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Tattoo Magazine

SUMMER '10  
ISSUE 187 • £3.95

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**ARTIST INTERVIEWS**

**Giedrius**  
LITHUANIA

**Jan Mout**  
IDENTITY TATTOOS

**Kat, Edgar and Bob**  
OLD LONDON  
ROAD TATTOOS

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Your guide to getting a tattoo right first time

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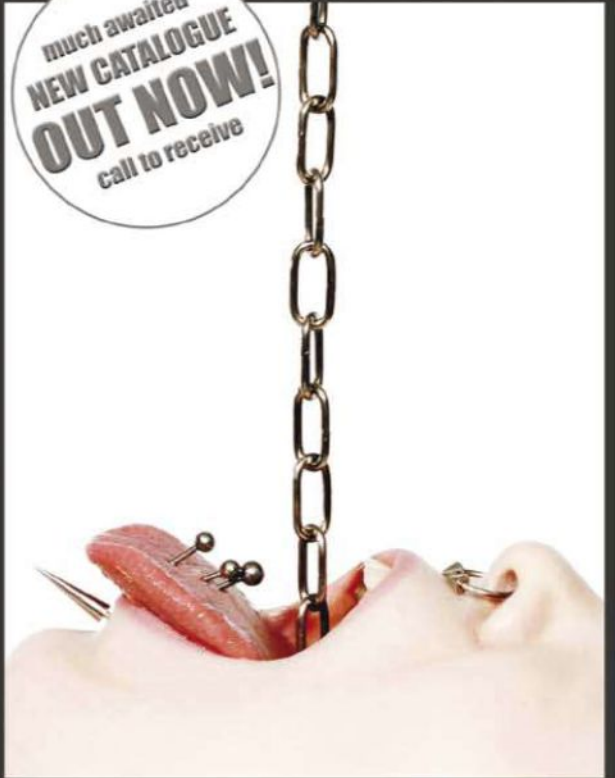
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As those of you who have met and discussed the magazine with me know, I like to give Skin Deep as many voices as possible. Therefore, from time to time, I will hand over the editorial to a guest. This month I give you a view from Gavin Rodrigues...

NEIL

For years now I have been coming across ads in tattoo magazines by studios looking for tattoo artists. The usual lines are, "no drugs, no attitudes..." I think all artists (tattooists, or not) have an attitude. Having an attitude is probably what keeps them going through the tough times when nobody believes in them. Maybe an artist's definition of standards can be confused for an attitude. For example, a tattooist of the likes of say, Bob Tyrrell is unlikely to be seen tattooing in a small town studio that specializes in flash... if he rejected such an offer, he might be portrayed as having an attitude... too good to work in a small studio. Or maybe it's just common sense. A small town studio probably has small town customers who are on a tight budget and are not used to paying high rates for outstanding work. I myself have fallen victim of this situation. While I was working in a small studio in Scotland, I was unable to take the time I needed to focus on my work and the people that were coming in to get tattooed wanted a lot for nothing. I eventually realised that I was in the wrong place and moved on. (But not without being accused of being a Diva and having an attitude).

I think one has to make a clear distinction between a 'tattooist' and a 'tattoo artist'. In my humble opinion a 'tattooist' is somebody you might find in a small town, working on his own (or surrounded by apprentices or wannabes), with limited or no artistic abilities, working from off the wall flash. Or licensed to work from his kitchen and taking on work well out of his or her league.

I have seen a lot of these so-called studios pop up over recent years (riding on the back of The Miami and London Ink Fad) and some even expand!



COVER MODEL  
MISS ROCKWELL  
PHOTOGRAPHER  
AMA LEA

TATTOOS  
TATTOO FERN AT UNDER THE GUN TATTOOS, CA  
JORGE TRUJILLO AT SHOWDOWN TATTOO, CA  
DAVE SANCHEZ AT YER CHEATING HEART, CA  
KLEM, STAIRCASE, CA

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Of course, there are (thank God) plenty of reputable small town tattoo studios that cater for everyone's needs very competently... but these ARE few and far between.

As I pointed out earlier, I myself have been accused of having an attitude... the truth is, it doesn't bother me at all. I believe that the most important thing is to have high standards and to be realistic about what you can and cannot do. A clear understanding of your customer's needs and the limits of what is possible with their budget. I sit down with all my customers and have a coffee and a chat. It's really more about getting to know them than it is about discussing their tattoo. Think of it as Xmas shopping... how hard is it to find the ideal gift for somebody you don't know? And how happy are they going to be if you actually find them the perfect gift? None of this is really possible in a Flash studio... and let's face it; the sole purpose of a flash studio is to make money. As someone once told me... 'I'm in this to make money - not friends'.

I'm not saying you can't make friends in a flash studio environment... sooner or later you will build a rapport with your repeat customers, not unlike the builder that walks into the same greasy spoon cafe for bacon and eggs every day...

There are a few studios that specialise in flash but also do custom work (black and grey, portraits, etc). Again, a studio that has a reputation for doing flash is unlikely to attract the likes of Bob Tyrrell. Some might waive a commission in order to attract the right artists and crowd, all in the name of good publicity. Some flash studios are lucky enough to have a decent artist that is in no rush to move on. But there's that bottom line... A monkey dressed in silk is still a monkey.

**Gavin Rodrigues**  
**The Inkspot**



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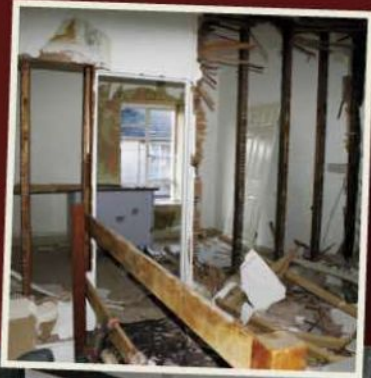
# FALLOUT

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

## NU ROSE BLOSSOMS

After 20 years of tattoo design and 5 years of tattooing at Skin Creation in Cardiff, Brim has taken the opportunity in 2010 to open Nu Rose Tattoos. Nu Rose Tattoos is trying to break the mold on customer's expectations of what a tattoo studio looks like and works like in South Wales. Brim and the team have worked hard to create an environment that is comfortable, welcoming and most of all, professional.

Brim would like to thank all his previous customers for giving him the opportunity and privilege to work his art onto their bodies and welcomes all future customers that are looking for bespoke tattoo art. You can find them at Nu Rose Tattoos, 7 Clive St, Caerphilly, CF83 1GE. Or at [www.myspace.com/nurosetattoos](http://www.myspace.com/nurosetattoos)



## DISTURBIA CLOTHING NEW RANGE

Since Disturbia Clothing was founded in 2003, it has grown into a behemoth of alternative fashion. Worn by the likes of Guns N Roses' axeman Slash, as well as Liam Howlett of The Prodigy, it now proudly supplies over 150 stores across Europe with its bold 're-evaluations of the everyday world'.

Created by fashion graduate Frank Major, as an outlet for his anarchic musings, the art of Disturbia is inspired by a love of subverting pop culture imagery coupled with fitting wordplay, and an underlying dark sense of humour. [www.disturbiaclothing.co.uk](http://www.disturbiaclothing.co.uk)

## COMPETITION

We have two T-shirts to give away. To be in with a chance of winning one of these fancy tops just answer this question: **In which North East town is Disturbia Based?**

Send your answer and t-shirt size to: [www.bigtattooplanet.com/competitions](http://www.bigtattooplanet.com/competitions)

## "SOMEONE'S BEEN EATING MY PORRIDGE!" GOLDILOX JOINS PAINTED LADY

Dawnii from Painted Lady is really pleased to welcome Goldilox to the Painted Lady team. She specializes in hand poked and dot work tattoos. Take a look at [www.myspace.com/goliloxart](http://www.myspace.com/goliloxart).

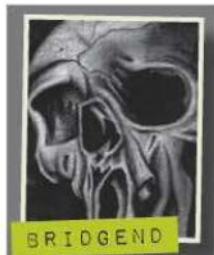
As well as the obvious talents Goldilox will be bringing to Painted Lady, the studio will play host to the following guest artists:

**Alex (Stephenson) the kid**  
22-24th June: [www.myspace.com/conspiracyofdarkness](http://www.myspace.com/conspiracyofdarkness)

**Paul Seagrave**  
14-16th July: [www.paulseagrave.co.uk](http://www.paulseagrave.co.uk)

**Chris Hatton**  
Week commencing 24th August:  
[www.physicalgraffiti.co.uk](http://www.physicalgraffiti.co.uk)

Contact Painted Lady Tattoo on 0121 6086086 if you want to reserve some time with any of the above artists.



BRIDGEND ABOUND

Chris Harrison has informed Skin Deep that he has moved to a new home. Chris is now tattooing alongside Nipper at Bridgend Tattoo Studio. Chris, formally of Ginty's Tattoland UK is a superb artist, who loves bright and bold colours, but is happy to tattoo all styles. Find Chris and Nipper @ Bridgend Tattoo Studio 102 Nolton Street, Bridgend, 01656 668644

## OBSESSIVE INK

THE WORLD'S FIRST 3D TATTOO PREVIEW APPLICATION LAUNCHES.

With an estimated 40% of 18-27 year olds and a staggering 16% of all adults wearing at least one tattoo, there is no doubting the increasing significance of the tattoo industry.

Until now, most customers made the final decision about the design and position of their tattoo in the tattoo studio often resulting in down time for tattoo artists, rushed decisions and regret the next day. [www.obsessiveink.com](http://www.obsessiveink.com) is set to revolutionise the tattoo process for both customers and tattoo artists alike. Catering for all tattoo customers from the first timer to the enthusiast OBSESSIVE INK is an online platform allowing users to create a realistic 3D avatar of themselves by uploading a passport style photo. Once their avatar is created users then upload as many tattoo designs as necessary until they have created their perfect tattoo.

The real benefit of the system is the ability to upload any jpeg image and preview it as a tattoo. Whether it's a photo of a family

member, a favourite sporting team or a famous piece of art, users can resize their design, position it in various locations, rotate it or incorporate additional elements until they are completely satisfied.

"Our aim is to give customers creative control of the tattoo process, helping them to make an informed decision and have greater confidence when entering the tattoo studio" said Mr Mackey.

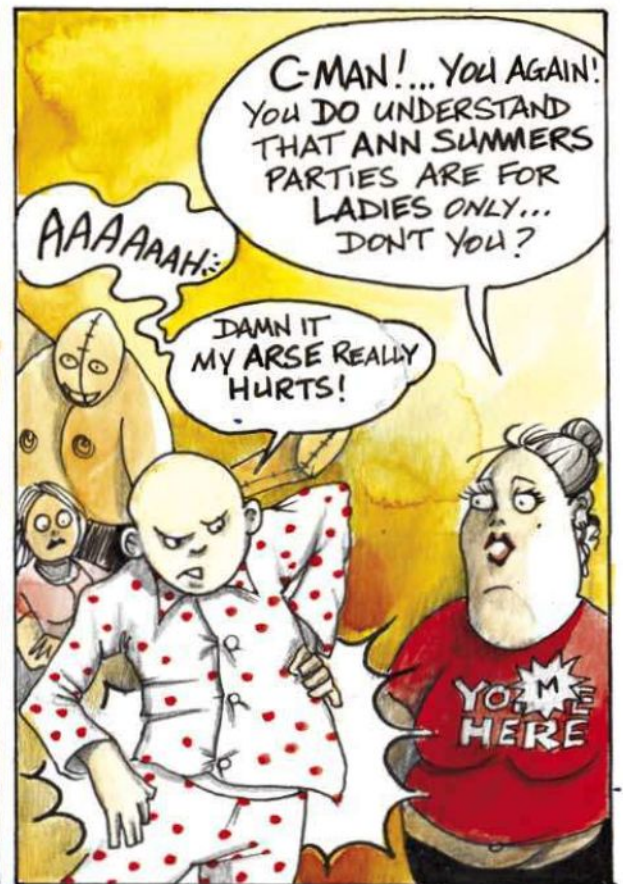
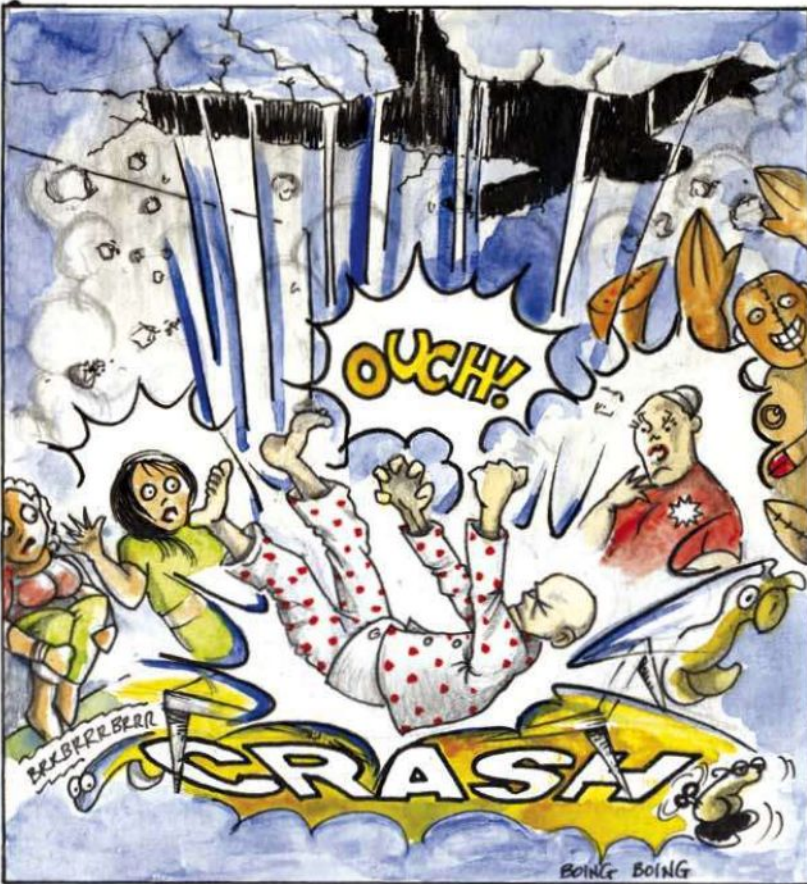
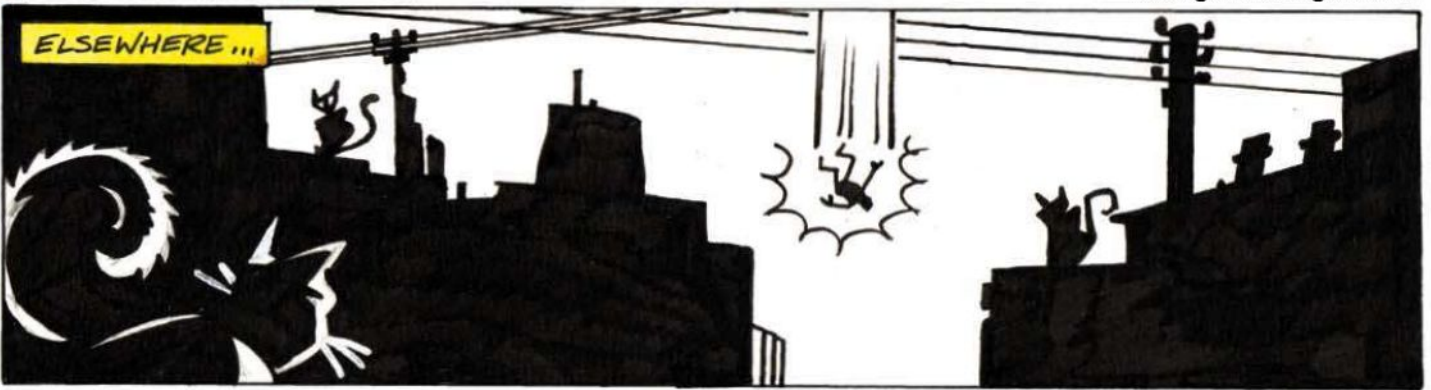
Already live at [www.obsessiveink.com](http://www.obsessiveink.com) users upload a photo of themselves where it is converted into a 3D lifelike avatar.

If customers have a custom design they want to preview Obsessive Ink is free to upload and store the artwork, which can then be previewed and exported unlimited times.

Check out [www.obsessiveink.com](http://www.obsessiveink.com) for the limitless possibilities for your next tattoo.







# INKOMING

## AIR YOUR VIEWS OR HAVE A RANT!

and we'll give one letter a free, yes free, t-shirt! Aren't we nice?

(So don't forget to put your size on your letter or we'll have to guess)

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Chester CH4 9AJ or post it via our website. [www.skindeep.co.uk](http://www.skindeep.co.uk)

Letters printed are not necessarily the views of Skin Deep

## RAISING THE BAR!

Dear Neil

I was very interested and shocked to read your editorial in the April edition of Skin Deep (Issue 183). 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 similar to any views I would have myself on the situation.

I was shocked to see you wrote that anyone with enough cash to setup a studio and show it's clean could start tattooing 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 tattoos 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 centre I don't feel, personally, that they deserve to be included in a self-regulation category.

With my personal view on tattoos, 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 tattoos 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

## NOTHING CHANGES...

Hello Skin Deep,

I attended the first Essex show and thought that all in all the day was a success.

I had booked a room at the hotel with the intention of having a meal and a drink in the company of friends and fellow artists. Once the show had finished the day took a rather interesting but sadly all too familiar turn, the staff that had been fairly reasonable throughout the day became "tired" and unhelpful.

During the convention alcohol was served in plastic glasses – this whilst not ideal is perhaps understandable in a health and safety conscious environment.

However After the show when we should have become just paying guests, and we wanted a meal and a drink, (I should perhaps mention at this point that a room for the night cost us £110.) we were told that the restaurant would not open, again as the staff were tired.

We had to send out for pizza! Which we were asked to eat in our bedrooms (which we refused outright) And asked to speak to the manager to complain about this and the fact that we were still given plastic glasses as the barmen still would not give us this infact saying "we normally serve in glass at conventions but not for this one".

Her attitude towards me was shocking; they had, after all, made a very reasonable return for allowing a tattoo show to take place in their hotel.

