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JUNE '10
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Grisha Maslov
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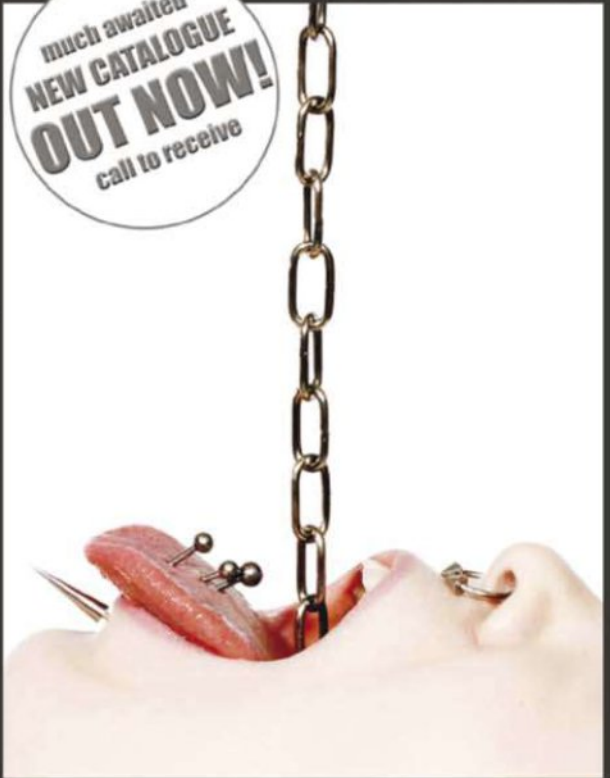
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NEIL

Sitting in the doctor's surgery the other day waiting for my turn to go see the quack, I was idly thumbing through the usual castoff magazines and supplements when I came across a new car advert depicting an obvious tattooist (a bloke in a dirty vest with some shakily drawn on tattoos). He was putting the finishing touches to a tattoo across a chap's back with the word 'Respect'.

The tag line was "Time for a swift exit?"

To start with I wasn't too sure what to think. Was this supposed to be funny? (Not really), or did it once again say more about the ad man's perception of a typical tattooist? Sadly the latter, I guess. Why oh why do all those in the advertising and media game think that both tattooists and therefore tattooed individuals are not only a bit thick (i.e: the obvious 'typo' mistake depicted in the advert) but also unable to do or expect a professional job?

The more I thought about it, the more it made my blood boil with the apparent flippancy of the ad company to say that all those that are in the tattooing industry are that flaky; that not only would they be remiss enough to tattoo a design wrongly in the first place, but that they are also so lacking in morals that they would do the tattoo, take the money and run?

Let's put the boot on the other foot, metaphorically, for a moment shall we? Say the advert depicted a surgeon with a person on the operating table;

green sterile cloths covering most of the body except for a square patch of skin where the operation has taken place instruments and bloody swabs littered about the place. You look closer and you can see the obvious shape of a small kidney dish left under the poor person's skin, where the hapless surgeon had accidentally sewn the article into the patient.

Would the company still run the same tag line or indeed entertain this notion at all? Let's face it, many of us have heard of the odd case where people have spent months, even years walking around with various surgical implements inside them; it does happen - mercifully on very few occasions - and likewise the odd tattooist can make a mistake so neither side is blameless.

So would my new version of the advert go to print? I think not.

Why do we have to constantly justify our actions and choices to the uneducated?

I presume it's because those in the medical profession are seen as good, clean, upstanding members of the community and tattooists aren't. Has the tattoo industry ever produced a Crippen or a Shipman? (Okay, maybe it has, but they haven't been caught so far) Yet more proof tattooists aren't stupid!

I'm not trying to have a go at the medical profession as they do an incredible job of looking after the sick and needy.

It's just if these ad people gave tattooists the respect they deserve maybe the stigma of tattooists and tattoos might improve in the eyes of the uneducated. We in the industry have the greatest of respect for the guys and girls that pick up a machine and permanently mark others with their stunning artwork.

I get tired of seeing tattooing picked on. It's like seeing a loved one coming under attack by bullies & ne'er-do-wells powered by ignorance. The biggest ignorance is the damage they do to an age-old profession and the disrespect they show to people who decide to get inked.

Maybe I'm am getting too worked up by this off the cuff advert and should dismiss it and just take it as the usual 'oh let's make a mockery

of out of tattooing as it is obviously a shady business' but in this day and age of supposedly enlightened times, can we not open a magazine or newspaper and see something that actually celebrates this wonderful, artistic and passionate industry that we all love?

One day, maybe...



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PETERLEE TATTOO ARTS FESTIVAL



The Peterlee Tattoo Arts Festival is a celebration of the tattoo community, featuring a wide range of styles and artists. The festival is held in a large, open-air venue, providing a perfect setting for the event. The atmosphere is vibrant and welcoming, with a focus on showcasing the artistry and skill of tattoo artists from across the region.

The festival is a great opportunity for tattoo enthusiasts to see and discuss their favorite styles. It's a chance to meet and talk to the artists who have inspired them. The festival is a true celebration of the tattoo community, and it's a must-see event for anyone who loves tattoos.

Page 10 PETERLEE

CLAIRE REID



Claire Reid is a talented tattoo artist with a unique style. Her work is characterized by intricate designs and a focus on detail. She has a passion for creating beautiful and meaningful tattoos for her clients. Claire is a true professional and a pleasure to work with. Her art is a true reflection of her creativity and skill.

Moreover, Claire is also a talented artist in other mediums. She has a natural talent for drawing and painting, and she often incorporates these skills into her tattoo designs. This makes her work even more unique and visually striking. Claire is a true multi-talented artist, and her work is a true inspiration for anyone who loves art.

Page 16 CLAIRE REID

PEACH



Peach is a talented pianist and tattoo enthusiast. She has a deep love for music and a passion for playing the piano. Her playing is beautiful and soulful, and it's a true pleasure to listen to her. Peach is a true professional and a pleasure to work with. Her art is a true reflection of her creativity and skill.

Peach is also a tattoo enthusiast, and she has a collection of beautiful tattoos. She loves to see and discuss her favorite styles, and she is always looking for new inspiration. Peach is a true professional and a pleasure to work with. Her art is a true reflection of her creativity and skill.

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TATTOO CONVENTION '09



The Tattoo Convention '09 was a fantastic event, featuring a wide range of styles and artists. The convention was held in a large, open-air venue, providing a perfect setting for the event. The atmosphere was vibrant and welcoming, with a focus on showcasing the artistry and skill of tattoo artists from across the region.

Berlin is a true professional and a pleasure to work with. Her art is a true reflection of her creativity and skill. She has a passion for creating beautiful and meaningful tattoos for her clients. Berlin is a true multi-talented artist, and her work is a true inspiration for anyone who loves art.

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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



Tattoo by Gavin Rodrigues

K2 REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

Anth from K2 tattoo studio can announce the opening of his new purpose built studio to offer you, the public the best tattooing experience in Yorkshire. Anth and his crew have spared no expense in fitting out the new studio. The place was a complete wreck by all accounts but the guys have rolled up their sleeves and got stuck in to produce a warm, comforting and healthy environment to get your tattoo.

Feel free to go see them at: K2 Tattoo Studio, 132 Hull Rd, Hessle, East Riding of Yorkshire. If you liked the article we ran on Gavin Rodrigues from The Inkspot (Skin Deep issue 183), he will be doing a guest spot at the Richmond K2 Body Art studio as well as the new K2 for the next few months if you fancy a piece of his superb Black and Grey portraiture work.

BRAZILIAN BRILLIANCE

Mauro Landim, from Mundo Cao Tattoo in Brazil will be coming to London on the 15th of April for 20 days. To book an appointment with this great B&G artist please call the chaps at Kings Cross Tattoo Parlour on 02078374634 for an appointment.

You can check his work at www.myspace.com/maurotattoo
www.kingscrosstattoo.com

TEES FOR TATTOO FANS

Love and Hate UK is a small independent online business based in East Kilbride near Glasgow. Owner Alan Bowman is starting the web site out of his love for tattoo's and the fashion that goes with the industry. After finding it hard to buy tattoo designed t-shirts in the UK he decided to start up a web site and start off selling t-shirts, hoping to grow and sell other merchandise in the future. The t-shirts are designed by great tattoo artists such as Robert Atkinson, Tim Hendricks and Hori Yo. In the future Alan would like to stock merchandise from UK based artists and is working on his own shirts with the help of tattoo artist Gillian at Infinite Ink, based in Hamilton. Alan plans to take the business round the tattoo conventions in the UK by the end of the year. The site will be up and running by the end of May this year, look out for his site: www.loveandhateuk.co.uk



TATTOO BIBLE

The Tattoo Bible is the manifestation of knowledge gained through years in the tattoo industry and is the most comprehensive body of work for a prospective tattoo collector to date, providing an insider's view of the tattoo world to those looking in.

Amongst its informative pages, it explores the roads and avenues an individual faces when deciding upon a piece of body art and offers thoughtful insight into every single aspect of

this, whilst also providing a complete overview of the many genres available, all exquisitely illustrated with a selection of outstanding tattoo photography.

This tome presents a global view of this blood and ink industry as it delves into the world of the tattoo convention and then acquaints the newcomer to the world of Fine Art, brings them closer to the artists responsible for tattooing's evolution and introduces them to dedicated tattoo collectors with fascinating stories to tell, whilst also disseminating the myths behind laser tattoo removal and explaining the facts.

A snip at £9.99, the book is available from 14th May and can be purchased via WHSmiths and all major newsagents, as well as internationally from the Jazz Store at www.jazzpublishing.co.uk.

SKYDIVING TATTOO

Canadian Rocker Gets Tattooed Whilst Skydiving - Barbara Pavone.

Fusing his band's motto - "Have a good time, all the time" - with his passion for ink, Canadian rocker Zeke Galt recently set a world record when he got tattooed whilst skydiving. Yes, you read correctly: the Surefire Machine guitarist jumped out of a plane flying at 11,000 feet and was inked by a fellow skydiver during freefall.

Asked about the stunt, Zeke grinned proudly and laughed, "Really, I did that?" and went on to explain that it was his passion, for both his band and tattoos, that persuaded him to take the jump: "I always

thought tattooing was the most extreme and dedicated form of art so I thought, "Why not push it one step further?"

As for the logistics, all it took was a couple of attempts to build the perfect custom tattoo machine, and a few practice runs on some innocent fruit, and Zeke was up in the air at the Edmonton Skydive Center, ready to give the world an unforgettable show.

The result? His band's initials - SFM - are now permanently (if shakily) ingrained on his forearm and, if you ask me, Zeke can now also boast about having the world's quickest tattoo: the extravagant madness lasted all of fifteen seconds.



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BRITS ABROAD

Dear Skin Deep,

Whilst recently travelling around the far East, I was luckily enough to be in Bangkok for the international tattoo convention. It was a convention over three days, with some of the world's top tattooist there, from over 20 countries. I was particularly pleased to see a tattooist from England working there. As a regular reader of your magazine and a collector of tattoo's myself, it was great to see someone had gone to the effort and expense of travelling to the other side of the world to fly the flag of British tattooing. On the Friday he was working on an awesome chest piece that impressed me so much I made a point of going back on the Sunday to watch the judging, to see how this would fare against some of the world's best tattooist. It was great to see his jubilation and reaction when he was announced as second in the category to Shige. It was a shame it didn't win, as Shige's piece was a full body suit not done at the convention. I'm writing this because people back home should be made aware of our tattooist's putting the effort in worldwide. I feel this guy deserves some recognition. Just to mention a few of the others that were there, Shige, Tim Hendricks, Chris Garver, Mick from Zurich, Mike Ledger, Johnny Two Thumbs, Arjam Noo and many, many more.

Jonah from Bodys shock" (Torpoint, Cornwall) with his customer did superbly to gain this award. It would be great if you could publish this email to show some support to the UK artists. Good effort Jonah!

Via email. Editor@skindeep.co.uk

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Dear Neil,

I was very interested and shocked to read your editorial in the April edition of Skin Deep. I say interested as you always give a good view of what is going on in the tattoo industry, I find your opinion unbiased and usually

WEAR YOUR INK WITH PRIDE!

Heya,

Just wanted to get in touch to say I loved the article on Everlasting Job Stoppers. As a Health Professional, it's very prevalent to me at the moment. I hope to extend my coverage but my manager is unsure. Anything below the elbow has been ruled out, even if I take time off for it to heal. She also says it would be hard for me to get into management because who would take orders seriously from a tattooed individual? She explains we need to make sure not to offend patients. Now I have only received positive comments from my patients for my hand tattoo. I even created a whole treatment plan stemming from a conversation when a patient saw my lower back tattoo. It seems it is not patient's who are

**FREE VEST
WINNING
LETTER!**



upset by tattooed professionals but the PC police that are fearful. I raise a glass to all those who love their ink but also love their job, taking pride in their professionalism despite certain prejudice!

Thanks, Susie

similar to any views I would have myself on the situation.

I was shocked to see you write that anyone with enough cash to setup a studio and show it's clean can start tattooing on the public, now that I think about it, it makes sense but when reading your article the reality of the situation settled in my thoughts, and I thought "this is why there are so many poor quality tattoo's around today".

I understand fully that some artists feel the industry can be self-regulating. And I believe it can, but I feel this self-regulation can only really apply to artists already established and respected. These new Yah-hoo's setting up shops left right and center I don't feel personally that they deserve to be included in a self-regulation category. With my personal view on tattoo's, I feel that if someone wants a piece of tribal, that's fine, no problem, just go to a half decent artist that can give you something more than the tribal that any other man or woman has on the street. I appreciate that some people do like to follow the crowds and do want a piece of generic tribal because they want to be the same as others. But even these people if maybe they were not so naive to a well done tattoo, then they would look into the artist they want to do their piece and choose the appropriate artist.

If there was some regulation to be integrated (like you suggest) I think this could be nothing but a benefit to the industry and would help future bodies from getting poor tattoo's they are bound to regret. I would like to set up some sort of petition or possibly a Facebook group to gain awareness to this matter. I wanted to get in touch with you to get your opinion, if it would be worth the hassle? With being the editor of the biggest tattoo based magazine in the UK I value your ideas.

Kind Regards, Nick

Hi Nick,

Thanks for your views and comments. There have been several petitions set up in the past but many, although well represented, have fallen on deaf ears (the government and in some cases, the industry itself). There does seem to be a strange apathy when it comes to actually doing something about this situation.

Please feel free to suggest a course of action, I'll be right behind you.

Cheers, Neil

WHEN IRISH EYES AREN'T SMILING

Hi Skin Deep,

I've never written into a magazine before but felt I had to correct (I think it's this guy) William

Neil in issue 181 (Feb) when he spoke about the Dublin Tattoo convention. I understand that his report of it was very upbeat and positive, however, two things really irked me. At one part he made us Irish out to be booze hounds quoting 'In true Irish spirit, a large bar, this is forgivable, we do like to drink, as do you guys!'

But what really got my goat was his comment when he said the convention pulled people from all over the country, as well as many traveling from the mainland to show support... 'Mainland?' What mainland does he speak of? Maybe if you live in Northern Ireland there are some who call the UK the 'mainland' but not one single Irish person form IRELAND, the separate country he needed his passport to get into, would call the UK 'the mainland'.

Please, please, get your facts right. I'm sure he annoyed a few people over this flippant comment. I know, he means no harm at all, I am aware it is just a slip up. The funny thing is I never read the magazine, my hubby is a tattoo artist so I generally flick through the pages, but I was interested in what was said about the convention, being from Dublin 'IRELAND' (yes, you get it now, I know!).

Phew, rant over. Think I need a drink...

Emma

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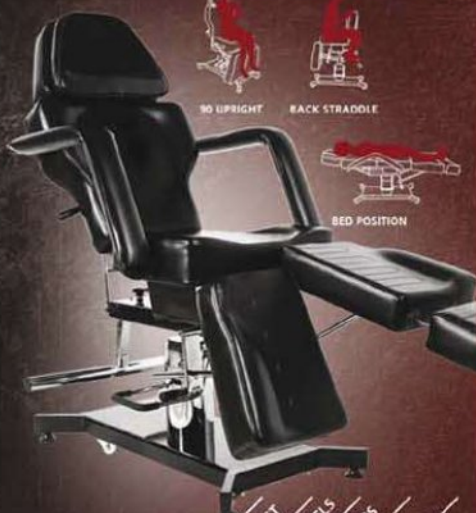
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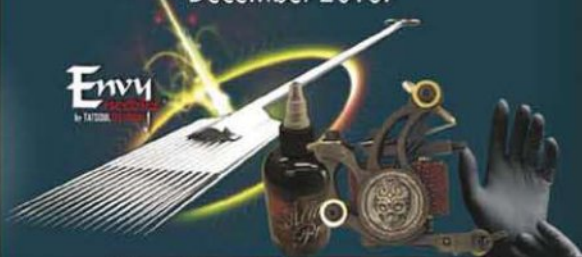
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TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY: GARETH FUKU

PETERLEE TATTOO ARTS FESTIVAL

Hunkered down low over its rims, due to the weight of equipment and many wares to be sold, the little black car slowly started its journey. This particular Sunday morning was crisp, clear and bright, giving the occupants of the little black car a feeling of mutual anticipation, of excitement and optimism.

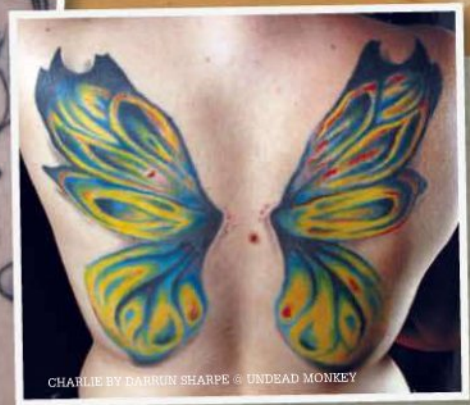


The driver sat still behind his dark aviator glasses, passing occasional comments whilst lightly drumming his fingers on the steering wheel. The sun shone brightly through the windscreen, bathing the occupants in the greenhouse warmth of its rays, recharging and awakening them, for they had lost an hour's sleep through no fault of their own. The tyres ate up the few short miles to their destination deep in the heart of County Durham and in no time at all they disembarked from the little black car, safely delivered at the doors of the Peterlee tattoo convention.

The Peterlee Tattoo Arts Festival is a show which over the past few years has become my first show of a busy convention calendar and I always make the effort, whether I am working or not, to go along and see what's what. As I am based in the North East, Peterlee is a great show to discover hidden gems from my local area. Towards the back of the last tattoo year I tend to get spoiled rotten by shows like Tattoo Jam and London, with their wealth of National and International dermal wizardry. My last show of 2009 was Coventry and I mentioned about the importance of grassroots shows and



MARY BY DAMIEN © TRIPLE SIX STUDIOS, SUNDERLAND



CHARLIE BY DARRUN SHARPE © UNDEAD MONKEY



KIM BY BEZ @ TRIPLE SIX STUDIOS, SUNDERLAND (IN PROGRESS)



MARK BY CARL COOKE @ ARTFUL INK, DURHAM

how they are the main proving grounds for up and coming artists, and Peterlee falls neatly into this category, as well as being an established show with a good reputation and attendance record.

