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**Tattoo Magazine**

# The UK's **WILD BOOP** Best Selling Tattoo Magazine

JULY '11  
ISSUE 199  
£3.95

**FREE INSIDE**

STUNNING ART & INTERVIEWS WITH

**Mario Barth**  
The King of Ink (Part II)

**Rachel McCarthy**  
Modern Body Art

**Rich Smith**  
Five Magics

**SKIN PIX** SUPPLEMENT



**SKIN PIX**  
From artists working at Tattoo Jam

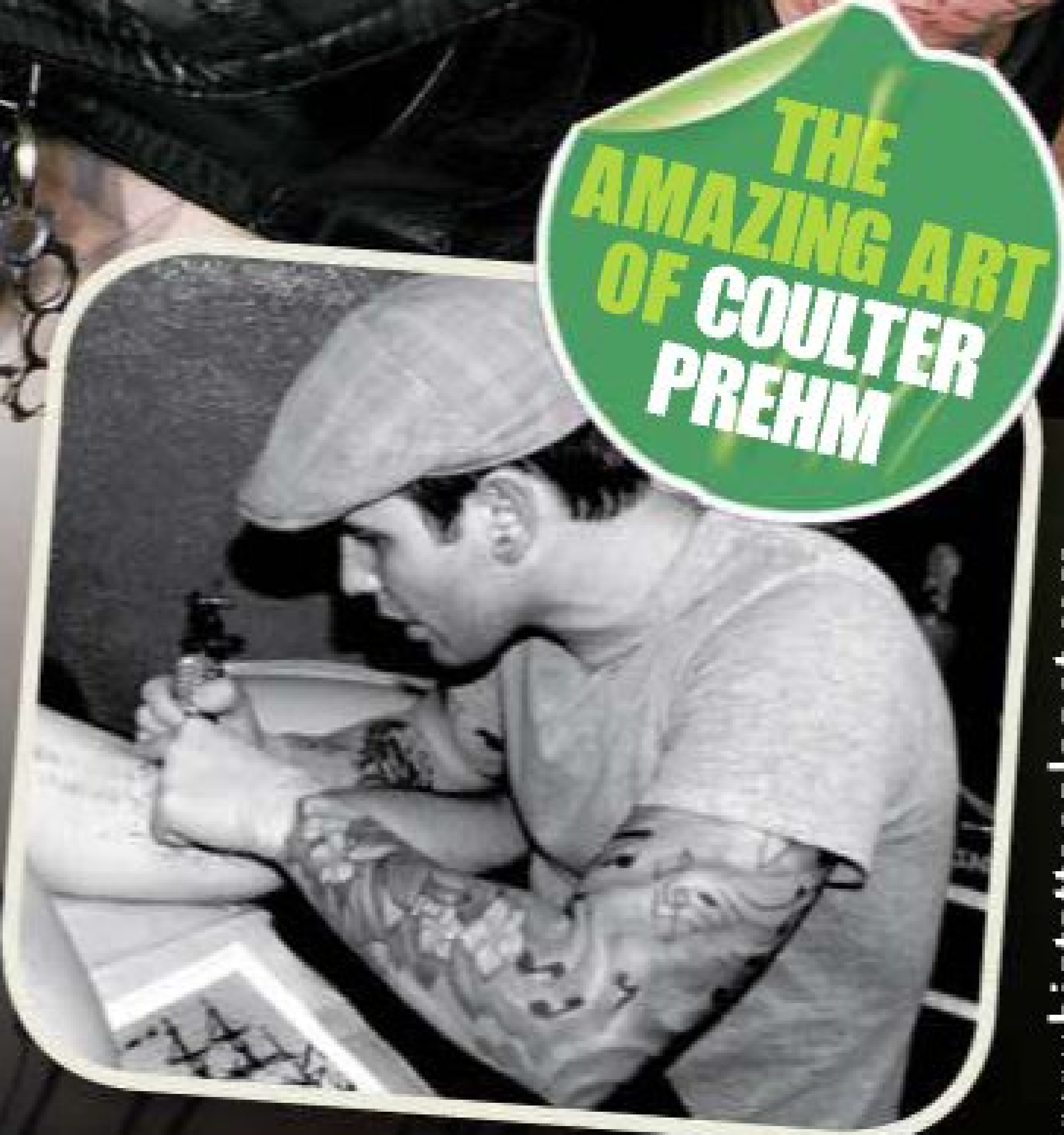
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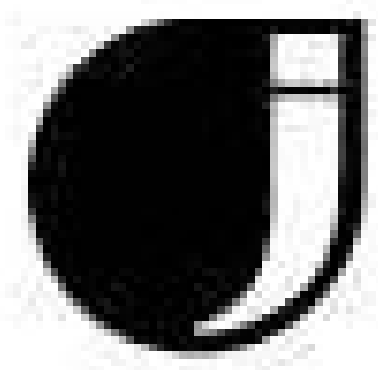
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**THE NEEDLE HAS LANDED**

EVERY DAY IS A WINDING ROAD

A new concept made itself known to me this week. Tattoo dating. As far as I can gather (I haven't delved into it that deep), it's an internet concept based on single people (or not) looking for other single people (again, or not) who have tattoos and are looking for lurve. Sad to say, I've always been quite derisive of internet dating but genre internet dating? I guess there really is something for everybody on the web these days.

Whatever happened to going out of the house? What happened to chatting with people at conventions - it's not like anybody with an interest in tattoos is short of places to hang out these days is it? I'm not entirely convinced that having a tattoo will make anybody a better prospect than they would be without one. It might be an ice-breaker for five minutes but if anybody was interested in my ink for more than those five minutes, I'd start to worry. A lot. This has now become the territory of rabbits and pots.

Still - mine is not to reason why, mine is just to point the finger and ask 'why?' The only place that this can lead to next is tattoo speed dating, where you base your future partner on the basis of a ten second look at their ink. Then again, I know people who have made more serious life choices based on far less than this...

We've come to an end of an era here at Skin Deep. This, being issue 199, means that just around the corner is issue 200 - and it's time to regenerate. From next issue, we'll look different in just about every way imaginable - and yet, we'll still be instantly recognisable on the shelf. We'll also be changing on the inside too, not drastically, but enough so that you'll notice it for sure - we've got some new writers coming on board so that we can add some extra dimensions to what we do, some new photographers waiting in the wings and most importantly, some new ideas.

A couple of months ago, one of my favourite magazines (SFX) got itself a redesign and I absolutely hated it. Two issues on from that, I've gotten used to the point that I can't actually remember what it used to

look like before. That always happens with magazine redesigns but I hope you like it. There's an awful lot of thought and hard work gone into it. What you should be satisfied about without question is a serious increase in pages for the same price.

Anyway, we can talk about that for weeks and weeks on end in the future - and I'm sure we will.