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. If you could get back to me on this with your view I would really appreciate it, I understand you must be very busy but if you find the time I would be grateful.

**Kind Regards,  
Nick, Chemical Designs**

**Hi Nick**

*Thanks for your letter; proof that someone does read my ramblings on the contents page!*

*I echo your sentiments perfectly when you say that just because someone may want a 'Generic' tattoo, they should be able to find a competent tattooist do the job in a clean, well-run and responsible studio. Sadly, as I said in the aforementioned article, this is*

*not always the case.*

*If we can find a way of raising the standards, no, actually, it's not a case of raising standards: it's more a case of helping to educate anyone wanting a tattoo. If the folk that want tattoos know what to look for in studios and give them their patronage, the bad ones will soon run out of business and (hopefully) disappear; leaving the good guys behind to get on with celebrating our wonderful industry. Suggestions on a post card please...*

**Neil**

## LET'S OPEN THEIR MINDS!

Hi Skin Deep

I would just like to point out and confirm the views expressed in Susie's letter in the latest issue of Skin Deep ('wear your ink with pride') I have to say that she is completely correct

in her patients giving her nothing but compliments while the 'management' look down on tattoos, thinking their own patients will be offended by them

I have had the same reaction within the retail sector. I think the people higher up the management chain need to get out and actually talk to their customers/patients/employees see if they are offended by what they clearly have no idea about. We all know that stereotypically, tattoos are looked down on as a bad thing and that they have and continue to have a bad reputation amongst some people. It seems that people such as Susie has encountered are still buying into that stereotype and not opening their minds to the knowledge surrounding them.

**Thanks!**

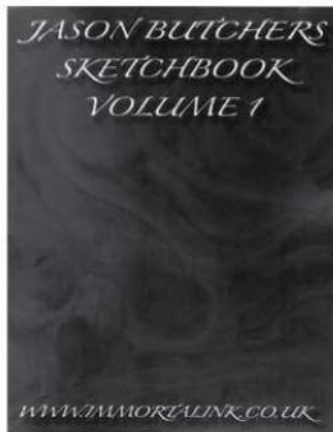
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# REVIEWS

**If it's a feast for the eyes and tattoo-related, you'll find it here under the microscopic glare of the review page.**

Be they Books, DVDs, VHS or Beta, all are welcome in Skin Deep towers where judgement shall be passed upon them...at the very least, we'll tell you if they're any good or not.



## JASON BUTCHER'S SKETCHBOOK VOLUME 1

**Jason Butcher** ★★★★★  
 Self-published: Available from [www.immortalink.co.uk](http://www.immortalink.co.uk)  
 Price: £40 + £6 P&P

I'm a big fan of Jason Butcher's work, both on skin and on canvas. For me he is one of the best exponents of black and grey horror tattooing in the UK today, if not in the world. His style is always smooth, macabre and darkly imaginative, and if you have ever had the pleasure of watching him work, he makes it all look so bloody easy.

Printed onto heavy, high quality paper, the sketchbook itself made up of 30 individual black and white sketches all of which would be perfect for tattooing. I'm sure that as an artist Jason won't mind me observing that many of the images are very reminiscent of some of Paul Booth's earlier work, only given his very own distinctive twist, of course. Each drawing has been painstakingly constructed by the artist with an organic and flowing style that translates effortlessly to skin. There are crumbling skulls, white-eyed zombies, and contorted faces scowling through a myriad of wrinkles and folds that are nothing short of orgasmic.

If you like Jason's work, and you enjoy the more sinister side of black and grey tattoo imagery, then this book will no doubt serve as an inspiration to you and if you are a tattooist, your clients for many months to come. It will also pay for itself within hours of plopping through your letterbox.



## ARTYCOW'S SKETCHBOOK

**Juliet 'Artycow' Preston** ★★★★★  
 Self-published: Available from [www.artycow.com](http://www.artycow.com)  
 Price: £30 + £2 P&P

Juliet Preston is best known for the fantastic work she produces alongside Dave 'Da Buddha' Ashton at Studio 81 in...well, Preston. She has been tattooing for 5 years now and regulars on the Skin Deep and Tattoo Master magazine forums will know her simply as 'Artycow'.

This is her first ever sketchbook and it can be described in one single word... 'girly'.

Containing 25 pages of beautiful black and grey drawings, presented of heavy good quality paper, it doesn't take long for browsers to realise that the primary theme of this offering is quite clearly flowers. And there are some real beauties here. From the more recognisable shapes of the hibiscus and lily to a welcome number of far more elaborate and unusual flora, this book will be invaluable to anybody with a large female client base (or indeed, a client base of large females) or to any tattoo artist faced with constant requests for cover-up work, an area in which flowers, I'm sure you'll all agree, generally excel. Many of these sketches would more than happily put a tired Tweety Bird or faded piece of Kanji to bed, and replace it with something far more stunning and body-friendly.

This book could just be the perfect antidote to those fiddly Jenny Clarke design sheets that prove so popular with the ladies every summer.



## GRAFFITI TATTOO KINGS ON SKIN

**Alain 'Ket' Mariduena** ★★★★★  
 ISBN: 978-3937946627  
 From Here To Fame: Available from [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)  
 £9.99

Graffiti and tattooing: two art forms that have held fast their bonds for many years now, and names such as Grime and Mike Giant are respected as much for their tattoo work as their spraying endeavours. It's been a few moons since we've seen a book that encapsulates the two and so this coffee table-sized offering was eagerly received. Artists who earn a living in both fields are interviewed from their bases of operations right across the globe: the likes of Chucho, Jason Kundell, Circle and Dorian Serpia detail the paths that brought their worlds of paint and ink together, accompanied by a smattering of respective tattoo and graffiti photos. It's the graffiti that provides the most joy here, seeing walls and trains brought to life with shocking colour snaps and electrifying designs masterfully rendered across them. The tattoos are, for the most part, very much playing second fiddle to their graffiti counterparts and whilst I hesitate to rubbish anyone's work... some of these tattoos cannot match the artistic outbursts that burst forth from the spray cans. It's a shame but it doesn't detract from this book's strengths of showcasing divine graffiti work and casting a spotlight on the tales of the artists so enamoured with tattoos and street art.



## THREE SIXTY FIVE

**Martin LaCasse** ★★★★★  
 Presto Art: Available from [www.prestoart.com](http://www.prestoart.com)  
 \$60

With a plethora of sketchbooks available in all shapes and sizes, it's becoming increasingly difficult to exploit an idea that hasn't seen daylight. Step forth, Martin LaCasse, and unveil this most extraordinary collection that is comprised of four volumes, housed in a hardcover slipcase. The concept is as follows: Martin adopted a theme for each month and over the period of a year, drew variations on each topic every single day. All of his sketches are accompanied by notes, some of which verbalised the concept, whereas others simply describe his mood at the time of rendering image to paper, and to top it off, the opening spread for the month is decorated with a full colour painting. It's an astounding feat that is beautifully documented in this anthology as Martin spends the months racking his brain for ideas: his desperation at trying to find a novel means of drawing yet another reaper in October's instalment is expressed in no uncertain terms alongside the resulting sketch. As reference material, it's simply exquisite and demonstrates just how many ways you can render pin-ups, dragons, eagles and koi, but also how demanding it is to do so each and every day. Money's rarely an issue when it comes to a good book, but this is an outright bargain and worth twice its cover price.

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# NORTH LAKES

## TATTOO CONVENTION

This was the third edition of the by now very popular North Lakes Tattoo Convention. This small, but perfectly formed show is expertly run by Mike and Doc Fell from Mike's Tattoos in Carlisle and has seen a steady growth over the past three years.

The venue is a small workingmen's club/pub tucked away from the main drag but works really well and judging by the amount of folk that attended, is in a good position.

The main ethos of the North Lakes show seems to be quality over quantity, which I find quite refreshing. Far too often I go to a convention where the organiser's have gone for large numbers of not so good tattooists just to boast that they have a 'huge' show. To me, it should be about the attending artists. Colin and Mike have got this right from the outset of their convention and again this year was no exception.



Walking amongst the aisles, I couldn't help nod my approval at the line up.

From the first booth as you walked through the door to the last as you left, the show oozed quality. There were tattooing luminaries such as Rich Pearson and Helen Brown from Gung ho, Billy Hay (and later Marcus Magure who jumped in to fill a booth at the last moment due to all flights being cancelled because of the Icelandic volcano dust cloud) both from Custom Ink, Tem and Olly of Hope & Glory, Roy and Paul Priestley - Skinshokz, Barthez, Forever More Tattoos, Markus - Funny Farm, Sweden, Diego at Made With Love, as well as both the Rock n Roll Tattoo Studios in Scotland, the list

was a veritable who's who of tattooing.

Sadly, as mentioned earlier, many of the foreign guys were grounded in their home countries with the dark, volcanic cloud hanging over them, which was a real shame as it denied many tattoo collector's access to these great artists. Still, there was an unexpected artist who





TATTOO BY BILLY HAY @ CUSTOM INK, SCOTLAND



DANNY BY GARY WIEDNEHOF @ INCREDIBLE CREATIONS, PERTH



JANE BY SPACEY @ BIZARRE INK, SCOTLAND



DANNY BY GARY WIEDNEHOF @ INCREDIBLE CREATIONS, PERTH



CLARE BY TINY MISS BECCA @ JAYNE DOE, LONDON

was only supposed to be there to give his apprentice moral support but being the workaholic that he is. Bez saw an empty booth, had his equipment with him and rugby tackled a victim (not that you'd need much persuading to get a Bez tattoo!) and set to work.

Saturday seemed a little quiet but that could have had a lot to do with the local Carlisle football team having a home game that day. But pretty much all the booths seemed busy with many a new masterpiece being created.

Over the weekend I had the pleasure of the Skin Deep Cheeky girls Dee

**we were overtaken by a superb vintage bus, put on by the organisers to ferry the working artists to and from their hotels**

and Hannah, they expertly ran the merchandise stall, giving me the opportunity to skive off – sorry, I mean network with the artists and run the photo booth. Working the photo booth

always gives me a first hand experience of many of the fresh tattoos as well as those already healed.

As the whistle blew to end the 'footie' match, the crowd seemed to swell slightly and it wasn't long before

the competition started for best of day. There were quite a few entries but as always there can only be one winner; well, in this instance there were two best



THE SKIN DEEP CHEEKY GIRLS



MICHAEL BY CARL COOKE @ ARTFUL INK, DURHAM



MAT BY DAVEE @ KULT TATTOO, POLAND



of day categories, B&G and Colour. These were taken by Funny Farm in Sweden and Billy 'Karaoke King' Hay from Custom Ink with a really nice tea pot chest piece on a young lady.

That done, and the serious drinking started to take place well into the night and after the doors shut, back at the Roadhouse, the artists hotel and bar...

After a hearty Carlisle breakfast, we strolled to the venue, feeling the restorative morning sun on our faces. Occasionally, we were overtaken by a superb vintage bus, put on by the organisers to ferry the working artists to and from their hotel. A real nice touch that and by the time we arrived, things were about to kick off for another day of tattooing. It wasn't long before those getting tattooed were sitting or standing, having stencils applied or getting a few small pen strokes, marking out the numerous designs about to be applied under the skin.

As the background music kicked in at a very acceptable level (thanks guys!), some brave souls were outside, taking their lives into their own hands on the cup and saucer fairground ride or feeding the many slot machines that provided a little light relief to the constant hum of the tattoo machines.

Sunday appeared from behind my eyelids and it was off to the Shepherd's Inn for the day's frivolities to start again. This was the day for the majority of the competitions to take place and I was looking forward to seeing what inky delights were to take to the stage. A healthy crowd had assembled in front of the stage to view the proceedings and the judging got under way. To be honest, the amount of entries wasn't too high but those that did venture onto the stage had some incredible ink to show off. Whilst peering over the shoulders of the judges, I spotted a familiar face whom I not seen in years. Amongst the sea of



PERCINGS BY MARK GIBSON @ EVERYTHING & NOTHING

MARTIN COULEY @ COULEY'S TATTOOS



WOYLIECH BY MARIUSZ @ ROCK N ROLL TATTOOS, GLASGOW



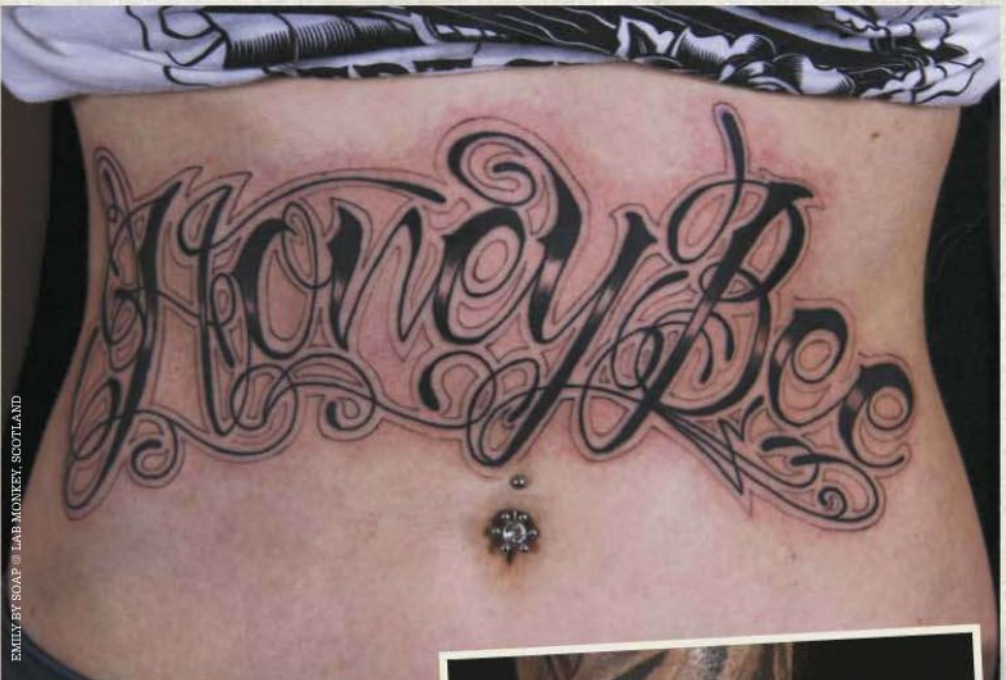
CHRISTOPHER BY RYAN @ INDIGO TATTOOS NORTHWICH



WAYNE BY GERRY CARNELLY @ OCTOPUS TATTOO, DERBY



EMILY BY SOAP @ LAB MONKEY, SCOTLAND



heads, I spotted a bespectacled chap by the name of Spacey. Pushing through the crowd, I got to chat to the man himself and he had brought a large contingent of folk that were wearing his tattoos. He had been a busy chap by the looks of it and the quality o his work was as good if not better than I had last seen. Consequently, he walked away with a good armful of trophies, including best Male and Best female awards.

The best of day for Sunday was hotly contested and the awards went to

Damon (working his first ever show) from Triple Six Studio. This quietly spoken chap is going to be a one to watch in the future, mark my words...

Back in the photo studio, I was busy shooting a cornucopia of colourful

### A healthy crowd had assembled in front of the stage to view the proceedings and the judging got under way.

creations and was amazed at the diversity of the work. As well as all the top-notch guys who were working the show. I got to see work by Joe Capobianco, Hannah Aitchison, Chris Garver and Chad Koeplinger to name but a few.

As the awards were handed out, the crowd slowly dispersed and with big smiles and slightly weary faces, the artists packed up to either go home or back to the Roadhouse for a well-earned drink. All I spoke to mention they had yet another superb show and were looked after perfectly by Colin, Mike and their band of merry helpers.

Carlisle and the North Lakes Tattoo Convention is one of those shows that has not only managed to keep that

ADAM BY MARIUSZ @ ROCK N ROLL TATTOO, GLASGOW





KENNETH AND STEVE BY GARY WIEDENHOF @ INKREDEIBLE CREATIONS, PERTH



NEAL BY ROY PRIESTLEY @ SKINSHOCKZ, BRADFORD



JULIE BY CHRIS GARWER @ MIAMI INK, USA



ENDRE @ TATTOOEND, LONDON



KEZIAH BY GREG @ ROCK N ROLL, EDINBURGH



'homeliness and intimacy' to the show in an environment that can all too often turn into a cattle market, making the North Lakes a convention not to be missed. I really hope the organisers don't get too ambitious and change what is for all, a superb and winning formula.

It's the perfect venue, couple that with the perfect mix of very good quality artists and a great mix of people that all go together to make the North Lakes Convention a 'must go to show' I echo the voices of many an artist who said that this show is fast becoming their favourite convention to work.

I'll leave the last words to the organisers: "This is a real old school show where tattooists are the entertainment and the tattoos done here are the highlight of the weekend".

Enough said methinks.... ★

## AND THE WINNERS ARE...

### BEST PORTRAIT

MARIC BY MARIUSZ @ ROCK AND ROLL TATTOO STUDIO, SCOTLAND

### BEST MALE

PAUL BY SPACEY @ BIZARRE INK, SCOTLAND

### BEST FEMALE

JANE BY SPACEY @ BIZARRE INK, SCOTLAND

### SMALL COLOUR

RICHARD BY HANNAH AITCHISON @ DELUXE TATTOO, USA

### LARGE COLOUR

SARAH BY MARTIN COULEY @ COULEY'S TATTOO STUDIO

### LEG/SLEEVE

KESIA BY MR GREGG @ ROCK AND ROLL TATTOO STUDIO, SCOTLAND

### BLACK/GREY SMALL

KAY BY MARCUS MAGUIRE @ CUSTOM INC, SCOTLAND

### BLACK/GREY LARGE

LISA BY MARCUS @ CUSTOM INC, SCOTLAND

### TRIBAL/CELTIC

MICHAEL BY CARL COOKE @ ARTFUL INK, DURHAM

### BEST OF DAY SATURDAY

#### B&G

BEN BY MARCUS KORLING @ FUNNYFARM, SWEDEN

#### COLOUR

CLAIRE BY BILLY HAY @ CUSTOM INC, SCOTLAND.

