's someone good who is criticising me, criticising me constructively then I can take it and I welcome it, but when someone does it and you know they know fuck all then it's a bit hard to swallow. You know, you see stuff out there and you think, 'What a load of shite, that could have been done so much better.'

**ANYONE YOU WANT TO THANK?**

Yes, myself. I would like to congratulate myself on having the initiative to pester the fuck out of people to give me an opening, congratulate myself on doing such a fine job of getting into tattooing (laughs). Seriously though, I would like to thank Steve Potton, and the other guys in the shop, Stogga and Razor. ★



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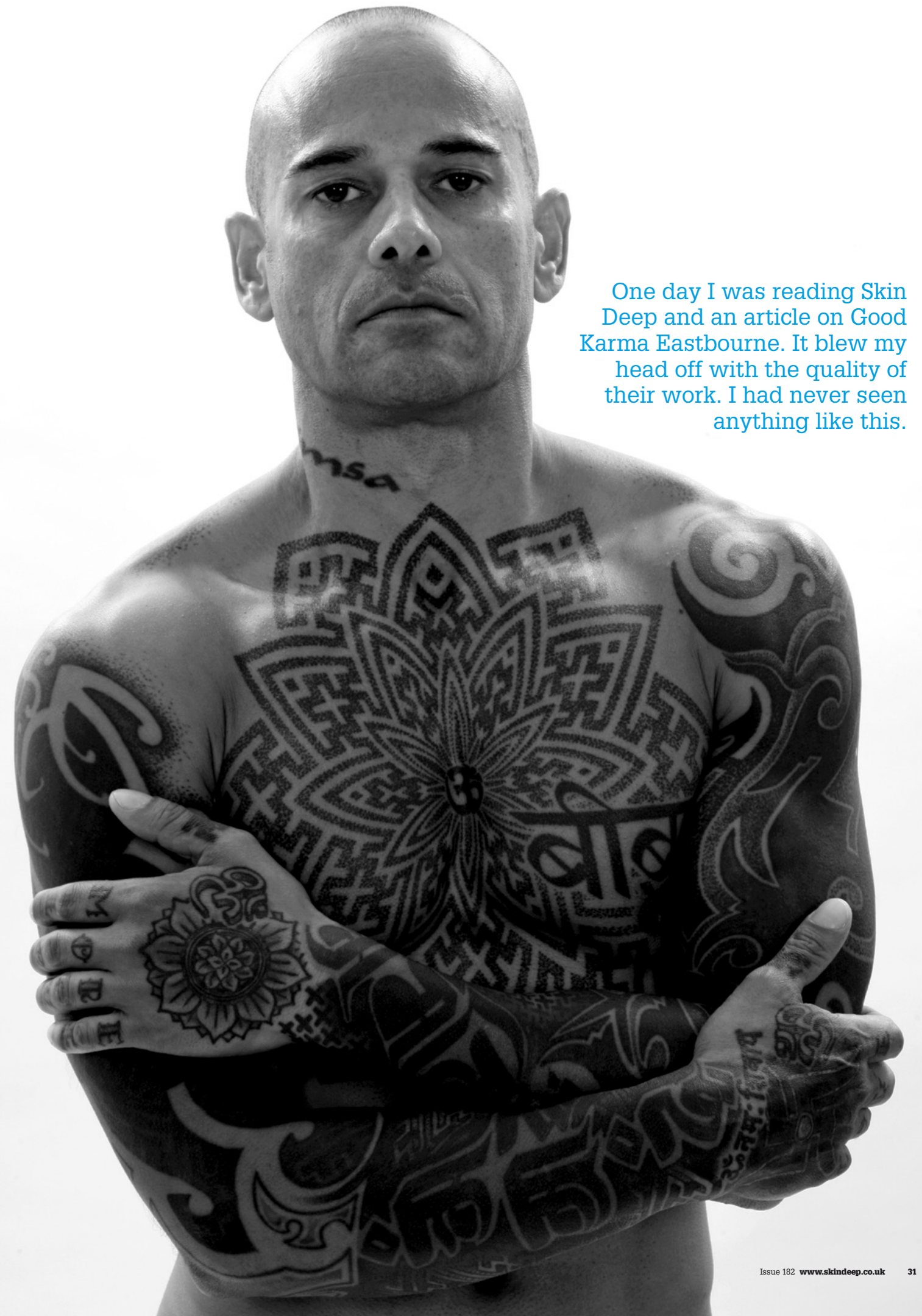
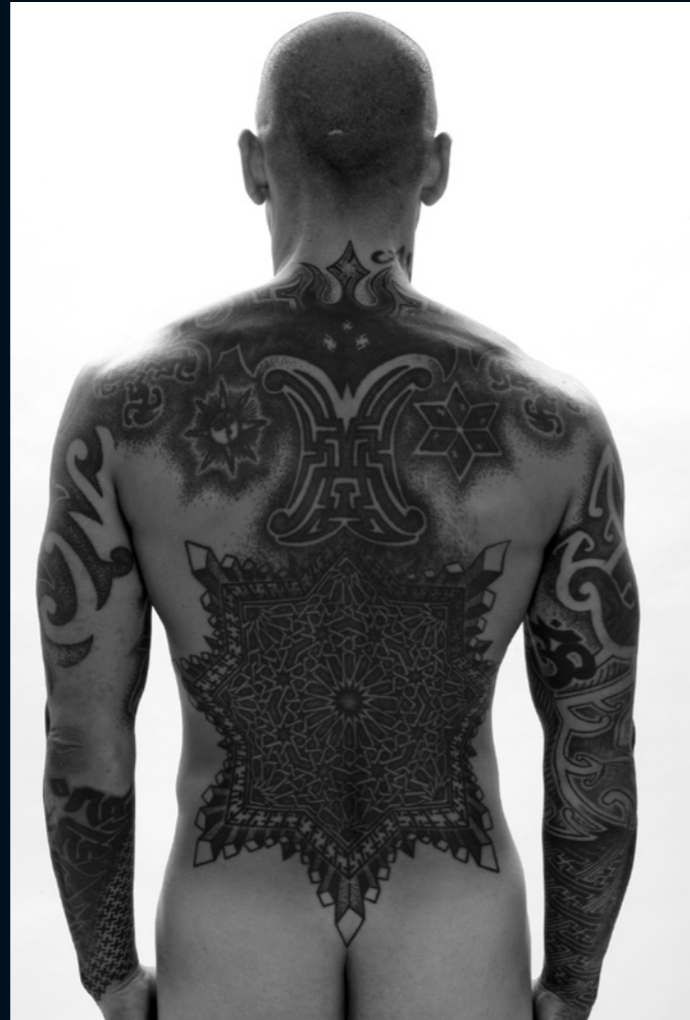
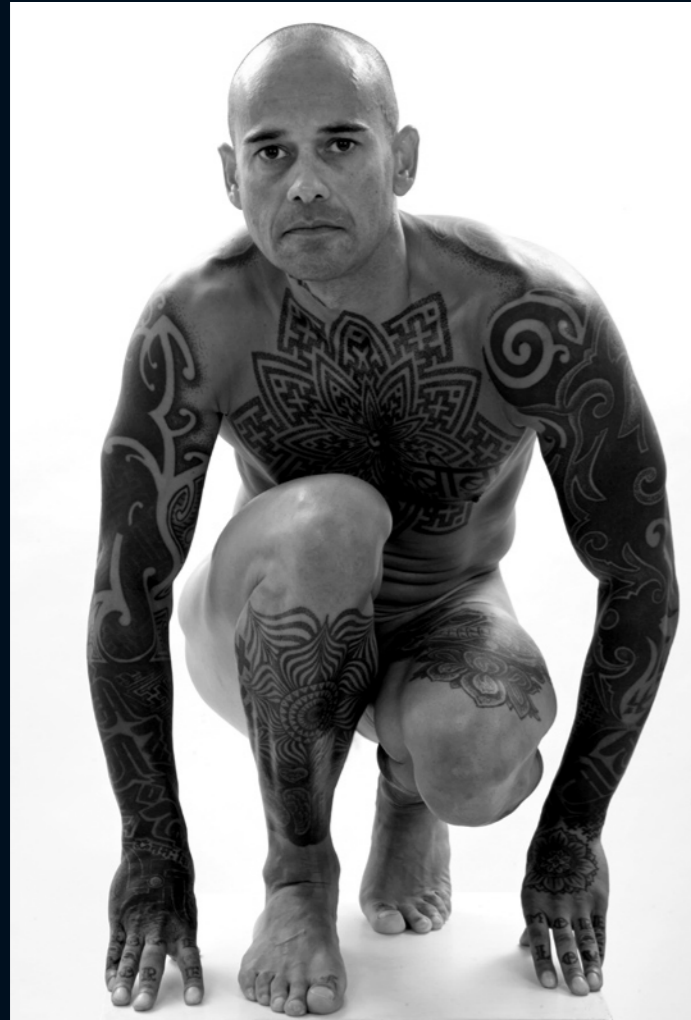
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# Ian

Ian was a self-confessed hyperactive youngster and used to get into all sorts of scrapes (I should know, I went to school with him!) during his formative years. He and his brother ran the teachers a merry dance at our small comprehensive in East Sussex.