Finally - I'd like to throw something out at y'all. Pain. Blank people are always interested in how much getting tattooed hurts. Non-blank people are forever trying to fathom which part of the body is most painful to have worked - but I have a new thread for you. Last week, after far too many months of inactivity, I went back to my ju-jitsu club only to get injured yet again. Nobody's fault - just one of those things that comes with the territory. I was helping out being a fall guy for a new kid in the class and I was simply too heavy for him and he dropped all 14 stone of me square on my shoulder. Blew it right out. On my pain-o-meter, it ranks up there at the top. I would rather sit a seven hour session than go through that again. No tattoo has ever made me cry, but that did. Anyway, I say this to be illustrative and to throw the ball out there. Between us, let's compile a chart of "stuff that really hurts". Mail 'em in. You know where I am.

For now... be cool to each other.



JO HALL @ NIGHTSIDE TATTOO



**ISSUE 200 ON SALE**

Mr Sion Smith

**28TH JUNE 2011**

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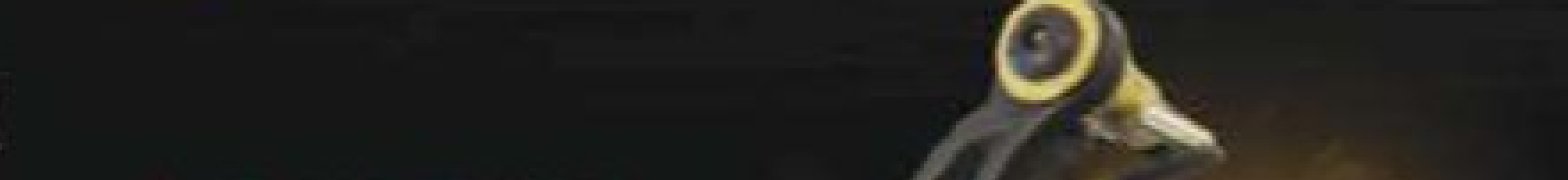
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**TONI MOOR**  
PHOTOGRAPHER  
**GEMMA BELL**

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- 10 ..... **SMALLMAN SYNDROME**
- 12 ..... **PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK**
- 79 ..... **REVIEWS**

## CONVENTIONS

This issue, we could be found being sexy in **SAN FRANCISCO (22)**, living it up at Cumbria's **NORTH LAKES SHOW (58)**, living it up some more on the South Coast in **PORTSMOUTH (59)** and wearing big coats in **HELSINKI (72)**.

## ARTIST PROFILE

28 ..... **TONI MOOR**  
It was our absolute pleasure this issue to spend some time with the rather special talent that is Toni Moor down in Bath at Broad Street Studios - or "up in Bath" - depends where you live I guess. Either way - "special" is the key word here...

## FEATURED ARTISTS THIS MONTH:

16 ..... **THE HOUSE OF FIVE MAGICS /RICH SMITH**  
With what must be one of the most intriguing studios on any street in the UK, 2011 is the year that Rich Smith begins to make the mark he's always wanted to... brace yourselves!

52 ..... **THE KING OF INK (PART II) /MARIO BARTH**  
Last issue, we opened the door on the genius that is Mario Barth - talk so much did he that we had to make room for the rest of it right here! Still - any excuse to publish more images of his work.

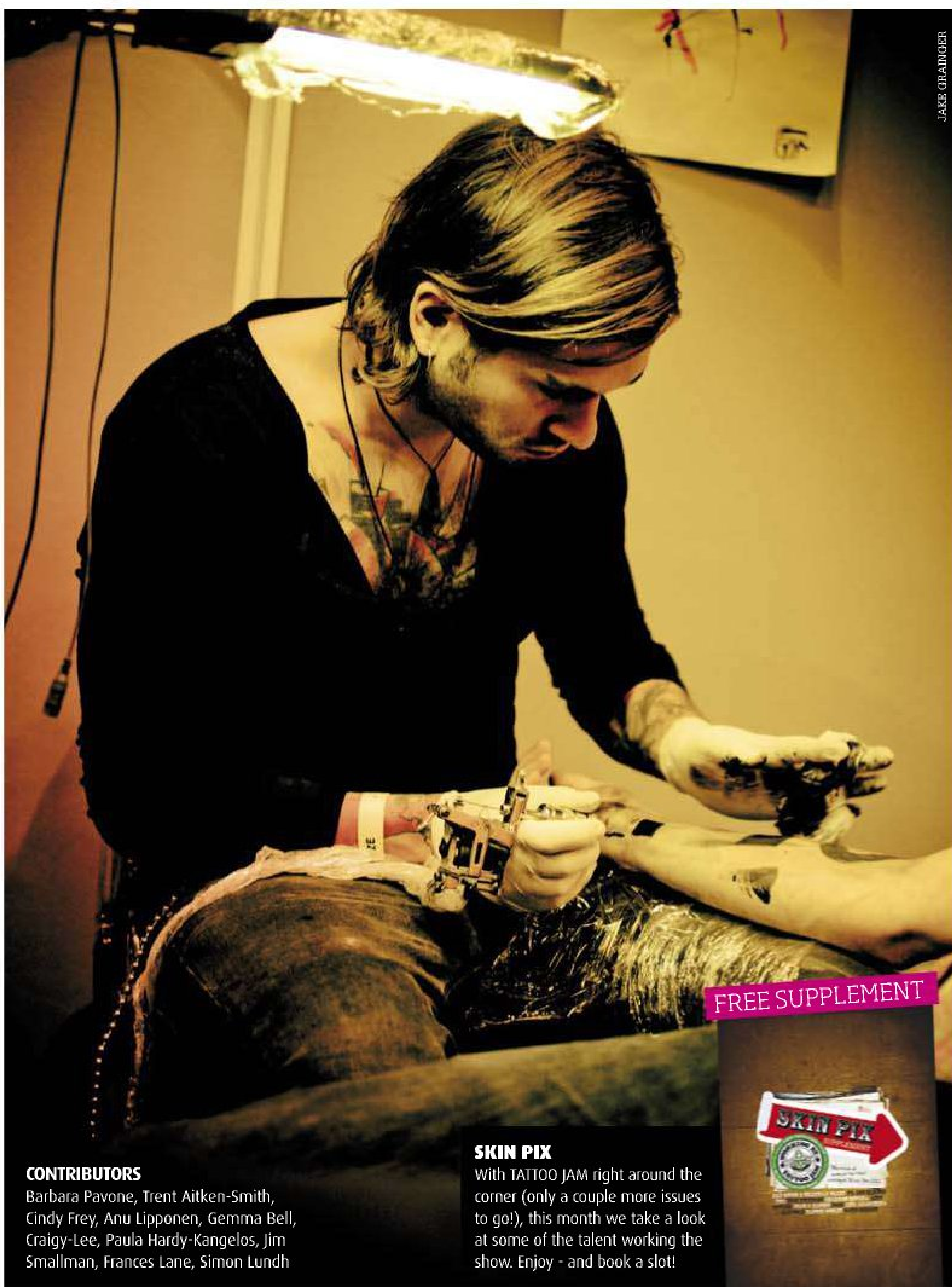
68 ..... **THE MODERN FACE OF TRADITIONAL/RACHEL MCCARTHY**  
Over at Modern Body Art, those guys really know how to pull stunning artists into the crew. Rachel McCarthy may be young but she's kicking some serious ass.