MARIUSZ @ ROCK AND ROLL TATTOO STUDIO, SCOTLAND

### BEST OF DAY SUNDAY

MARK BY DAMON

@ TRIPLE SIX STUDIOS, SUNDERLAND

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# IDENTITY TATTOO STUDIO



# JAN MOAT



**Located near the seafront in Bridlington,** Identity Tattoo Studio greets you with a warm atmosphere, rife with joviality and team spirit. The studio, the interior a vibrant sunny yellow, boasts walls hinting at an insight into the creative mind of owner and tattooist, Jan Moat.

**J**an has managed to create a studio that is quirky, full of objects of interest from tattooing history, down to a variety of masks displaying his fascination with Jason Voorhees. The rear wall is chock full of drawings and scraps of tracing paper with custom designs in progress, all of which collectively reassure

the prospective client that they are in a studio with Mr. Moat's talent and persona clearly up for view. The tattooing area itself is an ever-increasing display of fine art, interspersed with banter from the team of artists, which the clients, most of whom are regulars, indulge in readily. You cannot help but feel elated in this studio, and in very good hands.





COLLABORATION BY J MOAT AND MAT LAPPING @ CREATIVE VANDALS, HULL

**WHAT ARE YOUR EARLIEST MEMORIES OF TATTOOS? DID YOU EVER SEE THEM ON PEOPLE, AS A KID?**

Not really no. The first time I ever really saw tattoos was on a film called Tattoo with Bruce Dern in it. At the start of that of that he's at an Osaka festival I think it is, where all the Yakuza guys are absolutely covered in tattoos. It just sparked something. I either wanted to look like that or I wanted to do it. It seemed inevitable after that. I used to draw on my friends at school and that kind of thing. I didn't really think about it as tattoo designs or anything like that, it was just art. Comics were and still are a big influence.

**WHEN DID YOU GET STARTED INTO TATTOOING, AND WHERE?**

I started when I was eighteen. I got an apprenticeship. Well I was looking for an apprenticeship and the place where I was getting my tattoos done were looking for someone and I'd done graffiti in the bathroom for the tattoo studio so the guy took me on when he knew I was interested in tattoos. I did my first tattoo that day on one of the other artists which was a tiny little bit of tribal.

**I'VE NOTICED WITH CHRIS (YOUR APPRENTICE) HAS JUST STARTED TATTOOING AT THE STUDIO, HE'S ONE OF THE FEW THAT I'VE KNOWN PERSONALLY WHO'S DONE IT THE HARD WAY, SO DO YOU BELIEVE THAT'S THE WAY IT SHOULD BE DONE?**

Definitely. You start at the bottom and work your way up but even the littlest jobs will teach you something. You might not think it at the time but it will teach you something. Basically there are no short cuts. If you want to earn money then you get a job after hours. The rest of the time I'd pay him in tattoos.

**JAN IS LIKE THE CHUCK NORRIS OF TATTOOING, HE HAS THE SKILLS AND THE MAJESTIC FACIAL HAIR THAT WOULD MAKE ANY MAN JEALOUS!**

TUNNY, ARTIST @ IDENTITY

**HOW DID YOU FIND THE LEARNING PROCESS YOURSELF, WHEN YOU STARTED TATTOOING? HOW QUICKLY DID YOU FIND YOU PICKED IT UP?**

I didn't pick it up fast at all. I found it very hard to start off with. I thought it would be just like drawing. It's so, so different. It's just a totally different medium and I did find it hard. My teacher though, unfortunately wasn't technically brilliant either so he was great at teaching the health side of things but as far as teaching actual tattoo techniques and everything he was still stuck in the seventies and didn't really know any decent techniques. It took about 2 years before I started putting out solid flash work.

**DO YOU THINK IT'S WORTHWHILE FOR ANYONE WHO IS IN AN APPRENTICESHIP TO GO OFF ON THEIR OWN BACK IN TERMS OF RESEARCHING ARTISTS THAT ARE OUT THERE AND LEARNING THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF TATTOOING? IS IT IMPORTANT TO GO HOME AND DRAW AT NIGHT.... LIVE IT 24/7?**

Oh yeah. Your mentor can only teach you what they know at the end of the day and if they don't know a great deal then you've got to be able to find it out for yourself. You've got to put the work in. It's just like doing homework.

**HOW DO YOU FIND THE ATMOSPHERE, THE PEOPLE THAT YOU WORK WITH, THE WAY CLIENTS IN BRIDLINGTON PERCEIVE YOU?**

It's great. We're the only real custom studio in the area. The clients we get are brilliant. All my crew are great, we were all friends before we started working together. Everyone brings ☺



their own little thing to the table. We can pretty much do any style that comes along.

**YOU WORKED YOUR VERY FIRST CONVENTION, AT LIVERPOOL LAST YEAR. DID YOU FIND YOU WERE ABLE TO PICK QUITE A BIT FROM OBSERVING OTHER ARTISTS AT WORK? WHAT DID YOU COME AWAY WITH?**

It would have been nice to see something but unfortunately I was working my socks off the entire time I was there. I was working with Sween, so it was great watching him work close up and doing the collaboration with him was brilliant. I got to see how he works, which was a great opportunity.

**IT'S GOOD TO SEE ARTISTS SHARING TIPS AND TECHNIQUES AND NOT BEING SO NARROW MINDED ABOUT IT...**

Definitely. A lot more people are being a lot more open minded and that kind information being passed around can only make you a better artist at the end of the day. If you can pick up a different technique or learn something new, it's brilliant. There's always something new to learn.

**WHO WOULD YOU SAY HAS BEEN QUITE INFLUENTIAL IN YOUR OWN WORK? WHAT OTHER ARTISTS EITHER TRADITIONAL (VISUAL) OR WITHIN THE TATTOOING INDUSTRY WOULD YOU SAY YOU'VE DRAWN INSPIRATION FROM?**

I don't know really, there are so many great artists out there. Every bit of artwork I look at and like I'll get inspiration from. There's no particular genre, no particular artist. I get it from comics. The front covers of 2000AD are amazing and really inspirational and that's probably my main source. I would say tattoo wise I would include Bob Tyrrell, Jason Butcher. Oz at Sinister Scrawlings and a lot of other artists that use horror based images.

**WOULD YOU SAY THAT BLACK AND GREY HORROR IS, (ALTHOUGH I'VE SEEN SOME BEAUTIFUL**

**COLOUR WORK AND FUN FRIVOLOUS PIECES FROM YOU), SOMETHING YOU ENJOY MORE?**

I love working in Black and Grey. It's really fun to do and with horror you've got a little more room to play. Make things that bit nastier if you want. Colour work, Joe Capobianco, he was one of my favourites when I got started in the industry, him and Paul Booth. They were doing stuff that I'd never seen before. It doesn't have to be dark and Black and Grey to be brilliant.

**WHAT WOULD YOU SAY YOUR METHOD WAS FOR PRODUCING A CUSTOM PIECE?**

Well, I'll have a consultation first and maybe

give them a couple of sketches of position, that kind of thing. Then wait for a bit of reference off them. I get as much reference off them as I can and once I've got that, then I'll start to draw. See if they're happy with it, if they want changes anything like that. They only ever get a sketch, just so long as they get the idea. They can then look at my portfolio to look to see if they like the shading and colour that I do.

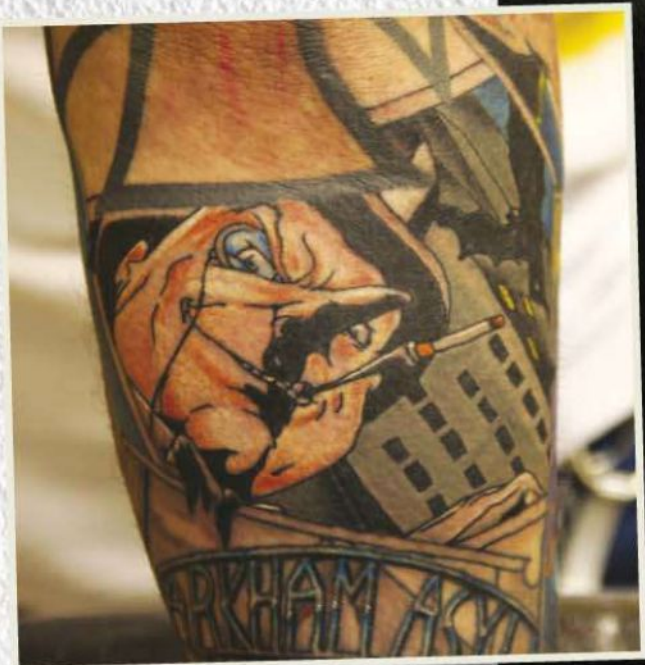
**I HAVE NOTICED YOU'VE BUILT UP A CRAZY REPERTOIRE OF LOCAL REGULAR CLIENTS, VERY LARGE PIECES THAT YOU HAVE ON THE GO. DO YOU PREFER FOR CLIENTS TO GIVE YOU A FAIR BIT OF FREE**



**THE ONLY BAD THING ABOUT JAN IS THAT HE MAKES US LISTEN TO BARBARA STREISAND, BUT HE'S A NICE GUY SO WE FORGIVE HIM**

CHRIS O, ARTIST AND FORMER APPRENTICE





**REIGN? IS IT IDEAL TO BE GIVEN A LOT OF REFERENCE AND A PLETHORA OF IDEAS, OR ARE YOU QUITE HAPPY WHEN THEY PUT THEIR TRUST IN YOU?**

If the people trust me and they like my style and they like what I do, then I'll just ask for a theme from them. As long as I have a theme I can run with through the whole tattoo then I'm happy. I'll draw whatever.

**IF SOMEONE WERE TO COME TO YOU AND SAY, "ANY SPACE YOU WANT, ANY THEME YOU WANT, ANY STYLE"... WHAT WOULD YOU ABSOLUTELY LOVE TO TATTOO GIVEN COMPLETE FREE REIGN?**

I love doing shoulder pieces. Across both shoulders, they're great. Thighs are wonderful to work on. Same thing, just big areas, relatively flat space that I can put something on but at the same time I love working on arms, where you can go with the curves of the body.

**WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON TATTOOING VARIOUS, VISIBLE PARTS OF THE BODY FOR EXAMPLE HANDS AND NECKS? THERE'S ONGOING CONTROVERSY WITH REGARDS HANDS AND NECKS, ISN'T THERE?**

Because tattoos are a lot more acceptable these days we tend to tattoo any part of the body. We make sure that the person knows exactly what they're in for. I won't tattoo an eighteen year olds face, things like that but if it's somebody old enough and wise enough to understand the implications of having public skin tattoos, I will do it.

**WHEN YOU'RE NOT TATTOOING, NOT AT THE STUDIO, WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO? I KNOW YOU'VE GOT A LOVELY WIFE AND A YOUNG SON AT HOME.**

I spend as much time as I can with my family. I'm a total film geek; I'm into comics as well. Reading, I love books. Anything that's inspirational. Even when I'm relaxing, I need to be doing something. I love being creative. There's always a sketchbook next to the settee or a motorbike to customise.

**GOING BACK TO THE INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE, HAVE YOU SEEN MANY CHANGES IN THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS THAT WOULD WORRY OR CONCERN YOU? ANY CHANGES THAT YOU THINK ARE POSITIVE?**



**JAN IS THE JOLLY BEARDED MAN WHO SAVED ME GOING TO UNIVERSITY.**

PINHEAD, PIERCER & STUDIO MANAGER.

Since I've started tattooing I've seen some amazing changes. It's been like a renaissance in tattooing. It has just got better and better. Skill-wise it's unbelievable. The bad side is, everybody wants to have a go. The tattoo programmes have been a double-edged sword for the industry. On the one hand they've opened people's eyes to what can be done but they've also shown all these little wannabes that they can have a go and they think it's easy just by looking at it on TV. The amount of scratchers out there is quite atrocious now. The amount of cover-ups we have to do is getting silly. It would be nice to see something done about it.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK COULD BE DONE ABOUT IT- WHERE WOULD ONE MAN START, WHAT REGULATIONS WITHIN THE INDUSTRY WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?**

I think that the environmental health people need to pull their thumb out and start investigating the folk tattooing from unsanitary conditions. Not only the teenagers scaring their mates in their kitchens but also a lot of so-called studios need checking out. I think if people want to have a go then

they need to do it in a sterile environment just like we do. Make them pay for clinical waste removal contracts and have their tattooing procedure rooms checked by a health inspector. And by that token I think that a regulation to say you should not be able to purchase tattooing equipment without a licence would really worm out the wannabes trying to get into tattooing cos they think "its cool init bruv". I don't believe that you cant learn on your own as there are some amazing artists out there who did, but going about it the right way from the start is really important. .

**IS THERE ANYBODY YOU'D LIKE TO THANK?**

Sween, he's been brilliant. Also, Oz at Sinister Scrawlings, some of the stuff he's told me has improved my work tenfold. Lee at Vogelrock Tattoos really helped me work a lot of things out and Mel at Dark Circle. The lads that work with me, they're brilliant, really supportive and obviously my wife and son. I couldn't have done it without Katy. Uncle Tim, who inspired my drawing from an early age, And not forgetting the clients who let me create and learn something new everyday. ★

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Jack Mosher	Darius Niewczas	Electric Linda	Stu Rollisson	Craig Garner
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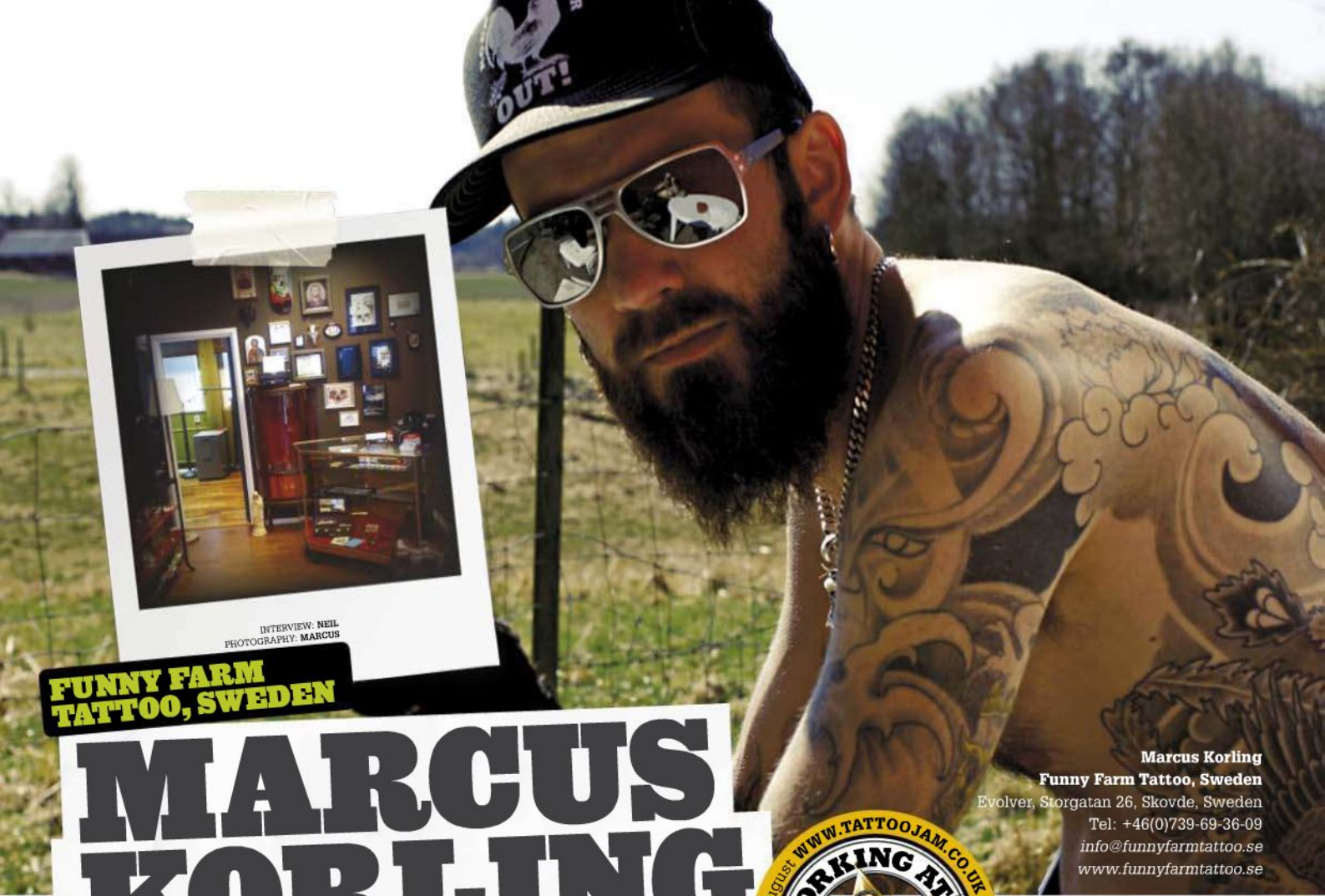
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INTERVIEW: NEIL  
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# MARCUS KORLING

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**Skin Deep first came across Marcus Korling whilst he was working at Tattoo Jam in 2008.** Since then, he has been a regular guest at Triple Six Studios in Sunderland and now works a small selection of the UK shows.

**H**aving witnessed his superb colour work, I caught up with him after the North Lakes convention, where Marcus and his good lady; Sandra, were unavoidably detained due to a sudden cloud of volcanic ash that had the whole country grounded for a time. Marcus talks about Funny Farm Tattoos, conventions, and tattooing his mum...

### CAN YOU GIVE US A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY ABOUT YOURSELF AND HOW YOU GOT STARTED IN THE TATTOO INDUSTRY?

I've been tattooing for six years now, full time. I've always been drawing and sketching stuff, so I always knew I wanted to do something that had something to do with art. And then I got my first tattoo myself, and thought, "Hmm, I think I can do this better than he does!" So I just started to nag him "please take me as an apprentice, please take me as an apprentice!" So he did, and from there it just sort of went on.