One day I was reading Skin Deep and an article on Good Karma Eastbourne. It blew my head off with the quality of their work. I had never seen anything like this.

Ian has had a few tattooing troubles over the years, and like many of us he started off getting some regrettable tattoos, not knowing any different but since meeting with the very talented Jim MacAirt and Mark B and then a chance meeting with the great Xed Lehead (fate maybe?) his tattoo collection has changed and grown into the wonderful collection you see her before you.

Ian feels that his meeting with Xed and his consequent tattoos have helped him find himself and find an inner calm that he had been looking for, for years.

That's what I love about tattoos; they can help people in so many varied ways.

Here is Ian's story in his own words...

I'm Ian Persad, born in Fulham London on 7-11-1965. My father was born in Trinidad and spent time in Tobago. His parents are Indian they were from Darjeeling North India. They are Hindus. My mother was born in England, her parents are English. I have got

one brother. When I was five years old my parents moved to Camber Sands – East Sussex. I had a great childhood, real fun, always doing something. I had so much energy so my mum says. I never stopped still, always wanted to play. She said I was hyperactive and a bit crazy.

My childhood interests were music and fashion and my influences were crazy people. I always wanted to be different. I was very rebellious, which got me into lots of trouble at the time. It all went crazy when I was about thirteen or fourteen years old and was a punk with spiky hair and clothes from Seditionaries punk shop London. I first became interested in tattoos when I was at school in Rye at about fourteen when I first tattooed myself with a needle and Indian ink. No sterilisation of course!

It was a cross, an easy symbol. Then over the next few months I tattooed more. Towards the end of school at about the age of fifteen and a half, myself and three of my mates from London went to Hastings Old Town to the

market where there was a tattooist named Pip who tattooed a rose with a scroll on me, covering the stuff I did at school. And over the next few weeks I had more tattoos, a black panther's head and a swallow and a scroll with mum on my right arm and a leopard and the same scroll design with dad on my left arm. I was the only one at school with tattoos.

After about ten to twelve years I got bored with the tattoos I had and wanted to get a different style of tattooing done. When I was twenty-seven I went to Sunset Tattoo studio, also in Hastings and had some tribal work done on my back and on my ankle. The tattooist was called Chris. I felt it was great. I wore them with pride for a few years. Not many people in that area had this type of work if any.

I wanted to cover the old work on my arms to balance it with the tribal stuff. So I went to the tattooist in the Old Town, Hastings where I met an apprentice. He knows who he is! He said he could cover all three pieces on my right arm with one big black tribal piece. So I agreed. I didn't know anyone else or anywhere ➔



Xed and Lucky have inspired me loads. It's not just a tattoo you get from them. It's an experience that you will never forget.



else that could do it at the time.

The tattoo was, which took about five hours and was charged £250. After about a week my arm became very swollen and went black and blue and I was in a lot of pain. I got septicaemia and had to go to hospital.

After I came out I went back to the shop to complain. I told the tattooist I wasn't happy with the work and told him what had happened and that the tattoo wasn't black, it was a greyish colour. His attitude was "so what" and he was not prepared to give me my money back. Needless to say things got a little erm, "heated" and the police were called and things got a little ugly. I soon realised that it was pointless to argue the case, so I left it because every dog has their day.

I was not happy with the mess I had on my arm and for a long time I was a bit put off of tattooing because of the bad work.

And then I began to read tattoo mags for finding ways and people competent to finish the bad work I had on me. One day I was reading Skin Deep and an article on Good Karma Eastbourne. It blew my head off with the quality of their work. I had never seen anything like this. The work was incredible! So the next day I went to Eastbourne and met Jim McAirt and Mark B. They talked to me and showed me a way out of my bad tattooing experiences. So I booked an appointment with Mark B who tattooed a large tribal Borneo piece down one arm covering the old flash and seven hours later it was finished. I loved it.

Over the next year or two I had more work from Mark and Jim. I loved the vibe of the shop with its cool music and crazy people! The first time when Mark was tattooing my left arm for seven hours, I met the most amazing person that I have ever met with energy I have never experienced. He didn't stop talking and laughing. His name was Xed LeHead.

I was in Hastings one day when I bumped into Xed. We walked and talked and at the end of it Xed said he would tattoo me. So we have got started on some of my tattoos. Xed worked at the tattoo shop called IntoYou, where over next few years I had most of the work done. IntoYou was a good experience and what a great fun we had there! In fact I'm still laughing! I met all sorts of people there over the years.

This is where I met Lucky Diamond Rich. He is a diamond geezer. What a character! Xed and Lucky inspired me loads and helped me with lots of my problems. Top dudes. We all became very good friends. One Christmas about six years ago, Lucky came to stay with me for five days over the Christmas period. On Christmas day he tattooed a large Tibetan skull on a lotus on my top thigh and we finished it the next day in my flat. What a top Christmas present!

The style of tattooing was Xed's style; oms, swastikas, mantras and geometric patterns; very spiritual stuff. I also have ahimsa written on my neck. I had that tattooed to stop being so violent and aggressive. It worked. That was about six years ago. Xed and Lucky have inspired me loads. It's not just a tattoo you get from them. It's an experience that you will never forget. The energy is far out. A lot of people ask me who does my tattoos and what they mean. So I suppose I inspire others,



which is good. I like black tattoos because I don't think colour suits me and I think it looks a bit cartoonish. I have some red highlighting though. So I have black and red. I think it suits my skin tone. People ask me why I have swastikas tattooed all over me. I reply why not and ask them to find out what the real meaning behind it is. Unfortunately still lots of people associate it with Hitler and Nazis but this symbol has been around a lot longer, before Hitler was even born!

Back to the start of it. I suppose I started to get tattooed to be different and rebellious and to look tough. The tattoos work both ways though, positive and negative. Some people like my tattoos, some don't. More people are getting heavily tattooed which is a good thing. It's becoming more acceptable. Years ago, it was prisoners, hard men, army and navy men and women. Now it's all sorts of professions. The stigma of the tattoo is freer these days I suppose.

I am planning one more piece; Lucky's tag, a Lucky diamond, maybe on my neck.

A few years ago I had health problems and ended up in hospital where I started doing art. The art teacher asked me if I was an artist. I told her I have never done it in my life. She told me my work was very good and liked it a lot and asked me if they could put some of the work up in the hospital for a sale. They said I could have the money if they sold them. I said they could keep the money and donate

IntoYou was a good experience and what a great fun we had there! In fact I'm still laughing! I met all sorts of people there over the years.

it to the hospital. She told me my work was like Jackson Pollock's work. I said who was he? I knew nothing about art. I came back to Hastings and carried on with my art as an underground artist and never had a negative comment about it. In fact lots of people liked it and I would like to show it to as many people as I can. I found something unique in my work using fluorescent colours and UV lights.

I also like to keep fit and healthy as possible so I train and exercise a lot and have a very good diet, which Xed helped me with. I am the fittest and strongest I have ever been in my life and getting fitter and stronger physically and mentally. Xed calls me a mad Ian 'cos I am a bit crazy, which is very true. About 6 months ago I have met the most beautiful girl inside and out and changed my life all for the good. Now we are living together. We are one happy family, myself, Teri and Ollie, my dog. Love more, more love. That is tattooed on my fingers. I did it 'cos I love love. And it's all good. Who



said leopards can't change their spots? I am changing every day. I am really concentrating on my art now because I haven't done any new work for quite a while. Over the last few weeks I have done some new work and it's getting better. I am planning to do a lot more work on the spiritual tip and some really wild big stuff and small stuff.

Special thanks to my mum and dad, my daughter Biba, my girlfriend Teri, Xed, Lucky and Ollie.

Om shanti Om! ☆



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INTERVIEW: NEIL  
PHOTOGRAPHY: ED PERDOMO

# ED PERDOMO

STARDUST TATTOO  
OREBRO, SWEDEN  
EMAIL: EDMENSAJES@YAHOO.COM  
WEB: WWW.EDPERDOMO.COM

Ed Perdomo was born and raised in Colombia where he started out on his quest to become a tattooist. After a few years working from his homeland, Ed decided it was time to venture forth into the big wide world to see what it had to offer him. His travels took him to South America, Asia and finally Europe where Ed has set up a base in Sweden.

**H**is extensive travels have opened Ed's eyes to the endless possibilities of tattooing inspiration and this includes his passion for animated movies, where he has gleaned many fresh ideas for his tattoos. Ed still says he has a long way to go in the industry - saying that, all you have to do is look at his exquisite work to see how far he has already come - and he is constantly looking to improve and find his own unique style. Personally, I feel that Ed already has a very distinct and unique quality to his work. He also is a big fan of bright, vibrant colours and believes that tattoos can make people very happy and tries to include his optimistic outlook on life in his work and this is more than obvious just by looking at Ed Perdomo's tattoos.

**SO ED, WHAT ARE YOUR EARLIEST MEMORIES OF TATTOOS? WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO START TATTOOING? WHEN DID YOU START AND WHERE? PHEW, THAT'S A LOT OF QUESTIONS IN ONE GO!**  
Well... I guess the cartoon character "Popeye" was the first one I ever saw wearing a tattoo, I come from Colombia and in my country, being tattooed has never been popular, especially in the beginning of the 90's  
Back then some friends and I wanted to get tattoos so we built tattoo machines out of toy parts, mechanical pencils and Chinese ink. Then we started to tattoo each other.