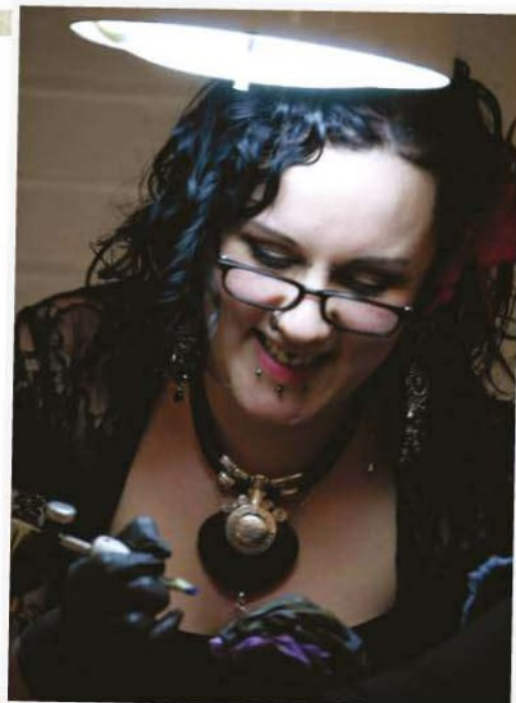
This year the 8th Peterlee show was no exception with a good line up of artists and a bustling crowd spilling into both rooms as soon as the doors were opened. Compared to previous years there was a renewed atmosphere about the 2010 show, probably down to the fact spring was in the air and there seemed to be a feeling that this year was going to be different. With a wealth of convention stalwarts like Bob Hoyle, Rob Doubtfire, Carl 'Cooky' Cooke, Gary Wiedenhof and Ryan Davies working, this year's show were lesser-known artists like Mark from Marked for Life, Ronnie Goddard from Blood Sweat and Pain, Red from Dark Circle and John Anderton from Nemesis Tattoo. This wealth of lesser-known artists was a comfort as they all are from the surrounding Peterlee area and this restores my faith that the level of quality tattoo artists in the Northeast is finally growing stronger and more varied.

I was slightly worried though, albeit the weather was bright and sunny it was biting cold and windy and the leisure centre creaked and moaned as little drafts whipped through its halls and corridors.

The Peterlee Tattoo Arts Festival is a show which over the past few years has become my first show of a busy convention calendar and I always make the effort, whether I am working or not, to go along and see what's what.

Due to the drop in temperature, a lot of folk were wrapped up and not displaying much inky goodness. Finally I got the ball rolling and by some miracle people started shedding clothing and I was immersed into a colourful sea of fine art work. At certain points of the day, I didn't know whom to ask to photograph next, which is always great but very frustrating at the same time! At least all this running around meant I was in the main convention hall a lot and was able to keep tabs on some particularly fine artwork in progress. Yet not in there long enough to get annoyed with the volume of the music (my only moan!)

Throughout the day we were treated to some entertainment in the form of solo singer Shannon who belted out a lot of classic rock covers which was cool. Keeping the outside queue amused in the early afternoon was a stilt walking fire eater who also performed a sideshow act that I sadly missed, but I heard ☺



Finally I got the ball rolling and by some miracle people started shedding clothing and I was immersed into a colourful sea of fine art work. At certain points of the day, I didn't know whom to ask to photograph next.



ZINTY BY DARRUN SHARPE @ UNDEAD MONKEY



KEV BY KEN PATTEN @ THE TATTOO STATION



MARK BY ROB DOUBTFIRE @ ROBS TATTOOS BRADFORD

was rather good. And to round off the day we had the band, The Arrival.

Whilst on my travels I was fortunate to catch a glimpse of the man and mighty fine side boards of John Anderton. This guy won the Best Newcomer Award at last year's Peterlee show, and it's no surprises why. He was working on a 'flamingo eating brains' piece (it's the only way to describe it!), which was so bright and bold it was literally jumping out of the skin. With tight lines and delicate but simple layout, this piece just worked perfectly. I love tattoos which make you smile through humour, and this one was subtle, but it had me smiling a lot whilst photographing it.

Another guy's work who I became rather interested in over the course of the day was Mark from Marked for Life. I had a lot of his work through the studio and I was rather impressed. Again a good colour artist whose work is completely removed from the colour work of John Anderton, Mark uses muted colour, which adds a certain feel to his tattoos, regardless of subject matter, which compliments his roots within painting. I get the impression that Mark tries to bend his arm to many styles of tattooing, whilst adding in his own little touches, for example some of the work I saw by Mark included, a huge Tibetan Skull back



ANDREW BY RONNIE GODDARD @ IT LOUD SYDNEY MAIN



KERRY ANNE BY JOHN ANDERTON @ NEMESIS TATTOOS

piece, a delicate bird and blossom piece (done on the day) and an amazing back piece in progress of a T-rex, which I am really looking forward to see finished. Not bad considering the guy has only had his shop open just over a year!

The photography studio was constantly abuzz with people and I had a great time photographing all the work, here are some highlights of work photographed on the day.

Andrew by Ronnie Goddard; I watched this black and grey piece progress throughout the day, and I was very impressed with what Ronnie was laying down along with his portfolio of work.

Although still relatively new to the scene this guy has some outstanding black and grey pieces to his name. Looking through his work he makes good use of negative space and fresh skin, alongside

a very delicate use of tonal shade which in my eyes works really well.

Ceri by Adi; over the past few months I have started to become interested in traditional Owl tattoos, I love this piece on Ceri. Combining traditional lines, tone and colour, Adi has added in a lovely shaded rose in bright pink on a smooth blue background, another good piece and another cracking artist out of Thou Art in Sheffield.

Kirsty by Red; this was Red's first convention outing alongside mentor; Mel, and she has defiantly hit the ground running with some of her tattoos. Staying with Dark Circle, Damen by Mel, this Child clown by Mel's own admission isn't in his typical style, but he has nailed this very striking and colourful tattoo!

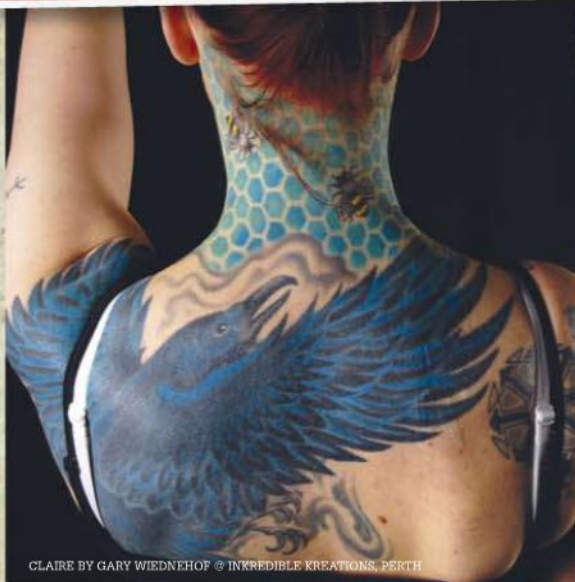
Zinty by Darrun Sharpe, although not done on the day, I really like this ➡



ASH BY DARRUN SHARPE @ UNDEAD MONKEY



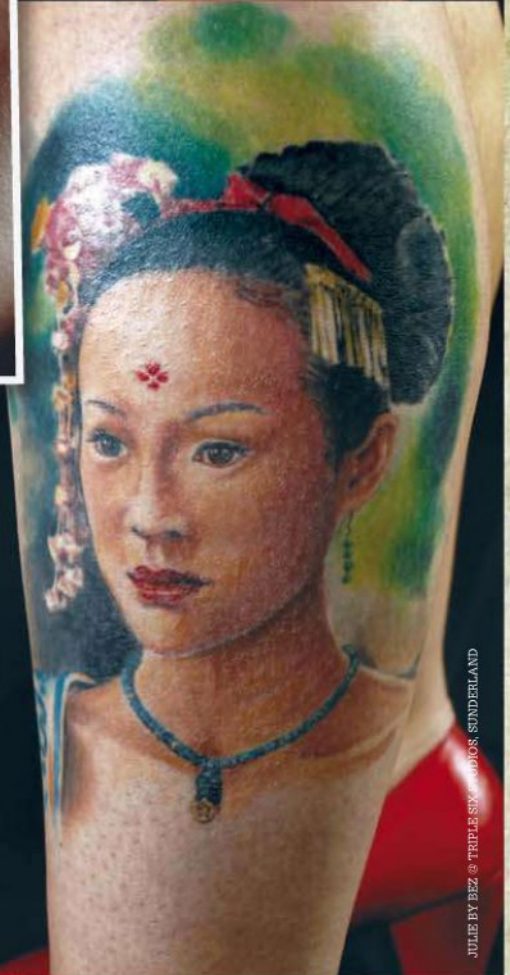
MEGAN BY COLIN FELL @ DOC FELL'S TATTOOS



CLAIRE BY GARY WIEDNEHOF @ INKREDIBLE KREATIONS, PERTH



CERI BY ADI @ THOU ART, SHEFFIELD



JULIE BY BEZ @ TRIPLE SIX STUDIOS, SUNDERLAND

Mark uses muted colour, which adds a certain feel to his tattoos, regardless of subject matter, complimenting his roots within painting.

piece, ok I am a Tim Burton fan but hey, sue me! I love this tattoo of the Corpse Bride and it really captures the essence of the film, let there be more awesome Tim Burton inspired tattoos!

As the buzz of machines slowly died off with only a couple of hardcore tattooists working away finishing off pieces, the presentations of awards was all that was left before the mass pack up and a few cheeky drinks to top off a hard days work. This year's Peterlee show for me was a really good way to kick off my tattoo year, with a lot of tattoo fans and newbie's alike enjoying the relaxed atmosphere of the show and credit must be given to Eddie, Trudy and their team for providing a well organised and well run convention. I like this show and in the short time I have worked for Skin Deep, it keeps getting better and better. Roll on the 9th Peterlee Tattoo Arts Festival! ★



DAMEN BY MEL @ DARK CIRCLE



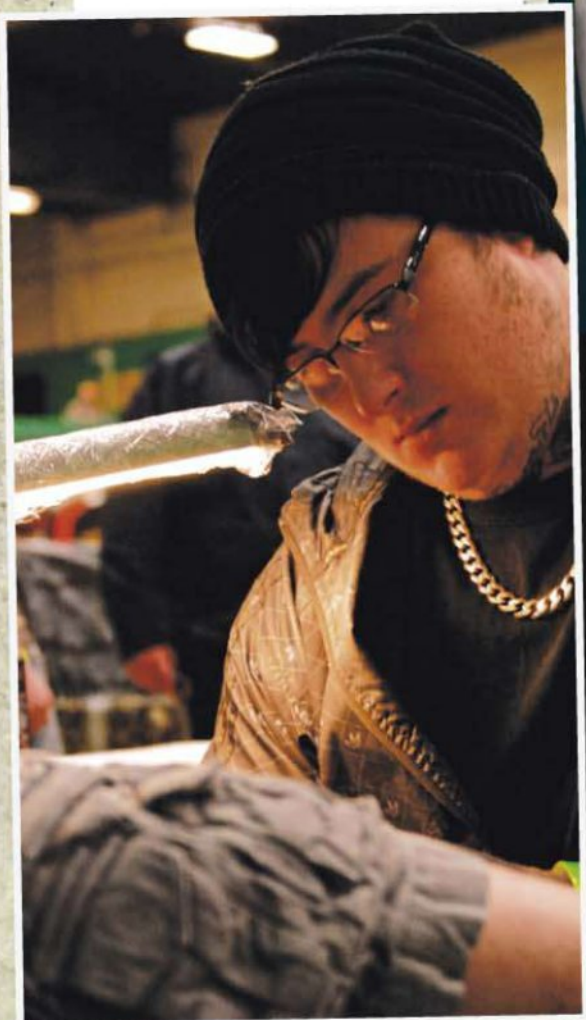
DAMEN BY MEL @ DARK CIRCLE



LIAM BY RYAN @ INDIGO/FLECKYS



JUSTIN BY MARK @ MARKED FOR LIFE



GEMMA BY BEZ @ TRIPLE SIX STUDIOS, SUNDERLAND



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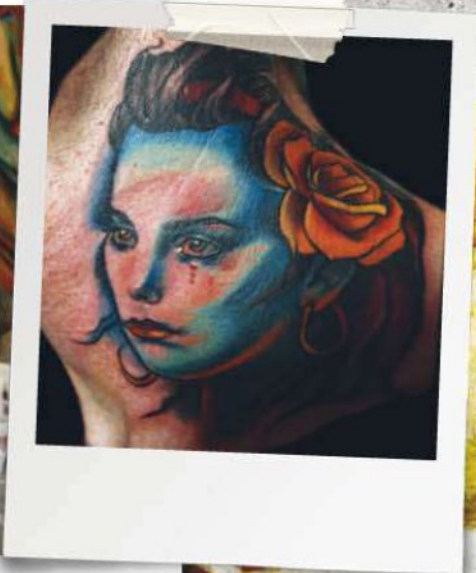
**AN ARTIST ON A ROAD
LESS TRAVELLED...**

WWW.CLAIREREID.NET
WWW.MYSPACE.COM/FLUERINK

CLAIRE REID

I literally stumbled on Claire's work some time ago on the internet and from the first moment of seeing her incredible colour-work, there was something in her tattoos that I had seen before but I just couldn't put my finger on it.

As you can see by the photos on these pages, she has a very unique style unmatched by any other artist. Eventually after talking to Claire she mentioned that she had shown me her portfolio a few years previous. Was this fate that we should meet again via her artwork? I think so.



My job is to bring you, the reader, the best tattoos from around the globe and with Claire's amazing almost Mucha-esque tattoos, interspersed with colour of such softness and vivacity, I feel my work here is done.

Claire is one of those lucky tattooists who not only has an obvious talent for tattooing and painting but has an unquenchable thirst for travel and, as such is never in one place for long, choosing to constantly be on the road; meeting and experiencing other artists along her road less travelled.

WHERE AND WHEN DID THE TATTOO BUG BITE?

I think my interest in tattooing was ignited from the age of 16 when I used to hang out at Quiggins in Liverpool. Quiggins was a funky underground four-story building full of retro second hand, moth eaten shops, with tattooing and piercing on the top floor, all the Goths used to hang out there. Ever since I can remember I've always painted and drawn, and was naturally attracted to the imagery used in tattooing from the first time I saw it.

I went to university in 2001 to study sociology and completed the degree in 2004, my main passion has always been the arts, so when I left university I opened a contemporary

art gallery selling glass, ceramics and paintings in order to study on the side as an artist. I ran the shop for a while but was working 24/7 and not practicing as an artist or breaking more than even financially. A week after I closed the gallery I got a job that I LOVED piercing in Luton market. I continued to pierce for about eighteen months after that, this also re-ignited my love for tattooing that had somehow been forgotten after three years of university.

In 2005 I nagged and nagged my boss to let me learn tattooing, but she didn't think that my

IN HINDSIGHT, I'VE NOTICED THAT SUBCONSCIOUSLY I'VE PICKED UP IMAGERY FROM THE VARIOUS PLACES THAT I HAVE TRAVELLED WITHOUT BEING AWARE OF IT AT THE TIME.

drawings were good enough and only gave in after another employee got sacked. She gave me six weeks to learn to tattoo and would make me go back to piercing if I couldn't do it in that time. So I worked my ass off, tattooing and practicing as much as I could under the wing of another tattoo artist, who emigrated, so after the six week apprenticeship I was full time in the studio from there on. I moved to a studio in Peterborough soon after and really loved my time there, but was still working

alone most of the week and had no one to bounce things off, I didn't really have a clue what I was doing!

HOW DID YOU FOLLOW UP YOUR INTEREST IN TATTOOING?

I had two apprenticeships but I consider the time I spent with Paolo Acuna in Phoenix Arizona to be the most influential. When I started my apprenticeship with Paolo I had to start tattooing again from scratch. I stopped



tattooing and began scrubbing tubes, making needles, answering the phone etc, this really helped me kick all the bad habits I'd picked up from my first eighteen months of tattooing. The best thing about working under Paolo was that he had very high expectations and pushed me extremely hard. I'm very grateful to have had the experience of studying with Paolo, not only because I was exposed to his technique as a tattoo artist but also his artistic vision as a fine artist and sculptor. I feel really lucky to have had that opportunity and believe that an apprenticeship was, for me, the best way to learn.