### ARE ANY OF YOUR FAMILY TATTOOED?

No, no one. I come from a pretty... I don't know what you'd call it, uptight, posh family;

like directors and high education types. I'm sort of the black sheep of the family.

### HAVE THEY ACCEPTED YOUR PROFESSION NOW?

Now I think they have, it took a while. "So, when are you going to get a real job?"

### SO DID YOU DO COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY, ANYTHING LIKE THAT?

No, I went to college for like a year then dropped out, then started another course for a year and a half and dropped out again.

### DID YOU FIND THAT COLLEGE WAS QUITE A STIFLING EXPERIENCE, WHERE YOU DIDN'T REALLY LEARN ANYTHING?

At first I started with nature science or something, the most difficult thing to study. In Sweden it's a really high top-notch thing, because all my family were like "that's what you're 'gonna do". So I dropped out because I didn't care for that subject. But then I started some random program just to please my parents, but I didn't enjoy it. School just wasn't for me.

### SO THE GUY THAT TATTOOED YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE, HE OBVIOUSLY SAW SOMETHING IN



**IT'S MORE ABOUT THE PEOPLE I MEET. THE WORK COMES SECOND. I LIKE JUST THE ATMOSPHERE AND ALL THE PEOPLE.**

**YOUR ARTWORK AND WANTED TO TAKE YOU ON?**

Yeah, evidently he did. It took a while though.

**WAS YOUR APPRENTICESHIP SIMILAR TO HOW IT IS OVER HERE, A LOT OF SWEEPING FLOORS, CLEANING TOILETS, THAT SORT OF THING?**

Yeah two years, all sweeping floors, doing the toilets, no money, just hanging around. Drawing all the stuff because he didn't want to draw. Then I think in the third year I got to do like, three tattoos.

**HOW DID YOU FIND DOING YOUR FIRST TATTOO? WAS IT EASY?**

No, difficult as hell! (laughs) Because the guy I started for wasn't really that good of an artist, so he had like crap machines, crap needles...

**DID YOU FIND THAT YOU PICKED UP BAD HABITS THEN?**

Yeah I did. And then I got in contact with another tattooist from the same city, whom had been watching me and watching my drawings, and he said to me "dude, if you want to be a tattooist, you should work with someone who knows how to tattoo. Come work with me." So I pretty much had to relearn everything and start again.

**DID YOU FIND YOUR WORK PROGRESSED QUITE QUICKLY THEN?**

Yeah, after like, ten minutes! (laughs) I was like "wow, magnum needles!"

**SO WHAT'S THE TATTOO SCENE LIKE IN SWEDEN THEN, IS IT PRETTY BIG OR IS IT QUITE CONSERVATIVE?**

It's really big, actually. We have a lot of great tattoo artists in Sweden.

**IS IT QUITE ACCEPTABLE IN SOCIETY?**

It's getting there, in a way. You go to the bank and the guy behind the counter will have some tattoo work done.

**SO ALMOST MORE ACCEPTED THAN HERE REALLY.**

I don't know about the scene here too much, but it's getting really accepted I think. I have a couple of friends who have like face tattoos and stuff, and still have normal jobs. It's getting there.

**SO WHAT HAPPENED FROM THE SECOND STUDIO ONWARDS?**

There were two guys working there, one of the guys took me in. The real owner of the shop wasn't really involved with me; he had his



own apprentice and stuff. I worked there for like, five or six months, then the guy I worked for got kicked out of the studio so I was stuck there. I had to keep it going in that studio, so I stayed there for two years. Then another tattooist from the city nearby where I lived came in and told me that if I ever wanted to move I could go and work in his studio. So after a while, I figured I'd probably go there. I went there, and then he pretty much taught



me everything again, but better! So I really liked working there, I worked with him for two years. Then I got diabetes, and figured I might as well move home to be close to my family and stuff, because it was quite a big thing when I got it. So then I started to work at another shop and stayed there for two years also, and it didn't work out really. So I finally started my own shop, which is where I am now.

**DID YOU FIND THAT DURING THAT TIME YOU DEVELOPED A DISTINCT STYLE?**

No, not really. I love Japanese inspired work, I

think that's my favourite style. But I try to be awesome at everything; I want to be awesome at everything so I can do it all. Because I think if I didn't and only did Japanese, I would get bored pretty quickly.

**I FIND A LOT OF ARTISTS I SPEAK TO ARE REALLY GOOD AT ONE THING THEN EVERYONE GOES TO THEM FOR THAT ONE THING, AND THEY GET BORED. BUT BECAUSE THEY'RE GOOD AT IT, EVERYONE WANTS THAT WORK.**

That's why I try to travel more and visit other tattoo artists. I went to visit Bez, so I started learning more about colour.

**IT'S NICE THAT BEZ ISN'T SCARED TO IMPART HIS KNOWLEDGE ON OTHER PEOPLE...**

Yeah, I think a lot of tattoo artists in Sweden are like "this is mine, I'm not sharing with anyone", so when I came to Bez and asked him technical questions, he was like "yeah I'll show you!"

**YOU SAID YOU LOVE JAPANESE WORK, WHAT WOULD YOU CALL YOUR STYLE OF WORK?**

I try to develop my style of work all the time, its constantly changing. Now I'm trying to incorporate some realistic stuff into the Japanese backgrounds too.

**BASICALLY, ANYTHING THAT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH ART. I TRY TO TAKE INFLUENCE FROM PRETTY MUCH EVERYTHING I SEE.**

**YOU SEEM TO HAVE A REALLY GOOD FOLLOWING OVER HERE IN THE UK...**

Yeah, I'm really amazed, the first time I came here was for Tattoo Jam last year, and when I went to Bez's shop, he put out on his Myspace, a month or two months before that I was coming and I was fully booked in like, four days! So I was like, ooh, people must want to get tattoos in England!

**DO YOU DO A LOT OF OTHER SHOWS ABROAD?**

I do. This is the first one in Carlisle, I will do Tattoo Jam this year, I will also do the Krakow convention in Poland, I did it last year and it was fantastic. Not so much work for me because the Polish people... I don't think they could afford it to be honest. There wasn't too much work done, but it was a friendly show, we were well taken care of, and you meet a lot of people.





**SO DO YOU FIND THAT WORKING A SHOW IS NOT SO MUCH ABOUT THE WORK THAT YOU DO, BUT MORE ABOUT THE PEOPLE YOU MEET?**

Definitely. It's more about the people I meet. The work comes second. I like just the atmosphere and all the people.

**I THINK SOME CONVENTION ORGANISERS LOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THE ONLY REASON THAT PEOPLE COME THROUGH THE DOOR IS BECAUSE OF YOU GUYS. BUT YOU NEED TO GET SOMETHING OUT OF IT AS WELL AND NOT JUST SIT THERE. THAT'S WHY WE STARTED THE ARTIST FRIDAY AT TATTOO JAM, TO GIVE SOMETHING BACK TO THE ARTISTS...**

Yeah, that was really cool.

**WHERE DO YOU SEE FUNNY FARM IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS OR SO?**

Erm... Pretty much the same place as it is now, I'm really comfortable with how everything is working out.

**WHO WOULD YOU SAY IS A MAIN INFLUENCE ON YOUR WORK?**

There are the obvious ones, like Filip Leu, Jeff Gogue. I also like to look at a lot of... not tattoo artists, but painters and stuff. Basically, anything that has anything to do with art. I try to take influence from pretty much everything I see.

**THERE ARE, ESPECIALLY IN THIS COUNTRY, ARTISTS WHO ARE BLINKERED, 'I'LL ONLY LOOK AT THAT, THAT'S ALL I'M INTERESTED IN.' NOT TAKING ANYBODY ELSE'S WORK ON BOARD, WHICH IS A SHAME. DO YOU FIND THAT YOU PICK UP HINTS AND TIPS FROM OTHER ARTISTS?**

All the time, I try to, anyway. I just look at how they work or how they do stuff. Try to talk to them about it, but... sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't (laughs).

**IS THERE ANYBODY YOU'D LIKE TO THANK?**

Erm. First, David from Custom Tattoos in Sweden, Richard Hall...

**(MUMBLES) GIRLFRIEND MAYBE?**

Of course, my girlfriend... (laughter) Sandra, yes. Nowadays, my Mum and Dad, because now they are supporting me.



**I HATE TATTOOING FAMILY. I HATE TATTOOING MY GIRLFRIEND; I HATE TATTOOING MY MOTHER BECAUSE THEY FEEL COMFORTABLE ENOUGH TO WHINE ABOUT THE PAIN!**

**IT'S STRANGE ISN'T IT? 'OOH, ITS TATTOOS... IT'S NOT A PROPER CAREER, YOU'LL NEVER MAKE ANY MONEY...'**

(laughs) Yeah, she's called me, like, four times this weekend, like 'did you win any awards? Did you win anything?'

**ARE THEY ACCEPTING ENOUGH TO GET TATTOOED BY THEIR SON?**

My mum has.

**HOW DID YOU FIND THAT?**

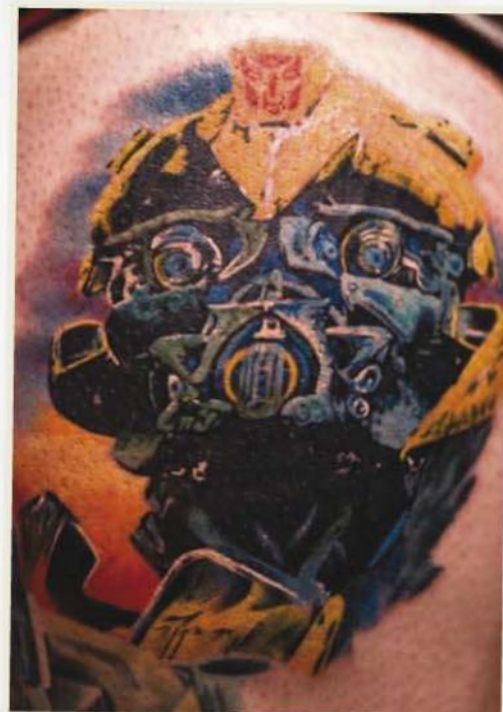
I hate tattooing family. I hate tattooing my girlfriend; I hate tattooing my mother because they feel comfortable enough to whine about the pain!

**THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD THAT.**

My mum is actually nagging me now. She wants to get another tattoo.

**THAT'S THE ULTIMATE PRAISE, IN A WAY. CONSIDERING SHE WAS AGAINST IT IN THE FIRST PLACE. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO ADD?**

No... I think that's about it. ★



Justyn Knott

Tomek Cwian

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# Hazlitt

**Meet Hazlitt**, a classical composer and singer with a penchant for tattoos that tell a story about her life.

**H**azlitt has a rich and colourful lifestyle and is currently on a journey promoting her solo albums and composing for global TV ad campaigns. Her tattoos are a map of her life and she finds them quite cathartic, getting tattooed is like therapy.



**TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR CHILDHOOD, WHAT AMBITIONS YOU HAD, WHERE DID YOU GROW UP AND WHAT HAS INSPIRED YOU?**

I went through phases as a kid, for a while I was really into fossils and then I wanted to do marine biology, but I spent every spare moment I had doing music so it was always obvious I would end up doing that. I was really inspired by my music teachers more than anything else, and I used to force my Dad to play Led Zeppelin as loud as possible in the car - Jimmy Page was God to me! However, I also had designs on being a racing driver - Nigel Mansell was a big favourite in my household...

**WHAT ARE YOU CURRENTLY DOING CAREER WISE OR WHAT DO YOU ASPIRE TO BE?**

I'm a solo classical artist and composer, I've made 2 albums already, which I'm really proud of after being in bands for years. I recently wrote the music for a global ad campaign for Adidas football for the World Cup and you can hear me singing on the soundtrack to the new Robin Hood movie. My image helps because it breaks me out of the typical classical market and hopefully gets people in other genres to give classical music a chance. I work with Elton John's management so I'm in good company there, I think the classical market is looking for something new so I hope to fulfil that.



I got my first sleeve from Jeff Ortega at Evil from the Needle in Camden, and we became really close friends. I knew him through a friend and watched him tattoo a sleeve before I had anything done.

**DO YOU DO ANY MODELLING IN YOUR SPARE TIME OR HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED BECOMING A FULL TIME MODEL?**

I've done lots of promo shoots and music videos, I've also done catwalk for London alternative fashion week. I modelled for Criminal Damage and I was in Bizarre magazine years ago. I would love to do more.

**WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR TATTOOS DONE? WHAT MADE YOU GO TO THESE PARTICULAR ARTISTS OVER OTHERS?**

I got my first sleeve from Jeff Ortega at Evil from the Needle in Camden, and we became really close friends. I knew him through a friend and watched him tattoo a sleeve before

I had anything done. He's since done both sleeves and his former apprentice Mark Fox has done all my other pieces, from some of his first ever tattoos. I really love that I've got someone's development as a tattooist charted on my skin and along the way the guys in that shop have become my good friends. The tattoos for me were a new beginning and I'm glad I got the best.

**DO YOUR TATTOOS HAVE ANY PARTICULAR MEANING OR SYMBOLISM BEHIND THEM? WHAT MADE YOU GET THEM?**

I originally got my sleeves because I had lots of scars that I wanted to move on from. I chose Japanese art because I love the style, and



I have plans for most of my body, a huge peacock up the back of one leg and a back piece. I don't have particular artists in mind, I feel loyalty to EFTN.

most of the things in my tattoos symbolise me in one way or another - I have a tiger and a geisha on one sleeve, which both represent sides of me, and I also have a running theme of birds which to me are a reminder of how fleeting life can be but how flying through it is amazing. One on my leg was for my Mum who died in 2004 and I also named my album after her childhood nickname. Ironically, she hated tattoos...

**DO YOU HAVE ANY FUTURE TATTOOS PLANNED? WHAT ARTISTS DO YOU HOPE TO HAVE TATTOO YOU?**

I have plans for most of my body, a huge peacock up the back of one leg and a back piece. I don't have particular artists in mind, I feel loyalty to EFTN, because tattooing is pretty intimate and I trust those guys 100% so I know it's always going to be exactly what I imagined. I also like to give them freedom in what the pieces are - I don't go in with a design ever, I let them have artistic freedom and a lot of it is freehand when Jeff tattoos me. ★





# Think before you Ink

Your guide to getting  
a tattoo right first time.

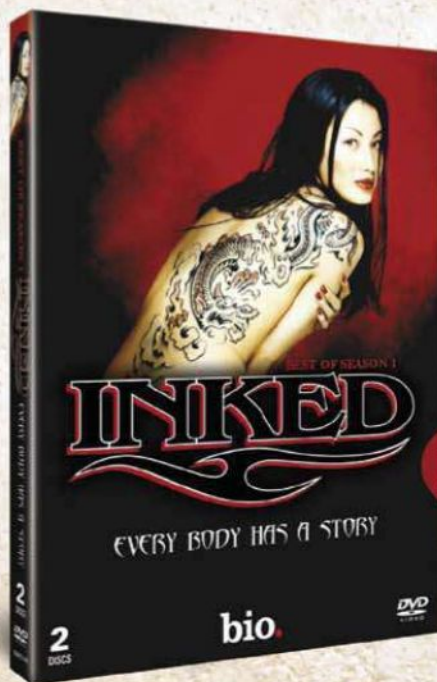
# Aurora Tattoo

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

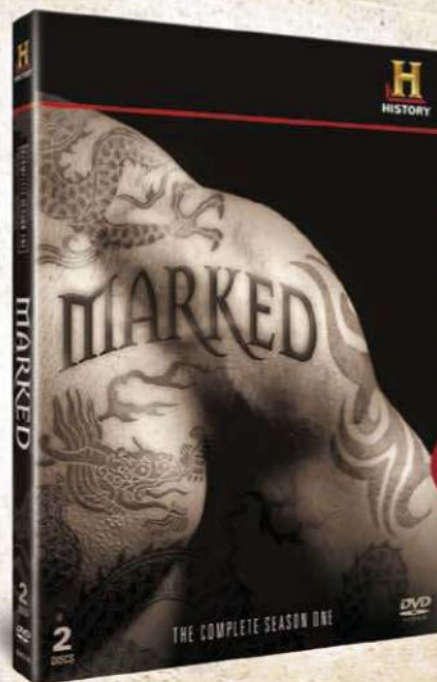


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# Think before you Ink

Everything you ever wanted to know about getting your first tattoo but were too afraid to ask...

If you are reading this before you have had your first tattoo, CONGRATULATIONS! You are on the right step to getting that perfect piece of ink that will give you the most enjoyment from your tattoo for the next oh, sixty years or so. Don't forget, tattoos are for life, so don't enter into the world of permanent body art on a whim – lasering is not a pleasant experience! Get as much information as you possibly can before you have any work done. The more you know about tattooing and its processes, the more confident you will be in choosing the right design and artist.

It's a very daunting experience, walking into a tattoo studio for the first time, not knowing what to expect, what to ask, what to do? Hopefully with this informative guide in your back pocket and having read it, you will be confident enough to

ask the right questions. After all, 'forewarned is forearmed'.

The history of tattooing spans back centuries and has a very colourful past; tattooing has been practiced in all corners of the globe from Polynesia to The Americas. Humans have felt the need to 'individualise' themselves for tribal and spiritual reasons, and these indelible markings could chronicle the coming of age or empower the wearer with the extra strength and courage to survive a battle or an arduous journey or task.

Tattooing continues to explode in popularity and there are more tattoo studios in Britain than ever before, so considering the choice that is now available to you it's even more important for you to get it right first time.

This is just a guide, not a bible, so use the information wisely. As the heading to this supplement says, "THINK BEFORE YOU INK!" ➔



## So do you really want a tattoo?

You must ask yourself the above question constantly prior to getting your first ink. This is a huge step for you and your body. If you think to yourself 'Oh, I can get it removed if I don't like it', DON'T GET IT DONE! This will be with you for the rest of your life and if you pick the right design and have the work done by the right tattooist, you will wear that design with pride, and still be happy with it as you shed this mortal coil. You must be 18 to have a tattoo in this country, and there's no parental consent plea that will change that! It's not worth trying to make yourself look 18 either as you will be asked for ID. Besides, you don't want to get your chosen tattooist in trouble for tattooing minors, do you? Especially if they are someone you might want to go back to in the future.