## SPECIAL FEATURES

60 ..... **THE BARREL OF A COLT /COLT PREHM**  
It took us about four seconds to decide we love this man, his art and all the things he stands for. His art speaks far louder than we could ever do...



72 HELSINKI



JAKE GRADIGER

FREE SUPPLEMENT



60 COLT PREHM

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Barbara Pavone, Trent Aitken-Smith, Cindy Frey, Anu Lipponen, Gemma Bell, Craigy-Lee, Paula Hardy-Kangelos, Jim Smallman, Frances Lane, Simon Lundh

## SKIN PIX

With TATTOO JAM right around the corner (only a couple more issues to go!), this month we take a look at some of the talent working the show. Enjoy - and book a slot!

# FALLOUT

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

## SKIN FOR A CANVAS

We get stacks of requests from bands wanting a mention in Skin Deep, but Skin For A Canvas (collectively Dani Burnett and Ian Mortimer) really caught our ear as being something a little different - and they come fully loaded with ink too (courtesy of Steve Hunter at Touch of Ink in Portsmouth and Rob White, Paul Russel & Mark Chaldecott of Urban Edge in Havant).

Jump onto [www.soundcloud.com/skin-for-a-canvas](http://www.soundcloud.com/skin-for-a-canvas) to check out some of their sounds. Their debut album - "The Soul Creates a Harmony" is available now. Let us know what you think.



# Rock ABYE BABY



## KIDS ROCK!

You know you're getting old when you think baby gear is cool, but you know that you're still in with a chance of being eternally hip when you're looking at things like this.

Over at [rockabye-baby.com](http://rockabye-baby.com), they have a fantastic range of tattoo inspired baby wear going on. Not content with doing a number on your kids, every item comes packaged in awesome vinyl record packaging. Check it out... we're loving it.

### MOVERS AND SHAKERS

After two years of waiting for a shop to become vacant in Beverley, East Yorkshire, Anth at K2 finally got his new studio open - K2 Bodyart Beverley. I'll let him speak for himself now: "three weeks on I got news that I had to go under some serious life saving major surgery and would be out of action for 3 to 4 months and thought that the new studio would have to be closed down. After speaking to Chris and Colleen at K2 Bodyart in Richmond and my beautiful wife Caroline, they volunteered to come to Beverley and pitch their caravan at a nearby park and run the studio until I return, how cool is that! I am incredibly grateful for this and how people would do this sort of thing, Thank you very much Chris Colleen and Caroline for saving my new studio."

...and on that very same subject, Anth at K2 would also like to point out that on the advert we ran for Ink For Heroes last issue, they inadvertently left "Gainsborough" on it and would like to point out that his studio - as already mentioned is actually in Beverley. That would be those mysterious Time Lords playing silly games with geography no doubt... it's all go in Beverley!



## HIGH NOON

One of the Ed's all time favourite artists - NOON - has recently announced some dates around Europe where you'll be able to find him if you're in the market for some cutting edge ink:

**JUNE from the 17th - 19th**

FRANCE CLISSON (near to NANTES) / HELLFEST

**JULY from the 4th - 24th.**

ENGLAND LONDON / FAMILY BUSINESS TATTOO PARLOR

**AUGUST from the 5th - 7th**

TATTOO JAM

**AUGUST from the 19th - 21st**

AUSTRIA GLEISDORF / STYRIAN TATTOO SHOW

**SEPTEMBER from the 5th - 18th**

NETHERLANDS AMSTERDAM / CLASSIC INK AND MODS

**SEPTEMBER from the 9th - 11th**

NETHERLAND ASSEN / Assen tattoo convention

**DECEMBER**

BERLIN Exact dates to be confirmed....

**JANUARY from the 5th t the 25th**

ENGLAND LONDON/FAMILY BUSINESS TATTOO PARLOUR

If you're looking to hook up for a private session though, you're going to be looking at October onwards - get in touch direct here: [www.boucherie-traditionnelle.com](http://www.boucherie-traditionnelle.com)  
[noon.bt@free.fr](mailto:noon.bt@free.fr) 33 (0) 621.010.470



## RANDOM READER WEDDING PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH



Sometimes, our readers mail us photographs for no reason at all, so we've decided to start using them up. In the very best Harry Hill tradition - (you can sing your own jingle) - if you've got a good one, you know where we are! This one here is from Natalie Gillham. Beautiful! We especially like the ink on the bridesmaid on the right which is a classic reproduction of the Friends episode where Phoebe got one of the earth as seen from space...

## ADVANCED PIERCING TECHNIQUES SEMINAR FROM SEAN DOWDELL

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TATTOOJAM.COM  
CLUBTATTOO.COM



## CALLING ALL PIERCERS CLUB TATTOO JOIN THE JAM

Sean Dowdell of the world renowned Club Tattoo in Las Vegas (yeah - that Club Tattoo co-owned by Chester of Linkin Park) will be hosting a free advanced piercing techniques seminar at Tattoo Jam this year. Yep - free!

Registered piercers and studios looking to raise their game would be dumb to miss out on this potentially once in a lifetime opportunity. All you need to do is register up front with Sean by mailing him at sean.clubtattoo@gmail.com - if you have any questions, he's the man with the plan. The event will be sponsored by Metal Mafia and H2Ocean.

Our advice would be to register your interest (even if you are working/attending Tattoo Jam) as soon as you can - places will be taken up on a first come first served basis.

## 800+ BODIES NEEDED. NOW!

On the 16th/17th July, Jason Ling of Broken Heart Tattoo, Petersfield, Hampshire will be attempting to break the world record for most tattoos done by one artist in 24 hours.

The event starts at 11am on Saturday 16th July and runs through to 11am Sunday 17th July - not content with their record break attempt, Broken Heart are also doing this for the HELP FOR HEROES charity.

They have several sponsors on board to help cover the cost including a well known energy drink company. You do not have to register to take part in the event, you can just turn up but everybody will be required to give a small donation to the charity - which is fair enough!

The current record is 801 and Jason would love to beat this and bring the title to the UK - which means he's going to need a huge volume of bodies. The tattoo will be based on the Help For Heroes logo so is quite unique. So there's only one thing left to do - gather the troops and get down their on mass!