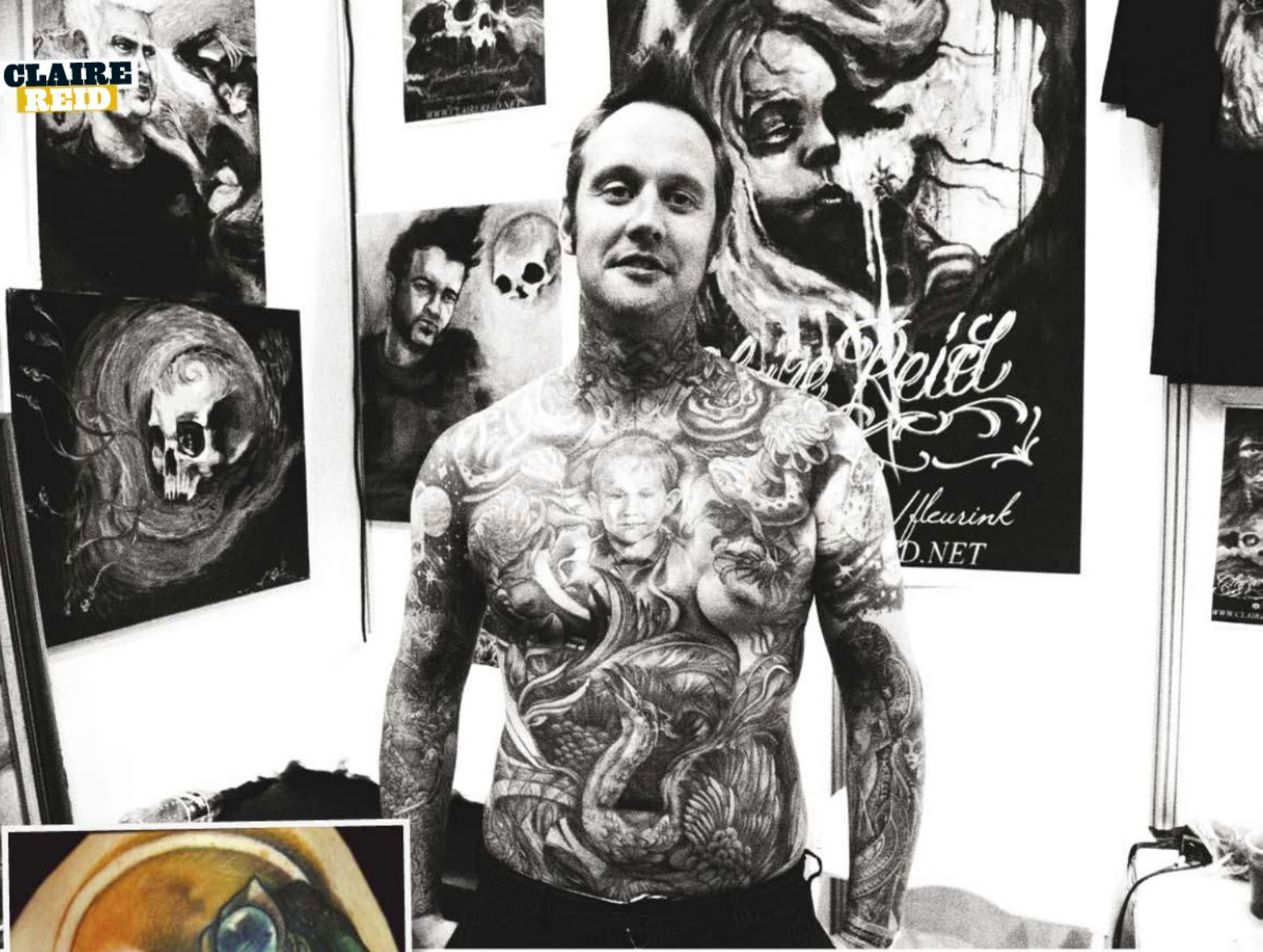
YOU TRAVEL EXTENSIVELY; HAVE YOU WORKED ANY TATTOO CONVENTIONS AS WELL AS VISITING AND WORKING IN MANY FOREIGN STUDIOS?

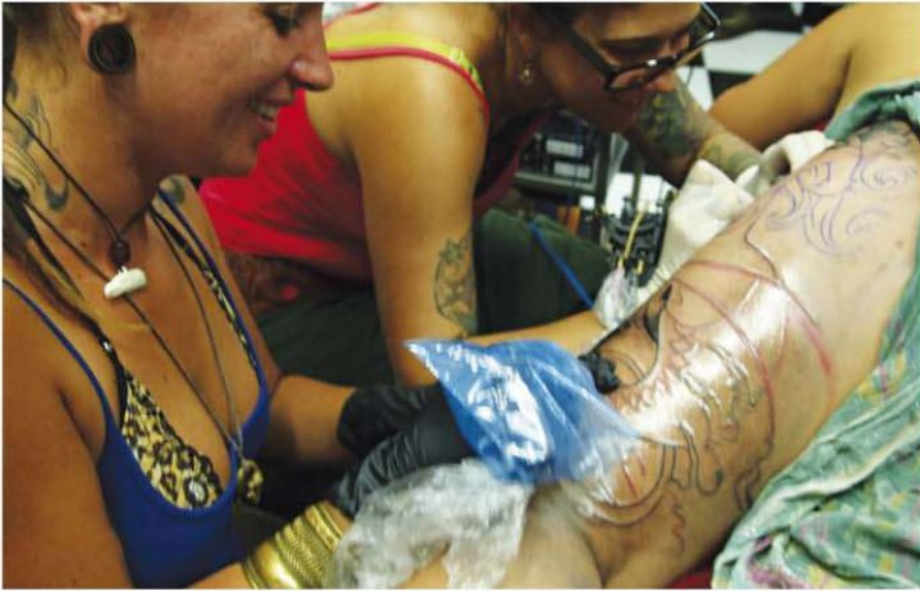
I got the opportunity to start doing conventions

with Paolo in 2007, and from this, all the doors started to open. For the last three years I have been invited to do guest spots around the world, this came from meeting other tattoo artists at conventions.

I've had really good feedback at the conventions I've worked. I've always been drawn to the painterly and more realistic aspects of tattooing and people seem drawn to that in my work.

Conventions are a great place to learn, there's such a concentration of artists and there are so many different approaches to the art, there's always something to learn from everybody. I love to sit and watch other tattoo artist's at work too, this is also why I love doing guest spots and picking up tips along the way from all the great artists that I've had the opportunity to work with. ➔





DO YOU FIND EXPLORING THE WORLD VIA YOUR ART AND TATTOOS HAS INFLUENCED YOU IN ANY WAY?

I've been working and travelling all over the world for the last three years and have been exposed to many different cultures and practices. Recently I was in Indonesia, it's one of the richest places for art, and everything in the society is infused with amazing exotic imagery. Everywhere I looked there was something to draw from.

For any kind of art I believe travel and exposure to other cultures is essential to acquire a rich and varied source of inspiration. I find that from all of my travels my styles and technique are greatly affected. I sketch most days and I really see the influence of where I am on these sketches. In hindsight, I've noticed that subconsciously I've picked up imagery from the various places that I have travelled without being aware of it at the time.

I think my other artistic practices affect my tattooing the most. I really notice a lot of my painting technique creeping into my tattoo technique, the way I blend colours or work an

I TRY TO THINK OF THE TATTOO MACHINE AS AN EXTENSION OF THE PAINTBRUSH, I'D LOVE TO ACHIEVE THE DEPTH, TEXTURE AND SHADINGS THAT ARE POSSIBLE WITH OIL PAINT; I TRY TO ASPIRE TO THE LOOSENESS AND FLUIDITY OF PAINTING IN TATTOOING.

area to get a certain effect is similar to how I would paint the same thing. I used to use a lot of clay when I was at school and I'd love to pick this up again, or sculpture of some sort. I think that this would really help with my understanding of 3D forms and relate well to my other mediums.

I've noticed a big difference in how different countries respond to my tattoos and tattoos in general. Canada, America and South America are really accepting, in Bali people loved my tattoos, and there is a really good scene in Australia. Most Australians are tattooed and are willing to travel long distances to get big pieces done. In Europe I find that in the cities people are fine with tattoos, but sometime in

small towns in say, Italy or Spain I get a few funny looks!

WOULD YOU SAY THAT PAINTING, DRAWING, AND ART IN GENERAL HELPS TO SHAPE A TATTOOIST?

I took art at school until I was eighteen and since then I've been trying to pick things up along the way mainly from other tattoo artists. Paolo Acuna was the one who got me back into painting, saying that it would teach me how to tattoo and help develop my style. I've also picked up tips from Jeff Gogue and have been to a seminar, in Montreal, with Shawn Barber. I think that any kind of art training is beneficial to a tattooist.

My influences change a lot, but at the ↻

moment I'm really influenced by impressionist and post-impressionist art. I love Van Gogh and Gauguin, their colours and techniques. There's a lot of tattooists I'm influenced by, at the moment I love large Japanese work and hyper realism.

DO YOU FEEL YOU HAVE DEVELOPED A DISTINCT STYLE OF YOUR OWN?

I love anything organic with a good flow. I don't know how to describe my style and want to stay flexible with where I'm going so am trying to explore as many different approaches as possible. At the moment it's realism, Japanese and painterly techniques and style.

I try to think of the tattoo machine as an extension of the paintbrush, I'd love to achieve

the depth, texture and shadings that are possible with oil paint; I try to aspire to the looseness and fluidity of painting in tattooing.

DO YOU LIKE TO WORK FREEHAND OR PREFER TO WORK WITHIN THE CONFINES OF A STENCIL?

A lot of the work I do is free hand, I find that this enables me to achieve a looser tattoo that fits well to the flow of the body, from here if I'm doing a realistic piece I'll stencil on the subject and then go from my drawn design, I don't do that much prep work, I tend to prefer to develop the piece as I go.

My clients vary a lot in how they want the design to be, sometimes they're very definite and give me little creative space, where as other's tell me to go mad and do what I feel.

I LOVE THAT THERE IS NO CEILING IN TATTOOING, YOU CAN TAKE IT AS FAR AS YOU WANT AND EVEN IF YOU GET GOOD, THERE'S ALWAYS A THOUSAND PEOPLE BETTER THAN YOU TO LEARN MORE FROM.





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Claire and her band of merry helpers will be hosting a totally new tattoo convention for next year.

Rites of Passage is a festival that celebrates creativity as a means to connect - not only with ourselves, but with one another, our various cultures, our ancestors and the Earth. People have marked their bodies with tattoos for thousands of years. These permanent designs - sometimes plain, sometimes elaborate, always personal - have served as amulets, status symbols, declarations of love, signs of religious belief, adornments and even forms of punishment.

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The Rites of Passage Festival celebrates the natural environment by showing, through positive example, just how possible it is to live in harmony with our surroundings. We're aiming to be as eco-friendly as possible, showcasing everything from organic locally grown produce to eco-friendly tattoo supplies. It's our firm belief that it's possible to tread lightly without missing out on any of the indulgences we've come to depend on in our lives - and it's for this reason that 100% of the profits made from the festival will go towards buying agricultural land, which will be replanted with native rainforest.

www.ritesofpassagefestival.com

THE ONLY THING THAT WORRIES ME IS THE AMOUNT OF YOUNG GIRLS I'VE SEEN WITH STARS, FLOWERS, HEARTS, DIAMONDS ETC TATTOOED ON THEIR FACES.

I love it that no client is the same and I have such a diverse range of people to work with.

The ultimate tattoo for me to create would be a body suit; I would love to have a project like this. If I were to have this opportunity I would approach it from every angle and use all the various mediums at my disposal to prepare for it. I would use a full sized painting of the piece sketches of the areas, and then tattoo it all out, "balls deep" as my friend would say!

The subject matter would be a whole story, so the tattoo took you on a journey from start to finish, I would have to collaborate and brain storm with the person getting tattooed to finalize this. Technique would involve very large mags and very tight detail to achieve sharp focal points and boundless backgrounds.

TELL US WHAT CLAIRE DOES ON HER TIME OFF...

I cant relax, I'm a workaholic, when I'm not tattooing I'm painting and when I'm not painting I'm drawing. I love my travelling lifestyle as I have a dual holiday and work life, for example where I'm working at the moment in Australia, the beach is opposite the studio, Tea Tree Lake is down the road and rain forests surround the whole area. I also really love music and try to see live bands whenever possible,

YOU HAVE A GOOD TATTOO COVERAGE; CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR COLLECTION?

I have a full back by Paolo Acuna, which we started in 2007 and have tattooed it all around America, in Canada, Italy and London. A full leg by Jeff Gogue which has a portrait by Mike Demasi on the inside calf, a portrait by Robert Hernandez and a small one from Lez Barlow and Rico Schinkel. My back and my leg still have a while to go so I'm trying not to get anymore until they're finished.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT YOUR CHOSEN CAREER PATH?

I love being an artist; it's all I've ever wanted to be since I was a kid. I get so much out of this because it's my passion, and when you're



that passionate about something, you give it your all. I'm also really lucky in the fact that I can travel so much with my work, the freedom is incredible, I would never have dreamed of being able to work in so many places.

I have so much to learn still, and really want to work on my technique and design, I love that there is no ceiling in tattooing, you can take it as far as you want and even if you get good, there's always a thousand people better than you to learn more from.

WHAT DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE EVOLUTION OF THE TATTOOING SO FAR?

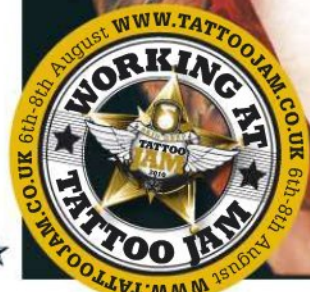
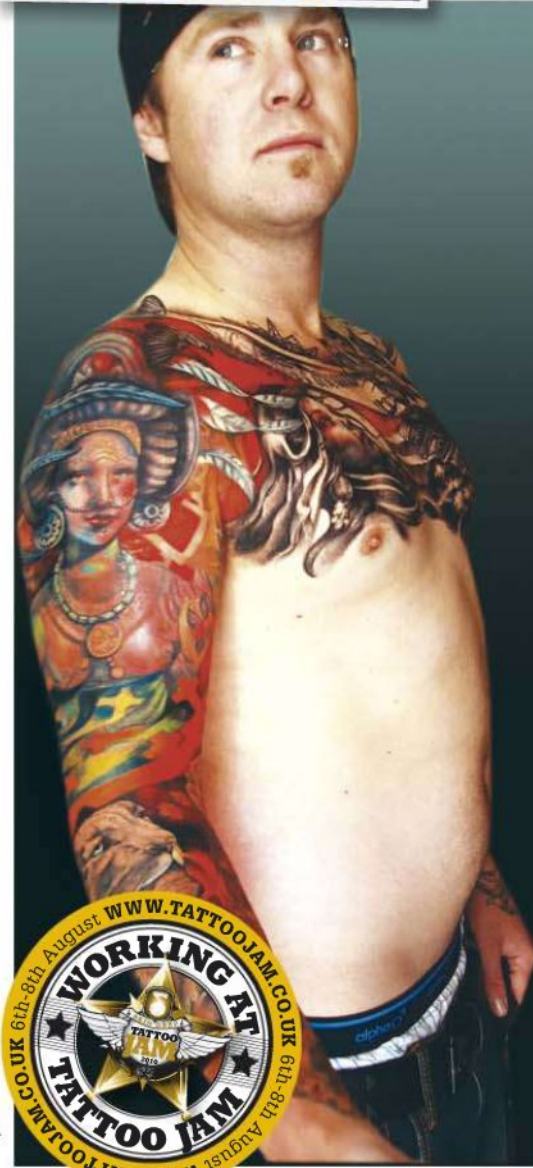
I've noticed great changes in the time I've been tattooing, people are a lot more educated and go out of their way to research an artist that suits them. They also seem to want bigger work and have more unique ideas, which I love as I've been able to work with some really interesting concepts lately. When I was younger, I only saw flash shops and never got a tattoo as I didn't like anything on the walls and they wouldn't tattoo custom work. It was really limiting, but now the imagination is the only limit!

I'm really excited about where tattooing is going, its amazing what people are creating ztat the moment, it blows my mind every time I see new works from artist's I know and then see incredible work from people I've only just discovered. I can't wait to see what people will be doing in the next ten years if things have come this far in the last ten.

The only thing that worries me is the amount of young girls I've seen with stars, flowers, hearts, diamonds etc tattooed on their faces. I went to some conventions in the UK this year and I was really surprised at how many there were.

WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO 'BIG UP'?

I have experienced constant help and kindness throughout the time I've been tattooing, all the people I've had the opportunity to work with have helped me so much, and I'm so grateful for their openness and willingness to help answer my questions and let me sit and watch. There's so many people I need to thank, but mainly Paolo Acuna, Mike Demasi, Josh Carlton, Filip Leu, Benjamin Moss, Robert Hernandez, Ethan Morgan, Tim Kern, John Montgomery, Jeff Gogue, Boris, MG Venom Tattoo, Rico Shinkel and Pierre Tattoo Mania. ★



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Peach

Meet Peach. This piano-playing Canadian with a lust for wandering, talks about her tattoos, and their connection to her eclectic heritage.

Peach has plans for more ink and living in Vancouver, she finds that the tattoo scene is strong and vibrant, although the same old stigmas haunt those who work with visible ink and many have to cover up or get frowned upon. When she eventually finishes with her travels, Peach wants to teach piano and I'm certain that she will be one of the most colourful piano teachers in Canada!

WHERE DID YOU GROW UP AND CAN YOU LIST YOUR INTERESTS AND ASPIRATIONS AS A CHILD.

I grew up in Langley, BC, Canada, which is on the outskirts of Vancouver on the West Coast. It's an all right place until you hit high school age and then realise there's nothing to do. Quite like most cities. As a child I had a few attempts at sport-like activities such as figure skating, swimming and diving lessons and I started taking piano lessons.

WHEN DID YOU INITIALLY BECOME INTERESTED IN TATTOOS, WHAT PROMPTED YOUR INTEREST?

At 14, I started hanging out with some of my sister's punk friends who had a few tattoos. They were all pretty rad people, so I'd have to say that was what sparked my initial interest.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FIRST TATTOO AND EXPLAIN HOW THE WORK HAS PROGRESSED SINCE THEN.

My first tattoo was eagerly anticipated, and I got it a few days after my 18th

birthday, which is when you no longer need parental consent in Canada. I actually found this random drawing in a science fiction magazine in art class. I'd cut it out about 2 years earlier and held on to it ever since, so I knew that I wanted it for sure. It says FANTASY when you look at it upright and upside down it says REALITY.

TALK THROUGH EACH OF YOUR CURRENT TATTOOS AND TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THE ARTIST WHO DID YOUR WORK.

This is going to be a long answer! I'll work my way up from the foot. On my right foot I've got a peach, which is my nickname from when I was 14. On the left foot, which is the most recent one, there's a locked treasure chest with a skull and some bones lying around it in sand. Above that I've got a ghost ship. To the left of that is a piece of sheet music going down my calf. On the back of the other leg, and one of my only colour tattoos, is a heart with some

and shrubbery around with a shed and a bike leaning on it! Absolutely love it. On my back I've got 36 stars, started as 26, going from the top of my butt up to my shoulder, this was my second tattoo. There's a huge beautiful angel, next to that named Lenore, holding on to a rose. A treble clef is on the direct back of my neck. Behind my ear is a purple bow on one side and the other a diamond. My friend Coburn, back in Langley, who has his own studio called Black Widow Ink did this one and the music notes on my leg. First two were done at Lady Luck, also in Langley where everyone was partial to, but I didn't find that these were done very well, I think the needle was too deep and there's a bit of scar tissue. Everything else was done by Aaron at Bodycraft in Nottingham, unfortunately he's just moved to Indiana, so won't be getting anything more until he comes back to visit Ireland, in the fall. He's definitely the man to do the rest of my work, really lucky that I

I love the artistic merit, sort of just feeling like a human canvas.

Norwegian flowers going through it, which I found when travelling to where my grandfather was raised. Upper thighs I've got a raven on the right and a dove holding some purple flowers on the left. On my hipbone I've got the fantasy/reality one and then the same thing flipped over saying reality/fantasy on the other side. Going up either side the rib cage reading downwards is lyrics by The Doors, "When the music's over" and "Angels Dance & Angels Die." The backs of my lower forearms are two of the artist Banksy's balloon girls, one on each side. Upper arm is a haunted house scene with the whole gateway, complete with an owl in trees with hidden faces in by a full moon. On the inside of that is an epitaph styled headstone covered in ivy which reads, "As it was in the beginning, so shall it be in the end" Lyrics from One Love by Bob Marley. It's not in a religious context I just like how it can be interpreted in several ways. The other half sleeve is a windmill scene, kind of like you'd find on a plate that says Holland on the bottom. Just like a sketch out of an art book, a bridge with reflection in water

managed to find him by fluke when I wanted a few more stars added to what I already had and worked from there!