## What sort of design do you want?

Once you have decided to take the plunge into the world of the tattooed, you'll need to sit down and have serious think about the design. There are literally thousands of images that have been used as tattoo designs. With the current interest in tattooing, more and more artists can now put just about any image on your body. The only limit is your imagination.



MICHAEL @ KIPPOD TATTOO, ISRAEL

You must be 18 to have a tattoo in this country, and there's no parental consent plea that will change that! It's not worth trying to make yourself look 18 either as you will be asked for ID.



ARRON BELL @ SLAVE TO THE NEEDLE, USA

Many tattoo studios have pre-drawn designs stuck on the walls and in books. These are generally known as 'FLASH'. You can also find plenty of books available that are packed with designs to get the creative juices flowing. Again, the limit is only down to the artist's capability and imagination. You can choose one of these designs and have it tattooed 'as is', or you can use these images as inspiration or a starting point for your design. Tattooing is about individuality, so speak to your artist and he or she should be able to create you a unique piece of artwork so you aren't walking around with a tattoo that hundreds of other 'individuals' are wearing.

## So where do I get my inspiration from?

Basically, anywhere you want. It's your tattoo and you can take

inspiration from your hobbies, your loves/passions, in books, paintings, and fabric designs, even wallpaper! If you like it, then go for it. Try to steer clear of band and lovers' names, or images that are time-specific. What may look great and be relevant at the time might seem old-hat and dated further down the line. And I can guarantee that your tastes will change and people move on.

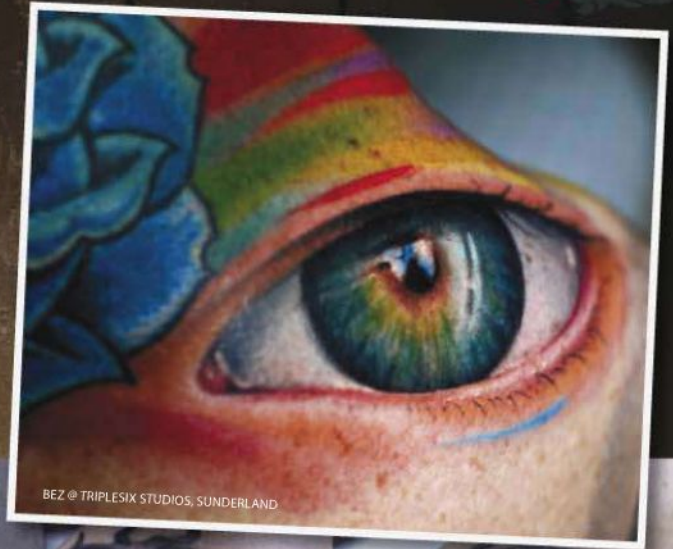
If you are considering a 'Tribal' or Ethnic design, take some time to research the origins of these images. These design have become extremely popular recently but many of these have very specific meanings within certain cultures and you could risk upsetting some people by wearing something that is deemed as sacred. It will show other people that you have researched your design properly if you can explain the origin of it and it will show that you have some respect for the culture that created it.

Try to steer clear of band and lovers' names, or images that are time-specific. What may look great and be relevant at the time might seem old-hat and dated further down the line.

### What size and where?

These are quite important factors. The placement on the body can make or break a design, and if it is correctly placed and fits with your musculature and body shape, it will look all the

better. For your first tattoo, try and go for somewhere on your body that can be covered by a piece of clothing (upper arms, shoulders and back). This way you can cover the tattoo if needs be. It's great to show off your new ink but not everyone is as open-minded as you, so you might



BEZ @ TRIPLESIX STUDIOS, SUNDERLAND



ALEXEY @ KIPOD TATTOO, ISREAL



Think before you Ink



JEE SAYALERO © HUMAN FLY TATTOO, SPAIN

Big tattoos are becoming more popular theses day but again, think seriously before having so-called 'Public Skin' (neck, face, hands) tattooed.

not get the reaction you require. Also if you can cover the tattoo, who's to know that you have one? This is particularly useful for job interviews and times when tattoos are frowned upon (yep, unfortunately there are still places where tattooed people are looked upon with disdain). Big tattoos are becoming more popular theses day but again, think seriously before having so-called 'Public Skin' (neck, face, hands) tattooed.

### The right man woman for the job

Okay, so let's presume that you now have the design. So where do you go and who do you go to? Firstly all tattoo studios must be registered with their local health authority. They will have a certificate hanging on the wall in the studio somewhere. If you can't find it, ask

to see it. If the studio can't produce it, turn around and walk away. Have a good look around the interior. Is it clean and hygienic? Have a look or ask to see the tattooist's Autoclave. This is a machine that sterilises all the reusable equipment that is used in the tattooing process, and looks a bit like a microwave. If you can't see it, don't be afraid to ask. This is a vital piece of kit and can make the difference between a hygienic and sterile tattoo and a blood-borne disease or infection and your tattooist will show you this gladly if you ask.

If you see his pie and chips in it, it is probably the microwave!

Whatever you do, don't go to someone working unregistered out of their bedroom/kitchen/garden shed just 'because it's cheap'. It's just not worth it. Apart from the very possible risk of infection, there's also a damn good chance that the 'scratcher' won't be a very good artist, so your tattoo



JAMES HATE @ MADAM BUTTERFLY'S, HASTINGS



MARK LONSDALE @ ULTIMATE SKIN, LEEDS



LUCA ORTIS @ NEW WAVE TATTOOS, LONDON



Think before you Ink



won't be of the best quality either. You have been warned!

Equally, you may have walked into a swanky tattoo studio with all the 'whistles and bells', but this doesn't make the proprietor a good tattooist. Be sure to look for actual photographs of the artist's work in their portfolio, and if you can find some living examples of the person's work 'in the flesh', so to speak, all the better.

A good source of reputable tattooists can be found at the many tattoo conventions that are held all over the UK. Skin Deep publishes a list of these in the 'Tattoo Tour'

section of the magazine each month. At any of these shows you can see for yourself first-hand your chosen artist actually working on someone. At many conventions, there will be a lot of foreign artists in attendance too, so if you fancy some ink from an overseas visitor, this could be the way to go and save you a possibly costly airfare. It is also a good source of inspiration and you'll meet many, many tattooed people who are always ready to talk about their tattoos. Tattoo conventions really are a great day out.

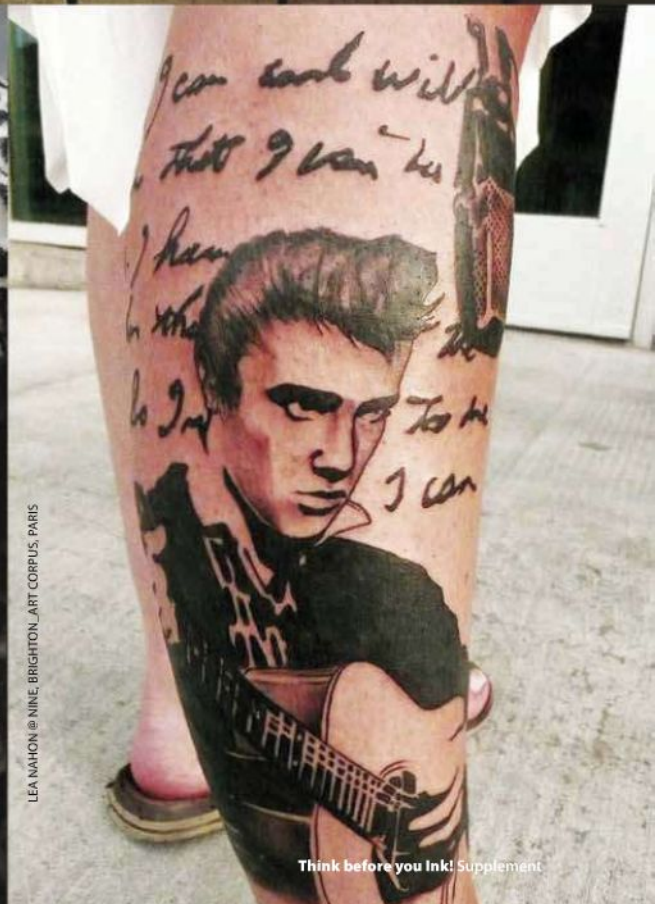
With the Internet age firmly upon

Whatever you do, don't go to someone working unregistered out of their bedroom/kitchen/garden shed just because it's cheap! It's just not worth it.

us, loads of tattooists have websites showcasing their finest work. This is another great way of seeing artists' work before having to travel great distances, so get surfing. Skin Deep also has a very lively forum, where you can ask for help or advice. [www.bigtattooplanet.com/forums](http://www.bigtattooplanet.com/forums) Although you may be able to



JONDIK @ LIW, SPAIN



LEA NAHON @ NINE, BRIGHTON, ART CORPUS, PARIS

Think before you Ink! Supplement

### Getting your first tattoo. Does it hurt?

meet the artist of your dreams at a convention, don't be tempted to go to the bloke down the road just because he is cheaper and or closer. Cheaper isn't better, so if you have seen a tattooist's work that really

appeals to you, save up - you won't be disappointed if you have done your homework properly. Remember this oft-seen quote: 'Good tattoos aren't cheap and cheap tattoos aren't good!'

A top quality tattoo isn't cheap. The cost depends on the size, style and the amount of time it will take. If you have seen a piece of artwork on a Flashboard, there's a good chance that

it will have a fixed price by the side of it. Many tattooists these days are opting for custom 'one-off' pieces of work for which you can expect to pay an hourly rate. Have a chat to the artist and for God's sake, don't try to haggle. You probably won't like the reply!

Also if you are a lady, you may be a little daunted by the prospect of getting a tattoo from a man, especially if your tattoo is going to be in a 'private' area. There are more and more female tattooists who can hold their own against the blokes and Skin Deep runs many adverts from female artists, so again, a little research goes a long way.

Hmm, a question asked by virtually everybody who hasn't had a tattoo. Pain is a very personal thing. Some people have a high pain threshold, others whimper at a splinter in their finger. The very process of being tattooed means that a single or series of needles will be puncturing your skin, albeit at a reasonably fast speed, and not going too deep beneath the skin. So yep, you're certainly going to feel something, that's for sure. The position on your body where the tattoo will be placed will have a direct bearing on the amount of discomfort that you will feel. Basically, the more flesh that you have in an area, the less it will smart. Upper arms and buttocks are less uncomfortable than say, shins, the spine and armpits. Many people say that the outline is the most uncomfortable part of a tattoo and the shading is the easiest and speaking

*With the Internet age firmly upon us, loads of tattooists have websites showcasing their finest work. This is another great way of seeing artists' work before having to travel great distances, so get surfing.*



LUCA ORTIS @ NEW WAVE TATTOOS, LONDON



LUCA ORTIS @ NEW WAVE TATTOOS, LONDON



MICHAEL KOZLENKO @ KIPOD TATTOO ISRAEL

You may be tempted to have a drink to steady your nerves. Don't. It could make the process more uncomfortable and could possibly make you bleed a bit more than normal, as alcohol thins the blood.

from experience, I find this to be the case. Whatever you do when sitting in the tattooist's chair, don't fidget and move about; it's harder for your tattooist to hit a moving target!

Some studios now offer a 'Numbing' service. This will consist of the tattooist applying the numbing cream and giving the cream time to work before the tattoo is started. Talking



KNUCKLE @ ENERGY TATTOO, JAPAN



CHRISTIAN PEREZ @ PRIVATE EYE STUDIO, USA



NICK WHYBROW @ BLOOD BROTHERS, LONDON



to folk who have opted for this option, they say that it helps quite a lot for the outline of the tattoo, making it an altogether more pleasant experience. If a session gets that little bit 'too much' there are solutions that tattooists can apply to the skin as they are working. Super Juice and Vasocaine operate by constricting blood vessels close to the skin's surface and can be applied as required during the session, although it's best to read up about these products before giving them a road test so you know what to expect. Mac from Punctured Body Piercing supplies both of these formulas and you can read more about them in Mac's blogs on his MySpace and contact him through there. [www.myspace.com/puncturedbodypiercing](http://www.myspace.com/puncturedbodypiercing).

You may also want to consider what type of clothing to wear when going for your appointment. If you are having your upper arm tattooed, wear a vest. Ladies, if you are having the top of your thigh tattooed, you might want to think about wearing a skirt unless you want to be sitting there in your knickers for the duration! It is common sense really. And there's a very good chance that you will get some ink or blood on your clothes, so don't wear your favourite Gucci number.

You may be tempted to have a drink

Many people say that the outline is the most uncomfortable part of a tattoo and the shading is the easiest and speaking from experience, I find this to be the case.

SASHA @ ORCA SUN TATTOO, CROATIA



JOHN MONTGOMERY @ THE GRAND TATTOO LODGE - USA



to steady your nerves. Don't. It could make the process more uncomfortable and could possibly make you bleed a bit more than normal, as alcohol thins the blood. Also, if you are any form of medication, let the tattooist know. Again, medicines such as aspirin, warfarin and other anti-blood clotting substances might make you bleed more. If in doubt, just tell the tattooist about any medication that you are taking.

It is worth having something to eat at least two hours prior to your appointment to keep your blood sugar levels up during your tattoo.

As I mentioned earlier, you will feel some sort of discomfort and if at any point you start to feel faint or sick, let the tattooist know and he/she will stop and give you some time to recover your composure. They won't be too chuffed if you decide to empty your breakfast over them. I find that if the pain gets intense, I relax by breathing in through my nose and out through my mouth, which always works for me.



DIEGO @ MVL, LEEDS



CHRISTIAN PEREZ @ PRIVATE EYE STUDIO, USA

Whatever you do when sitting in the tattooist's chair, don't fidget and move about; it's harder for your tattooist to hit a moving target!

### What happens once the ink is in?

After your tattooist has applied your design, they will wash off the excess ink with a spray and depending on the artist some will cover your new ink with cling film, others will use a paper towel and tape in over the new tattoo. You will be given aftercare instructions from the tattooist, which will list a healing procedure. This list will give you valuable advice for the care of your ink, so Follow it to the letter. The tattooist didn't give it to

you just for fun; the information is good, sound advice based on years of experience. The more you look after your new ink over the healing process, the better and brighter your tattoo will look.

What ever you do, don't scratch it! Your new ink will form a light scab after a few days and can itch like a bugger. If you scratch or pick at the scabs you will be pulling the fresh ink out of your skin and your tattoo will end up looking faded and blotchy.

Don't go swimming or soak your new design until it is fully healed, so if you are thinking of getting some ↻

ink to show off on the beach on your hols – think again! It's worth waiting until you get back to have the work done.

We all take different times to heal but as a rule of thumb it will heal in about a week to ten days after which you will experience a form of light skin peeling (a bit like sunburn) after this has gone your tattoo's colour will come through and be bright and vibrant as the day it was applied. Now you can show it off.

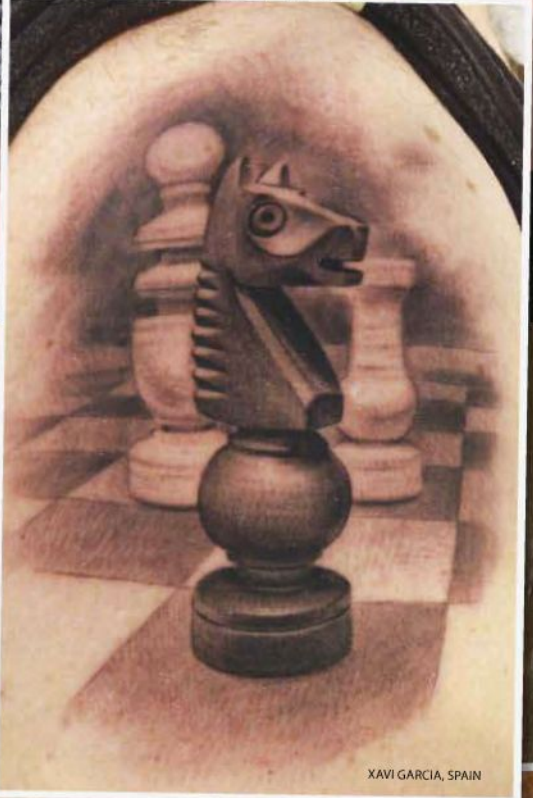
Once it is healed you will need to look after your 'killer tatt' with a moisturiser and if you go out in the sun, use a high factor sun block. The sun and indeed, sunbeds can really kill your artwork and make it look old before its time!

Hopefully we have covered most of the frequently asked questions in the above text that will guide you to getting the best ink by the best tattooist that you will be happy with for the rest of your life – enjoy!

When it comes to aftercare, there are many schools of thought. Next is a small list and brief descriptions of some of the more popular lotions and potions to aid the healing of your tattoo.



XTRAS:STEPHANE CHAUDESAIGUES,PARIS



XAVI GARCIA, SPAIN

Once it is healed you will need to look after your 'killer tatt' with a moisturiser and if you go out in the sun, use a high factor sun block



TONY CIAVARRO @ STINKY MONKEY, USA



MARK FORD, EVIL FROM THE NEEDLE

# Aftercare

## The aftercare company

Jim and Shirley have been manufacturing Tattoo Aftercare for nearly six years now. Tattoo Aftercare is 100% natural, being a mix of beeswax, olive oil, Calendula oil and vitamins that allow the skin to breathe freely. THC can be applied immediately after tattooing which instantly starts to soothe the skin and can help to reduce the swelling that you might encounter after the tattooing process. I have used this on several occasions and find the new ink healed very quickly with little or no itching. It also has many other uses including the treatment of eczema and other skin complaints. This is the only aftercare product approved by the Humane Cosmetics Standard. It's available from many tattoo studios or direct from the manufacturers, and The Aftercare Company have produced a very informative aftercare brochure giving guidelines to the aftercare of your new ink and what's more, it's free! You can download this from Jim and Shirley's updated website. [www.tattooaftercare.co.uk](http://www.tattooaftercare.co.uk) 01244 315486

## After inked goo aftercare

From the USA comes After Inked, and it contains no parabens or petroleum, is suitable for vegans, and is enriched with the natural antioxidant grape seed oil. It is claimed that the product heals tattoos in record time and reduces trans-epidermal water loss whilst preserving the skin's natural moisture. After Inked retails in 50ml containers for £14.95 in the UK and is available from [www.body4real.co.uk](http://www.body4real.co.uk).