Broken Heart Tattoo, 2a Chapel Street, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU32 3DP - or give them a call on 01730 233475

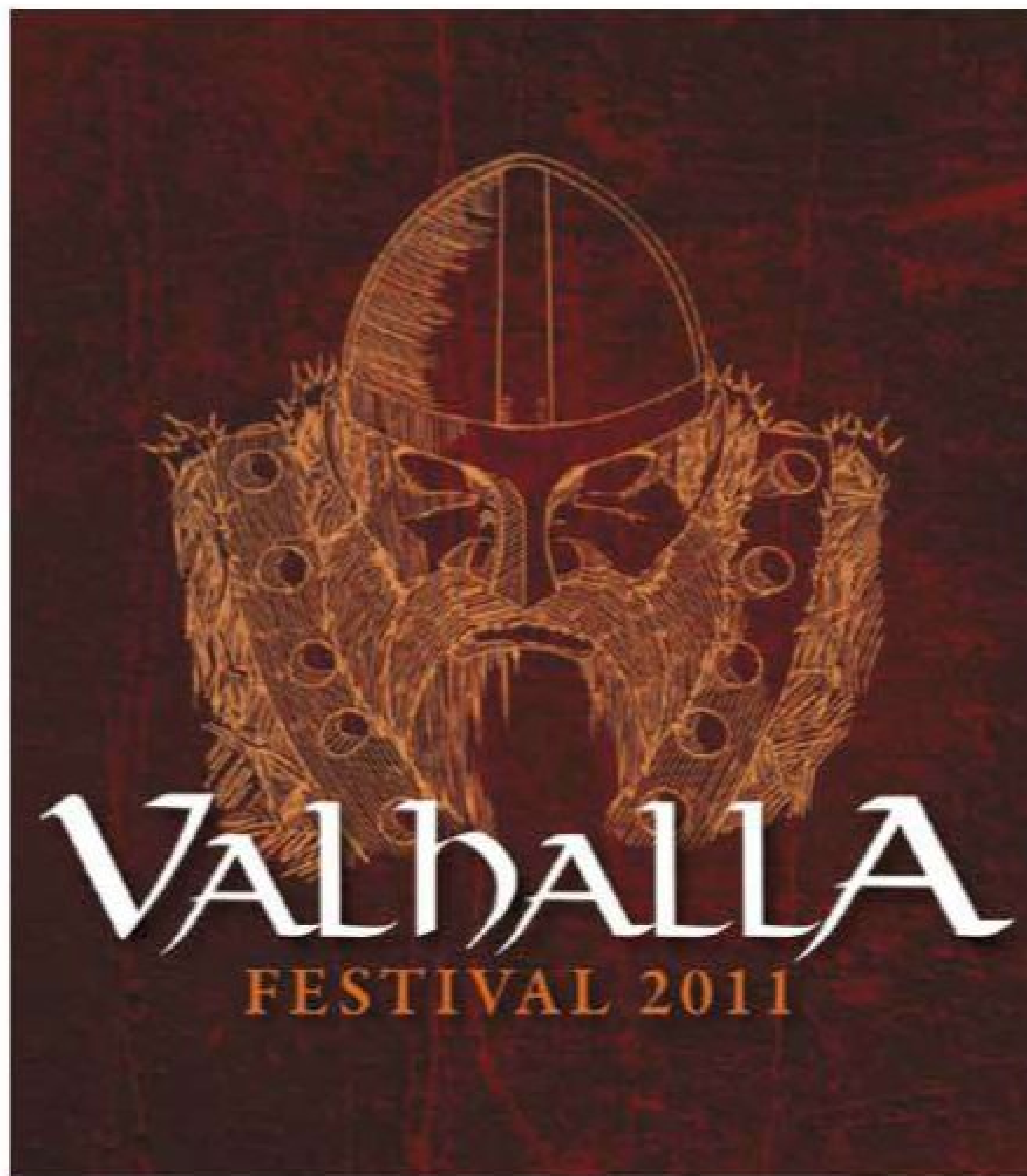
### MOVERS AND SHAKERS

**Primitive Origins**, Hammersmith celebrate their lucky 13th year in the business this month and the return of Wayne Grace to the studio. Good times ahead! We are now open Mondays too. A massive thanks to all our loyal friends for their support.

In last issue's supplement (198), on page 37, we made a spelling mistake - Inka should be spelt with a 'k' - we just thought we would point that out so as there's no confusion between Inka which is in Brighton and Inca Tattoos in Pembrokeshire, Wales. Sorry guys!

## RIP CHRIS:

Chris Ackland, who had been training and working with Chris Williams at Chris' Tat Shack in Axminster Devon, was sadly taken from us in a fatal motorcycle accident on April 6th. He will be sorely missed by all at the studio. Peace brother.



## HERE COME THE VIKINGS!

**July's Valhalla Festival in Essex to give prizes for best tattoos**

Tattoo enthusiasts from across the UK are being invited to show off their ink and compete for awards at the national Valhalla Festival of Muscle and Power in Essex on 23-24 July. The contest, at Layer Marney Tower, just outside Colchester, will see the finalists showing their tats on stage, and trying to win in four categories: best back piece, male and female, and best other piece, male and female.

The competition will be judged by Skin Deep (that's us!), with winners in each category getting a trophy and being featured. Organiser Scott Horton, owner of the world famous Hercules Gym, says, "We want to see the best tattoos from the whole of the UK. There is a lot of great stuff out there, if you've got art on your body, we want to see it. We'll also have the Braintree Tattoo Studio there on the day doing special Thor's hammer tattoos in aid of the charities we're supporting."

The Valhalla Festival aims to be a fun, family weekend, celebrating warriors past and present and raising money for the British Limbless Ex Service Men's Association (BLESMA).

Attractions will include Vikings, Warriors, Fighters, arm wrestling, power lifting, and public interaction strength challenges, spear, knife and axe-throwing, falconry and archery - plus live music, a bar, hog and ox roasts. The festival will feature the 2011 England's Strongest Man contest and the inaugural England's Junior Strongman Competition. A high profile range of the UK's top athletes will be in attendance too.

Please go to [www.valhallafestival.co.uk](http://www.valhallafestival.co.uk) for more information and to register. Bring it on!

## CONVENTIONS

All details correct at time of going to press.