IS THERE ANY PARTICULAR THEME THAT RUNS THROUGH THE DESIGNS THAT YOU HAVE CHOSEN?

Only really the fact that I'm quite keen on taking Aaron's input on what he thinks would suit the sort of style that we've got going on. Usually I just make a suggestion and he adds his own personal touch to it, such as a little pirate on the ship reaching for a bird, or a cat on the pathway to the haunted house. Also the fact that damn near all of it is just blacks and shading. Adds to the authenticity of it.

DO YOUR TATTOOS HAVE ANY SPECIFIC SIGNIFICANCE OR MERELY AESTHETIC.

Like previously mentioned with the flowers were from Karmoy, Norway where my grandfather was raised. The windmill is because my other grandparents were born in Holland and I get an awesome vibe when I've visited there, it's just a nice, hip place to be. Other than that, mostly ☺





aesthetic, though they all give me some sort of significance in their own way but to go in to all of it would just take up a lot more to talk about!

WHAT IS IT ABOUT TATTOOS THAT SPECIFICALLY APPEAL TO YOU?

I love the artistic merit, sort of just feeling like a human canvas. I enjoy being able to display work that I'm proud of having. Not a very extensive answer on that one.

HOW DOES THE TATTOO SCENE IN CANADA DIFFER FROM THE UK? HOW ARE HEAVILY TATTOOED WOMEN PERCEIVED? ARE VISIBLE TATTOOS A PROBLEM IN EMPLOYMENT?

It depends on if you're in a major city for sure, tattoos on women are quite popular and trendy at the minute in Vancouver, it's hard to not find someone without them these days. I'd say it's probably pretty similar in the UK, always depends on what sorts of crowds you hang out with too. I think

It depends on if you're in a major city for sure, tattoos on women are quite popular and trendy at the minute in Vancouver, it's hard to not find someone without them these days.



it's a good thing though, aside from the fact that, dependant on what job you have, it's quite frowned upon still to have tattoos in employment. Unless you work at a pub or music shop you're generally going to have to cover up.

WHAT PLANS DO YOU HAVE FOR FUTURE IN REGARDS TO TATTOOS AND WITHIN ASPECTS OF MY LIFE?

My plans for future career-wise are actually to become a piano teacher and teach students from my own home. I've been taking lessons on and off for about 12 years but travelling tends to get in the way with getting

ASIDE FROM TATTOOS ANY OTHER INTERESTS OR HOBBIES?

Mostly pastimes, aside from piano and travelling, would definitely have to be art, films, music, gigs, photography, stand up comedy and just chilling out with friends, having a drink or camping. I also enjoy taking a stroll just for the sake of wandering to learn about my environments.

ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO SAY?

I'm really quite interested in doing modelling for promo work and anything else tattoo related. I was doing something similar to that in Vancouver called Van Ink Girls, though it was just starting out and I came to England before being able to see it go somewhere, so maybe when I return. It's pretty infrequent that I come across being able to make a semi career out of it, which is a shame!

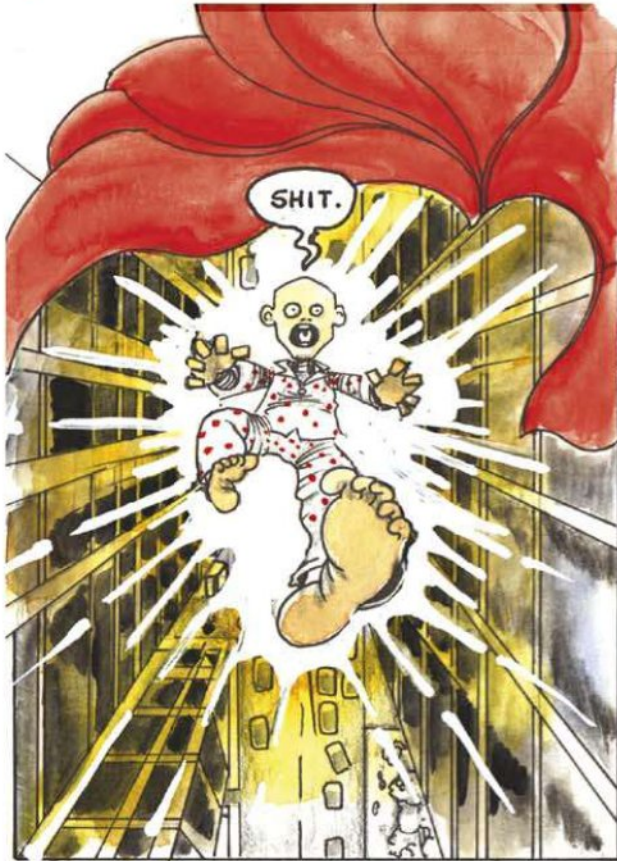
ADD ANYTHING YOU FEEL IS RELEVANT AND MAKE SURE YOU ARE HAPPY WITH WHAT IS WRITTEN!

Forgot to mention that I have a very basic cassette tape on my upper inner bicep. That, and of course, thanks for giving me the opportunity to do the Skin Deep photo shoot, it was really fun! ★

the ink spot

by Gavin Rodrigues

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“TATTOO-INNORMIZM”

INTERVIEW: IRINA CHERNETSKAYA PHOTOGRAPHY: GRISHA

GRISHA MASLOV

Every now and then I come across an artist's work that stops me in my tracks. The frissance hit me as I looked at Grisha's work, it's quite an event when someone in the tattooing world puts a new spin into his or her work and I feel Grisha has done just that with his bold, graphic tattoos. Some of you reading this will like his work, some of you will not; much in the same way I had good and bad responses when I first published Lionel from Out of Step's work a while ago; but I felt I just had to showcase this innovative and passionate Russian artist.



The tattoo bug bit Grisha when he was only 16 and since then he has developed and collaborated with various other artists to enhance his unique style of tattooing.

Grisha has worked in different countries, picking up influences from places such as Sweden, Germany, Norway and Yugoslavia gaining a large client base, all wanting a piece of "Maslov Magic".

Welcome to the truly unique world of Grisha Maslov - Tattoo Master...

I HAVE NOTICED THAT SOMETIMES THE COLOUR OF YOUR ARTWORK COINCIDES WITH THE CLOTHES OF YOUR CLIENTS. IS IT THE FORTUITY, BECAUSE I HAVE PAID ATTENTION TO THIS, LOOKING ON THE PHOTOS OF YOUR NEW TATTOOS DONE RECENTLY? DO YOU CHOOSE A TATTOO FOR THE CLIENT LOOKING ON HIS CHARACTER AND PECULIARITY?

Probably it is not a fortuity. I like coloured tattoos, one of my preferences is to stick to natural, skin-like colours; I love the tints of orange, brown, sometimes red. I usually reserve the choice of colours for the client.

If he or she specifies certain colours, I don't contest their decision. I try not to use more than 3 colours in one tattoo; mixing them with each other, I also use white quite a lot. Matching of individual pictures as a rule, I try to match the design to the energy of the client, in his art preference and lastly to enhance the body-shape of the person. The images appear suddenly from my communication and discussions of different topics with the client. We talk about tattoos, about life, about their loves. I want to know about the individual more, to see and guess about the creating the perfect image for them. The final outcome of the tattoo and the happiness of the person are paramount to me.

I HEARD YOU ARE INTERESTED IN POLITICS. WHICH PARTY ARE YOU A MEMBER OF? CAN YOU TELL US OF THIS PARTY? OR DO YOU THINK THAT IN POLITICS IT'S POSSIBLE TO DO SOMETHING FOR TATTOO-ART AND TATTOO-MASTERS AT THE SAME TIME?

To take an interest in politics is necessary I feel because politics will take interest in you some



I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS SPECIAL GRATITUDE TO ALL PEOPLE WHOSE TATTOOS ARE EXPOSED ON THESE PAGES, AND ALL WHO PUT TRUST IN ME. WITHOUT YOU, THERE WOULD BE NO I.

day in the future. I'm the member of the party "Unitary Russia"; the party helps me to make contact with wholesome people in Moscow, the structure of the party works very well. But I will be honest, I'm interested in tattoo-politics most of all and I spend most of my time on it, being the leader of the public organization called; "The Club of Tattooed People". The word "politics" means to help and direct those in the organisation to progress as artists.

FROM WHAT DO YOU TAKE YOUR UNIQUE STYLE? WHERE IS THE BEGINNING OF YOUR STYLE AND FROM WHAT DO YOU TAKE THE INSPIRATION?

Inspiration can be taken from anywhere, from a visiting exhibition with beautiful girls, from architecture, design, photographic sources, sculpture, natural beauty; the list is endless. My style has been created over the years, firstly through my tattoo experiences and art preferences. Also, I was lucky that in the beginning of my career I met a young and assiduous painter, Ivan Aladishkin. I began to

order pictures on his given subject matter and we started trading work for work and began discussing pro's and con's of art, and we found that we share similar experiences.

My style I'm calling "tattoo-innornizm", which means word for word, diverse normality, and style born purely from many transformations from have been already.

YOUR TATTOOS ARE VERY SIMILAR IN STYLE, AND THEY SHOW THE UNIQUE WORLD OF SHAPES LIVING BY THEIR OWN LIFE. EVEN IN THE MOST ABSTRACT COMPOSITIONS IT IS AN ATMOSPHERE OF DIFFERENT ATTITUDES TOWARDS OBJECTS AND ANATOMIC PLACEMENT OF ELEMENTS. DOES YOUR ARTWORK CARRY ANY INFORMATION, IDEA?

The basic idea of my style – it's multiformity; I like to use the free space around tattoos (my works are without background) using them as an integral part of composition, stirring up different associations in the mind. The works from one point of view are quite simple, which I feel anyone can do, but from the other side, ↻



they are containing many different and hidden meanings. For example, my new tattoo with blue lines on the girl's leg is just a fish, but if you take a good look at each part separately, you can see an owl, and faces of flipped personas, even those three burs with dots under the knee are also the images of three children.

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT, HOW HAD YOU COME TO THIS? TELL ME ABOUT HOW YOU BEGAN TO MAKE TATTOOS.

I think I began to make tattoos out of curiosity really. My friends did tattoos on themselves in neighbouring areas. My first tattoo experience was on myself, after one of my friends from my neighbourhood encouraged me to do this, and at the time I was upset, that I couldn't make tattoos of good quality, so after that, I began to look for a teacher. Roger, a tattoo-master, well known in our city, at that time was the best tattooist and painter, but denied me any training. But then I found in a neighbouring village, a carbon-black tattoo-master; Ephrem and he agreed to teach me. The payment was a bottle of Samogon (Russian moonshine vodka), and that day we started the teaching process. We met many times and he lectured me a lot, he explained how to interpret meanings of tattoos in criminal spheres, where and which tattoos could be done and those that could not, I took in all the

information like a sponge, such was my thirst for knowledge.

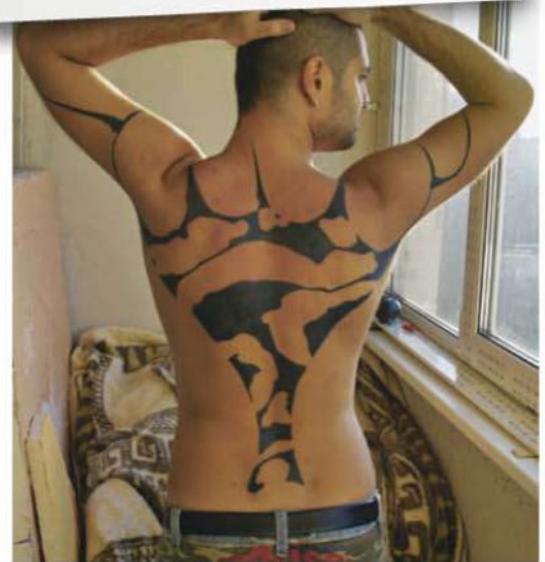
For a better understanding of the process of tattooing from my teacher, I gave him a half of my back for his tattoo-art, and to this day I still have these tattoos. After some time I began to work in a beauty salon called "Kleopatra" and there I met and married Kseniya in 2001. Soon after, I went to Germany to work, later I came back and I decided to go to Moscow with my family. It was a very hard time, as Moscow didn't want to accept me, I spent lots of money on advertising and accommodation. I worked in various jobs to try and sustain my family and eventually, I got recognised and slowly I made a living out of tattooing.

In 2003, I moved into a Moscow district called Krasnopresnenskiy, I did many tattoos there and had much money, so life was good.

Eventually, I decided to invest money in technologies, into creating websites, the first personal site I produced was at the beginning of this year and by winter I created others for my friends and colleagues. This was the first interactive portal and I named it "The Club of Tattooed People", Evgeniy ProtoPlex, author of the site, devised the slogan: "Who is without us will be with us soonest". From that moment there were not more than 20 people in the club. In 2004 we created one of the most beautiful

I THINK, ON RUSSIAN TATTOOING, THERE ARE MANY GOOD TATTOO-MASTERS, BUT I'M UPSET, THAT THERE ARE NOT MANY WHO CELEBRATE THE RUSSIAN TRADITIONS.





websites about tattoos in collaboration with a Ukraine design-firm. The site was great, the attendance had increased very much and we had one of the highest ratings in world's top flash-sites. And to this date this is still up and running – www.tattoo-world.ru. A crucial point happened in my life and in my artwork in 2005, when I sadly dissolved my marriage with my dear wife but happily I now live to my new sweetheart Evgeniya Vladimirovna, who gave birth to my son. Exactly at that moment I decided to follow my own rules: "Not to do tattoos which I don't like". The financial gain had failed, but my work began to get recognised and this showed off my real individuality, I had chosen a hard way, but for me it is a good way of living.

HOW DO YOU THINK RUSSIAN TATTOOING STANDS UP AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OTHER EUROPEAN AND WORLD STAGES?

I think, on Russian tattooing, there are many good tattoo-masters, but I'm upset, that there are not many who celebrate the Russian traditions, they haven't time to rise up and they are destroyed by foreign trends, and most of tattooed people are with uniform and uninspired tattoos because of their low art-knowledge; demand exceeds supply. Russia is famous by her very elaborate tattoos, may be it's in people's character – to mess with each millimetre of skin – for my opinion it's unjustified. ★