## Medical body art easy tattoo/piercing aftercare

Medical Body Art are a French Company specialising in aftercare products for the Tattoo and body piercing industry.

They have just released a complete aftercare kit aimed at folk who have just had a tattoo or piercing. In the very stylish kit, you'll find Easy Piercing mouthwash for those who have just had say, a tongue

piercing. The wash is anti-bacterial, anti-fungal and decongestant properties to care for any piercing you may have in your mouth. The formula means that you can use it frequently without upsetting your mouth's delicate balance.

As well as the mouth-wash, Medical Body Art have included some physical saline solution for rinsing fresh piercings as well an anti-bacterial solution, which will help to fight off any secondary infections for up to two weeks after the piercing.

Not forgetting the tattoo side of things, in the aftercare kit there is a bottle of Easytattoo, a mild cleansing gel to keep your new tattoo clean. The Gel is hypoallergenic, bactericidal, fragrance-free and has a neutral PH, so should be fine for all skin types helping your new ink to heal. It also has moisturisers included to help the colours in the tattoo stay bright and vibrant. The gel has a shelf life of 29 months after opening.

Also included in the kit is Easytattoo repair cream, specially designed for tattoos. Again as with most of their products, it's hypoallergenic, moisturizing and rich in vitamin A, B, C and D. Easy Tattoo repair cream enables tissue to reform quickly.

It's non-sticky and won't stain your clothing. This year MBA are proud to announce some new products: A larger Easytattoo cream in 100ml size and a mild cleansing gel and a new repair cream.

All these products come in a very stylish, environmentally friendly paper carrier bag and it's the first complete kit on the market to care for your new piercing or tattoo.

Medical Body Art can supply all the products to studios separately or as full kits. [www.medicalbodyart.com](http://www.medicalbodyart.com) UK distributors are the Wildcat Collection Limited [www.wildcat.co.uk](http://www.wildcat.co.uk) and the Belly Bar: [easypiercing@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:easypiercing@yahoo.co.uk)

## Palmer's cocoa butter formula with vitamin e

This is an advanced moisturiser that softens, smoothes and relieves dry skin so is pretty good at revitalising older tattoos. It also tones skin and apparently helps to remove stretch marks. I have applied this to a ten year-old tattoo and over a period of time and it has brought some of the

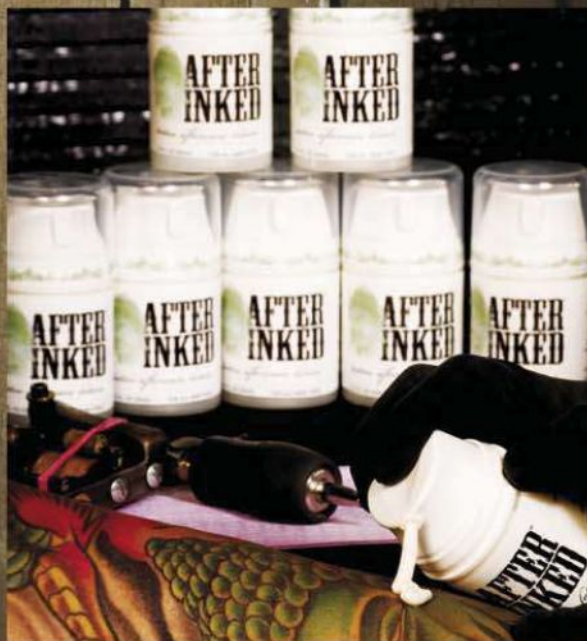


KARI @ MEMENTO TATTOO, NORWAY

## The Aftercare Company



Committed to Quality





faded colour back to the tattoo. It is very good for healing fresh tattoos, and it also smells of cocoa – which is nice.

Available from: FUEL, 3 The Cloisters, 8 Battersea Park Road, London. SW8 4BG Tel: 020 7498 82 11 Email: [info@fuelrefuel.com](mailto:info@fuelrefuel.com)

## Bepanthen

Not strictly a tattoo emollient, Bepanthen is marketed as a nappy rash cream and a cure for chapped nipples. I don't know who came up with the idea to use this cream on fresh ink, but boy, does it work well. Apply this sparingly to your freshly worked tattoo and Bepanthen keeps the scabbing to an absolute minimum, which allows your skin to hold more of the ink. It also stops the annoying itching sensation some people get whilst their tattoo is healing. It also heals fresh ink extremely quickly. Available from branches of Boots, Tesco's and other large supermarkets.

## Tattoo Goo

Aftercare for your new tattoo has been a subject of debate in the tattoo community for many years. Tattoo artists have had to recommend a variety of products available from your local chemist. These products were intended to prevent cuts, burns, scrapes and abrasions from becoming infected and not for the healing of

new tattoos. The majority of these products contain petroleum or lanolin which, when applied to a new tattoo, can clog skin pores and actually retard your body's healing process. There is also the possibility of allergic reactions to these products, and, application to a new tattoo can cause skin reactions leading to loss of ink and permanent damage to your tattoo. Tattoo Goo was developed to provide the best available aftercare for your new tattoo.

A unique formula designed exclusively for the treatment of new tattoos. Eight different herbs, oils, and vitamins known for their natural healing properties allows the skin to breath and helps to "soothe" the tattoo as it heals. Tattoo Goo has been used on thousands of new tattoos with positive results and faster healing times.

Tattoo Goo has a broad range of products with over 12 different product lines and formulations from first application for a new tattoo through to SPF30 protection for a healed tattoo.

Tattoo Goo's all natural formula uses the highest-grade oils, emollients and herbal ingredients, while others have changed or use different oils to reduce costs. Keeping our standards high provides our customers with the finest product available for healing and body art aftercare. You can also use Tattoo Goo for everyday skincare. A great way to help soothe the skin from sunburn windburn, minor cuts and scrapes.

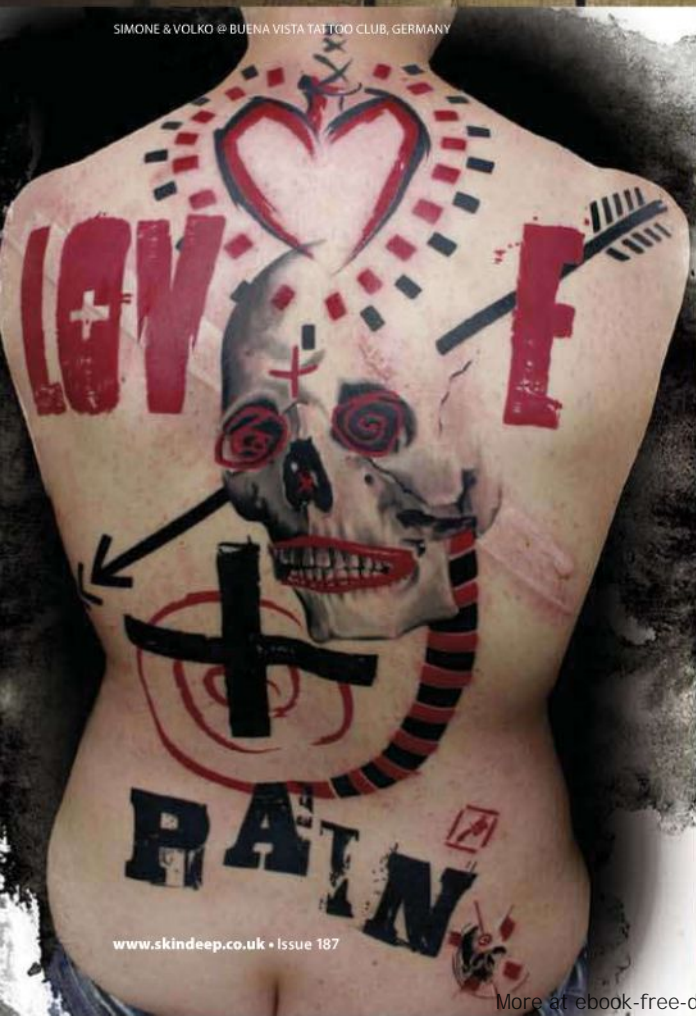
## Tattoo Goo Ointment

When it comes to aftercare there is no better product than the original Tattoo Goo® Salve until now. Introducing new Tattoo Goo® Ointment. This is exactly the same formulation that is in the salve, only softer for those a little squeamish of applying a slightly thicker formula. The tube applicator is the same as found on all popular ointments so there is no cross contamination of the product should you choose to share it with a friend. For further information on these products go to:

[www.tattoo goo.co.uk](http://www.tattoo goo.co.uk) ★



SIMONE & VOLKO @ BUENA VISTA TATTOO CLUB, GERMANY



JAMES ROBINSON @ NINE TATTOO, BRIGHTON



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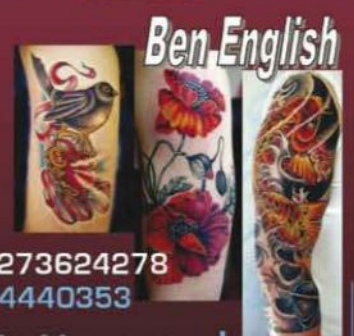
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# Aiyla-Beau

**Dark Arts model Aiyla** is a regular on the modelling website and as such, works extensively within the alternative fashion industry.

**H**aving spent her formative years covered in paint, inspired to take up a paintbrush by her creative parents; Aiyla decided to go that one step further than paint and has adorned her body with ink in the form of some stunning tattoo work. Like many people who go under the needle for the first time, it wasn't too long before she got the hankering for more ink to satisfy her need to express herself and as such, she has found her current artist; Ben Boston from The Bristol Tattoo Studio. Ben has done the majority of Aiyla's work with, I'm sure you'll agree, great effect.




My childhood was very artistic with both of my parents being artists, so I was always encouraged to draw and could often be sat in the kitchen covered in paint. We also came from a circus background, so from a very early age I was in amongst people with tattoos and piercings; and I was taught to express my individuality and myself. It was also a very musical childhood, so a very expressionistic and performance related time in my life.

The thing that first attracted me to tattoos was the idea of using your skin as another canvas. I have always been interested in ways of expressing myself, and tattooing seemed like the perfect option. I also like the permanence of tattoos, the feeling of changing yourself forever is quite empowering. The first work I got was actually very small and simple, it was a small flower design placed on the base of my spine. (Which was a highly popular tattoo spot at the time) This design started of my love affair with tattooing.

As it was my first tattoo I chose something purely aesthetic and decorative, kind of playing it safe, which didn't last very long...

My tattoos have progressed quite substantially since I first started, my next were also quite safe I think, a butterfly on my stomach/hip and some stars on my hand, these though had a greater significance however, as they were a representation of a program I loved as a child, Rainbow Bright, so these stars being in view all the time remind me of a time when I never took things seriously - an attempt to remind myself that life is too short. After a while I started thinking of bigger things, and started to join my existing tattoos to create bigger pieces, this is where the tattoos you see today come from. The first parts of my main ➔

A woman with long black hair and bangs is shown in profile, facing right. She has extensive tattoos on her back and legs, including a large cherry blossom tree design on her back and a colorful koi fish design on her leg. She is wearing black and red striped high-heeled shoes. To her right is a white, headless mannequin of a female figure, which she is holding with her hands. The background is a solid, vibrant red color.

My favourite image of the Japanese culture is the Cherry Blossom tree, so this was an obvious choice for the main part of my back; the artist who finally inked me is Ben Boston of the Tattoo Studio

**WWW.DARK  
ARTS.ORG.UK**

This is the first of a series of profiles featuring the models from the alternative models agency, Dark Arts. Creator Asha Tank, herself a model, started the company to help promote models whose looks maybe a little too extreme for the mainstream agencies.



information about the type of work I do, and she set me up a profile. It operates by allowing people and potential clients to browse through the profiles and then contact Asha through the site, to eventually work with someone they have seen. The site itself is fantastic for finding all sorts of alternative models, male and female alike, also photographers, stylists and artists. They have an impressive client list, and work really hard for their models. It was Asha who set up the shoot with Ashley Savage for us to do this feature.

I have done my fair amount of modelling since I started, and have worked with some fantastic people doing all sorts, from fashion and merchandise work to catwalk shows, but my main work comes from the alternative glamour scene; I have so much fun modelling and creating new images, again its a form of expression and creation for me.

As far as the work I get offered is concerned, my tattoos have stopped me from doing the more mainstream modelling as the "girl next-door" look is more palatable across the board, where none to minimal tattoos seem more appropriate. However that's just not me, so most of my work comes from the alternative scene, which is just as big, and obviously my tattoos enhance the amount of work I am given greatly, but I think alternative modelling can be a touch harder to get into, that's what makes websites like Dark Arts so good, they act as a doorway into the scene.

Other than my work and my tattoos, I enjoy socialising, I'm still very creative, I used to spend most of my time going out and partying, but recently I've become a bit of a home bird... I've even started baking!

My plans for the future are to continue modelling as long as I can, eventually looking to use my other talents and possibly going into design and visual merchandising, as long as I'm happy and healthy then that's fine with me. ★

As far as the work I get offered is concerned, my tattoos have inhibited me from doing the more mainstream modelling, as the "girl next-door" look is more palatable across the board.

tattoo - my leg, was done in Cardiff by a guy called Neil who had done my original tattoos and wanted more of a challenge, so I agreed to attain guinea pig status, and we started to create a Japanese inspired leg piece with a koi and lilies. I then moved to my current residence - Bristol, and after a while, I got the urge for more ink, I did have a certain amount of re-working done on my leg, just a little tweaking, and went about designing my back piece from the same inspiration, Japan.

My favourite image of the Japanese culture is the Cherry Blossom tree, so this was an obvious choice for the main part of my back, the artist who finally inked me is Ben Boston of the Tattoo Studio on Cheltenham Road in

Bristol, I really liked the work he had done on re-working my leg and decided to go with him; and he did a fantastic job working with me to create exactly what I wanted. Over the years we have developed a very good relationship with both of us understanding each other's ideas and creativity.

My plans now are for a chest piece of lovebirds and a poem on my ribs, this one is very special to me and will hold a lot of meaning about my life at the moment once finished.

The Dark Arts website is an agency for UK based alternative models. I was initially contacted by the creator of the site; Asha, online and sent her some images and



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# OLD LONDON ROAD TATTOOS

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EDGAR & BOB WILL BE WORKING TATTOO JAM AND NOT KATAN AS PREVIOUSLY STATED

**At first, Kingston looks like any other town on the edge of London; A short drive, direct train taking you into a world of red brick offices, retail zombies and coffee shops. However, once you've walked past the famous domino effect 'toppled red phone boxes' and hit London Road things get a bit more rock 'n' roll. There's the well known 'The Fighting Cocks' pub which hosts many live shows from touring bands and next to it is 'Old London Road' Tattoo studio.**

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KATAN

**I**s it any coincidence that a rock bar and a tattoo studio are next door to each other? The answer is "yes and no". Avid tattoo collector Jamie O'Grady owns both. He moved to Kingston from sunny Oz in 1989. Deciding he wanted to run a business where he didn't have to put on a suit everyday, he later bought 'The Fighting Cocks' and it has slowly built up a reputation for putting on solid punk and rock acts. Then in 2007 he was in a position to realise his dream of owning a tattoo studio. Being a tattoo collector himself he knew the right location and 'feel' of the place was almost as important to the customer as the quality of artist. In August 2007 the 'Tardis-like' premises next door came up and Old London Road Tattoos was born.

Over the last two years, the studio has

steadily grown in reputation as their artists have been getting more and more attention at conventions. Having been around tattooing for most of his life Jamie had a clear idea of how he wanted to studio environment to be. Avoiding the overdone Faux-American parlour look, the décor in the reception area makes more than a nod towards a classic look. Jamie explains why he went for this; "It was important to try to create an informal atmosphere for clients, so that a person from any walk of life can come in and not feel uncomfortable or unwelcome". Old London Road currently has three tattooists working there full-time and a piercer who also performs scarification work. "It was also important that we get in the right artists. At the moment we have a really great mix of personalities and styles. They all work together and it makes a fantastic environment to be in."



**TATTOOING IS MY DRIVING PASSION AND I APPROACH EVERYDAY AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE TO TATTOO CLIENTS AND AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE THE WAY I WORK, WHAT I DRAW AND SEEK TO CONTINUALLY BETTER MYSELF.** *Katan*

This is a good point to let you get to know a bit about the resident artists at Old London Road...

**FIRST, PLEASE INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO OUR READERS.**

Hi, my name is Katan Blakie and I moved from Australia to London about a year and a half ago.

**CAN YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE OF TATTOOING AND INTEREST IN THE ART?**

Sure, I do custom work and design every tattoo that I do. I tattoo a variety of styles but have a couple of favourites. I especially enjoy bringing a unique perspective to Japanese and traditional old school tattoos. I think the thing that really attracted me to tattooing was the permanence of the art form; especially the precision and focus needed to do apply one. Coming from the deathrock, Goth and punk scene in Australia and having spent most of my teenage years drawing or sketching, I ended up becoming obsessed with working towards becoming a tattooist. I kept drawing and saving up for bits of equipment, learning whatever I could to prepare me for an apprenticeship in the future.

**WHERE DID YOU APPRENTICE?**

I starting learning at Tattoo Addiction, but began my apprenticeship at Fox Body Art (Melbourne). After several years I felt I wanted to expand me horizons, both personally and artistically, so I packed my bags and set off to London. Later this year I'm doing a guest spot back at Fox (Body Art) and catching up with the old crew... But first I have a twenty-nine hour flight to endure!

**PLENTY OF TIME TO ENTERTAIN YOURSELF WITH THEN?**

Ha. Well, I do find travel inspiring. I was drawn to London as I find medieval and renaissance cities really inspiring. And am incorporating the things I have seen into my artwork. The religious iconography of both periods continues to fascinate me. Saying that, I am just as happy to be at home painting, down the pub having a pint or combing through local antique stores buying bizarre nick-knacks that take my interest.

**IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU NEVER REALLY 'SWITCH OFF' FROM TATTOOING.**

Not really. Tattooing is my driving passion



and I approach everyday as an opportunity to continue to tattoo clients and as an opportunity to examine the way I work, what I draw and seek to continually better myself. I find myself taking photos on my travels of things that I think I can use for inspiration and incorporate into my artwork. My family had some reservations when I started on my journey to become a tattooist, but in the end they saw that I was doing something I really loved.

As someone changed the CD on the stereo to a classic hardcore punk album conversation drifted off into discussions of favourite bands and fellow resident tattooist Ed joined in. ➡

Edgar Ivanov joined Old London Road in 2009 having previously worked in his home country of Latvia. Like a lot of tattooists he started out at home and spent many hours honing his skills before working on people and eventually coming to the UK.

## HOW DID YOU GET STARTED TATTOOING, IT MUST NOT HAVE BEEN THAT EASY TO GET AN APPRENTICESHIP IN LATVIA.

You are right; In 2004 I started out with a rotary-based machine that I got from a friend, tattooing only on pigskins. At the time there was nowhere in my country that someone could tattoo, let alone get an apprenticeship! I ended up searching the Internet and getting technique tips, as well as information of cleanliness and the importance of working

with sterile equipment; then trying them for myself. Eventually I was able to get hold of sterile needles and after some extensive practise moved on to working on my friends. Through hard work and some luck I have been able to leave Latvia and work here in the UK in such a good studio. I guess this reflects in my work ethic. When working on a design, if my customer and I are both happy with what we are doing, then it's working out well.

## IN A COUNTRY WITH SUCH A TRADITIONALLY CONSERVATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS TATTOOING, IT CLEARLY WASN'T SOMETHING YOU GOT INTO VIA TV SHOWS OR MAINSTREAM ADVERTISING. HOW DID THE WORLD OF TATTOOING SEDUCE YOU?

Back home most people associate tattoos with criminality or with the army, so anyone with

heavy coverage was considered fairly badass and got a certain amount of wary respect. When I was a kid I saw my dad's tattoo, which he got when he was in the army. For years, I'd drawn on my arms every day with pens and as soon as I was old enough to get a real tattoo I did. Like everyone else I soon got a second, and a third... Quickly I came to realise that you could get artistic tattoos and not just scary ones! Soon I was dreaming about all the different possibilities and just kept drawing designs. Eventually I got to the point where my Dad let me do a cover-up on his army tattoo too.

## WHAT TATTOOS / MODS DO YOU HAVE?

I've a biomechanical plate and screws in my shoulder; I didn't really have a choice about that one, after an unlucky day out on my bike! I've got lots of random ink on myself, including my Mum and Dad's names on my head. Currently my friend, and awesome tattooist from Latvia, Kurts Jansons is working on my chest piece.

## HAS THIS EVERY GOT YOU INTO TROUBLE AT HOME?

One time in a bar, I was cornered by an old man who wanted to keep discussing his tattoos with me. Being so close to Russia there were similar associations with tattoos, and he had his done while behind bars in the 90's, but didn't realise that you could get them done in legal shops these days! My dad was always supportive of my tattoos; his only reservation was that he thought I would run out of space too soon!

## YOU MENTIONED CONVENTIONS EARLY WHEN WE WERE SHOOTING, WHAT IS INSPIRING YOU AT THE MOMENT?

I really enjoyed Tattoo Jam last year, the seminars were cool and it was really good to get to listen to so many respected artists discussing the craft. I'm also pretty excited about seeing how Victor Portugal and Pavel Angel keep progressing - every new piece is even better than the last one! I really love seeing new custom work and watching things get crazier and crazier. I'm also working on a flash book and looking to exhibit some of my airbrush work.

## I REALLY ENJOYED TATTOO JAM LAST YEAR, THE SEMINARS WERE COOL AND IT WAS REALLY GOOD TO GET TO LISTEN TO SO MANY RESPECTED ARTISTS DISCUSSING THE CRAFT. EDGAR



KATAN



EDGAR





EDGAR



BOB



BOB



KATAN

Everyone at Old London road is approachable and you feel at home with all of the crew quite quickly. Bob is no exception to this. He often likes to play the fool, especially during the photo-shoot we had, but is somewhat a dark horse with a more depth than you might at first expect.

**YOU CLAIM TO BE A BIT OF A GEEK, WHERE DID IT START AND HOW DOES IT TIE IN WITH TATTOOING?**

I am a geek! I like to understand how things work, from a tattoo machine to the universe and beyond. Ha ha. I'm into quantum physics, books, documentaries etc. I would like to have more time to get even more into it. I plan to dedicate my new tattoos to the subject.

**SO IF YOUR HOUSE WAS ON FIRE THE FIRST THING YOU'D SAVE IS YOUR LAPTOP?**

Um... can I have two? Then I could save my kid and my laptop without choosing between either (he says with a wink).

**CAN YOU TELL US A LITTLE MORE ABOUT YOURSELF?**

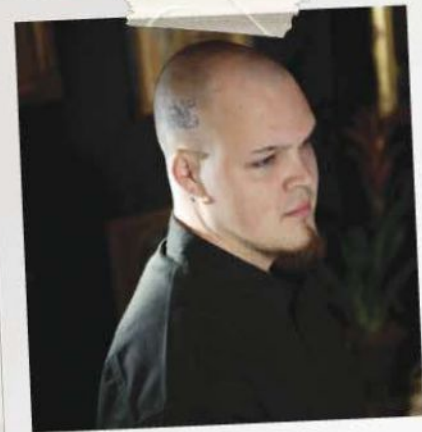
Sure, my full name is Aurélien Sureau, but people

call me Bob, since it's apparently easier to say. I am 28 and was born in Angers, a city in the Loire valley, France. It's a traditional city where parents would often drag their kids to the other side of the road when seeing someone with lots of tattoos. Fortunately my parents have a different attitude; Recently Katan did the tattoos on my hands to represent my parents. I got a nurse with a funnel on its head; as my Mum is a psychiatric nurse, and a banner on the other one saying "no God, no master" as my Dad is a die hard Anarchist. My Dad loves it, but my Mum hates tattoos, so I kind of failed.

I used to have piercings, but my son liked hanging on them a bit too much so took them off. It hurts! As for my other tattoos I got a few really cool ones from Katan and Inma. Also my friend, Matt from Natural Tattoo, back in France, did some good work for me. The rest is pretty much leftover from self-training - meaning crap tattoos!

**APART FROM TATTOOING ON YOURSELF, HOW DID YOU PROGRESS?**

I learnt a lot on myself, and never did a formal apprenticeship. I kinda regret that, as I



Edgar Ivanov

would have saved myself time if I started out properly. As with many tattooists, I started drawing at an early age and went to art school to get formal training. I learnt to tattoo in France before coming to England where I spent four years in different studios in London before settling at Old London Road and making it my home. ☺

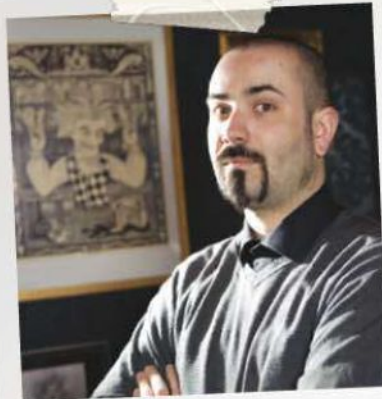
KATAN



EDGAR



**I LEARNT A LOT ON MYSELF, AND NEVER DID A FORMAL APPRENTICESHIP. I KINDA' REGRET THAT, AS I WOULD HAVE SAVED MYSELF TIME IF I STARTED OUT PROPERLY.** BOB



Aurelien 'Bob' Suresu

I'd like to thank the people at Old London Road, my girlfriend Emilie and my son for being a part of my life. The last shop I worked in wasn't the best experience and being around these positive people has helped me keep focused on my tattooing and enjoying the art.

**SPEAKING OF ENJOYMENT, WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVOURITE TATTOO EXPERIENCE? IF YOU CAN NAME ONE.**

I can't really pick just one, I love my octopus neck tattoo and I would really like to get tattooed by Shige, Horinaka, Horitoshi and some of the other Oriental tattoo masters. Maybe one day...

**DURING THE INTERVIEW THERE HAS BEEN QUITE A VARIETY OF MUSIC ON THE STEREO, WHAT SORT OF MUSIC INSPIRES YOU THE MOST?**

Bands like Devin Townsend are probably my

favorite, but I can listen to Louis Armstrong to Cannibal Corpse in a split second.

**SOME PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED TO HEAR YOU LIKE SUCH A RANGE OF STUFF.**

I can be loud and all over the place sometimes, but it's mainly when I'm uncomfortable. So people can think of me as a loud 'mofo' and I'm actually quite shy in real life.

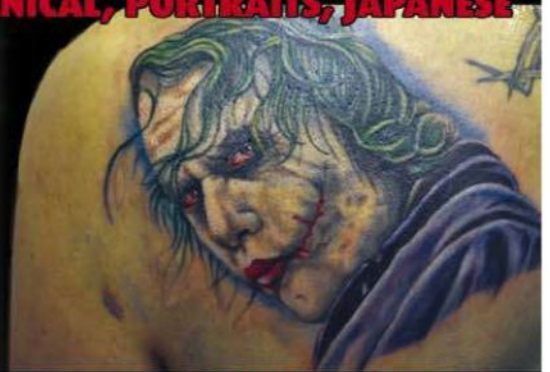
After a fun filled afternoon it felt a shame to leave Bob and the others to return to working in their warm and relaxing studio. The studio has been organised so that space is reserved for guest artists to work there too. They have requested that any artists that would like to spend sometime in Kingston, who has distinctive and diverse styles and would be interested in doing a guest spot, to get in touch with them via email or the website. ★



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TEXT & PHOTOGRAPHY: AL OVERDRIVE

# GIEDRIUS

## ANGIS TATTOO STUDIO, LITHUANIA

Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, is a beautiful city with inspiring architecture and a rich history. It also happens to be the home of Angis Tattoos & Piercing.

**A**lthough many people in the West perceive the country as very conservative; this perception is in many ways false. Master Giedrius opened his first shop over a decade ago and has, in fact, worked on several continents before returning to Vilnius and opening his current studio. In this studio he works with an apprentice and with Kriste, who is the resident piercer.

**HAVING TRAVELLED EXTENSIVELY AND WORKED IN PLACES SUCH AS LAO AND SHIAULIAI AS WELL AS AT NUMEROUS INTERNATIONAL TATTOO CONVENTIONS, YOU MUST HAVE SEEN A LOT OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF COLLECTOR. WITH**

### TATTOOING STILL BEING RELATIVELY NEW TO THE GENERAL LITHUANIAN PUBLIC, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE GENERAL ATTITUDE OF (POTENTIAL) COLLECTORS OVER HERE?

I have been tattooing for over 14 years now, and I am seeing more people gradually getting into tattooing. The biggest difference I see here compared to people abroad is that here people are looking for more guidance from the tattooist. Abroad people seem to have much more specific ideas about what kind of work they want to receive. In some ways tattooing the population here is more fun, with very little mention of tattoos on television, people are very open to new ideas. Most people only expect to see tattoos like those on their pop idols... When people come into my shop



Angis Tattoo Studio Literatu str. 4, Vilnius  
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and talk to me, they see there is a lot more to tattoos as a form of self-expression. I have also been on MTV Lithuania, which is a new channel here, and been able to talk about tattoos so more people are becoming aware of the different styles involved

I think, because it is new here, the tattoo industry is not very commercial yet. This is lucky for me as most of my clients are very concerned about making sure they get tattoos with meaning to them; there is not so much of a fashion influence here yet.

**YOU SOUND LIKE YOU HAVE SOME DEFINITE IDEAS ABOUT THE FUTURE FOR 'TATTOOED LITHUANIA'.**

Yes, continuing on from how people are seeking tattoos with meaning, I think they will

become more fashionable soon. Everything from the West is now coming over here and the youth are taking to it so fast! It is good because I am able to speak to these people and show them the different types of things we can do. I think as time goes on people will seek

**I THINK THEY WILL BECOME MORE FASHIONABLE SOON. EVERYTHING FROM THE WEST IS NOW COMING OVER HERE AND THE YOUTH ARE TAKING TO IT SO FAST!**





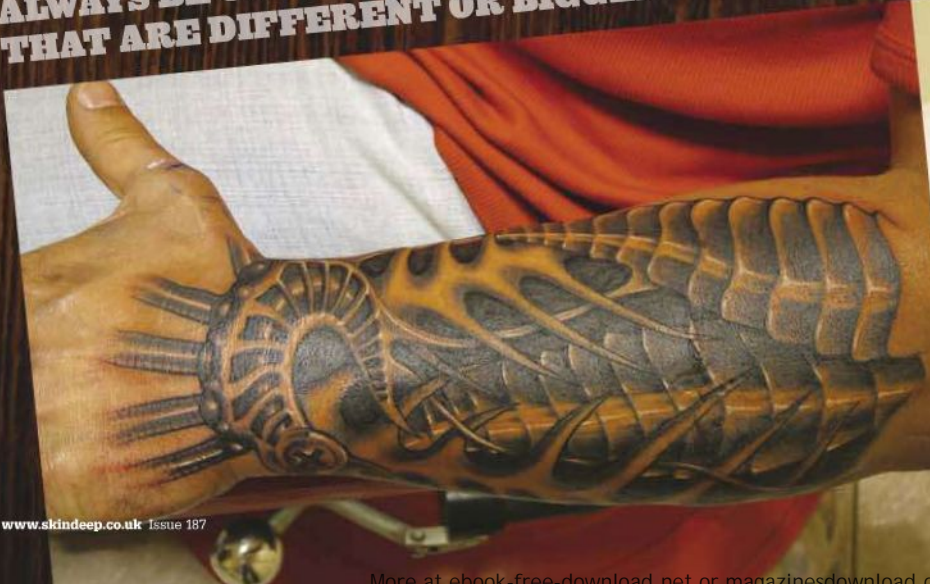
to get more tattoos and look for pieces with a deeper meaning to them. When people come to see me I like to speak with them, sometimes for over an hour, and feel their energy. People often come back to me, having thought about their tattoo and want something bigger and more personal than their original idea. This way, everyone wins; I am able to get more pleasure from creating the tattoo and they get a much nicer piece of work. So everyone wins! People here are used to tattoos signifying jail time or being a gangster, but slowly they are starting to see it more as art on a human canvas. When I first started out I had to explain to people that tattoos are not just for criminals.

**HOW DID YOU APPROACH THIS?**

I had to think about the local history and go from there. I ended up working on a movie about tattoos and the meaning of the old jail tattoos, then moving on to how tattooing means something more positive now. I spent a lot of time reading and concluded that your tattoos can program your behaviour to an extent, as well as how people respond to you. Because of this I work hard to put good energy into a tattoo, it doesn't matter if I am tattooing a devil or a symbol, I make sure it is done in a positive manner that adds to that person.



**AS A TATTOOIST, MY WORKING MIND IS FOCUSED ON SUCH A SMALL AREA RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME, THAT I THINK I NEED TO ALWAYS BE ON THE LOOK OUT FOR THINGS THAT ARE DIFFERENT OR BIGGER**





This studio is one of the most relaxed places to be in Old Vilnius and people can come in and relax while freely expressing their vision for a tattoo. A lot of people want small pieces as they are worried about how their wife or friends might respond. Often they come to realise that they don't need to feel ashamed about wanting to express themselves and show some of their personality on the surface. I find these people come back happier with a better version of themselves.

to show them what can be done and then let them decide. I care a lot about making sure the customer understands what they want and need from a tattoo.

**WHERE DO YOU SEEK YOUR INSPIRATION?**

Mostly from travels. When I go somewhere new I see fresh faces and places I have yet to explore. I enjoy travelling to the conventions for these reasons. I have recently worked conventions in Paris, Berlin and Holland. At conventions I get to see new styles too and often speak to other artists. I am equally happy seeking ideas from movies or art galleries.

lot about positive expression as well as working with strong and bold designs. After 14 years I have travelled full circle and I am taking the time to learn more about the history of this art form by travelling further afield.

As a tattooist, my working mind is focussed on such a small area right in front of me, that I think I need to always be on the look out for things that are different or bigger; Simply to contrast with working on human skin. I am able to express myself differently and grow by working on movies and poetry. I find working on a movie such a huge task that it is very inspiring; I have to look for locations, people acting and a good story. I like to take what I get from this freedom and put it back into my tattooing. ★

**DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE STYLE AT THE MOMENT?**

I really like black work and surrealist tattoos at the moment. I'm also inspired to see how I can mix the Japanese style with other styles to create something new. I don't like to stay in one place for too long so I like to go away for a few months to work somewhere new, then I can come back with new ideas and inspirations. It is also a good excuse to escape the cold winter here.

**DO YOU FIND MUCH INSPIRATION FROM LIVING IN LITHUANIA ALSO?**

Yes, I attended art school here and learnt a

I am also seeing a change; more people are asking for more aggressive, or angry work at the moment.

**WE TOUCHED ON PRISON TATTOOS EARLIER. IN THE WEST WE ARE SEEING AN EMERGING TREND FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE WANTING TATTOOS OF TRADITIONAL 'TOUGH GUY' ICONS, EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE QUIET PEOPLE. IS ANYTHING LIKE THAT HAPPENING OVER HERE?**

Sometimes younger guys will come in and want something that looks like an old prison tattoo. With these people I will often take the time to show them the reality of these tattoos and find out why they want them. I see what they respond to in the books and often you find that they are looking for something that is a protest or has a manifesto behind it. I like



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# NEWPORT<sup>x</sup> TATTOO CONVENTION

Many moons have passed since my past sojourns to Wales' southern reaches; once for a rugby tour, and once to compete as part of a choir in the Eisteddfod (Wales' national arts celebration)...but I don't want to linger on that.

I arrived bleary-eyed on the Sunday morning and was immediately greeted by Pam and Shaun, both warmly welcoming me to the show that they have built over the past five years. Neil's enthused about Newport a great deal in past issues of Skin Deep and I was keen to discover the magic for myself.