**WHERE DO YOU THINK YOUR INTEREST IN TATTOOS AND TATTOOING COMES FROM? DID YOU EVER THINK YOU WOULD BE TATTOOING FOR A CAREER?**  
Everything started as a game for me, a friend of a friend knew I was playing around with tattoos



**I WISH I HAD HAD AN APPRENTICESHIP, IT COULD HAVE SAVED ME SO MUCH TIME AND SO MANY PEOPLE WOULD BE MUCH HAPPIER NOW WITH THEIR TATTOOS.**

and so on and just like that, I got bunch of guys knocking on my door wanted to have a tattoo.

**AT WHAT AGE DID YOU GET YOUR FIRST TATTOO AND BY WHOM?**

I was 17 years old and I got a little "Tasmanian devil" from one of my friends.

**DID TATTOOING COME EASILY TO YOU FROM THE OFF?**

Eventually, after working at the process for a while, it did come easy but for the first few years I was what people might call a scratcher, I'm ashamed to say.

**DID YOU GET AN APPRENTICESHIP OR WERE YOU SELF-TAUGHT?**

I never had any kind of education, including tattoos, I have been self-taught.

**DO YOU THINK AN APPRENTICESHIP IS THE BEST WAY TO LEARN THE BUSINESS?**

I think it is the best way to learn how to tattoo; I wish I had had an apprenticeship, it could have saved me so much time and so many people would be much happier now with their tattoos. But on the other hand, it's not easy to become an artist when you learn everything from someone else because in the end, your ↻





work will look pretty similar to that of your teacher's work or at least that's what I've noticed looking at other people's work that I have seen.

**I BELIEVE THAT YOU TRAVEL THE WORLD QUITE A BIT WORKING AT DIFFERENT STUDIOS. DO YOU FIND THIS A GOOD WAY OF MEETING NEW ARTISTS AND MAYBE LEARNING SOMETHING FROM THEM?**

Just being in different places gives me lots of inspiration and fresh ideas. In some places I have the opportunity to share quality time with good artists and people; but I do my best not to talk about tattoos and maybe focus on composition, interpretation, flow, harmony and such instead...

**HOW ARE TATTOOS AND TATTOOED PEOPLE PERCEIVED IN COLUMBIA?**

Things have changed quite fast over the last couple of years, I am guessing those "reality shows" have helped people to see tattoos in a different and more positive light.

**I PRESUME THAT NOW YOU ARE BASED IN SWEDEN THINGS ARE A LITTLE DIFFERENT TATTOO-WISE FROM SOUTH AMERICA?**

If I could compare a South American tattoo scene with the Swedish one, I would choose the Brazilian tattoo scene. There are a lot of good artists in Brazil and lots of collectors who actually listen or even better, leave everything up to the artist.

**YOUR WORK SEEMS TO BE ALL ABOUT BRIGHT COLOURS, ANIMALS AND HAPPINESS. IS THIS A CONSCIOUS THING AND ARE YOU AN OPTIMISTIC PERSON, AS IT SEEMS TO COME OUT IN YOUR TATTOOS?**

Colours make people happy - at least they make me happy! I also enjoy doing optimistic pieces with some real sense of humour added and people's response has been very good so far; besides I really think that out there are way too many people who have joined the dark side. It's time to lighten up!



**HAVE YOU WORKED AT MANY CONVENTIONS?**

Not so many in the past but in last couple of years when I moved to Europe, I started to attend as many as I could. Now I am trying to slow down and get involved in less conventions so I won't get sick of them too early; for me, the point is to have fun.

**HOW DID PEOPLE AT THE CONVENTIONS PERCEIVE YOUR WORK?**

To my surprise, I've had a very good response; a couple of years ago no one knew who I was but somehow I managed to get involved in some really fun projects.

**IT'S NOT EASY TO BECOME AN ARTIST WHEN YOU LEARN EVERYTHING FROM SOMEONE ELSE BECAUSE IN THE END, YOUR WORK WILL LOOKS PRETTY SIMILAR TO THAT OF YOUR TEACHER'S WORK.**

**DID YOU PICK UP ANY ADDITIONAL TIPS AND TRICKS FROM THE ARTISTS WORKING AT THE CONVENTIONS?**

Not really, there always seems to be too much going on and there's never enough time to ↻







share information with other artists, which is a shame.

**DO YOU FIND THAT CERTAIN STYLES ARE PREVALENT DEPENDING ON WHEREABOUTS YOU ARE IN THE WORLD?**

Definitely! Every place has their very own "tattoo fashion" sometimes even in the same country from city to city, you can see how people like a certain kind of work more than others.

**I LOVE TATTOOS AND TATTOOING MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE BUT ITS IMPORTANT AS IN EVERY PROFESSION TO HAVE ETHICS, KNOWING WHEN TO SAY NO CAN BE A MATTER OF OPINION.**

**DURING YOUR TRIPS ABROAD, HAVE YOU NOTICED ANY PARTICULAR AREAS THAT ARE MORE WELCOMING TO TATTOOS AND TATTOOISTS THAN OTHERS?**

I never noticed any differences, until I moved to Europe where you can see the welcoming or unwelcoming attitude for being a "tattooist" or indeed for being South American.

**DO YOU THINK THAT FORMAL ART TRAINING IS BENEFICIAL TO A TATTOOIST?**

It is fundamental as long as you want to become a tattoo artist but if being a tattooist is your personal goal; then I don't think it is that necessary.

**WHO ARE YOUR MAIN INFLUENCES, INCLUDING BOTH TATTOOISTS AND THE MORE TRADITIONAL ARTISTS?**

My biggest influence will be master Miyasaki, but I also love other artist's work such as, Fernando Botero, Peter d' Save, Obregon, Alfonse Mucha, Craola; there are far too many to mention...

My favourites tattoo artists... first of all Mauricio Teodoro (simply the best!), Marcio Duarte, Mauro Nunez and Cory Krueger.



**I LOVE THE ASIAN STYLE OF TATTOOING AND TO DESCRIBE MY WORK TO PEOPLE IS HARD AS THEY USUALLY WANT TO CLASSIFY WHAT I DO INTO A CATEGORY THAT ALREADY EXISTS**

**CAN YOU DESCRIBE YOUR OWN TATTOO STYLE?**

I love the Asian style of tattooing and to describe my work to people is hard as they usually want to classify what I do into a category that already exists; then they label it as new school and to be honest I don't like it because once you classify or label something, it takes away the freedom. But if I had to call it something, I would call it cartoon style.

**HOW DO YOU GO ABOUT DESIGNING A TATTOO? WHAT PROCESSES DO YOU GO THROUGH TO GET FROM THE INITIAL IDEA TO THE FINALISED DESIGN?**

Before sketching, the first thing would be to meet with the collector to fully understand their ideas, then I trace the body area, marking the muscles and focus points; then couple of long, sleepless nights developing characters and making something happen on paper.

**DO YOUR CLIENTS TEND TO HAVE SET IDEAS OF HOW THE TATTOO SHOULD LOOK, OR DO THEY GIVE**

**YOU A CONCEPT TO WORK FROM AND LET YOU CONTROL THE OUTCOME?**

Some of my collectors have an idea or kind of key words that point me in a certain direction to go with the design and some of them leave it totally up to me, which is quite liberating.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE ULTIMATE TATTOO FOR YOU TO CREATE? WHAT SUBJECT MATTER/PLACEMENT/TECHNIQUES WOULD YOU USE?**

I would love to do a cartoon body suit, I guess I would do it as a complete traditional Japanese parody, using pretty much the techniques I'm already using.

**WHERE DO YOU DRAW THE LINE ON WHAT YOU WILL AND WON'T TATTOO?**

I love tattoos and tattooing more than anything else but its important as in every profession to have ethics, knowing when to say no can be a matter of opinion; but in my personal opinion: I won't tattoo subjects that I am not ☺







comfortable with like lettering or particular styles; for example old school or things I have no experience in. Also I don't do hands or necks unless it is someone that is heavily tattooed and they understand how it will affect their life. I won't ever do tattoos on the face.

**HOW DO YOU RELAX AND SPEND TIME AWAY FROM TATTOOING?**

I spend my free time playing the guitar even though I suck at it! Watching lots of movies and hmm, I guess that's it, I am not really that much fun to hang out with!

**WHO HAS TATTOOED YOU?**

I've erased or covered much of my first tattoos and some of the people I am proud of have tattoos from are Mauricio Teodoro, Marcio Duarte, Mauro Nunes and Jee Sayalero.

**ARE THERE ANY OTHER ARTISTS THAT YOU'RE PLANNING TO GET WORK FROM?**

I recently started my body suit from Jee Sayalero leaving no room for anyone else.

**BEING MYSELF IS PROBABLY MY FAVOURITE PART OF BEING A TATTOOIST.**

**DO YOU WORK IN ANY OTHER MEDIUMS, E.G. SCULPTURE, PAINTING? DO THESE PURSUITS INFLUENCE YOUR TATTOOING WORK AT ALL?**

The only technique I use besides tattoos are colour pencils, which have been a great influence in my work. Just recently I started painting with acrylics and hopefully some day I will have something to show.

**WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PART OF BEING AN ARTIST?**

Being myself is probably my favourite part of being a tattooist.

**DO YOU HAVE ANY AMBITIONS IN EITHER THE TATTOOING INDUSTRY OR OTHERWISE?**

I want to have my own studio and do this thing until the day I die!

**IS THERE ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD?**

Only need to add my gratitude to you and your readers for letting me share my work with all of you. Thank you! ★



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TEXT: MAKI PHOTOGRAPHY: MAKI & HIRO HARA

# TOKYO TATTOO TOUR

## A FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE OF JAPAN'S TATTOOING CULTURE

The idea for Gominoko Tours was conceived when brainstorming with Crystal Morey, the Texan proprietress of the Japan Based Gominoko Books (supplies Japanese tattoo/ Art books to the world) who has a bevy of faithful costumers who are interested in improving their Japanese skills, and wanting to come to Japan.



**S**imply experiencing the Japanese culture will hone their skills, and meeting some of the top wabori masters in Japan is a once in a lifetime opportunity, especially in the inaccessible Japanese tattoo environment. Three weeks later, we had a homepage, a myspace, and a fantastic schedule with some of the best tattooing talent in Japan, and we were ready to roll...

In December we had the first tour, with a line-up of international talent and incredibly, we were honoured with an old timer as well, the legendary Walt Dailey with 33 years tattooing experience as well as Aaron Coleman, Jay Cavna, and Jim Rosal, who is well known for his tattoo machines, and has even supplied to the likes of Eddie Deutsch and Ed Hardy. It was admittedly pandemonium at times due to it being our flagship tour, but was ultimately successful, much due to my good friend Horiren, one of the top tebori artists in Japan.

**Day one.** Japan is not renowned for its bad weather, but this day was testimony to the contrary - a grizzly sky awaited our tired tattoo artists, traffic, delayed planes, the lot. We took the artists to their retrospective hotels. One of the hotels was a standard business hotel, and we also hired one floor of a love hotel in the Dogenzaka district. These hotels have "pay by the hour" rooms that are notorious for their kitschy and sometimes ridiculous interior design.



Whilst it sounds shady, in a city of 13 million people, many "regular" people use them, as their houses are tiny, and in many cases, it is impossible to get any privacy, and the rooms are a fairly accepted part of the Japanese culture. The first night, We hired a party room in one of Shibuya's most famous love hotels, P&A. Known for its absolutely over the top interiors, we got a huge Moroccan harem style monstrosity 'till everyone gave into jetlag.

**Day two** Half the group run off in glee to get their Horiyoshi III tattoos and the rest of us started the tour at the Meiji Shrine, the imperial shrine of Japan, considered to

be one of the most powerful, with its austere architecture and minimalist sensibilities. Meiji Shrine and the surrounding Yoyogi park sits in the middle of the seething metropolis and offers an urban oasis in the middle of the sprawling city teeming with skyscrapers. Meiji Shrine is next to Harajuku, which is the youth culture Mecca of Tokyo. It houses the FRUITS culture (crazy and colourful street fashion), and is packed with gothic Lolita, punk, and uber cute outfits, and toys. There are several tattoo shops in this vicinity, and after dropping by High Five tattoo, we stop at Tokyo's first tattoo street shop, the

Half the group run off in glee to get their Horiyoshi III tattoos and the rest of us start at Meiji Shrine, the imperial shrine of Japan, considered to be one of the most powerful, with its austere architecture and minimalist sensibilities.





Harajuku also has the ukiyo-e museum, which houses some of the most exquisite ukiyo-e collections in Tokyo.

**LIKE THE SOUND OF A JAPANESE TATTOO TOUR?**

Gomineko Books is running two tours of Japan this year, tailored specifically for the tattoo enthusiast. They have timed it so the cherry blossom will be in bloom and Crystal will be plotting out 10 days of seeing the sights, meeting the legends, and thoroughly embracing the seedy underbelly of this amazing country and all you have to do is get there. No need to struggle with the language, or local currency, or deal with confusing maps and train systems...Gomineko Tours will take care of all that.

The Japanese tattoo world is often inaccessible and hard to navigate...Crystal and Co take the hardwork out of your networking. If you want to get an authentic Japanese tattoo while you are here they can arrange that as well.

**Tokyo Tour - March 21, 2010 - March 31, 2010**

The idea is to take a bunch of like-minded, fun (please, please don't sign on if you have no sense of humour) people to Crystal's favourite haunts and hangs. You will visit all the nearby temples and shrines, and take in a tebori seminar so you can witness traditional hand poke tattooing up close, and ask questions. A visit to the Horiyoshi III museum and Kyosai museum, experience a traditional Japanese hot spring are all planned for this unique trip!

Budget accommodations has been arranged right in the heart of the city - rife with neon and always buzzing this area is overflowing with cafes, great restaurants, bars, clubs and fantastic shopping.

The tour will run 21st March to the 31st and you will need to book a flight into Narita Airport on the 21st of March, which means you will most likely fly out on the 20th of March. Prices and more information are available from: [www.gominekobooks.com/tours1.html](http://www.gominekobooks.com/tours1.html)

legendary Scratch Addiction. Harajuku also has the ukiyo-e museum, which houses some of the most exquisite ukiyo-e collections in Tokyo. Being December, there was a snow themed show on, with iconic images by Horishige, Hokusai and Kyosai.

After checking out this area, we head out to Shinagawa, where we go to the Gomineko show, - Crystals regular project where she asks artists to submit illustrations based on a Japanese ghost story, or a mythical creature. This time around was the Nue, and was displayed in a traditional BBQ restaurant, replete with red lanterns, and a riverside location. Tattoo artist Hougen/Maruyama, who works at Horiyasu studio had an impressive piece, and made an appearance, as did Red Bunny's Akatsuki, and tebori artist Horiren.

**Day Three.**

Not to be deterred by the atrocious weather conditions, we trekked out to Kamakura, a gorgeous Buddhist pilgrimage site, and the former military and administrative capital. The main temple is the Kotokuin with its famed Daibutsu statue (the Big Buddha), a ten metre high effigy made of 125 tones of Bronze. The autumn colours were spectacular, but the rain was nothing less than incredible. After a few directional mishaps and two lost guests, we were safely back to Tokyo in one piece!!

**Day Four.**

Morning takes us to the Horiyoshi III museum, a tiny space crammed from ceiling to floor on two levels, filled with tattooing memorabilia and antiques. Everything from woodblock prints, unique machines, (with the obligatory hello kitty appearance) flash and photos, to a vast



collection of his books, as well as, oddly enough Horiyoshi III's collection of Charles Manson letters. It is a tattoo enthusiast's paradise, and an entire day could be spent there, gawking at everything. Then onto the Mooneyes show, which is Japan's top kustom culture event with bobbers, choppers, hotrods, all housed in a huge convention hall in Yokohama.

**Day Five:**

We had our tebori seminar with Horiren, who is one of Japan's top tattoo artisans. Her studio is in a non-descript downtown suburban area called Warabi, and its claim to fame is that its Japan's smallest suburb. Her studio is an old style house that has the studio upstairs, and we spent the day privileged enough to see her work, and answer her questions. Her work is exquisite and elegant and three people from the tour were tattooed by her, and experienced the tebori technique firsthand. After this, we went to the local shrine, where we are blessed by a Shinto priest who even made the prayer out to say, "To the international tattoo artists of the world, may you have good luck in all your endeavours", while he shook leaves over our heads in the shrine back hall.

Then the night proceeded into a Kafka-esque extravaganza, as we went from the Shrines, feeling divinely purified, to a rock n roll bar where much booze was consumed, and much hysterical laughter over the dodgy kanji tattoos that people had gotten in their youth, most notably the tattoo that was meant to read Buddha, but looked closer to potato. Everyone ended up shirtless for a photo session and then we piled into the traditional eatery that Horiren had organized.

The restaurant was traditionally Japanese, and much to our surprise Horiren had her clients come over, as well as the locals who reside in the area.

A shamisen player played his wares and then proceeded to strip off to fundoshi, accompanied by the owner of the restaurant (who has a Horiyoshi II tattoo) and the other locals. At some point, everyone was in their fundoshi, food and drink was served by fundoshi-clad waiters, and we were even pulling locals off the street who are known for being tattooed and making them strip.

**This was a day of pure serendipity - it is so rare that you can see a full body suit in the flesh by a top artisan of Japan, let alone entire room full of people with top tier work.**

flesh by a top artisan of Japan, let alone entire room full of people with top tier work. After being literally forced to consume ridiculous quantities tequila, the group stumbled out of the restaurant, and there was even a spectacular face plant along the way.

This was a day of pure serendipity - it is so rare that you can see a full body suit in the

**Day six**

Nikko/Asakusa. A day spent in Nikko, which is a Buddhist pilgrimage site in the Tochigi district. It is one of the most majestic areas of Japan, and is rife with temples that are heavily adorned with deities and other statues. ➡







Horitoku's innocuous studio is in the downtown district of Shinjuku's West and following the classic wabori ethos of "secrecy is cool".