**MAY 28 - 29**

### **BOURNEMOUTH INK 2011**

Bournemouth International Centre,  
Exeter Road, Bournemouth,  
Dorset, England  
[www.bournemouthtattooconvention.com](http://www.bournemouthtattooconvention.com)  
[ester@bournemouthink.com](mailto:ester@bournemouthink.com)

**MAY 29 - 30**

### **GILLINGHAM TATTOO CONVENTION**

King Charles Hotel, Gillingham,  
Kent, England  
Tel: Paul Lashley on 07762 402809  
or 01634 254647. Darren Stares on  
02392 851661

**JUNE 3 - 5**

### **TRADITIONAL TATTOO & WORLD CULTURE FESTIVAL**

Marlogue Inn, Cobh, County Cork,  
Republic of Ireland  
[www.originalskin.ie/festival](http://www.originalskin.ie/festival)

**JUNE 11 - 12**

### **TATTOOFEST 2011**

Chemobudowa, Krakow, Poland  
[www.tattoofest.pl](http://www.tattoofest.pl)  
[tattoofest@gmail.com](mailto:tattoofest@gmail.com)  
Tel. + 48 12 433 38 90

**JUNE 12**

### **READING TATTOO SHOW**

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[www.readingtattooshow.co.uk](http://www.readingtattooshow.co.uk)  
[readingtattooshow@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:readingtattooshow@hotmail.co.uk)  
t: 0118 959 0700

**JUNE 18 - 19**

### **INK FOR HEROES**

Catterick Leisure centre, Gough Road,  
Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire  
[www.inkforheroes.co.uk](http://www.inkforheroes.co.uk)  
[inkforheroes@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:inkforheroes@hotmail.co.uk)  
07796 936 355

**JUNE 18 - 19**

### **12TH ANNUAL PORTSMOUTH CONVENTION**

Portsmouth Guildhall  
[www.portsmouthtattooconvention.com](http://www.portsmouthtattooconvention.com)

**JUNE 18 - 19**

### **MK TATTOO CONVENTION**

MK Dons Football Stadium, Milton  
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[info@mktattooconvention.co.uk](mailto:info@mktattooconvention.co.uk)  
[www.mktattooconvention.co.uk](http://www.mktattooconvention.co.uk)

**JUNE 24 - 26**

### **TATTOOLAPALOOZA**

Hyatt Regency, Miami, Florida, USA  
[www.tattoolapalooza.com](http://www.tattoolapalooza.com)

**JULY 16 - 17**

### **STATE OF THE ART TATTOO**

Body Art & Music Festival  
The Assembly Rooms, Derby, England  
[www.tattoo-2001.com](http://www.tattoo-2001.com)

**JULY 1 - 3**

### **1ST BERGEN TATTOO EXPO**

Scandic Bergen City Hotel, Bergen,  
Norway  
[www.bergentattooexpo.no](http://www.bergentattooexpo.no)  
[marcello@bergeninksenter.no](mailto:marcello@bergeninksenter.no)

**AUGUST 5-7**

### **TATTOO JAM**

Doncaster Racecourse  
[www.tattoojam.com](http://www.tattoojam.com)

# THE EDGE OF DESTRUCTION



When it comes to computer games, I am a bit of a fence sitter. I definitely don't queue outside Game at midnight, to get the latest release of Call of Duty and neither do I know every cheat code for Princess of Zelda, but, I have to admit, that every now and then a game comes along that I get hopelessly addicted to - Super Mario Galaxy was the last one. A few years back, the kids got a Wii for Christmas and I spent the next two days, glued to the console, with my children taking shifts feeding me and getting me refreshments. This obsession went on until a) I had clocked the first round of Super Mario (when I got to the end of the game I realised you had to redo the whole thing again, this time as Luigi and collecting purple coins instead of yellow) and b) my wife told me that if I didn't get off the Wii and let the kids have a go, she was going to beat me about the head with it.

In hindsight, this was fair enough. The other thing that completely consumes me when it comes to computer games, is creating my onscreen character. I have been known to never actually getting around to playing a game, so obsessed am I in 'pimping' my perfect character, car or what ever it is that I need in order to play the game. I guess it must be the writer in me, the need to have the perfect character and setting before I can continue. So when the boss told me about this new first-person, shooter game, where not only do you have a huge character customisation option but you also have the ability to choose your characters tattoos - I was very interested.

The game is called, BRINK, and is released by Splash Damage for major consoles on the 20th May in Europe. As I said, the game is a first-person, shoot-em-up where you can decide which character you want to play the game as. There is a huge list of hardcore nutcases you can take-over for the duration of the game; from skinny rat-like fellahs to

muscle-bound weightlifters or as BRINK put it; 'While there are a number of complete 'archetypes' designed by the developers, the individual components for each look can be mixed and matched along with additional options to create thousands of unique, individual characters.'

Of course you have the usual hairstyle, body type, facial features, army fatigue inspired fashion wear choices but in BRINK, you also have the ability to change your character's voice pack and more interestingly for us - you have the option to slap some ink on your characters bodies!

Not just a skull on the forearm or an eagle on the chest either: the developers have gone the whole way with this one and come up with 16 different styles of tattoos to take your pick from. You can choose to tear up the town with a set of Japanese, biker, South Seas or prison tattoos. For those with short attention spans and unlike in real life, you can also change your tattoos depending on your mood that day.

Not just a skull on the forearm or an eagle on the chest either: the developers have gone the whole way with this one and come up with 16 different styles of tattoos to take your pick from.

This is all great for us tattoo enthusiasts, a chance for our alter egos to represent more of our real character traits but it does now leave me, with just another customisation choice, that will prolong the time it takes me to actually getting around to game play...

Luckily, Brink comes fully loaded with expectation from the gaming community, a good reputation preceding it and who knows, I might even be tempted to join that queue outside Game after all. Brink looks like an up all night belter!

Reviews of Brink will be published in issue 201 of Skin Deep when the hardcore have a chance to really crank it up. Meantime, you can check it out for yourself over at [brinkthegame.com](http://brinkthegame.com).



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## CONVENTIONS

All details correct at time of going to press.