KINGSLEY *Ryan*

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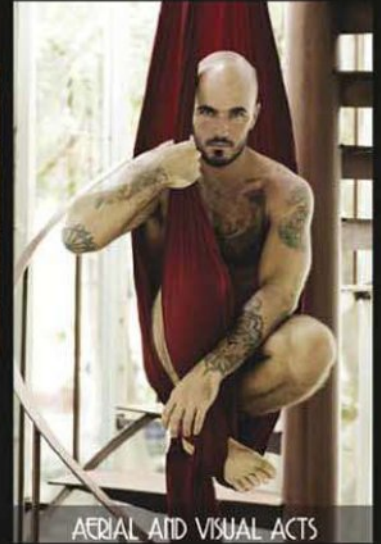
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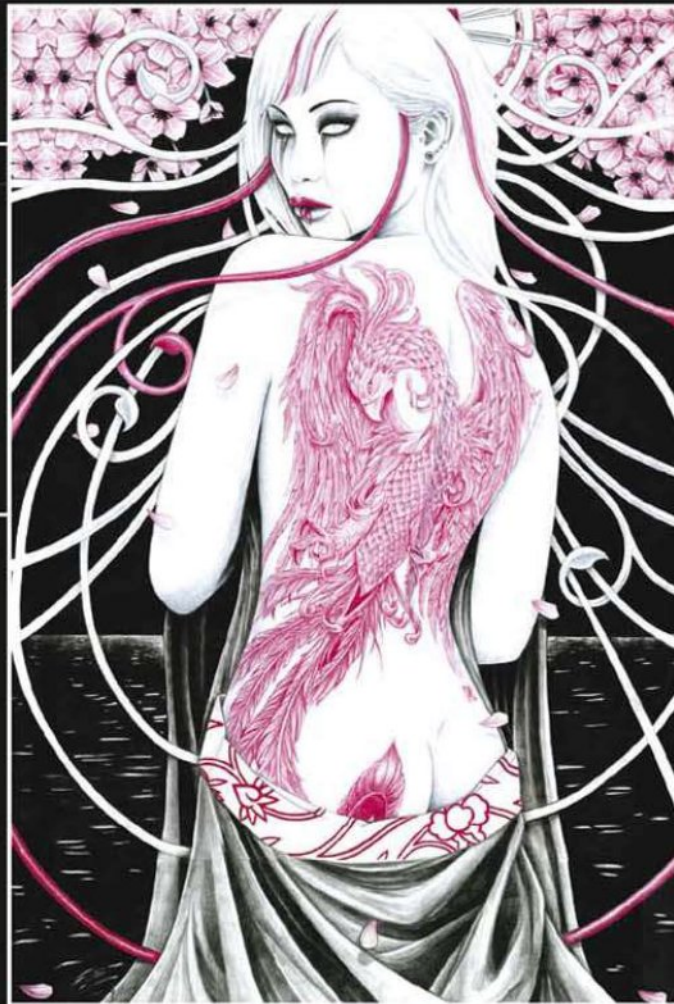
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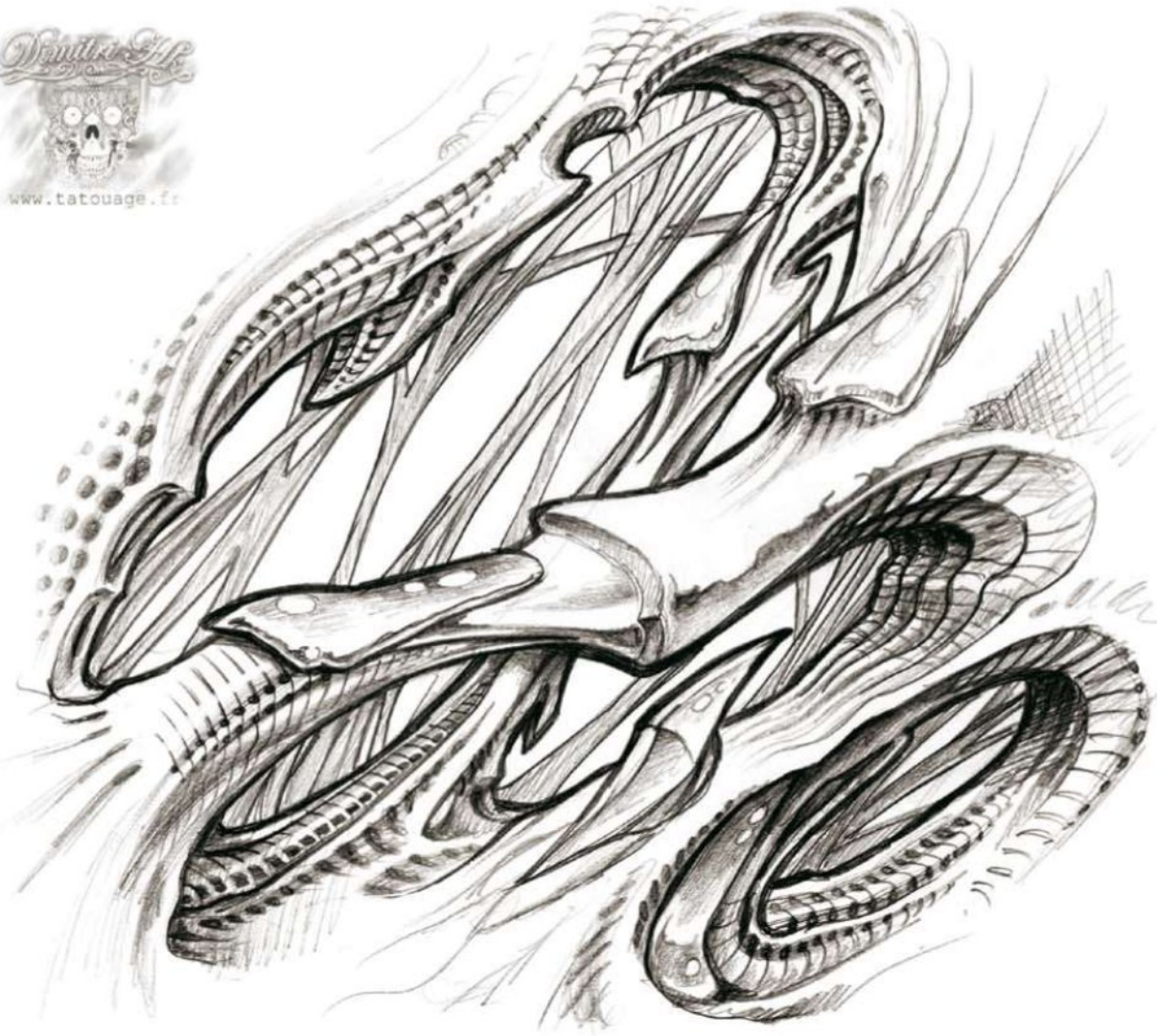
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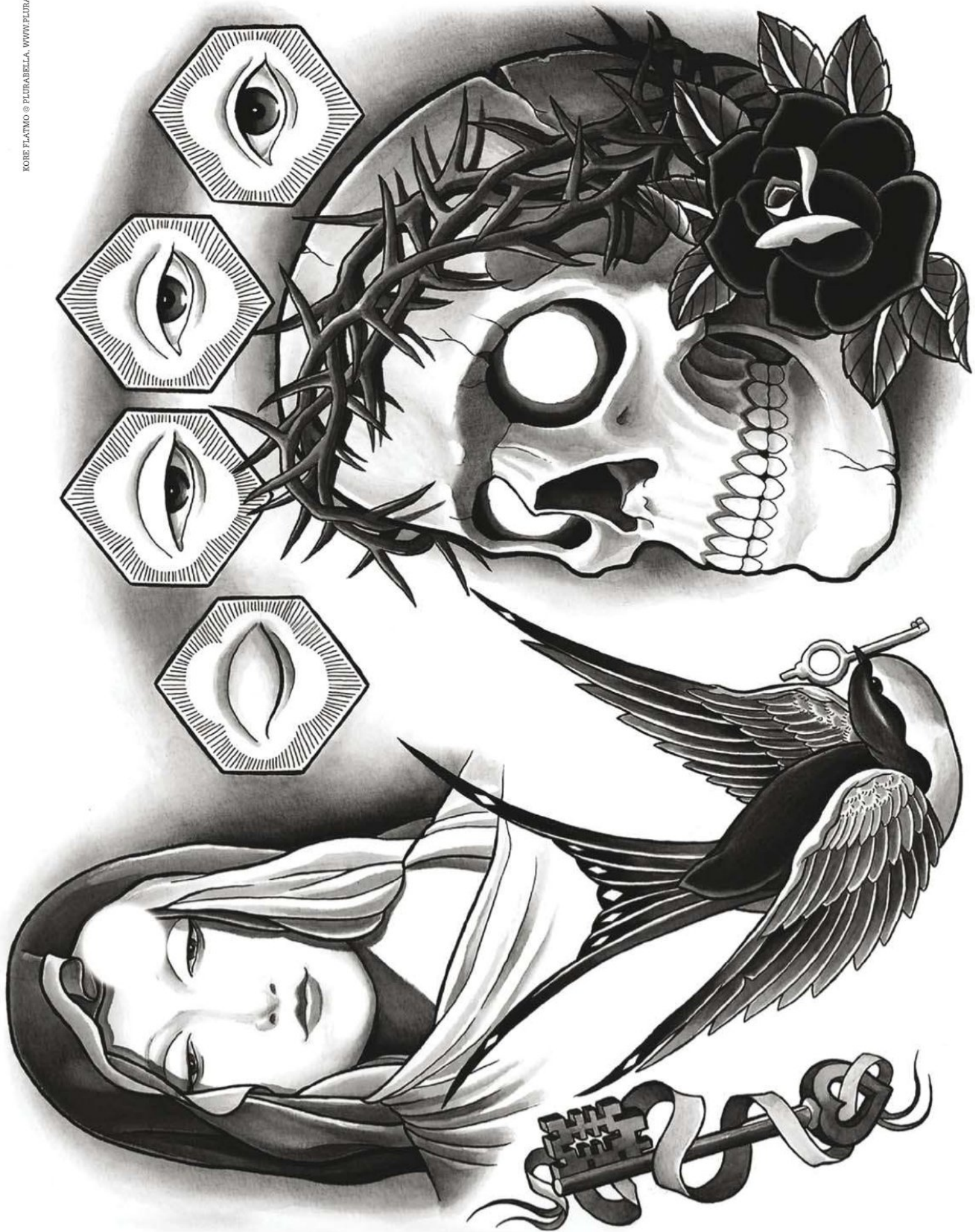
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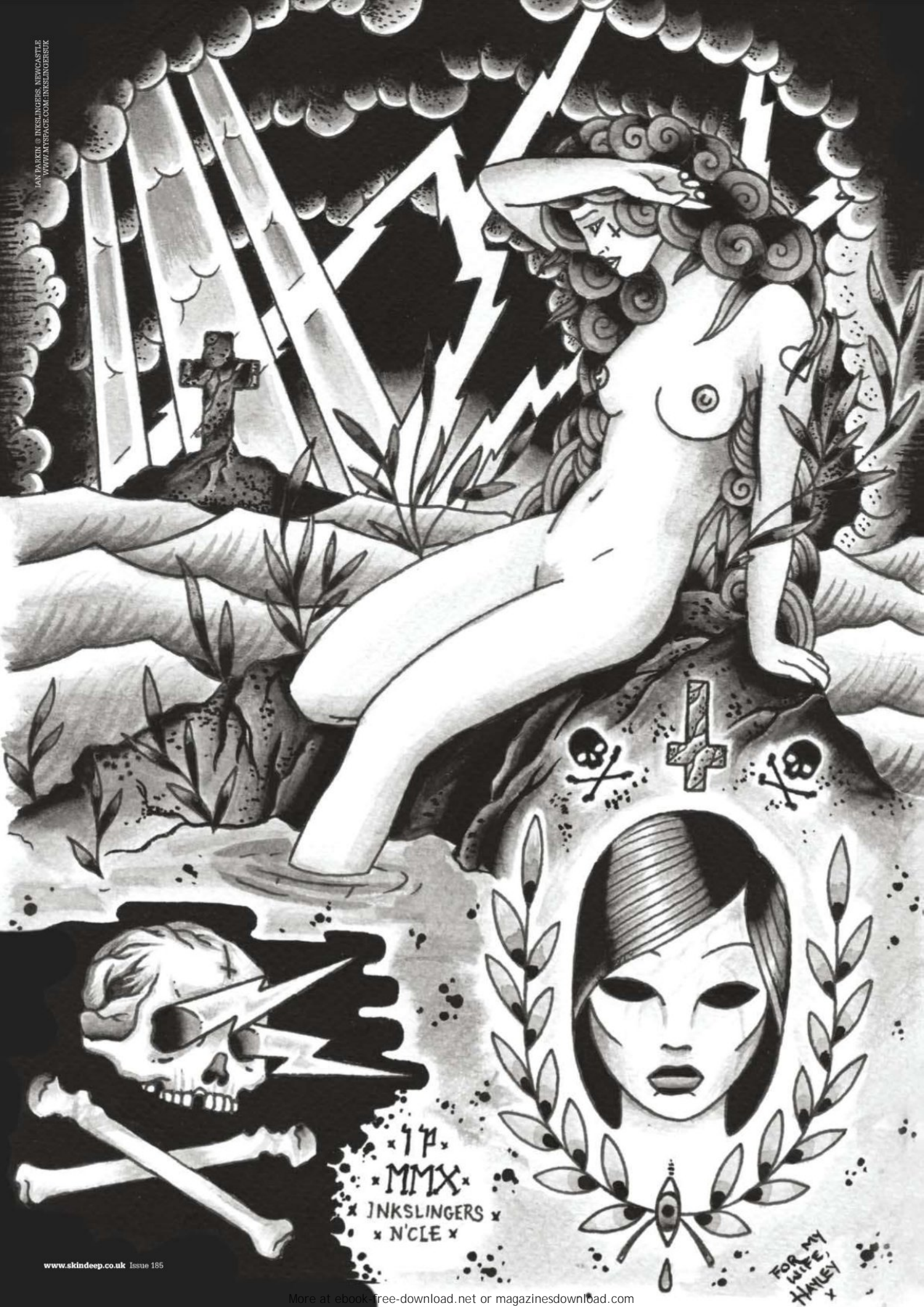

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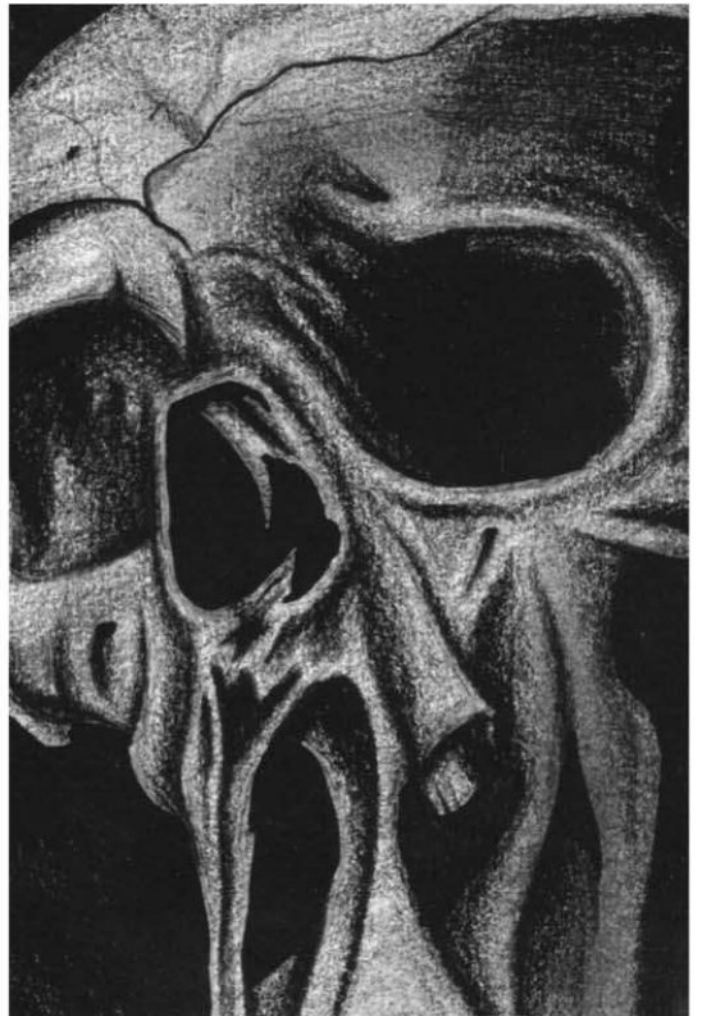


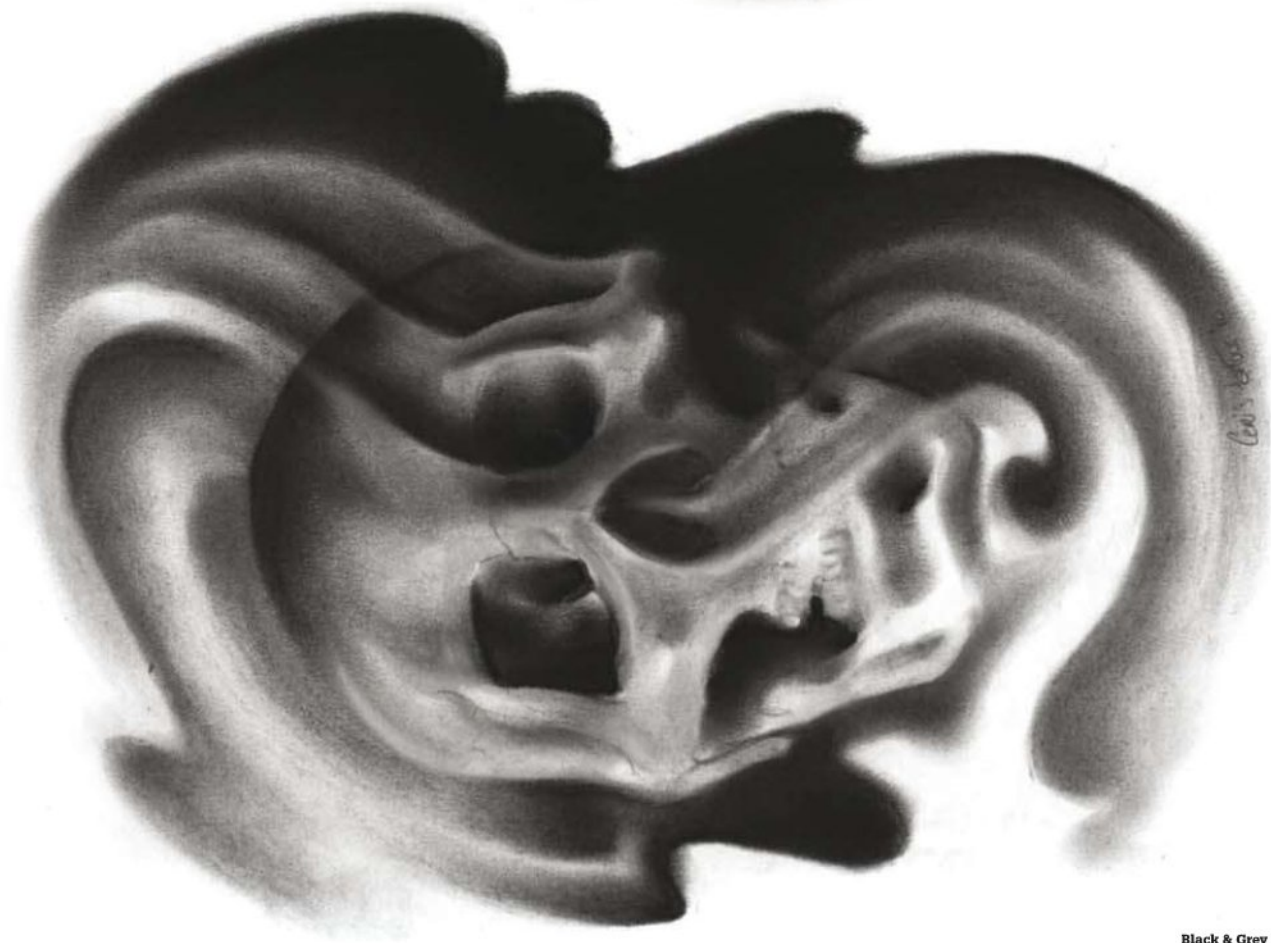
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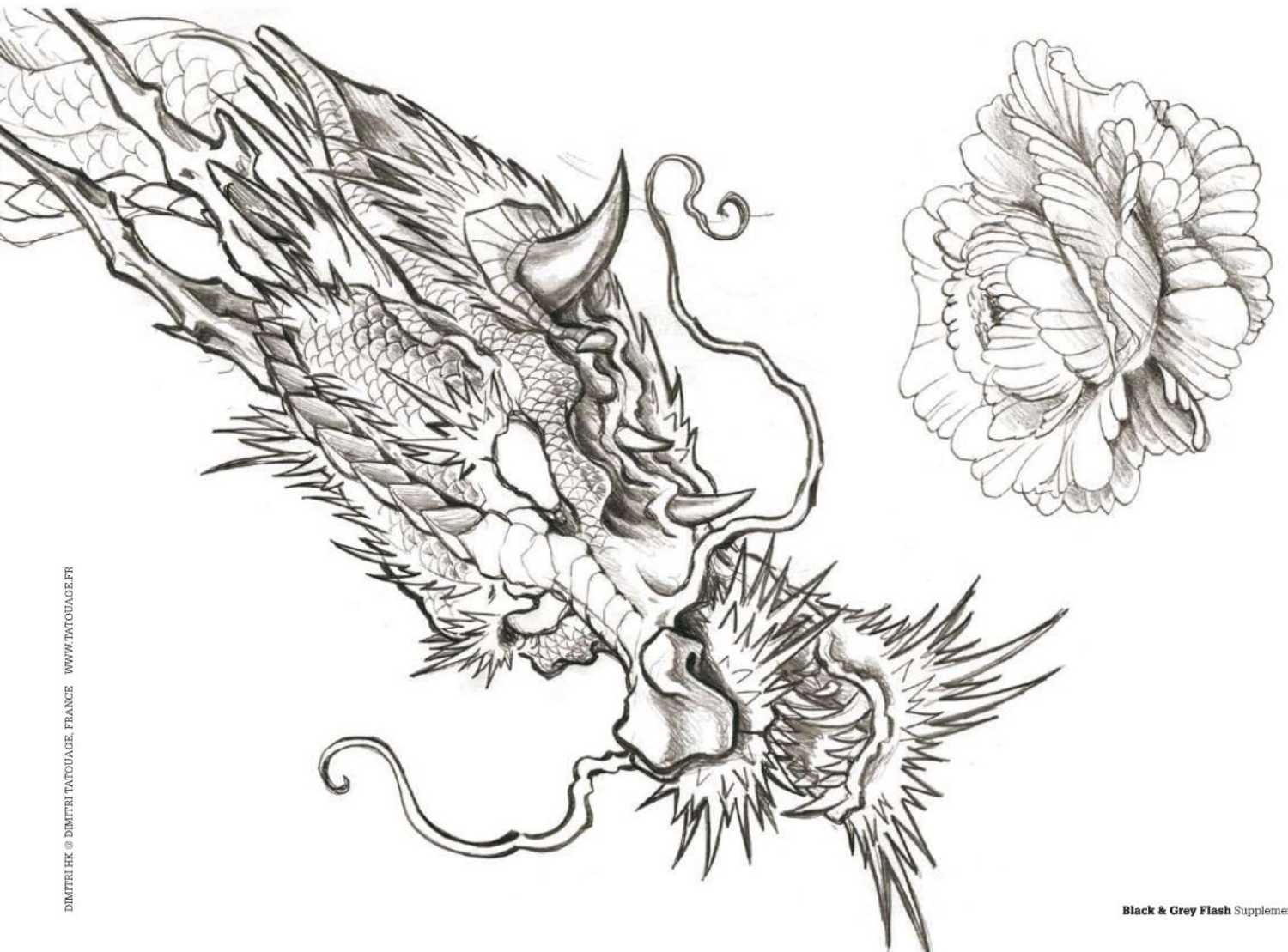
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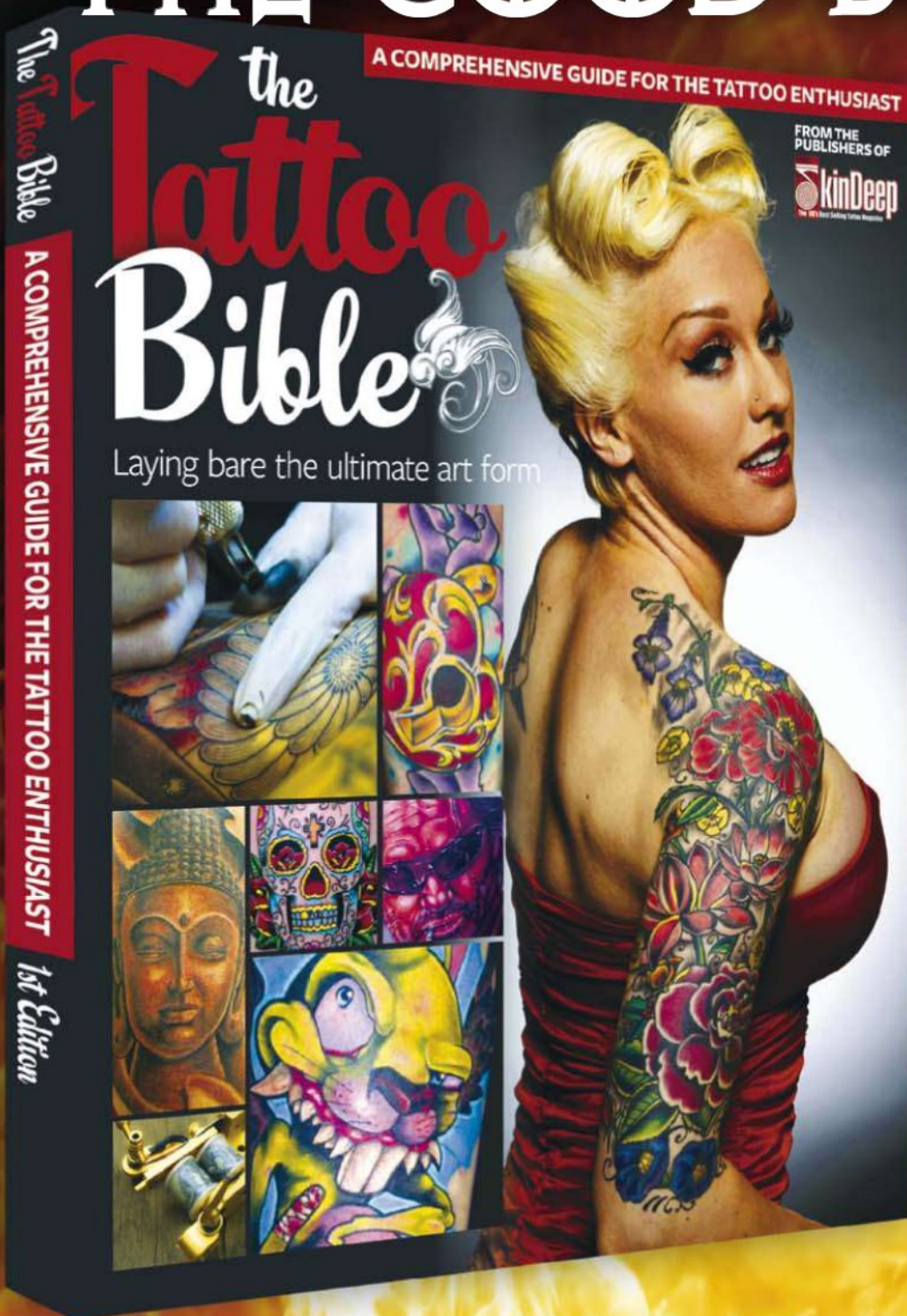