**Day Seven**  
Akihabara is the geek epicentre of Tokyo. Packed to the brim with kitschy anime, manga and figurines, there are a cavalcade of doe eyed girl products, electronics, cameras and porn. There are also second hand Nintendo's, games, cheat books, and trading cards. Geeks are into their animated girlfriends, and there are multitudes of shops to cater to the socially inept. From there we explore a few street shops, the uber popular Inktrat Tattoo Studio, in the Koenji district, Scraeth Addiction, Tokyo's first street shop and High Five, an Americana shop, both in the Harakuju district. That night we explore Golden Gai, a series of post-war bars that are the size of a standard western bathroom. Each bar is themed, and extremely atmospheric. The area inspired the film Bladerunner, and is rife with artists, photographers, filmmakers and writers.

**Day Eight**  
Out in the sticks in Gunma, is the studio of the tebori artist Horimasa, a top artisan of breathtaking ability who pursues traditional Japanese tattooing, and is internationally renowned for his classic Japanese pieces, and superior illustrations. Three people received fantastic work from him, and much of the day was spent in the studio. From there, we went to a hot spring in the local area and bathed, all soaking in the mineral rich waters!  
One of the guests, Rhys Gordon from Australia's Inner Vision wanted to get a tattoo by Horitoku, one of Japan's most influential traditional tebori masters. Horitoku's innocuous studio is in the downtown district of Shinjuku's West and following the classic wabori ethos of "secrecy is cool", the apartment is completely

non descript and difficult to find unless you are given specific directions.  
That night is spent with machine banter with Horiyasu, another one of Japan's greats. Known for his powerful, consistent Japanese traditional tattoos, talking with him was one of the highlights of the trip. Those who made it out that night were privilege to dine with one of Japan's best.  
**Day Nine**  
The final day in the tour and we go to Asakusa, the downtown area of Tokyo that is home to Senjoji, Tokyo's oldest shrine. It is also a Mecca for tattoo artisans, and the district is rife with traditional tattoo artists and their clients. We briefly visit Horiyasu studio to see the master

in action, and then head down to Golden Gai for drinks to wind the tour down.  
If you like the sound of the Gomineko Tattoo tour, Crystal will be arranging the next tour, scheduled to run in March 2010. Go to: [www.gominekobooks.com](http://www.gominekobooks.com) for further details. ★



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# MICK COPE

## A LINCOLNSHIRE LEGEND

TEXT & PHOTOGRAPHY: BRENDAN MUDD: WWW.MYSPACE.COM/INKFISHSTUDIOS ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY: STEVE COULSON



On a chilly winters morning, I embarked on a mission, which involved travelling to Lincoln, to attempt to document a small piece of the tattooing life and times of the infamous "Mick Cope" a real diamond of a man and to those that know him...a legend!

I met up with Mick, and a couple of mutual tattooing buddies, Steve Coulson and Reuben Youngblood, in one of Mick's watering holes... "The Golden Cross" We presumed that we would get the most out of the old 'fella in his natural habitat where he felt the most at home and comfortable!

We oiled Mick's cogs with a couple of pints of the old amber throat charmer, and away we went...

It all started in Lowestoft approximately fifty years ago, when Mick was around the age of fifteen. He used to do tattoo designs for his mates, at school to take in, and get tattooed by a local tattooist by the name of Derrick Waghorn.

Derrick had seen, and done quite a few of Mick's designs and requested a meeting with the boy as he had a business proposition for him.

Mick had, at this point, never tattooed anyone ever, but I presume in those days, if you had the ability to draw tattoo designs, it was taken as read that you could tattoo them into the skin if you had the right equipment... This is also probably and partly, the reason why it was such a closed shop, and was as difficult as it was to get a foothold into the industry.

He was offered the chance to go in as an equal partner, working with Derrick in the back of an amusement arcade and the "Parlour" turned out, in fact, to be situated in the arcade's public toilet. The finer details would have been nagged out and agreed upon, and Mick's first tattoo shop became a reality.

The rent was, between the two of them - two pounds a week.

The machines that the gentlemen used were converted electric razors, "Braun" was good to use apparently. The inks that were used were made up from powder colours that were purchased from "Cornelius's", an art supplier in London, who would not have been told what purpose they would be used for. The powders were then mixed with "Listerine" mouthwash and there you had your inks. Only a few colours were used as these were presumed to be "safe".

Mick, not long after setting up, tried to join the "Tattoo Guild of Great Britain" run by Bill Scuse, but was refused on the grounds that you needed to have been tattooing for at least ten years. Now, if the boys in



their toilet tattoo parlour, both had a customer to work on, there were only two chairs, so they placed a plank across the toilet seat, which was where the tattooists sat, and the customers had the luxury of a proper chair - all mod cons eh?

If one or the other of the tattooists had to stand up for any reason, they had to count to three and stand up together, or else the other would fall off the end of the bench!

If somebody from the arcade needed to use the toilet, on the other hand, the tattooists and their customers had to vacate the parlour, and then resume their job of work once the toilet



HIS CUSTOMERS, AFTER SUFFERING HOWEVER LONG UNDER THE NEEDLE, WOULD RETIRE DOWNSTAIRS TO THE PUB FOR A WELL DESERVED PINT OF ICE COLD LIQUID ANAESTHETIC.

had been used, regardless of the atmospheric aroma!

The boys worked in these conditions for around two years, then managed to rent a proper shop around the corner for the princely sum of ten pounds a week, which was in fact a condemned building, so at any given point, the council could have steamed in and shut them down. Both Mick and Derrick managed to survive for another three years in these premises until they were moved on.

Mick, then twenty years old, got married and moved to a caravan between Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth, to a place called Gorleston, and

worked from his caravan, attracting his custom from the local pubs and word of mouth and built up a healthy client list.

For another three years Mick worked from the caravan until he decided to move back up north. He was going to visit a friend in Lincoln, then move on to Skegness, but due to the amount of work he found in Lincoln, the decision to stay was made.

He worked again from home and it was five years before Mick ended up with a parlour above a pub called "The George and Dragon".

Mick was still using the same needles on every customer and as he said, "if you got a set of needles running good in the machine, you left 'em in 'till they were that blunt you couldn't use 'em anymore".

As the needles started getting blunt, the power pack was turned up to overcome the bluntness, and this helped to plough the needles into the skin.

The ink was poured into pots ten times the size of the pots we use today, and the same ink from the same pot was used on all the customers until it ran dry, at which point it was then refilled.

When you walked in, in the morning, the skin was peeled off the top of the inkpots, ready for the first customer.

The nozzles/tubes were washed out, in between colours and customers, in an ultrasonic bath, which helped to vibrate all the pigment and blood off the needles and







**A BULLDOG'S 'TAIL'...**  
 A chap walked in one day asking the whereabouts of old Mick as he wanted more work from the old fellow. He was laughing and joking about the fact that a few years earlier Mick had tattooed a bulldog on his person, and probably due to the fact that he might have had a few beers and the fact that he didn't like wiping down the tattoo too much during the procedure...Mick tattooed the rear leg of the dog, then tattooed the symmetrical other back leg...then possibly not realising that he had already done that...tattooed in a third! The gentleman in question seemed quite proud of his original, unique rendering of the world's only five-legged dog, accident as it may have been!

**THE LANDLORD UNDERSTANDABLY, GOT FED UP OF CONTINUALLY EMPTYING HIS ASHTRAYS OF BLOODY TISSUES AND FINALLY ASKED MICK TO VACATE THE PREMISES.**

nozzles, and then left with the nozzle and grip in a large test tube filled with a pink sterilizing liquid, in what was called a machine rack, ready and waiting for the next customer.

The designated area would have been shaved and a stencil was applied with a dodgy old piece of tracing paper and carbon, that had been used time and time again, this would be messy and blurry to say the least. Mick boasted of tattooing an outline where he never had to, or at least only rarely, had to take the needle out of the skin.

I, personally, worked from some of Mick's old stencils, which were devoid of elements like teeth and eyes, and as, Mick told me, "You can put 'em in where they needed to be". The tattoo would then be lined and coloured, then a thick dollop of Vaseline would be applied and covered with a piece of kitchen towel, which would be taped to the skin. Job done!

This leads me to Mick's demise at "The George and Dragon". His customers, after suffering however long under the needle, would retire downstairs to the pub for a well deserved pint of ice cold liquid anaesthetic. The dressing would be ripped off to show friends and interested onlookers, and the undesired kitchen towel would be promptly rolled up and thrown into the nearest ashtray!

The landlord understandably, got fed up of continually emptying his ashtrays of bloody tissues and finally asked Mick to

vacate the premises.

Mick used to sit upstairs with a pet Doberman by his side, partly as security, and if he accidentally released a little fart, he could lean over the side of his chair, whack the dog and accuse him of the foul deed!

Mick had, around this time, befriended a tattooist from Newark by the name of Steve Coulson. Mick and Steve would often visit each other in their respective studios to share tips and tricks and travel together to the occasional tattooist meeting (they were not known as conventions at that time).

Steve, in time, found out that Norwich was devoid of any professional tattooists so he made the move and set up shop in the town.

Mick, around this time, took on a fellow by the name of Dave, whom he taught to colour in! A conveyor belt system was set up where Mick would



outline, and Dave would then colour in the applied design. The partnership flourished for a number of years with the boys getting on as best friends, working associates and drinking buddies. The drinking included inbetween customers, where a sign would be placed on the shop door for any would be customers to come and drag back the fellows with the inked up dirty hands from the local watering hole so they could open up the shop for,



maybe, a few more lager tokens to be earned! This probably accounts for some of the work that I witnessed with my own eyes, when I was lucky enough to run the shop as my own for a few years after Mick tragically had his stroke.