**AUGUST 5 - 7****TAIWAN INTERNATIONAL TATTOO CONVENTION**National Taiwan University Sports Centre, Taiwan [www.tattoo.tw](http://www.tattoo.tw)**AUGUST 12 - 14****SEATTLE TATTOO EXPO**Seattle Center Northwest Rooms, Seattle, WA 98105, USA  
[www.seattletattooexpo.com](http://www.seattletattooexpo.com)  
[info@seattletattooexpo.com](mailto:info@seattletattooexpo.com)**AUGUST 12TH - 14TH, 2011****TRANSILVANIA TATTOO EXPO**Sibiu, Romania  
[www.tattooexpo.ro](http://www.tattooexpo.ro)  
[adda@transilvaniatattoo.ro](mailto:adda@transilvaniatattoo.ro)  
0040 746 162 633  
[ovidiu@transilvaniatattoo.ro](mailto:ovidiu@transilvaniatattoo.ro)  
0040 722 400 406**AUGUST 13 - 14****NORWICH BODY ART FESTIVAL**St Andrews Hall, Norwich, Norfolk, [www.norwichbodyartfestival.co.uk](http://www.norwichbodyartfestival.co.uk)**AUGUST 19 - 21, 2011****4TH STYRIAN TATTOO & HOTROD-SHOW**forumKloster Gleisdorf, Austria  
[info@styriantattooshow.com](mailto:info@styriantattooshow.com)  
[www.styriantattooshow.com](http://www.styriantattooshow.com)**10/11TH SEPTEMBER****COVENTRY INK TATTOO CONVENTION**AT7 Centre, Bell green, Coventry  
01604 949958**AUGUST 25 - 28****RICK'S 14TH INTERNATIONAL TATTOO CONVENTION**KI Convention Center/Hotel Sierra  
1-800-236-3330 - For Discount Room Rate (book under Rick's Tattoo Convention) Green Bay, WI U.S.A.  
[www.tattoosbyrick.com](http://www.tattoosbyrick.com)  
[rick@tattoosbyrick.com](mailto:rick@tattoosbyrick.com)**SEPTEMBER 10 - 11****COVENTRY INK TATTOO CONVENTION**AT7 Centre, Bell green, Coventry  
Tel: 01604 949958**SEPTEMBER 15 - 18****PARADISE TATTOO GATHERING**Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort, 37 Corey Road, Hancock, MA 01237, USA  
[www.tattoogathering.com](http://www.tattoogathering.com)  
[gabe@tattoonow.com](mailto:gabe@tattoonow.com)**SEPTEMBER 23 - 25****THE LONDON TATTOO CONVENTION**Tobacco Dock, Porters Walk, London, E1W 2SF  
[www.thelondontattooconvention.com](http://www.thelondontattooconvention.com)**SEPTEMBER 23, 24, 25****INKED OUT NEW JERSEY**Meadowlands Expo Center Secaucus, NJ, USA  
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[www.inkedoutnj.com](http://www.inkedoutnj.com)**SEPTEMBER 30, OCTOBER 1, 2, 2011****THE BIGGEST TATTOO SHOW ON EARTH MIRAGE RESORT & CASINO LAS VEGAS, USA**Mirage Resort & Casino  
(201) 342-4446, [info@lasvegastattooshow.com](mailto:info@lasvegastattooshow.com)  
[www.lasvegastattooshow.com](http://www.lasvegastattooshow.com)

## SMALLMAN SYNDROME

## One man's tragic obsession with the sillier side of tattooing...

Last month I mentioned my new stomach tattoo and how ridiculously painful it was. It did lead to much debate via email concerning how mind-bendingly painful it can be to have such a tender area tattooed. I was quite relieved to find that not one person emailed me to call me a massive wuss (although now I've said that I'll probably get a deluge of messages saying that I'm the biggest wimp since time began).

I did get a few emails telling me that there are even more painful places to get inked though. Tim Philpott got in touch to tell me that he tattooed his own shin – yes, his OWN – and after outlining a design is now summoning up the courage to finish it off.

Paul Nicholas is my daft hero of the month though. You can see a picture of his awesome stomach tattoo in this very column – and why did he decide to have two massively painful four hour sessions on his belly? Because at a random gig one night he decided that he really, really loved Motorhead. This is a man after my own heart – for musical reasons and for reasons of silly tattoos. I salute you, sir.

I'm writing this a few days before my birthday and I want your opinion on something I've been debating with friends. Do tattoos hurt more as you get older?

I'm nearly 33 and I was under the mistaken impression that getting more ink would just be easier each time. Now, it might just be that I'm running out of non-painful places – but I think there may be some truth to this. Does this mean that I've got to hurry up and get all the tattoos that I want before I'm too old? I'm really going to have to put the time in now to get myself finished off if it's going to be more agony each time.

My mum got a tattoo when she was 50 – her only one – and keeps telling me that it was unspeakably painful. My dad – as regular readers of this column will be aware – has a bet with me that may lead to him getting his first ever tattoo at the age of at least 58. He's got a weak pain threshold at the best of times, so the poor bloke could be in a world of hurt if this whole age thing is true.

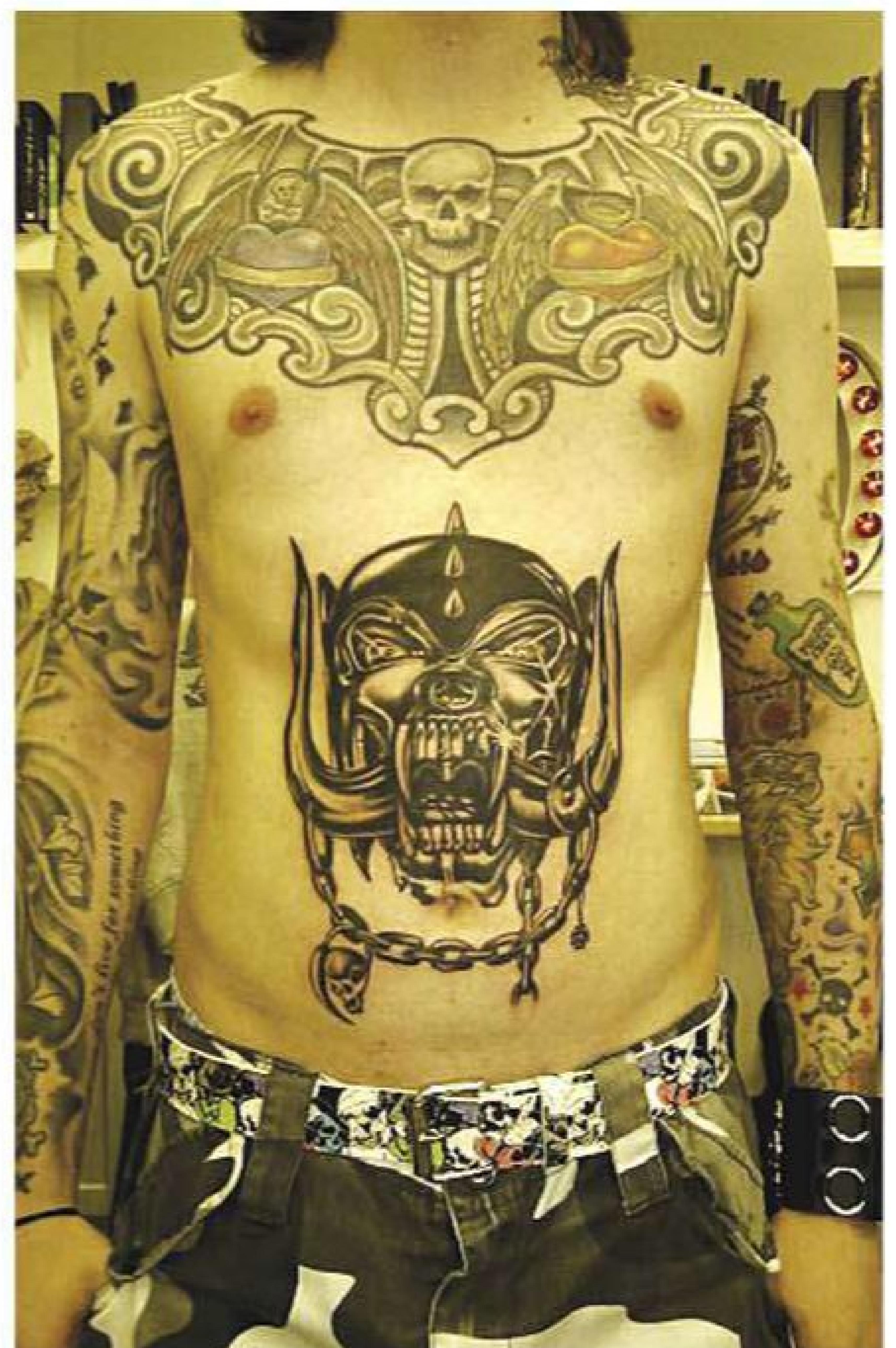
Could someone confirm this for me? Maybe you're reading this and planning on getting your first tattoo at the age of 18 or so. If you've got a nice, friendly grandparent without any ink maybe

you could take them along with you to get a matching design to end my curiosity? I'd find that really

helpful. And let's be honest, you'll have the most awesome granny ever.