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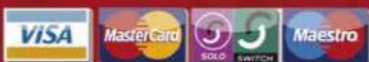
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INK EXPLOSION

GERMANY

Whilst wandering about at the Manchester Tattoo show, I had heard a few rumours that there was to be a new show, taking place in Germany.



DAVE BY BOB TYRRELL © NIGHT GALLERY, USA

The rumour was that a very healthy selection of international artists were going to attend, many from America and beyond. I'd heard the likes of Bob Tyrrell, Liorcifer, Carlos Torres, Hannah Aitchison, Joe Cappobianco, Jime Litwalk, Nick Baxter, Tom Strom and many others were on the line up, so this started to sound like a good show to visit. After a phone call to the organiser – Andy Schmidt from Andy's Body Electric – the list was not only confirmed but was expanded upon. That sealed it; it was time to book my flight to Germany...

Soon it was time the for show, so I headed out to the airport where I met

one of the British contingent due to work the show - Ash from Ash's tattoos in Warrington and his good lady. Ash has been putting out some great portraiture and colour realism work of late, so I was keen to see just what he had lined up for the weekend.

Arriving in Düsseldorf, we were picked up by one of Andy's helpers who (quite literally) took off down the autobahn at breakneck speed to deliver us at the doors of the Kaiser Friedrich Hall, the venue for the weekend. After a coffee to steady my nerves from the safe but fast drive, it was time to see 'what's occurring' in the hall. The venue is a huge multi-



DEK BY BUENA VISTA TATTOO, GERMANY



DEK BY BUENA VISTA TATTOO, GERMANY



HANNAH BY ANDY ENGEL'S ANDY'S TATTOOS, GERMANY



MICLOS BY CSABA BANYAI, GERMANY

floored building overlooking the small town of Munchengladbach – Famous for its football team so I am told. 'Munchen' is a pretty little town with spotlessly clean streets, a healthy selection of bars and restaurants, and lots of interesting sculptures dotted about the pedestrianised areas and parks. It was weird though, walking through these quaint streets and not seeing a single piece of litter, which was very nice but virtually every building had some form of graffiti sprawled on its walls. Some of it was pretty good but the majority was quite poor, but that didn't seem to spoil the town's charm at all. It just made it more colourful.

Back in the hall, things were at a frenetic pace as you would expect a few hours before the doors open at any show, especially an inaugural one.

Andy had decided to open the doors to the public on the Friday afternoon to give folk more time to get work done and no sooner had the doors opened, than tattoos were in the making. As time ticked on and the welcoming speeches were given, in both Germany and English (a nice touch that), the show got underway. Lots of the booths were already filled with clients beginning their inky weekend. The artists were spread over four rooms

on three floors, with the majority in the main hall on the first floor, where the main stage was also situated. Walking among the booths on the first floor was almost like going to a convention in the US. I walked



past Carlos Torres who was next to Bob Tyrrell who was close to Jo Capobianco and Jime Litwalk. Next to them was John

Montgomery, and Hannah Aitchison and opposite these guys were Dan Henk, Paul Acker, on the other side

Back in the hall, things were at a frenetic pace as you would expect a few hours before the doors open at any show, especially an inaugural one.

of the hall was Tony Ciavarro. Whilst the likes of Liorcifer, Ben Moss and Tom Strom were in a smaller room just off the main hall. Upstairs was Mike DeVries and Nick Baxter, the American contingent reminded



TATTOO BY DAN HENK, USA



TATTOO BY MICK BAXTER USA

me of what it must have been like back in the early fifties when musicians and singers all went on tour together in a succession of big old greyhound busses, only this time the 'Great American Tattoo Tour' had hit town via the airport.

Andy must have some influence to get such a healthy list of transatlantic artists over considering the difficulties many foreign tattooists are having these days with over zealous customs officials. Not forgetting his own countrymen, Andy had invited a sizeable amount of home grown talent in the shapes of Andy Engel, Tommy Lee Wendtner, Miss Nico from All Style Tattoo, Nine Lives Tattoos and many more; there were close to forty Artists working from Germany and many more from other countries including Holland,

Sweden, France Japan, Italy, Singapore and Russia, with the UK being represented by Bez and Ash.

Later, in the afternoon there was a pin striping exhibition with a scooter and a BMW motorbike getting the paint treatment. This drew a pretty big crowd, as did the many other trade stalls selling jewellery, clothing, magazines, books and gifts. The rooms started to fill up not long after half five. I assume that this was due

with many liking to wear the clothes and listen to the music; but in Germany, it is HUGE. Nine out of ten men walking around the venue either sported a quiff, huge turnups and/or a work shirt; the lady's wore the big multilayered dresses or again, jeans with turnups that you could hide a small child in, and fifties style hairdos. I felt like I had gone back in time a few decades. It was as though the sixties had never happened!

As Friday came to an end, several of the big name artists held seminars for those not working the show but wanting to further their careers and techniques.

to folk leaving work for the weekend. As the throng of tattoo machines continued, on stage was the, by now, regular art fusion, with three canvases and three artists all sharing the stage to create a collaborative piece of art.

Now I know in the UK there is quite a resurgence of the fifties/rockabilly music and style entering the convention scene

Along with the look was the music. This set the tone for the entire weekend. Rock N Roll and Rockabilly music accompanied the tattooists from the moment the doors opened until they shut late in the evening. I can put up with a bit of both styles of music but after three days I wanted to stick pencils in my ears; even some of the Americans I spoke to said they



TATTOO BY PETER @ MAGIC MOON, GERMANY



TATTOO BY PETER @ MAGIC MOON, GERMANY



OANA BY TAKAMI 3 KNOCKOVER BECKHAMBRETTATTOO, JAPAN



NICO BY CHRIS @ MAGIC MOON, GERMANY



TATTOO BY LEO @ NAKED TRUST TATTOO



loved Johnny Cash but they wouldn't be listening to him for a few months after they got home, such was the overload. This look is massive in Germany with lots of dedicated 50's shows and conventions taking place, there were stalls selling gentleman's pomade (a sort of hair grease), R'n'R memorabilia and all other varieties of 50's merchandise.

As Friday came to an end, several of the big name artists held seminars for those not working the show but wanting to further their careers and techniques. For the rest of us, it was time to head to the bars and restaurants to grab a drink and a meal and reflect on what was a great start to the weekend.

Saturday and the crowd was much bigger than the previous day, this had the effect of increasing the temperature inside and it was nice to head outside every now and then to get some fresh air as the sun

shone for what apparently was the first time in months. Although the heat was quite intense inside, many folk chose to keep their coats and jackets on. This made my job pretty hard trying to spot tattoos. Occasionally I would spy a colour tattoo poking out of a work shirt or some black and grey masterpiece tempting me from beneath a cardigan, worn back to front of course, (ala fifties style!).

I did fare much better when it came to the judging. Myself and one of the other photographers (thanks Mick!) from the German tattoo magazine, Tattoowier, cleared some space stage right and we herded the contestants over, after they had been judged, for photographic purposes.

This worked out perfectly and I must say it was really refreshing to see new work from other countries and I breathed a sigh of relief at actually getting some tattoo photos. ➔



KAL BY LUCKY TATTOO, GERMANY

As well as the long list of international artists attending, there were many more local tattooists I had not previously heard of so it was good to see work from many of these guys 'up close and personal' so to speak. On the Saturday there was just two categories in the competitions, Black & Grey and Asian. This made the judging flow quite easily but the categories were open to interpretation as some B&G pieces had a small amount of colour in the tattoos and the Asian meant anything from Japanese to all other styles of colour work, but that was fine and the competition ran very smoothly and efficiently.

Walking about the venue, I started to see some great tattoos taking shape. Nick Baxter had just finished and superb worm type creature (The Labyrinth?) on a girl's shoulder, Thomas Kynst was working on a large, across the shoulder piece of black and grey work. Bez was half way through a wonderful rendition of a colourful bullfinch set in a heart-shaped area, done in such a way that the tattoo looked like it was under the girl's flesh. Dan Henk tattooed some wonderful portraits of a chap's pet ducks, done in only a way that Dan can, with blood and worms coming from the animals. Speaking to Dan after the tattoo he said, "It came out great, but there wasn't enough blood, there should have been more blood!" Ah, true Dan Henk style!

Max 'From Hell' had some great work on show and was hard at work tattooing all weekend; such was the demand for his own style of Black and Grey work.

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A chap by the name of Randy from a studio called Heaven of Colours in Austria was producing some amazing colour tattoos. I had seen quite a few tattoos by him earlier whilst on stage during the judging and I was told that he and Boris from Hungary are good friends and you could definitely see the Boris influence in his work. Max 'From Hell' had some great work on show and was hard at work tattooing all weekend; such was the demand for his own style of Black and Grey work.

Talking of styles, there was one booth that had a big crowd around it all weekend. That was the booth of Simone And Volko from Buena Vista Tattoo. These guys have been taking the tattoo world by storm over the past year or so with their very distinctive portraits blended with strong graphical shapes and text, many of which are sat on unusual places on the body. Their work is amazing. It's so good to see a new style emerging in the tattooing industry. Simone and Volko will both be working their first UK show at Tattoo Jam (www.tattoojam.co.uk) in August if you like the look of their work.

Later, we were entertained by some burlesque dancers, then a chap called Ski-King who took to the stage. Intrigued, I stood to see what this rather imposing chap was going to do and judging by the

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TATTOO BY JIME LITWALK @ HART & HUNTINGTON, USA



SABASTEN BY VOLKA @ BUENA VISTA TATTOO, GERMANY



TATTOO BY TONY MANCIA @ ALL OR NOTHING, USA



TATTOO BY BEZ @ TRIPLE SIX STUDIOS, SUNDERLAND

cheers that went up when he appeared, he was already well known in Germany. The music started and off he went; into a stage act of yep, you guessed it. Fifties covers... This was my queue to hit the bar, but I have to say I hung around for a couple of numbers and his voice was pretty amazing as was his Johnny Cash tribute, which was very impressive. I did like his Elvis meets Motorhead rendition of Ace of Spades too.

That night, the artists were treated to a party laid on by Andy and his team. A large coach took all the attending artists to a barn, apparently in the middle of nowhere that was decked out with sand, surfboards, hoola girls and flower garlands, a proper luau by all accounts. I sadly missed out on what was a superb night with the last coach coming home at six in the morning.

On Sunday there were a few sore heads and some very delicate tattooists heading over from the hotel not three hundred yards from the venue. As the doors opened for the day, a few booths were unoccupied as I think a few of the harder partygoers had a bit of a lie in. It might be a good idea too put the party on the Sunday night after the show?

Again the rooms all filled up pretty quickly and those artists whose eyes had re-focused started the day's proceedings. Again the work heading up on stage for the competitions was immense with all genres of tattooing on show.

Sunday seemed a little quieter compared to the UK shows, where it is usually the busier day but it was never quiet and ninety nine percent of tattooists were working and those that weren't had decided not to by choice I think.

Just prior to the winding up of the show we were treated to a superb display of Dancing through the ages by a couple. Starting with a Charleston demonstration, then they dashed off behind a screen to reappear in WWII uniforms to do the jive, then off again to come back and dance some Rock and Roll. This was really good and considering both were well into their fifties, they put on a superb act and the audience loved it.

As the weekend drew to its final



TATTOO BY ELSON YEO @ THINK TATTOO, SINGAPORE



TATTOO BY SANTA SANGRE, COLOGNE

Again the rooms all filled up pretty quickly and those artists whose eyes had re-focused started the day's proceedings.

conclusion, Andy handed out the awards that were hand made, painted surf boards to both artists and tattooees and the crowds started to wander off and the Kaiser Friedrich Hall began to empty.

The only fly in the ointment for me over the weekend was the rudeness and bullishness of one Tattoo Scout/Sprit magazine. When I mentioned their behaviour to others, they did not seem surprised, confirming this fitted with their understanding of the magazine's ethos. They decided to start filming artists in the one and only corridor to one of the tattoo rooms and when we and others decided to try and get to this room we were shouted at and told to leave the area. This denied access to many who wanted to get into the room housing the other artists. Not a nice way of treating their potential customers I feel. It was small and minor transgression, though but one I feel needed mentioning all the same.

I have driven through Germany on many occasions but never had the chance to stop but I am so glad I came over for the first Ink Explosion. It was a superb weekend. Chatting after the show with some of the artists, not one had a negative thing to say about the show and many were really looking forward to and some having already booked tattoos for next year.

Andy and his team did a superb job of keeping an incredible line up of artists happy (with a good selection of artists only seminars available) and making sure that the crowds enjoyed themselves for the whole weekend.

I know I did.

Considering the cheap flights and the superb quality and price of the local hotels, why not put the Ink Explosion on your convention list for next year?

I would like to thank Andy and his team for all their help and over the weekend. ★

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The deadline for entries was April 30th and all those quick enough to have registered in time should have inked their designs on an empty HORNITOS bottle to be in with a chance to win.

Even some of us judges have had a go at inking our own bottle designs – check out mine and Dan Gold's for starters! Sadly for us though, we can't win, so head to the drINK HORNITOS competition home page at www.bigtattooplanet.com/hornitos to cast your vote and help our judges select a winning design. The chance to win £3,000 and bag the accolade of winning bottle design is proving quite a 'draw'!

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Keep a keen eye on the website as we continue to upload the latest designs and fresh content each day at www.bigtattooplanet.com/hornitos

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The winning artist will bag a feature interview in the August issue of Skin Deep (and the autumn edition of Tattoo Master) to showcase their talents and discuss the inspiration behind the winning design, as well as the £3,000 cash to spend!



Dan Gold's Design



Neil's Design

The winning design will be produced as a limited edition bottle destined for some of the coolest tequila bars in the UK, in addition to having a leading role in the showcase of works from the industry's leading tattoo artists, as part of the HORNITOS exhibition at Tattoo Jam's ARTIST FriDAY. www.tattoojam.co.uk

To learn more and view and vote for the current entries – visit the website today at www.bigtattooplanet.com/hornitos



THE JUDGES



Neil Dalleywater
– Editor of Skin Deep
Having been editor of Skin Deep, the

UK's best selling tattoo magazine for the past six years, Neil gets to see the best tattoos that the world has to offer, often meeting and interviewing these incredibly talented artists to see just what makes them tick.