The stories that always spring to mind was...a gentleman wandered into the studio one day, proud as punch of his green bulldog. On querying Mick on this phenomenon, as the gentleman verified, he and four of his mates had all wanted the same bulldog tattooing, one after the other, so Mick, to save himself having a nervous breakdown and for his own amusement, without consulting any of them as to his intensions, coloured each and every one a different colour...there was a brown one, a green one, a red one, a blue one and a yellow one!

The wearers of each and every one of these tattoos, apart from the brown one, were again, apparently proud of their unique renderings.

Mick had a customer who used to wander in from time to time and ask Mick to do whatever he wanted, so for his own amusement again, wrote gobbledegook interspersed with obscenities all over this poor fellow whom apparently was always very pleased with the outcome!

This all lends weight to Mick's wisdom that tattoo customers "only want a mark"

The stories are far too numerous to catalogue in a short feature, but believe me, there are many!

It very much appears that customers in those days were not nearly as discerning as customers in these days, which, as far as I'm concerned, is obviously a good thing for the industry in general.

This is not to say that Mick was a bad tattooist in any way shape or form, he could and would put on highly proficient tattoos in record time, and the vast majority of his customers were more than happy about the work he had put on them.

Mick's career was unfortunately cut short



when in '96 he suffered a stroke, which he was told that he would recover from within a year. He then found myself, via his good friend Steve Coulson, to run his shop as my own until such time as he recovered.

Mick got slightly better but never did recover fully enough to go back to work and being the absolute diamond of a man that he is, he gave me his business and everything that went with it, including all of his memorabilia.

I queried the memorabilia, and he replied that why would he want all these things around him that would constantly remind him of the career that had given him such an awesome rich quality of life.

I will be eternally grateful to the man that very unselfishly helped me to start my own tattooing career, for which I can't thank him enough.

Mick is a local character whom everybody wanted to

know in and out of the shop, and to this day... fifteen odd years, after his debilitating stroke, Mick still rarely has to put his hand in his pocket to buy himself a beer...not that he should be drinking, but that's another story!

I wrote this to document, very much in short, the life and times of Mick Cope, a colourful Lincolnshire legend whom tens of thousands of people will warmly remember as long as they live...he is most certainly engraved into my life in the best way possible...Cheers Mick! ☆





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		BLACKPOOL, Grand Theatre 01253 290 190	Sun 28 March blackpoolgrand.co.uk

[www.circusofhorrors.co.uk](http://www.circusofhorrors.co.uk)

**Kim Deep** **BIZARRE** **ROCK**  
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**WARNING:** The Circus of Horrors contains some nudity and language of an adult nature. It is not suitable for children, people of a nervous disposition, chavs or sissies!

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# Drew

Drew Linden is a heavily tattooed alt model, and a tattoo apprentice with a very striking appearance to compliment her glamorous looks.

**D**rew has already carved a niche into the tattooing industry with her very distinct new/old school style tattooing and show signs of becoming a big name in her chosen style. Apart from the tattooing apprenticing, Drew is a keen and very active member of those cheeky tattoo minxes, the God Girls. So as the sun set over the horizon and the photographs were taken, we asked Drew for an insight into her world of tattoos and modelling...

#### WHAT DO YOU DO?

I am currently a tattoo apprentice at Flesh Skin Grafix Tattoo in Imperial Beach, California.

#### HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN APPRENTICING FOR? IS IT A CLASSIC APPRENTICESHIP?

It is a very classic apprenticeship; at least that's what I would like to think. "Classic" is such a broad word, and with all the people who are getting involved with this industry, an apprenticeship can mean a lot of different things. My duties as an apprentice involve so many different things. I answer phones, do paperwork for clients, greet everyone that walks in the door and help them with any sort of questions they might have, and consult with the next artist that is up in rotation. I spend a great deal of time drawing and painting, working on lettering; those are the easier and nicer parts of what I do. I also take out the trash, scrub tubes, make needles, clean the shop, pick up after everyone, and just make sure that the shop is neat and orderly and running as it should. I have been here at FSG for eight months and have been tattooing for seven of them.

#### WHAT STYLES ARE YOU PURSUING?

I love painting, drawing and tattooing American traditional or "Americana", I have seen it called before. But honestly, I would love to be able to do everything, and that's what I strive for while working in a fast-paced street shop.

#### WHO ARE YOUR MENTORS?

Well my master's name is Mike Martin, and I am learning so much from him. I also look up



to my friends and peers Micah Caudle, Rob Benavides, Jackie Dunn Smith, Tod Bain, Chris Earnhart, Uncle Allan, Michelle Rubano, Grime, Bill Canales, Dominic Vasquez, Angelique, Juan Puente, and Geoff Horn...just to name a few!

#### ASIDES FROM TATTOOING, HOW DO YOU SPEND YOUR TIME?

I love to ride my bike... it is seriously the best feeling in the world. I strap my iPod on, and just goooooo. I also love music, and I collect old records. I listen to a wide variety of stuff, anywhere from classical to country. I also love laughing, hanging out with my friends, dancing and modelling.

#### CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT YOUR MODELLING?

I got into Gods Girls through a few friends of ☺







I got into Gods Girls through a few friends of mine. I wanted to be a part of an organization of girls that is more like a family than a sorority.

mine. I wanted to be a part of an organization of girls that is more like a family than a sorority. I feel that it is different from other sites because we hand-pick our models. Not everyone can be a GG; it takes something special to become one of us.

But I'm not trying to discourage girls from trying! We aren't very large, or have a lot of money, but all of the girls, including me, are very happy to be a part of it, and we are excited to see where it goes as it grows.

**SO WHAT ARE THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF DOING GODS GIRLS?**

When becoming a Gods Girl, you are welcomed with open arms by some of the nicest, and most beautiful girls around the globe. So friendship is a huge plus and that's what I like most about it. You get exposure into other worlds of modelling which can give you a chance to really shine in that way.

**WHO DID YOUR TATTOOS AND WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THEM?**

So many different people have tattooed me: Tod Bain, Micah Caudle, Crystal Dau, Sam Phillips, Rob Benavides, Uncle Allan, Milford Barnes, Jackie Dunn Smith, Michelle Rubano, Chris Earnhart, Geoff Horn - I might have forgotten a few, but their art work remains on me forever!

**WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO GET TATTOOS IN THE FIRST PLACE?**

I have always been drawn to artwork and creativity. I got my first tattoo when I was 16 and I was hooked for life. At 19 I started pursuing my dream of becoming an artist.

**HOW ARE YOU TREATED, HAVING SO MANY TATTOOS?**

I get all sorts of unwanted attention in the supermarket, on the street, in my car; at the bank...you name it!

I get strange looks, and random people walking up to me trying to touch my arm, or whatever body part they are looking at. I HATE it! You can look all you want, but if you try to touch me, I won't guarantee I'll be nice!

I moved from my home town down to the city, so that I could blend in a bit more, and not get the good ol' Christian mothers with their daughters turn their heads when I walked past. Some people love it; I mean, the oldest lady to the youngest kid could look at me and say, "You are just so colourful and pretty! I love it, and would love to get tattooed but am so scared." Then you get the old men who look down on you for one, being a woman and two, for being so tattooed. I've gotten the question, "How do you expect any man to ever want your hand in marriage?" I just look at them and shake my head at their stupidity.



**WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING TATTOOED?**

I am different from anyone you would ever meet anywhere.

**IF ANYONE TOMORROW COULD TATTOO YOU, WHO WOULD IT BE?**

Well I just recently got my neck done by Uncle Allan; he was someone I wanted to get tattooed by for years! If tomorrow I could pick, I guess it would be Bob Roberts or Juan Puentes.

**PLUGS, ANYTHING THEY WANT TO PROMOTE?**

Please promote the GG site! And my Tattoo shop Flesh Skin Grafix tattoo ★



# CASTELLON TATTOO CONVENTION

The Castellon Tattoo convention keeps growing in popularity from year to year, thanks to the hard work and dedication from the team at Producciones MLBC.



**F**or many of the foreign artists, three days is never enough time to fit everything in that the organisers put on, so from the Thursday evening, there was a big pre-show party to get everyone in the mood as well as the 'Miss Castellon' Competition.

With all of the artists on speaking terms, the doors opened and from the outset, there was a steady stream of Spanish visitors as well as many from other countries; all keen to get some new ink and to join in on the tattoo party.

As well as the many tattooists working hard to produce some eye-watering tattoos and the stage shows, there were some informative seminars that seem to be the norm at shows these days; adding that little extra to a convention. These went down very well with all that attended.



Japanese Tattooist 'Takami' was a guest at the show and there was a constant crowd around his booth with many eager to experience his stunning Traditional Japanese tattoo style first hand. Over the course of the weekend, there were close to ten thousand visitors at the show, which is testament to the interest of tattooing in Spain. Not bad considering

Tattoos were (and still are) frowned upon in many parts of Spain. In other parts of the large convention area, there was a healthy selection of American cars and hot rods and these created a large interest and combined with the top-notch tattooists, the organisers created a fun-packed, tattoo-related and educational experience for all that attended.