If you've got any opinions on the pain vs age debate then do get in touch through the usual means below. And don't forget I always want to hear your stories about your tattoos and even better get pictures from you of the silly ink you might have got. Get sending me things now!

If you've got a nice, friendly grandparent without any ink maybe you could take them along with you to get a matching design to end my curiosity? I'd find that really helpful. And let's be honest, you'll have the most awesome granny ever.



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# 3rd Sydney & Body Art Expo

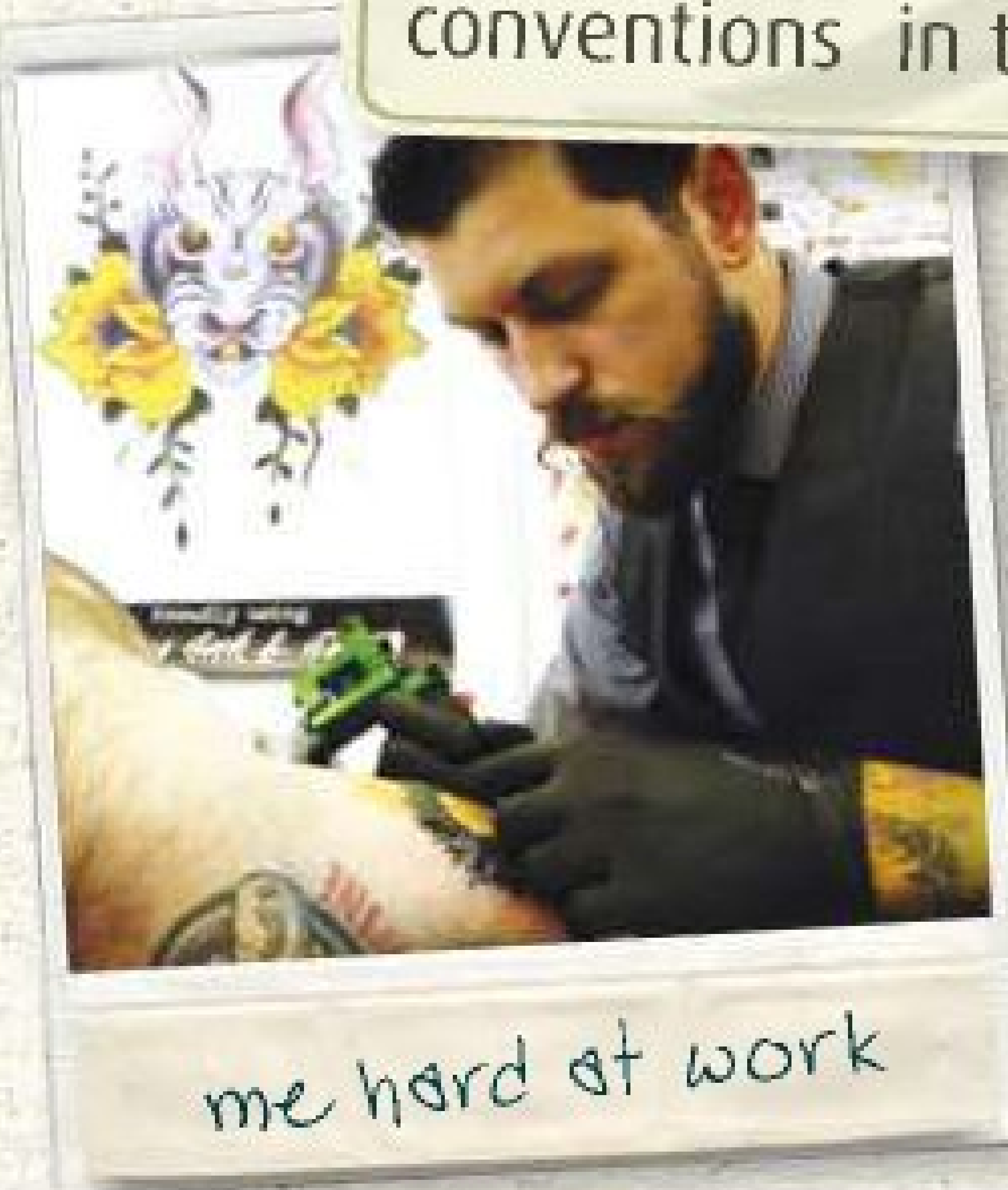
PART SIX

WORDS/IMAGES CRAIGY LEE

## PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK

Well as the old saying goes, conventions over here seem to be like buses, you wait ages for one then they all come at once! This month I have two conventions in two different cities in a week.

Eger tattoo lovers



me hard at work



The Sydney tattoo expo is undoubtedly the highlight in a lot of peoples convention calendar, now in its third year, last years expo attracted some 20,000 people and this year they are expecting even more. Part of this is due to the exceptional advertising campaign that the organisers have plastered across the city as well as full page adverts in most of the national and a few international magazines over the last few months. Many buses in the city have billboards with the expo poster on and the local radio stations are running adverts and plugging the event, taking things to a new level and showing just how mainstream this event is.

Due to our schedule we are only in Sydney for a few days (yes I will be returning later in the year to explore the shops) I'm not working a guest spot either so it gives me the opportunity to actually relax, properly prepare for the show and take in the sights of the city. The venue for the expo is the Olympic park's purpose built halls and centres for the 2008 Olympic games, a short drive out of the city. We arrive on Thursday afternoon to leisurely set up and get to know the layout, the hall is huge and to be honest pretty soulless but is already full of contractors

finishing off last minute preparations and artists making their booths feel like home.