Dan Gold
– Graffiti and Tattoo Artist
Graffiti artist and tattooist extraordinaire,

Dan Gold has recently made the move from the bright lights of London to settle in his new studio; 13 Ink in the heart of party land, Liverpool. Dan is renowned for his bright, vibrant tattoo work as seen on the London Ink series and in countless magazines worldwide.



Louis Molloy
– Celebrity Tattoo Artist
Lou Molloy has long been associated

with the stunning tattoos he has put onto international footballer, David Beckham as well as many other celebrities. Louis is a very well respected tattooist within the industry whose work has also been showcased on two series of London Ink. Louis has also created tattoo inspired clothes from shoes to jackets for many high end clients such as Fender and others.



Hannah Aitchison
– Tattoo Artist
Hannah has spent her career

producing drop-dead gorgeous tattoos in a variety of styles and has added her unique talents to TV series LA Ink. Hannah's tattoo work has a certain femininity about it and she loves to tattoo colour pin-ups and comic book references. Tattooing talent must run in the Aitchison family, as Hannah's brother is also an internationally known tattooist, Guy.

TO VOTE GO TO...
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PHOTOGRAPHY & INTERVIEW: ADELHEID WALSH
WWW.MYSAPCE.COM/ADELHEID.WALSH

BODY ARMOR TATTOO

JACK MOSHER

Mosher opens up about the highs and lows of his career, his artwork, new & exciting projects and much, much more... The world's most published tattoo-artist has over the past 16 years inspired fellow-tattooists and fans alike, with his perfection of tribal-designs and his own unique interpretation of Japanese-style art. Whether it is on paper, canvas and clothing or on your skin, Jack Mosher's work is recognised through his fine lines, attention to details and in-depth knowledge of the story behind his creations.

Apart from being a highly respected and influential tattooist worldwide, Mosher has a tonne of other art-projects going on, from books & clothing-lines to tattoo-supplies & seminars, just to name a few. I was lucky enough to meet Mosher at the Dublin Tattoo-Convention 2009. We got talking and when he invited me to Michigan for a visit, I didn't hesitate. Intrigued by Mosher's extraordinary work, his somewhat withdrawn and humble persona, I prepared for my visit with excitement.

On Kalamazoo's busiest street, S. Westnedge Avenue is where you'll find Body Armor Tattoo. The shop was opened by Mosher in 1996

and has been successful since day one. Here Mosher employs three highly skilled tattooists, a piercer, as well as an apprentice.

"We stay open until 9 pm everyday and if we all stayed tattooing until midnight, we'd still have to turn away business" – says Mosher as we enter his shop.

"I would do that, but I have other projects I'm working on" – he adds.

80's rock is blaring from the computer behind the front-desk, every wall-space is



filled with Flash, artwork & Mosher's photos from his travels all around the world - it's 1pm and opening time, the state-of-the-art studio is already filling up with customers. "The majority are walk-ins Mosher explains, people here don't book appointments, they want their

ALTHOUGH THE TONE AMONGST THE CREW IS LAIDBACK AND FUN AND JOKES AREN'T SCARCE, IT'S OBVIOUS HOW MUCH THEY ALL RESPECT AND LOOK UP TO JACK



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IT'S THROUGH ALL MY OTHER ART-PROJECTS I GET TO UNFOLD MYSELF ARTISTICALLY. THAT'S WHAT I REALLY WANT TO TALK ABOUT

tattoo on the spot." The place is buzzing, the vibe is up-beat and I'm filled with an instant happiness as I'm welcomed as a long lost family-member by Mosher's crew: Breanne, Danny, Earl, Kyle and Skot.

Although the tone amongst the crew is laidback and fun and jokes aren't scarce, it's obvious how much they all respect and look up to Jack.

WHAT'S THE COMPETITION LIKE IN THIS TOWN?

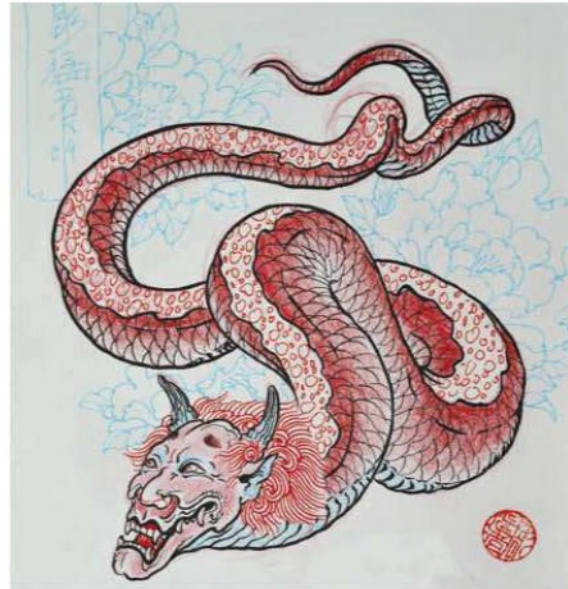
"There are about ten tattoo-studios in Kalamazoo and probably just as many in Grand Rapids, about 40 min. north of here. The reason we're so busy, I think, is that we're so

want to talk about" – says Mosher as he sits down free-handing a "Mosher-special" tribal-design on a clients shoulder.

When I meet Mosher at his house the following day, he's outside shovelling snow wearing a kimono with a samurai-sword tucked in at the front – true Japanese-style. Having seen him wearing a similar out-fit at the Dublin-Convention I just have to ask;

WHY ARE YOU WEARING A KIMONO?

"I always dress like this at home, at conventions too and sometimes even at the shop. When wearing a Kimono you have to



well-rounded here, we can do anything! We all have our preferences of course – Danny enjoys doing just about anything, Earl favours old-school, colour-work and animals, Kyle's into Japanese-style tattoos as am I and Breanne, my apprentice loves vibrant organic art as well as realism. At the end of the day, Body Armor is a business – you do what you have to do."

"It's through all my other art-projects I get to unfold myself artistically. That's what I really

sit, stand, walk, and move in a certain way, which makes you think differently. Wearing this outfit helps me draw better because I think and move like the characters I'm drawing. It has helped me to better understand the time-period of the stories behind my artwork. At this point I don't really need to dress like this, I've just gotten used to it, I like it, it's comfortable and it helps me embody the spirit of the characters I draw. ☞

INTRODUCING THE BODY ARMOR CREW...



EARL FREDERICK CRONKRIGHT A.K.A "SILVERFOX"

TATTOO-ARTIST

The 44 year-old with an Associate's Degree from Delta College and a Bachelors of Fine Art from W.M.U, grew up in the same town as Mosher and has known him for 25 years. Earl was apprenticed by Jack and has worked at Body Armor for 13 years.

"My ambition is to keep pushing my art to higher levels. Jack has always been a great mentor with his dedication to his craft and attention to detail, he truly is an inspiration. I'm also inspired by Salvador Dali and everything around me. I love tattooing Old-school, New-school, Colour-work, Realism and Animals."

Earl

WHEN DID JAPANESE ART AND HISTORY START INTERESTING YOU?

"I've been intrigued by Japanese art as far back as I can remember, but the first 5-6 years of my career I worked in "street-shops" and did all sorts of designs. It all kicked off when I first visited Japan in 2001. I went looking for this special bookstore called "Keibunsha" in Tokyo, selling Japanese tattoo-books only. The shop-owner and I started talking and when he asked me if I wanted him to introduce me to some of Japans most famous tattooists I was over the moon. I've been going back twice a year ever since, studying Japanese art and

history, perfecting my art and I have also learned Tebori (Traditional Japanese hand-tattooing)."

I MUST ADMIT IT'S AN AMAZING FEELING WALKING THROUGH A MALL SEEING MY WORK ON "HIGH-STREET FASHION" - KNOWING IT'S SELLING REALLY WELL.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT JAPANESE ART YOU LOVE SO MUCH AND WHERE AND HOW DO YOU FIND THE INSPIRATION TO CONSTANTLY IMPROVE AND DEVELOP NEW IDEAS, DESIGNS AND TECHNIQUES?

"I love Japanese-style art because of the way it looks and sits on the body. The stories and the traditions behind the designs, the depth and endless mystery give this art-style an unmatched power. I strive to constantly improve my work. I could settle with what I have achieved so far,



**DANIEL LEE HOUGH JR.
TATTOO-ARTIST**

At the young age of 19, Daniel acquired tattoo-equipment from a retiring artist and started learning this art and craft. With over 20 years experience, he has been working at Body Armor the past 12 years.

"I just want to be able to keep doing what I love so much and to be good at it. I'm very well rounded and dedicated to do a great job no matter what the motif is. Jack has been very good to me over the years, he's inspiring me on a daily basis with his masterful tattooing and beautiful art."

Daniel





but I choose to step outside my comfort zone to keep developing my skills. I think it's about knowing who you are and where you belong; I have found my way in life, I know who I am and what I'm drawn to, I'm all about exploring my chosen path. I tell my apprentices to draw every day whether they want to or not, drawing on a day you really don't want to is usually where real gains are made – just like in Karate, if you sit down to draw 1000 dragons, a “lucky” accident can change everything, I love that, it's powerful! I think, maybe, this is what drives me. Happiness in small doses is what life is all about. Life is short – do what makes you happy, that's my motto.

JACK MOSHER LIVES AND BREATHE JAPANESE ART;

“to perfect my work, that's the way it has to be. It's not a job – it's a lifestyle, it's my entire life. I draw as much as I possibly can, every free moment I have, my sketch-book is out” – Mosher tells me as we're driving to Grand Rapids, 40 min. North of Kalamazoo. “Soon I'll be launching my own rotary machine, in collaboration with Workhorse Irons. Workhorse Irons in Grand Rapids are currently working on the proto-type. I'm also working on

I CAN'T HELP BUT TO FEEL PROUD ON HIS BEHALF. MODEST AS THIS MAN IS, HE DOESN'T SAY ANYTHING, BUT FOR A SPLIT SECOND I COULD SEE PRIDE IN HIS EYES.

becoming their official distributor in Europe. I still have a base in Austria where I lived for a year, which is perfect.”

YOU MENTIONED IT'S THROUGH OTHER ART-PROJECTS THAN TATTOOING YOU GET TO UNFOLD YOURSELF ARTISTICALLY – CAN YOU TELL ME A BIT ABOUT YOUR ONGOING PROJECTS?

“Sure, every now and then I'm asked to draw for other people's books and at the moment I'm sketching for a book on hand-tattoos, it's fun. The most exciting project however is that “Affliction Clothing” just launched the “Mosher clothing-line”. I drew around 60 designs for them and my designs are now on t-shirts, shorts, tops, shirts



**SKOT MCKIBBIN
PIERCER**

At 15 Skot moved to San Francisco to train and study at “The Gauntlet” - who introduced modern body-modification to America. Having trained with the best, he “pierced” himself through the US before settling in Michigan in 2000. Skot has been working at Body Armor for 6 years, and his career already stretches over 14 years.

“I was inspired by National Geographic at a very young age; I aim to stay on top of my game by always introducing new techniques and body-jewellery. I enjoy surface-piercing the most, but as long as I can keep doing what I do best, I'm happy.”

Skot



and hoodies available in stores such as "The Buckle" across America. "Sullen" is another clothing company I've been drawing for. I really enjoy drawing for clothing, I get to use my creativity and I must admit it's an amazing feeling walking through a Mall seeing my work on "high-street fashion" – knowing it's selling really well."

I can only imagine what Mosher feels as we walk into a store and find the "Mosher clothing-line" – I can't help but to feel proud on his behalf. Modest as this man is, he doesn't say anything, but for a split second I could see pride in his eyes.

WITH SO MUCH GOING ON, IS THERE ANY CHANCE OF US SEEING ANOTHER BOOK FROM YOU IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

"For a while I was contemplating never, ever to sketch another book. People have been ripping me off over the past couple of years by



**BREANNE BIRDSONG
TATTOO-APPRENTICE AND FRONT-DESK**

Breanne got a job as a receptionist in a tattoo-studio in St. Joe, MI when she was 15. During her 2-½ year stint there she learned the basics and then landed a job at Body Armor in 2006, where she's apprenticing to become a tattoo-artist. Now 21 years of age she's tattooing on a weekly basis.

"As of now, I'm apprenticing and would like to be well-rounded in all styles of tattooing; however I do favour realism, portraits and vivid organic art-forms. It's so inspiring to work with all the guys in here, I'm so lucky to be surrounded by such skilled artists and to have Jack mentoring me is nearly too good to be true."

Breanne

illegally copying my books and selling them at knock-off prices. It saddens me knowing there are people like that out there – what did I ever do to them? That they're stealing from me is one thing but what's worse is that the quality of the illegal copies is really bad,

which could seriously harm my reputation as an artist. I have worked so hard to get to where I am today with 9 published books in less than 7 years! Having said that, I am currently sketching my 10th book, it'll be a 50-page book on Foo-dogs and Phoenixes. When



**KYLE WARD
TATTOO-ARTIST**

Kyle started hanging around in the industry at the age of 12 when his brother, Jeff who was 20 at the time, started tattooing. He met Jack at 19 and was apprenticed by Mosher for a year. He has since been working at Body Armor for 2 years. With Japanese-style art as a favourite, there's no doubt he landed on his feet with Mosher as a mentor.

"My objective is to be respected by my peers, for people I respect so much to recognise me for my work. My brother Jeff and Jack Mosher are my biggest inspirations. Over the past 2 years Jack has been pushing me to do well, which is giving me the confidence to succeed."

Kyle

that's completed I'm planning a book on 1000 Demons.

YOU ALSO GO BY THE NAME "HORIMOUJA", WHAT DOES IT MEAN AND WHAT'S THE STORY BEHIND THE NAME?

"It's a bit tricky to explain, "Hori" is the title, "mouja" the name. It means fierce person, Monster, wild man.... there's just not one word that can describe the meaning of the name. The Japanese have a hard time pronouncing Mosher and always says "mouja-san". My Japanese friends Horimitsu sensei and Shimada-san gave me "Horimouja" as my

name and title. I was honoured and because of my extensive background in the martial arts the name is perfect for me."

CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR CAREER AND THE BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT?

The highlight was the day I got my first email from an artist who bought my first book. He told me my book was a great inspiration to him. I felt at that point that I had found what I was meant to do - to inspire others. Whether it be in art or as a human, if I can help someone be better than me then that is a great honour. "The greatest disappointment, without a

doubt, is all the illegal copies of my books. People buying them knowing they're illegal and contribute to ripping me off. As the small community we are, we have to look out for each other."

YOU HAVE ACHIEVED SO MUCH AND HAVE A LOT GOING ON, DO YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER AMBITIONS?

"I would like to have more books drawn and published than any other artist in the world! It's a tall order, but it's my goal and to me as a human being and an artist it's the way to improve and move forward."

Over the few days I spent with Mosher and his crew, I followed Jack working fulltime as a shop-owner, tattooist, mentor, artist, painter, designer and product-developer - I now understand one of the reasons for him to be known as "Horimouja" - he earned that name! This 40-year old man works more and harder than anyone I've ever met and he still looks 10 years his junior. Me on the other hand, after a week in the "Body Armor-Family", I need a holiday! In the meantime - Jack Mosher is still pushing himself to higher levels; he still has more to offer!

So to all of us Tattoo-enthusiasts, fans and fellow-tattooists; we've by far seen the last of the amazing artist Jack "Horimouja" Mosher. ★

Jack Mosher's books are carried by all major, reputable tattoo-suppliers worldwide. Check out the Mosher clothing-line at: www.afflictionclothing.com

"THE GREATEST DISAPPOINTMENT, WITHOUT A DOUBT, IS ALL THE ILLEGAL COPIES OF MY BOOKS."





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Invited Artists:

Dan Henk @ Austin Tattoo Company
Kyle Cotterman @ Smartbomb Tattoo
Matt Clemmer @ SmartBomb Tattoo
Amanda Leadman @ Smartbomb
Tattoo
Darwin Enriquez
Sebo @ Mystery Touch
Galen McHatton @ Studio XIII
Leif McHatton @ Studio XIII
KaRi @ Memento Tattoo
Eze Nunez @
Lawrence Ah Ching @ La Segaula Tattoo
Davide @ Plastic Surgery
Orfeu @ Spider Tattoos
Joe Myler @ JMD - s BodyArt
Gordon Claus @ Nine Lives
Miss Mindy @ Studio XIII
James Kiley @ Brightside
Jorgen Eckel @ Conspiracy Ink
Fat - on the Road
Pablo Prestley @ Six Inch Nails
Emilo - on the road
Phil Buttenworth @ Arctic Tattoo
Susanne @ Arctic Tattoo
Joseph Deegan @ Gnosis
Patrick Huettlinger @ Tattoo Mangon
Kalu @ Transilvania Art

Hazel Nicholls @ Design 4 Life
Craig Garner @ Design 4 Life
Roy Priestley @ Skinshokz
Paul Priestley @ Skinshokz
Paul Naylor @ Indigo
Ryan Davies @ Indigo
Lisa Toye @ Indigo
Leah Moule @ Spear Studio
Mark Bailey @ Golden Dragon
Mac McCarthy @ Painted and
Punctured
Rod Morris @ Painted and Punctured
Paul Humphreys @ Evolution Tattoo
Mirro @ Evolution Tattoo
Chris Jone @ Physical Graffiti
Micheal Rose @ MR Visual Arts
Helen Brown @ Gung Ho
Rich Pearson @ Gung Ho
Gray Silva @ Rampant Ink
Katt @ Dark Passions
Billy Hay @ Custom Inc
Gary Weidenhof @ Inkredible Kreations
Sween @ 21st Century Tattoo
Matt Lapping @ Inkwerx
Doc Fell @ Mikes Tattoos
Martin Couley @ Couleys Tattoo Studio
Cesar Ciffer @ Self Sacrifice
Joao Bosco @ Self Sacrifice
Rodrigo Souto @ Self Sacrifice
Tutti Siera @ Self Sacrifice
Matt Difa @ Jolie Rouge
Charissa Gregson @ Jolie Rouge
Claudia Sabe @ Jolie Rouge
Javi Lee @ Jolie Rouge
Raquel Corrales @ Jolie Rouge
Lord Montana Blue @ Jolie Rouge
Sergi Besa @ Working Class Tattoo
Mark B @ Suck My Ink
Drew Romero @ Time and Triumph
Adam Harris @ New Tribe
Mark the Wanderer @ Inkspirations
Lee Hadfield @ Thomas St Tattoo
Sway @ Northside
Simon Ashley @ Needle Asylum
Rat @ Real Art
Odd Boy @ Real Art
Jay @ Real Art
Mark Wallace @ Custom Inc
Marcus McGuire @ Custom Inc

Shakey Pete
Sonya Trusty @ Reds Tattoo Parlour
Paul Saunders @ Voodoo Tattoo
Dan Kelly @ Sazs Tattoo
Karl Fletcher @ Fleckys Tattoo
Rich Hadley @ One Shot Charlies
Lee Pound @ One Shot Charlies
Phil Denby @ Institute Tattoo
John Anderton @ Nemisis
Tom Sugar @ Alans Tattoo
Aivers Liepa @ Alans Tattoo
Lee Piercy @ Alans Tattoo
Soap @ LabMunki
Paul Clave @ LabMunki
Woody @ Cult Classic
Aaron Hewitt @ Cult Classic
Alan Graves @ Haunted
Mark Ford @ Evil from the Needle
Goska @ Evil from the Needle
Stuart Rollison @ King Arthurs
Dan @ King Arthurs
Dan Gold @ 13 Ink
Mark Stonack @ 13 Ink
Jo Talbot @ 13 Ink
Richard Cubbin @ South Coast Ink
Pam @ ABH
Wayne @ ABH
Mick Tomo @ Ruby Arts
Daniel Banas

..... Many more to come

Market Stalls

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Quirky Boutique
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TEXT & PHOTOGRAPHY: DANIEL PISSONDES

BERLIN TATTOO CONVENTION '09

Berlin's International Tattoo convention has come a long way from its humble beginnings in a bar during the 90's. The number of visitors has continued to increase year by year to the 10,000 who attended in 2009.