As well as the many tattooists working hard to produce some eye-watering tattoos and the stage shows, there were some informative seminars that seem to be the norm at shows these days.

So for another year, The Castellon Tattoo Convention was a huge success and will continue to grow and improve for next year.

With the continuing drop in airfares to Spain, why not come over for next year? You'll be glad you did. ★

[www.castellontattooconvention.co](http://www.castellontattooconvention.co)  
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[www.peterleetattooartsfestival.piczo.com](http://www.peterleetattooartsfestival.piczo.com)

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**APRIL 11TH**  
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**APRIL 17TH - 18TH**  
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 Contact Mike's Tattoo Studio on 01228 545156

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**MAY 23RD**  
**SOMERSET TATTOO CONVENTION**  
 White Hart, Eastover, Bridgwater, TA6 5AR  
[somersettattooconvention.co.uk](http://somersettattooconvention.co.uk)  
 01278 439569

**MAY 29TH - 30TH**  
**BOURNEMOUTH INK**  
 Bournemouth International Centre  
[www.bournemouthink.com](http://www.bournemouthink.com)  
[traders@bournemouthink.com](mailto:traders@bournemouthink.com)

**MAY 30TH**  
**THE WELSH TATTOO SHOW**  
 The Rose and Crown, Eglwysilan, South Wales  
 Email - [ultimateinc@fsmail.net](mailto:ultimateinc@fsmail.net)  
[www.thewelsh tattoooshow.com](http://www.thewelsh tattoooshow.com)  
 Tel: 01443 401222

**JUNE 12TH - 13TH**  
**PLYMOUTH TATTOO CONVENTION**  
 Plymouth Guild Hall  
 01752 221772 or 01752 253418

**JUNE 19TH - 20TH**  
**3RD ANNUAL LIVERPOOL TATTOO CONVENTION**  
 Liverpool Guild of Students Building  
 Liverpool  
 Web: [www.tattooconvention.co.uk](http://www.tattooconvention.co.uk)  
 Email: [enquiries@design4lifetattoo.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@design4lifetattoo.co.uk)  
 Telephone: 0151 254 1352

**JULY 17TH - 18TH**  
**2ND MAIDEN CITY INK TATTOO CONVENTION**  
 Everglades hotel Prehn Road, Derry City N. Ireland  
 For booths & trade stalls  
 Contact Zac 02871 363076 or China 02871 261797  
[myspace.com/maidencityink](http://myspace.com/maidencityink)



**AUGUST 6TH- 8TH**  
**TATTOO JAM**  
 Doncaster Racecourse  
 230+ international artists in attendance  
[www.tattoojam.co.uk](http://www.tattoojam.co.uk)

**AUGUST 14TH - 15TH**  
**NORWICH BODY ARTS FESTIVAL**  
[info@norwichbodyartfestival.co.uk](mailto:info@norwichbodyartfestival.co.uk)  
[www.norwichbodyartfestival.co.uk](http://www.norwichbodyartfestival.co.uk)  
 01603 629920 or 01603 886143

**OCTOBER 30TH - 31ST**  
**HALLOWEEN TATTOO BASH**  
 Newton Abbot Racecourse, Devon, TQ12 3AF  
[www.myspace.com/halloweentattoobash](http://www.myspace.com/halloweentattoobash)  
 07768 062253

**OCTOBER 30TH - 31ST**  
**COVENTRY INK**  
[info@coventryink.com](mailto:info@coventryink.com)  
 024 7636 1035  
[www.coventryink.com/convention/](http://www.coventryink.com/convention/)

## OVERSEAS CONVENTIONS 2010

**MARCH 26TH - 28TH**  
**PHILADELPHIA TATTOO ARTS CONVENTION**  
 Sheraton Philadelphia City Centre Hotel  
[www.tattooedkingpin.com](http://www.tattooedkingpin.com)

**JUNE 4TH - 6TH**  
**AMSTERDAM INTERNATIONAL TATTOO CONVENTION**  
 Amsterdam, Holland  
[www.tattooconvention.nl](http://www.tattooconvention.nl)

**AUGUST 6TH - 8TH**  
**3RD STARFIRE TATTOO WEEKEND**  
 International Tattoo Artists  
 Kolpinghaus Poysdorf, Austria  
[www.starfiretattoo.com](http://www.starfiretattoo.com)  
[www.myspace.com/starfiretattooweekend](http://www.myspace.com/starfiretattooweekend)

**AUGUST 28TH - 30TH**  
**14TH STOCKHOLM INK BASH**  
 International Tattoo Convention at Munchenbryggeriet  
[www.stockholminkbash.com](http://www.stockholminkbash.com)

**SEPTEMBER 4TH - 5TH**  
**5TH ASSEN TATTOO CONVENTION**  
 Nederland, DeSmelt - Stadsbroek 17 Assen  
[www.tattooconventieassen.com](http://www.tattooconventieassen.com)

## PERSONAL ADVERTS

Male, 28 and straight. I'm into Horror films, reading, writing, Goth, 80s electronica & hip Hop. I'm also into the paranormal & supernatural. I'm very open-minded, honest & loving. I'm looking for a woman 25 - 40 for LTR. No time wasters or unfaithful women please. I live in the Banbury/Leamington Spa area. Please don't be shy. Txt Ad on 07908969249 (182)

Shy, quiet, 25 y/o female, new to scene seeks friends (possibly more) for going out and having fun. Derby area or close by. Text only to begin with: 07773891420. Loves music, gigs, tattoos, and films. (182)

Goth guy, 47, seeks sweet Goth girl, non-smoker for friendship and possibly more. Likes Betty Curse, The Cure, Kittie, Rasputina, Angels, Witches & Curses. Steven 0161 2487286 Manchester Area (182)

38 y/o female from Cheshire, tattooed and pierced seeks tattooed & pierced male for long term relationship. I love the emo look. 07745 701326 (182)

Male, creative, fit, intelligent, honest mature seeks female into burlesque, fetish clothing, tattoos for friendship and more. Any age. Text 07935321966 (182)

Lone Wolf, 50s, seeks tattooed goddess, looks, size unimportant, into ink, piercings, Goth and other weird crap. Heavy metal, films, LTR Needed, honest! Come play Knifey-Spooney? Go on, Text 07517056112 (182)

25 Y-o male currently lock up at the Majesty's pleasure looking for males/females as penpals. Age 18+ Into heavy metal and indie. Andy Stevenson A8277AF HMP Risley, 617 Warrington Road, Warrington WA3 6BP (182)

Genuine, caring male, tall, slim, non-smoker, into guitars, animals, and art. Seeks loving female for relationship. Text 07935 321966. (182)

25 year-old Scots male living in Newcastle. Looking to meet female for friendship plus whatever else happens. I have numerous tattoos and body piercings with some new body mods in the pipeline. Seeking a alternative female who likes the same thing. Heavily into art, music and gaming. Contact Kev on 07773597599 or email at JacobShock@hotmail.co.uk (182)

Hello, Neil from Doncaster, well built, shaved head, got ink, into metal, rock, favourite band is Clutch. Also into UFC, gigs, and working out. Seeking rock chick/ tattooed girl, any age/race for friendship, maybe more. Text or ring 07837 952878. (182)

My name is Gary, 25, from Newcastle, 6'1" and weigh 16 stone, dark hair, green eyes, muscular build, looking for some sexy girls to write to! Any age, looks unimportant. Gary Conner, WB8350, HMP Gartree, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 7RP. (182)

25-year-old male from Newcastle looking to meet female for relationship. Tattooed, pierced. Heavily into body mod scene as well as art, games design and music. Heavy metal fan. Seeking similar female who wants to meet new people. Contact me at HauntedUndead@googlemail.com (182)

29 y/o female, bi-curious, from Cambridgeshire, 5'2" curvy figure with tattoos and some piercings, WLT'M decent, caring, honest and fun girl or guy, 25-35, local would be good. Text 07593 709762. (181)

28 y/o goth, extremely caring and very open-minded and honest, looking for any females 22-45 for long-term honest and relationship. Into having a laugh and live in the Banbury/Leamington Spa area. No timewasters or disloyal women, please. Disabled women welcome. Text me on 07908 969249. (181)

Shy 36 y/o white male from Cannock, Staffs, seeking Asian female for relationship or texting fun. Text me on 07902 549639. (181)

Male, 33, 5'6", slim from London, into tattoos, rock, metal, gigs, horror films, looking for female, 20-36, into similar, don't have to live in London. Text 07881 631949. (181)

Christmas is cumming! Santa, 47, clean-shaven, horny, friendly, has a lovely meaty lovepump to give away to a hot, raunchy, shaven, sexy female, 20-40 - let me fill your stockings! Norwich/UK. Text 07826 573257 (180)

## JOBS WANTED

Young Scottish lass, artistic and hardworking seeks apprenticeship. Trying to break into the business, no experience but bundles of enthusiasm. Will sell right arm and maim enemies to prove myself. Willing to travel for the right opportunity and will do all the dirty jobs nobody else wants to. Contact me on 07837870479 or email me at rachel.devoy@hotmail.co.uk. (182)