Hosted in the Newport Centre, the convention encompassed the venue's entire main room and was packed with an array of tattooists and vendors, ranging from artists based just down the road to the furthest reaches of the African continent. The balcony above the main area gave visitors an overview of the entire room and a more subdued spot away from the bustle of the floor, including a trade area for tattooists to salivate over new machines and books for the reference library. It's something of a testament to Newport's reputation that

artists from foreign climes make the journey over here for this bank holiday weekend, and they weren't alone: queues snaked around the side of the building long before the doors opened as people queued in the burgeoning May sunshine, eager to gain entry.

I took time out to survey the place after assembling my studio gadgetry and made mental notes of the faces smiling back at me. Brim christened his Nu Rose banner as it received its first convention airing; Terry Fuller was back in full force and as chipper as he's ever been; Jones and Hatton (the Chrises, or Crises, delete as appropriate) grafted and giggled under the banner of Physical Graffiti; Fil and Toni represented Broad Street Studio; Pert made the trip over from Ireland...a full house in terms of gregarious and talented artists. The initial couple of hours also provide an ample browsing period to see what's occurring and establishing which pieces I hope to



LAUREN BY SIMON ASHELY @ NEEDLE ASYLUM, CARDIFF



LISA BY LEE CLEMENTS @ CHAMELEON TATTOO STUDIO, BARRY



LUCY BY CHRIS GOVIER @ BODY ART TATTOOS, SWANSEA



PAUL BY PODGE @ PODGES TATTOOS, PONTYPRIDD

photograph upon their completion.

Judging took place behind closed doors, which caught me off guard to an extent and I took to accosting entrants in the corridor as they left the judging room. I'm pretty sure I'd get into a lot of trouble for that kind of thing if I didn't have some accreditation about my person, but it was undoubtedly the best means of snapping the most outstanding tattoos to appear at the show. I love to see a healthy range of subject matter and I wasn't disappointed: portraits, pin-ups, realism and traditional were all strongly represented.

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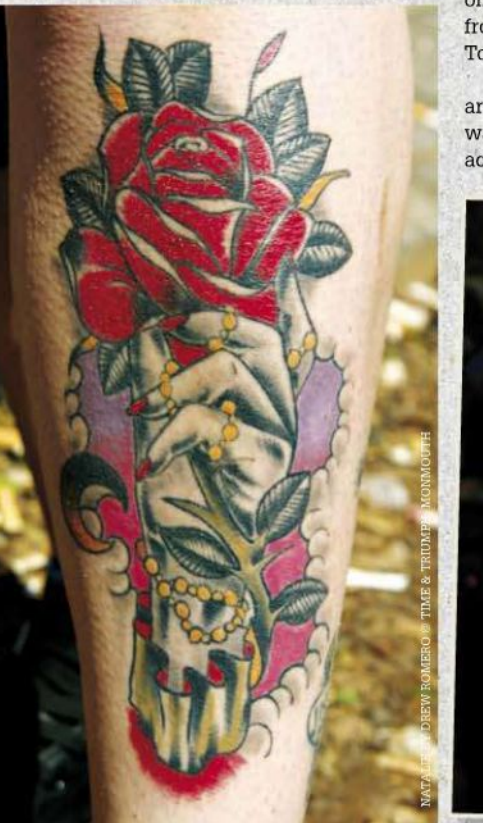
Entertainment took shape in the form of a series of live bands that let rip sonic booms from the main stage, and I won't lie to you: I'm not a huge fan of this arrangement. The thunderous cacophony emanating from the heavier music on offer has to be distracting

if you're an artist working on a particularly intricate piece, but it obviously had no adverse affect on the tattoos produced over the two days. One thing that did rock my socks was the range in music: no exclusive rockabilly or doom metal bands for a change! I bounced around to the ska covers band that appeared on the Sunday as they jammed out numbers from The Beat, The Specials, and many other 2 Tone classics.

As the Monday instalment of the show arrived, more people lined up to make their way into the Newport Centre for a slice of the action. It's not the busiest show in the world ➡



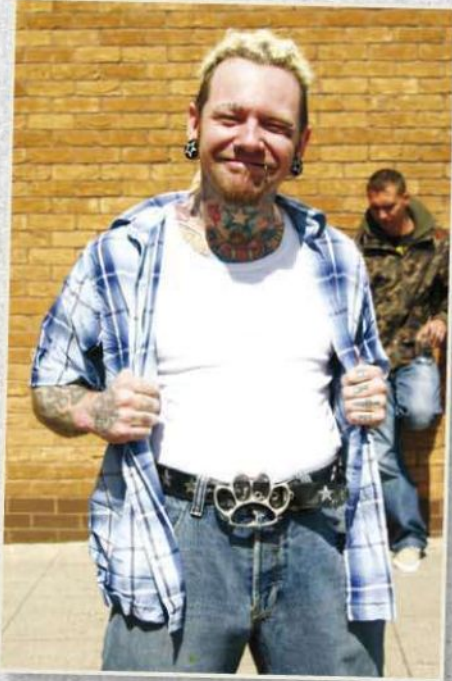
SAM BY PATRICK HUETTLINGER @ TATTOO MAGNON, SWITZERLAND



NATALIE BY BREW ROMERO @ TIME & TRUMPET, MONMOUTH







and frankly, it's nice to attend a convention that's a touch more laissez-faire. The ambience is probably best described as homely and warm, with most of the working artists appearing to know each other and the staff all eager to assist in any way that they could. The sun warmed the bones of those sipping caffeine-based sustenance and enjoying a crafty snout in the car park, and I got chatting to a few people about their experience thus far. Everyone I encountered loves the Newport show and they return year after year for the craic and the informal atmosphere that permeates the convention hall.

Wrapping up the studio and preparing for a two hundred mile drive jacked up on Rockstar, I had my usual moment of reflection on the

weekend's events. It's been a while since I attended a smaller show (which is in no way meant to be a derogatory term) and I'd almost forgotten their charm. Whilst I love the bustle and frenetic activity of enormous convention halls, to spend a leisurely couple of days talking to artists and convention goers was a great pleasure and I revelled in the opportunity to garner new information – mmm... tattoo knowledge... (cue Homer Simpson eye glaze).

All in all, Newport is a cracking weekend spent and I thank Shaun, Pam and all of the convention staff for their hospitality. The longer I spent there, the more enamoured I became with the Newport convention's charm. So much so, in fact, that Neil may have to wrestle the car keys from my hand next year... ★

Newport is a cracking weekend spent and I thank Shaun, Pam and all of the convention staff for their hospitality. The longer I spent there, the more enamoured I became with the Newport convention's charm.



ANDY BY CHRIS HATTON @ PHYSICAL GRAFFITI, GARDEF



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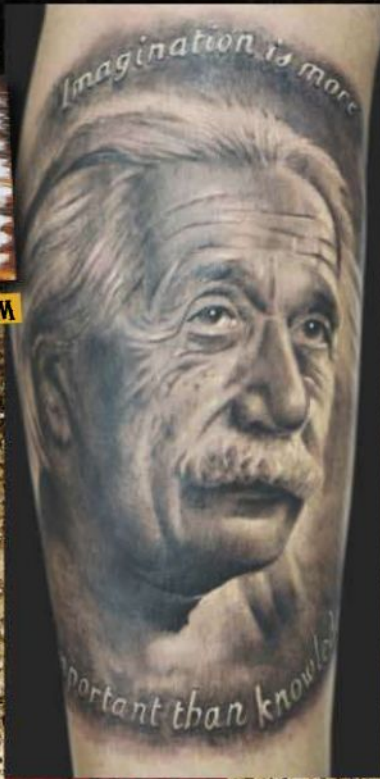
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**NOVEMBER 13TH - 14TH**

**BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL TATTOO CONVENTION**  
Tour & Taxis Brussels, Havenlaan 86c  
1000 Brussels, Belgium  
[www.brusselstattooconvention.be](http://www.brusselstattooconvention.be)

## PERSONAL ADVERTS

Hey I'm Jess, I am a tattoo artist in Kent. 18. and I'm looking for a guy with piercings and tattoos who can make me laugh. Appearance doesn't matter, personality is key. Text: 0779468988 (187)

28 Y/o Lightly tattooed (getting more) 6'4" white male seeking female pen pal. 24-35 (multi tattoos and piercings). Willing to relocate in future. Write to: Greg Arndt 379068, PO Box 900, Sturtavent, WI, 53177, USA (187)

Male from South East Herts. 25, seeks females 20-40 for fun and frolics! Maybe possible meet up for no strings. PM your pics and details. 07542252017 Must be 100% genuine. (1867)

Anthony Jones, AKA Craby, doing time at the moment out next year. Age 26 looking for tattooed males for pen pals and hopefully more. Write to: Jones AR3162 HMP Parc, Heol Hopcyn John, Bridgend, Wales. CF35 6AP (186)

Male, 28. Open-minded, caring, loyal & honest. Shy to start with, happy go lucky, looking for honest, long-term relationship with woman, aged 25-40, Transgender women welcome. No time wasters, liars or cheats please. Text Adski on; 07908969249 (186)

20 year old student in Bristol, a few medium sized pieces myself. Feel tattoo scene would be nice place to meet like-minded girl, not into rock, but love music, txt. 0774651877 (186)

Male, 39. single into Metal, punk, Goth, horror gigs etc. WLTM Gothic punk female with same tastes and way of life. Wolverhampton, Walsall, Black country area only. Text me on: 07950145105 (1860)

Male tattooists into trance, hardcore & techno, seeks like-minded lady - 30-40 for fun and maybe more. Based in S.London. Txt me on: 07918190690 (186)

Male, 50, professional, N West, great SOH. Seeks females into body art for friendship, visits to conventions, maybe more. Age & looks unimportant, but assertive ladies preferred. Contact Chris 0176888723 (186)

25 Y/O male looking to meet a female. In the Newcastle area. I am inked, pierced and like a lot of art. I am very much into music, body mods and like to go to gigs and conventions. Looking to meet a female into the same things. Contact me on 07891052566 (185)

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)

27 year-old skinhead, currently at HMP. Into punk, heavy metal & motorbikes, looking for pierced, inked female for pen pal. Size doesn't matter. Simon Hambrook, PM8062-AKA Stan. HMP Parc, Heol Hopcyn John, Bridgend, Wales. CF35 6AP (186)

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)

## JOBS WANTED

Hi, my name is Jayne, I am looking for an opportunity to work in a Liverpool/Wirral tattoo studio. Doing odd jobs, cleaning, making tea etc for the experience to be in the tattoo environment. Willing to work for free. Contact: 07746931752 [www.myspace.com/jvztattoo](http://www.myspace.com/jvztattoo) (186)

23 year-old male in Dundee area of Scotland seeking an apprenticeship in a tattoo studio. Able to produce designs quickly with plenty of thought. Studied HNC and HND Illustration and drew comic book characters at DC Thomson after being chosen for a work placement. I like to work in a lot

of different styles, realistic, abstract, cartoon, stylised; many things inspire me. Very hard working with no drug or ego problems. Need to direct my creativity towards tattooing. Have a portfolio of work and personal sketchbook. Previously worked as a care assistant: relevant experience includes making sure the residents were comfortable, explaining what I was doing and why, treating them with the respect we all deserve, and keeping the rooms and lounge safe and tidy. If you would like to contact me, please call 07506679048. (186)

Hi my name is Felicia. I currently reside in Hampshire and I am looking for a tattoo apprenticeship/position preferably whilst also working as body piercer in the same tattoo studio. I have 4 years studio experience as a fully qualified body piercer and have been voluntarily been helping the tattooists by drawing up designs, setting up the stations before each tattoo. I have a portfolio of my piercings and drawings that I have done over the years. I have no drink/drug related problems and I have a good sense of humour but also have the serious side needed in order to give good advice and a professional service. I am very dedicated to this profession and I intend to work very hard in order to become a tattooist. If you are interested please contact me on: feliciablue27@yahoo.co.uk (186)

Hi, my name's Crystal, 20 year old female from Manchester, pierced and inked and totally in love with the whole body modification industry. I'm looking for a piercing apprenticeship/training in the Greater Manchester area but willing to travel if a good offer comes up. I'm keen to learn, very enthusiastic, reliable and hardworking and would be really appreciative of any help I can get which will give me a step in the right direction. Please contact me on 07528743271 or at chrystalchaos@hotmail.co.uk, thanks (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)

#### **JOBS OFFERED**

I'm a custom tattooist based in Buckinghamshire, with my own private studio, and I'm looking on sharing the space as there's plenty of room, and I really miss bouncing off other artists. You would need your own client base, as there's no passing trade. Very cheap rent rate to the right person. Although outside London, it's on the Met tube line, close to M25, airport etc, so in an ideal location. Any interest, please contact me at the studio. 01494 721295 (japanesetattooing.co.uk). Thanks, Hayley.

A well-established, busy studio in South East Essex is offering a full time position. We are looking for a female artist who is experienced, has a strong portfolio and works well in a team. No apprentices or scratchers! Please contact Serah on 01702 300067 (187)

Retro Rebels, Aberdeen is looking for an additional artist, must have portfolio and studio experience contact HYPERLINK "x-msg://61/michelle@retrorebels.co.uk"michelle@retrorebels.co.uk Also Retro Rebels requires a full time piercer to start end of June, must have studio experience and references.

Retro Rebels, Aberdeen is looking for an additional artist, must have portfolio and studio experience. Retro Rebels, Aberdeen also requires a full time body piercer to start end of June, must have studio experience and references contact HYPERLINK "x-msg://143/michelle@retrorebels.co.uk"michelle@retrorebels.co.uk, 01224 635793 (187)

Professional Tattooist required for popular Middleton Tattoo Studio. We are looking for a clean artist with a good attitude and an extremely strong portfolio to join our expanding team. Please contact us via HYPERLINK "mailto:info@tattoos.co.uk"info@tattoos.co.uk (186/7)

Copenhagen's coziest tattoo studio is looking for a new co-worker. Bright Side Tattoo seeking an experienced and skilled tattoo artist to work in a cozy and busy working environment. We are looking for someone who is ambitious and have shop experience. You have tattooed at least four years and you aspire to become better and you are willing to enter into a team that strives on to help and inspire each other in a pleasant working environment. We are a busy shop and you are guaranteed to build clientele fast. Starting from November 2010. There must be expected a trial period before permanent hiring. Has this caught your interest and would you like to apply for the job, please send an email or a letter with a little about yourself and examples of your work. Looking forward to hearing from you. Bright Side Tattoo in writing: Bright Side Tattoo, Overgaden Neden Vandet 15 kld, 1414 Copenhagen K Denmark. Label:

Application Email: brightsidetattoo@gmail.com (186)

Tattooist required for Vida Loca Tattoo Studio, in the Bolton area. Part-time or permanent position available. Must be able to do custom and flash-work. Must have a strong up to date portfolio and studio experience is preferable. Apprentices need not apply. Call Danny on 07515649654 (186)

Experienced tattoo artist required for the World Famous Fulham Tattoo Centre. Must be clean, English speaking and have a strong portfolio. We are a very customer friendly shop, so no attitude, drink or drugs. Please call Gary on: 07513566541 (186)

#### **FOR SALE**

ESTABLISHED BUSY TATTOO & BODY PIERCING STUDIO FOR SALE. Situated just outside of Coventry city centre in a busy shopping area, fully fitted / equipped modern and pleasant styled and furnished studio. Large Shop/reception area with reception desk, sofa. Large Flash collection, two jewellery display cabinets. Separate large treatment room with two workstations. Separate clean room, Toilet, drawing Area, Photo copier, 42" plasma screen fitted, Large amount of jewellery, Low rent for area. This is a busy popular studio only selling due to leaving the country, Priced for quick sale at £40,000 you can more than make that back in the first year, Possible Owner financing over a two year period, for details please email shaun.weir@hotmail.com or call 07787249343 (186)

Busy est Tattoo Business for sale in the Derbyshire area, due to relocation. Precinct location. Large 2 floor studio to house multiple artists and large waiting room. Further rooms above, suitable for extra studio or piercing room with separate large waiting room. Negotiable lease. Low rent at £375 per calendar month, property qualifies for small business rates relief. Enquiries by email only - lee1138@hotmail.co.uk (186)

Escape to the country! Free hold lockup premises with permanent P.P. Low business rates split level building, area approx 48 sq metres. Open plan reception, waiting and office/drawing areas upstairs, two Tattoo rooms & WC downstairs. Character building on main road in Cornish harbour village. Good rep, est nine years, scope to expand, Unique Opportunity. OIRO £149,950. Contact Neil on 07922144511 (186)

Busy Established Tattoo Business for sale in the Derbyshire area, due to relocation. Precinct location. Large 2 floor studio to house multiple artists and large waiting room. Further rooms above, suitable for extra studio or piercing room with separate large waiting room. Negotiable lease. Low rent at £375 per calendar month, property qualifies for small business rates relief. Enquiries by email only - lee1138@hotmail.co.uk (186)

Star Crossed tattoo in Hong Kong is currently for sale at a very reasonable price. Star Crossed is Hong Kong's leading custom studio, with a large and varied clientele. any interested parties can enquire to info@starcrossedtattoo.com with the subject of "studio sale" (184)

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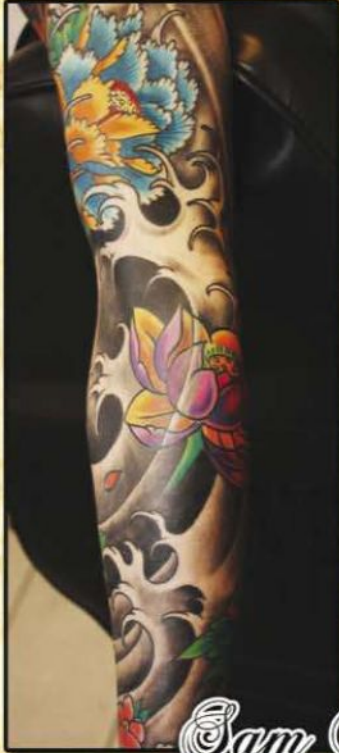


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