Berlin. The leading cultural capital of the 1920's is today characterised by its dazzling modernity and breathtaking architecture. No other landmark symbolises German history better than Berlin's signature attraction, the Brandenburg Gate. When the Berlin wall fell in 1989, thousands of East and West Germans celebrated the opening of the borders and re-unification of Germany. The Brandenburg gate has a magical appeal for all visitors to Berlin, from heads-of-state to tourists. Berlin is dynamic, cosmopolitan and creative, allowing for every kind of lifestyle.

This year, Frank Weber, manager of B52 tattoo, organised the event at Arena Berlin, after the convention outgrew its previous venues. Arena Berlin easily housed all 160 working artists, along with the many visitors who attended.

Tattoos are not a product of the modern era. The art of marking the skin goes back centuries, with tattooing in the Western world having its origins in Polynesia. After the discovery of 'tatau' by eighteenth century explorers Bougainville and Cook, this Polynesian tradition became popular

amongst European soldiers, who brought the practice back to Western society.

Tattooing has been in practice since Neolithic times. Otzi the iceman is the oldest human to be found with markings on his skin that appear to be medicinal in purpose. Nowadays, tattoos can be an expression of individuality, personality, or a rite of passage. Many famous people wear tattoos, such as Madonna, Bon Jovi and Robbie Williams.

First considered exclusively as a way of showing membership in a social group, tattoos, and techniques, have evolved over

This year, Frank Weber, manager of B52 tattoo, organised the event at Arena Berlin, after the convention outgrew its previous venues.



ILL BY TOM SUGAR © ALAN'S TATTOOS, MOHLETON



Today's tattoo machines move a solid needle up and down to puncture the skin between 50 and 3,000 times per minute.

the last few decades. This is, in part, due to the changing fashions of the rock, hippy, and punk movements.

The word tattooing comes from the Samoan "tatu" meaning "to strike" as this was part of their technique. Multiple assistants manually stretch the skin taut. The tattooist then uses two tools, one being a bone tipped rake and the other the striking stick. The rake is dipped in

ink then struck with the other stick to puncture the skin. The traditional tattoo stands at the show attracted many a curious spectator.

Today's tattoo machines move a solid needle up and down to puncture the skin between 50 and 3,000 times per minute. The needle penetrates the skin by about a millimeter, and deposits a drop of insoluble ink into the skin with each puncture. ↻



CHRISTOPH BY BART TATTOO (POLAND)



APEK BY KULT TATTOO (POLAND)



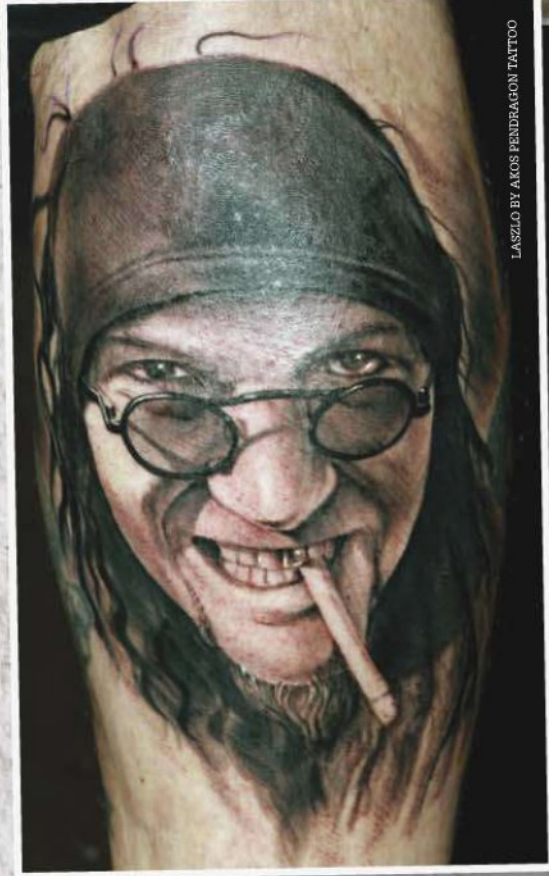
PETER BY TOH INK OGONTO TATTOO (POLAND)



ARIANE BY MARCUS HIGHLANDER



DAREK BY GULESTUS TATTOO (POLAND)



LASZLO BY AKOS PENDRAGON TATTOO



TAREK BY TOPI INK GENTIL TATTOO (POLAND)



JOHN BY BRING IT ON TATTOO (SWEDEN)



APEK BY CONZO (POLAND)

those done with a modern machine. He specialises in Oriental art with elements of realism.

Born and raised in Taiwan, his background in Chinese and Japanese culture as well as his unique style has attracted a list of clientele that are booked up to two years in advance.

Jess won several prizes over the weekend, including first prize in the Asian category, first prize in the black and grey category, and second prize for his portrait.

The attractions this year were plentiful, with the crowning of the Tattoo Queen 2010, Maori dances, body painting, concerts and other performances.

However, one of the main attractions was Herbert Hoffman. Visitors were able

to talk to the tattooed 79 year-old, who will blow out his 80th birthday candle on December 30th.



SILKE BY TARA

Tattooists from all over the world were able to share their knowledge with fellow artists, and make contact with tattoo enthusiasts.

One of these artists was Jess Yen from the USA, the creator of the 'My Tattoo' family, with 16 years of tattooing experience. Jess Yen offered both traditional hand-poked tattoos and

Jess Yen offered both traditional hand-poked tattoos and those done with a modern machine.



UNKINGWON



LUC BY RUE DE FRAMBOISE



COLIN BY ABOBY



SANDY BY YANCOO

The ten paintings produced were auctioned off, and the proceeds given to Arche in Berlin, a charity supporting starving children.

Every year, Berlin's International Tattoo convention organise a Tattoo Queen. Miss Karen Hesse was last year's winner, and this year she graciously handed her title to the new Queen. Any woman with a minimum of two tattoos can enter herself into the competition. The first prize is an all-expenses-paid 3 day-trip to a European

convention of their choice.

Art fusion was an event challenging artists, in groups of four, under timed conditions to create artwork in acrylics, chalks and charcoal. The ten paintings produced were auctioned off, and the proceeds given to Arche in Berlin, a charity supporting starving children. ★

THE WINNERS

Asia :

- 1st .. Andi Tran, Artist .. Jess Yen @ My Tattoo, L.A (USA)
- 2nd .. Ken Daniel, Artist .. Noi @ Siamese 3-1969 Tattoo (Norway)
- 3rd .. Andreas, Artist .. Avishi @ Ink Junkies (Israel)

Best of Friday :

- 1st .. Kohai, Artist .. Jess Yen @ My Tattoo (USA)

Best of Saturday

- 1st .. Michael Przsbya, Artist .. Tofi @ Ink-Ognito (Poland)

Best of Show

- 1st .. Gordon, Artist .. Volko @ BuenaVista Tattoo Club (G)

Best of Sunday

- 1st .. Volko @ BuenaVista Tattoo Club (G)

Biomechanic

- 1st .. Stephan, Artist .. Lenu @ Alien Tattoo (Poland)
- 2nd .. Mario, Artist .. Leszek Jasina @ Gonzo Stettin (Poland)
- 3rd .. Przemek, Artist .. Leszek Jasina @ Gonzo Stettin (Poland)

Black & White

- 1st .. Andy, Artist .. Jess Yen @ My Tattoo (USA)
- 2nd .. Daniel A., Artist .. Anabi @ Anabi Stettin (Poland)
- 3rd .. Miet, Artist .. Tofi @ Ink-Ognito (Poland)

Colour

- 1st .. Zsolt, Artist .. Boris (Hungary)
- 2nd .. Anna, Artist .. Noi Siamese3-1969 Tattoo (Norway)
- 3rd .. Marco, Artist .. Anabi @ Anabi Stettin (Poland)

Crazy

- 1st .. Manuela, Artist .. Marcus @ All Style Tattoo (G)
- 2nd .. Kazik, Artist .. Anabi @ Anabi Tattoo (Poland)
- 3rd .. Jule, Artist .. Daschke @ InvaderInk

Individual

- 1st .. Tofi, Artist .. Ink-Ognito (Poland)
- 2nd .. Darek, Artist .. Bartosz @ Gulestus (Poland)
- 3rd .. Manu, Artist .. Jürgen Weilhammer @ Fractopia (G)

Large

- 1st .. Trond Hammari (Norway)
- 2nd .. Martin (G)
- 3rd .. Tomasz (Poland)

Ornamentic

- 1st .. Barbara, Artist .. BARA @ Tribo Tattoo (Tschechin)
- 2nd .. Edek, Artist .. Ag Rypa @ Kult Tattoo (Poland)
- 3rd .. John Carpenter, Artist .. Ricky Sta Ana Jayson Skinworkz (Philippine)

Portrait

- 1st .. Hannah
- 2nd .. Kohei, Artist .. Jess Yen @ My Tattoo, L.A.(USA)
- 3rd .. Tomek, Artist .. Anabi @ Anabi Tattoo (Poland)

Small

- 1st .. Asia, Artist .. Broda @ Hand of Good (Poland)
- 2nd .. Timo, Artist .. David @ Reinkarnation Tattoo (G)
- 3rd .. Peter, Artist .. Bartek @ Bart Tattoo (Poland)

Traditional

- 1st .. Mattias, Artist .. Peter Bobek @ Tribo Tattoo (tschechin)
- 2nd .. Virgil, Artist .. Phil Kyle @ Magnum Opus (UK)
- 3rd .. John, Artist .. Coney Island Demon (Sweden)

Tattoo Queen 2010

- Carina Jost (G)

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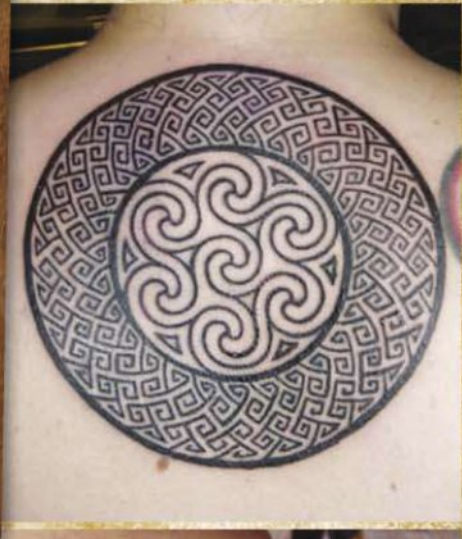
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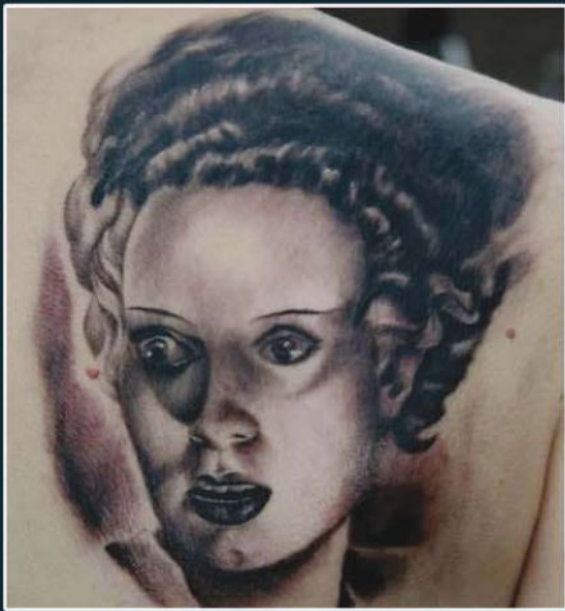
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Hello, I am Adam, 28 and I am hoping to get back in touch with a woman who called Brycie. I hope to hear from you soon, that is if you are interested in getting back in touch with me that is. Text me on: 07908969249 (185)

Male, 34, 6" Slim and good looking, my interests include motorcycles, hotrods, traveling and live bands etc. I am based on the South Coast but don't mind traveling. I would like to meet an attractive, intelligent single female who has some sort of the same interests. I am self employed and heavily tattooed. email chopperben@fsmail.net or text: 07745167142 (185)

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Male, 49 from Radcliffe, Manchester into punk, Goth, metal, progressive rock. Seeks a nice, honest lady 30 to 55 for a fun and LTR. No timewasters or wind-ups. Text 07930866814 (185)

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Tall, Dark & handsome, heavily inked nurse still looking for that special, real one-off girl. Is that you? I'm a single Dad so single Mums most welcome. You must be happy and cheerful with a genuine spark Pref East Anglia/North Essex area, but I don't mind travelling for the right lady. Come on, what have you got to loose? Text me please on: 07531 724930 (185)

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Male, 28 Looking for women between 25-40 for full term and serious relationship. I'm open-minded, caring, loving, GSOH, honest and loyal. I am into Goth, Metal, 80's & electronica. I love wolves, candles, incense sticks & bats, the paranormal and the supernatural. No unfaithful, lying, tow-faced & shallow women please. Text: 07908969249 (185)

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Hi my name is Phil but everyone calls me Flip Flop I am mid 30's average build very daring, adventurous and eccentric. I love tattoos, piercings, rock music and feet. I love the unusual and wear flip flops all year round, looking to meet like minded females for fun, friendship and maybe more you can email me on tattoosfeet@aol.co.uk or text me on 07952824892. (184)

Male, 47, slim and fit, intelligent, no children, into art, music, poetry, nature. Notts based, seeks friendship, possible relationship with female into similar. any age. Text: 07935321966 (184)

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My name is Sakura, I'm looking for a studio to work in as a hand tattoo artist. I have 5 years experience working in a studio as a receptionist and 2 years tattooing. I've also worked at a couple of conventions this year. www.myspace.com/hanacraven. Please contact me at: sakura@hotmail.com (185)

Hi, my name is Dean. I'm 22 and I am desperately seeking a tattoo apprenticeship. I am based in Paisley outside of Glasgow but would happily travel to any area in or around Glasgow or the surrounding areas. I am very keen and eager to learn, I'm enthusiastic, outgoing, love meeting new people and I enjoy working hard no matter the job, more than willing to work my way from the bottom. Tattooing is where my heart lies and I would greatly appreciate anyone giving me a chance to get into the industry I love. I currently draw designs for people at the moment but have never personally tattooed as I have a strong belief that an apprenticeship is the way tattooing should be learnt and not through "scratching". If you would be willing to give me a chance to learn and prove myself please contact me on 07964084761 or on deansanarchy@hotmail.com Thanks for your time in reading this. (185)

My name is Gary and I'm seeking a tattoo studio receptionist job in Yorkshire area. I'm hardworking and enthusiastic. Excellent references can be supplied. Contact 07534290210. (184)

20-year-old female seeking part time apprenticeship in the West Midlands area. 1 years shop experience, and have done around 30 tattoos. Artistic, hardworking, and 100% committed to the industry. Trustworthy reliable and friendly. lid8701@googlemail.co (184)

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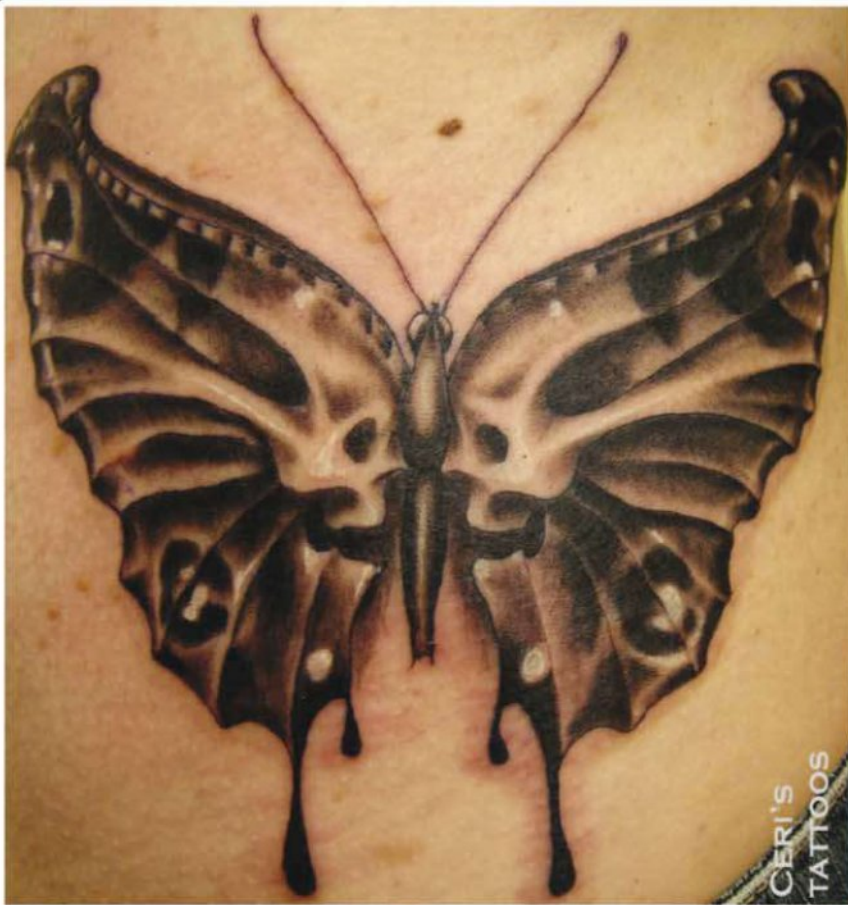


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