Hello my name is Ceryn, I've recently turned 19 and currently live in Watford. I'm looking for a tattoo apprenticeship in the Hertfordshire/London area, Brighton, Lancaster, or Essex area. I have friends who will put me up in these areas, and drive so distance isn't a problem. I have always had an aptitude for art and in the past few years this has developed into a passion for tattooing. I've designed tattoos for people and now wish to take it to the next step. I'm a loyal hard worker who devotes myself to the task at hand. I am never shy to try something new and challenging. I cope well under pressure and don't let difficult situations affect my performance. I enjoy meeting new people. I aim to complete a task in the quickest, most efficient way and to the best of my ability. For any advice or to see my portfolio please contact me on 07791807136 or c7mi90@hotmail.com, thank you! (182)

Hi my name is Julie. I have recently moved to North West London and I am desperately seeking an apprenticeship/position in a tattoo studio. I have two years' experience of tattooing but now want to work professionally in a shop environment. I am a qualified body piercer and I am a member of the Bristol Body Piercing Association. I have a portfolio of my piercing and tattooing work. I have worked in a shop environment on a voluntary basis drawing out designs for the tattooists, booking appointments and cleaning the studio. I am a very dedicated to this profession and will work extremely hard to develop my tattooing skills given the opportunity. I am heavily inked myself and love working in a studio environment. If you can help please call me on 07970 770 903 (182)

Hello, my name is Kai, Please could any tattoo studio give me the chance to become a successful tattoo artist in the North East area. I'm willing to start from scratch. I'm a determined artist with a passion for tattoos. Excellent grades in art and design. I also have a graffiti background. If any tattoo artist is willing to give me a chance, contact me on: 01670 521482 or 07989116689 (182)

Hi my names Adam, 24, Leeds, I'm looking for an apprenticeship in the West Yorkshire area I am keen, enthusiastic person who is passionate about getting into tattooing. I have a portfolio, which I would love to show anybody willing to give me some of their time. I don't think there has ever been a time where I didn't want to become a tattooist (I'm not a nutter that watches TV shows and thinks I can instantly tattoo) I am willing to put the time into learning the trade. If anybody is interested, please email me on weeleels10@live.co.uk my number is 07850154122 (182)

## JOBS OFFERED

Inkers tattoo in Chertsey are looking for a experienced tattoo artist that has an up to date good portfolio, to work in our Chertsey based tattoo studio. Must have good sense of humour and be friendly. Enquiries to either richards611@btinternet.com or phone 07506 356376. (182)

Grasshopper are looking for a tattoo artist for our studio in Harrow with at least 2 years' experience. Contact Tony, Jeff or Amanda on 020 8427 9559 020 8427 9559 (182)

Witchcraft Tattoos has a position available for immediate start for a body piercer/modifier in an established tattoo shop on a self-employed basis. You must have a full portfolio and experience essential. I prefer a female with no drug or alcohol problems. I am based in Keighley, west Yorkshire. 07852717872 (182)

Extreme Body Art 2 in Central Skegness are looking for an experienced full time tattooist. Minimum

or three years. No Drink/Drug/attitude problems. Portfolio essential. Send pics of your work to: mkeithstephen@yahoo.com or call: 01754 611211 Immediate start. (182)

Razor sharp body art in Salisbury Wiltshire are looking for a new tattooist to join the studio (Ability to body pierce would be a huge bonus also), the position will be for 4 days a week. Applicant must be dedicated and hard working with no drink, drug or attitude problems at least 3 years studio experience, ability to draw custom tattoos is a must as the studio is a custom only studio. Please send a strong portfolio of tattoos and artwork (on disc) to Razor sharp body art, 42a York Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP27AS Or via email to razorsharp2007@hotmail.co.uk (182)

Male & Female tattooist required for new tattoo/piercing studio opening in Hampshire. Minimum 3 years' shop experience. We want someone who has a passion for their job. Must have a strong portfolio & be capable of doing custom work & willing to take on flash. Contact: Laura@dragstriptattoos.co.uk (182)

ANGELS TATTOO STUDIO are looking for a 2nd female tattooist to join our team. You will be required to work full time in our well-established studio based in Bristol. Minimum of 3 years' experience & you must be able to produce high quality flash and custom work as well as having an extensive portfolio of your Tattoos, custom designs/flash etc. No scratchers, no apprentices! All applicants, please contact Georgia on 0117 9076567, 07769602933 or via website (182)

Apprentice wanted in west midlands area working with two full time tattooists, applicants must be able to draw with a decent portfolio of designs/sketches, have good people skills, be honest reliable and willing to start from the very bottom and work their way up. This is a full time position for the right person with a view to a long term position, all applicants can contact us at signatureretattooosstudios@googlemail.com or 01543 258500. (182)

Artist Wanted. Hope and Glory are proud to announce that we are spreading our sails and expanding! To this end, we are seeking a new 'artiste' to join us on this venture. The person in question must have a real passion for what they do, a great portfolio, at least three years studio experience (unless you have really got some skills!) be problem free and like being part of a family. We are interviewing now, so please get in touch with us at; Hope and Glory, 19 Market Place, Swaffham, Norfolk. PE38 0AJ Tel: 0176 0336346 hope.and.glory@hotmail.co.uk P.S. sorry, but we are NOT looking for anyone who has no experience, or an apprentice! (181)

Tattoo artist with at least 5 years' studio experience wanted for studios in the heart of Camden. Only professionals need apply - no time-wasters. Also offered: tattoo studio (room) to rent, however, only available for artist with own clientele. Contact Marlene 0207 284 4247. (181)

Tattooist wanted on full-time basis for one of Southern Ireland's longest-standing and busiest studios. Applicants must have at least 2 years' experience and also must have a strong portfolio. Please contact Buddy on 00353 61310900. (181)

Tattooist wanted. Busy, friendly established shop. Portfolio essential. No drugs/attitude. Contact Fabio on 01223 354299. (181)

Apprentice required for busy tattoo studio in Edinburgh. Must have impressive artistic portfolio. Be hardworking, honest and reliable with a good attitude. Contact Russ on 0131 657 3831 or email russ@dragonhearttattoo.co.uk. (180-82)

ETERNAL ART are looking for more full-time tattooists to join their well established team! If you think you can bring something new to the crew, then this is your chance to join them in their quest to conquer all corners of the tattooing spectrum. Please send photos of your finest work to: eternal-art@hotmail.co.uk addressed to PriZeMaN, to be considered for a future position. Please do not apply if you are a mediocre tattooist, thanks! (180/1)

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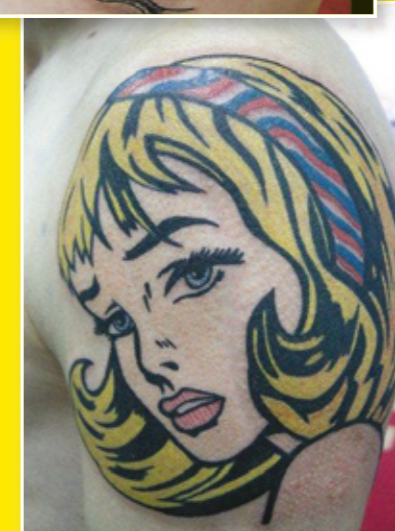
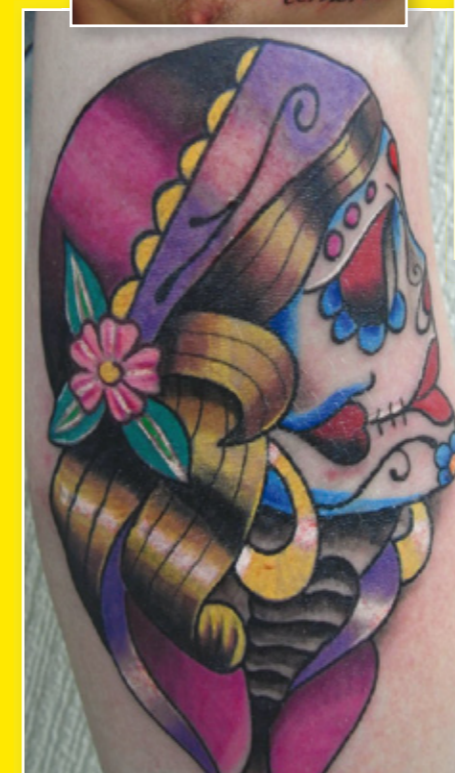
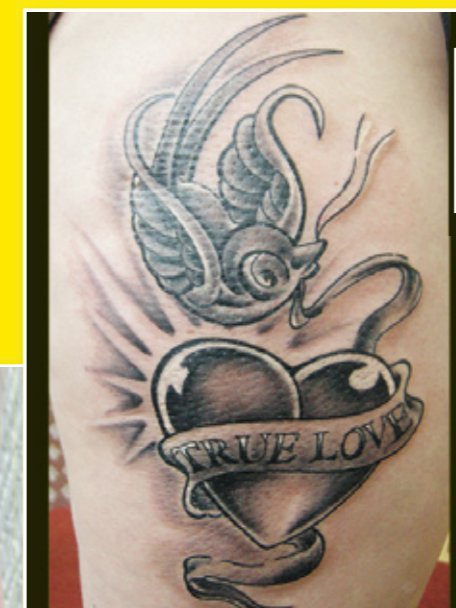
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