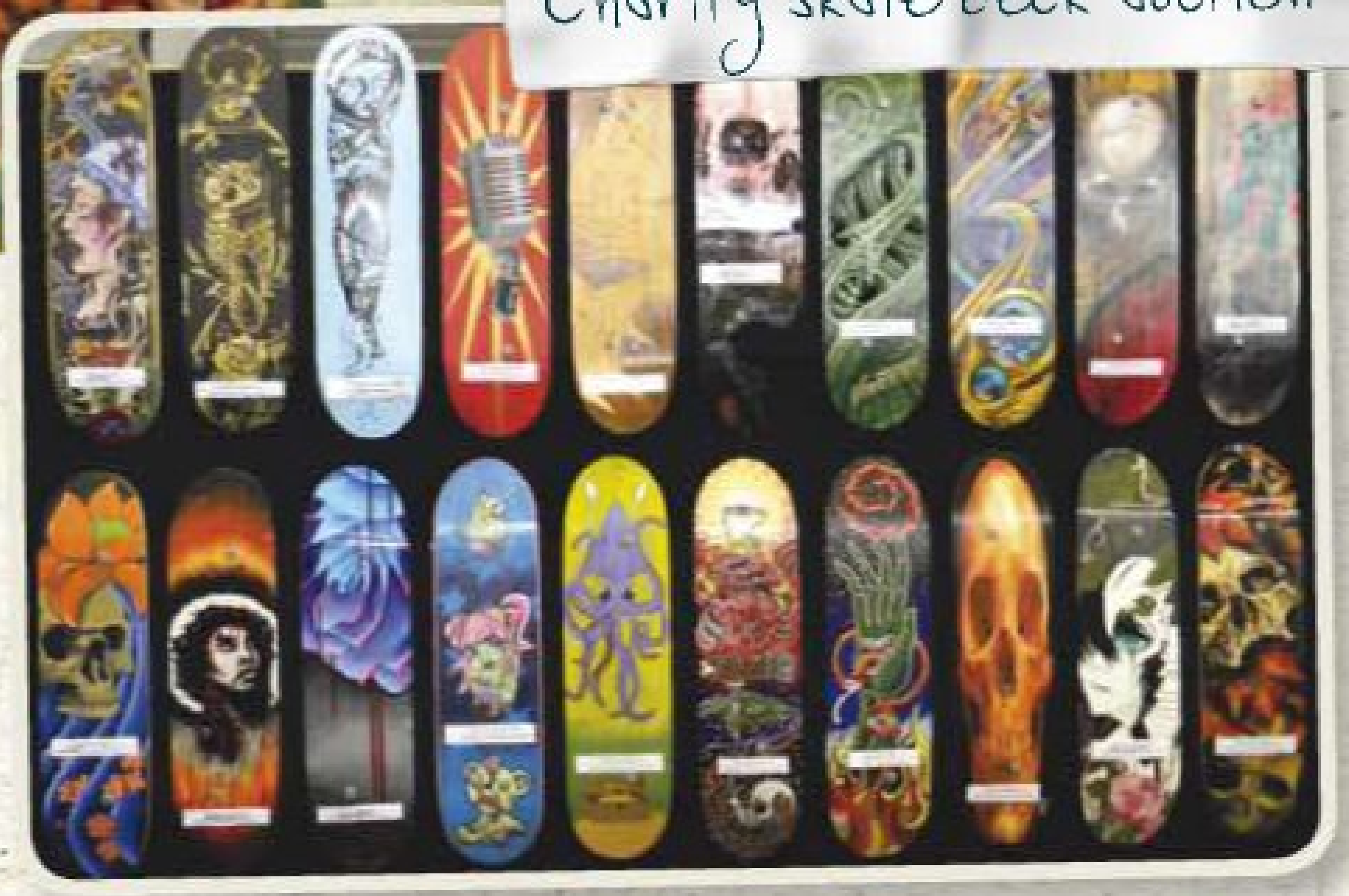
We turn up early on Friday ready for my first appointment, yes that's right appointments! After the Melbourne show I have a lot of bookings to keep me busy over the weekend so I'm not stressing as much. The queue outside is already stretching down the street and once the doors open the show is very busy indeed. One of the nice things about this show is the booths are in little square blocks with a doorway through to a wash area in the back so



Zombie fat Mike



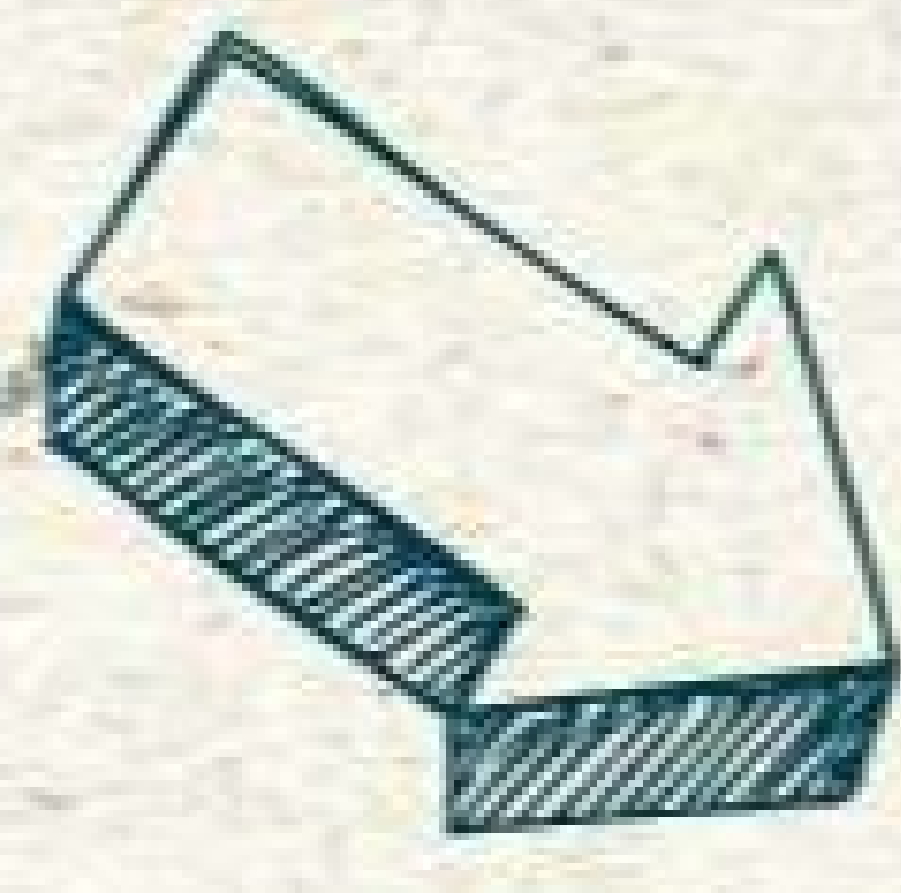
Charity skate deck auction



all the booths are connected, in between tattoos I could poke my head into other artists booths have a chat and see what they were up to, luckily for me I had a great little block with the guys from Third Eye Tattoo, Luke and Mez from True Love Tattoo, Fingers from Swahili Bobs in Sweden and eak from Thailand. So throughout the weekend I got a decent chance to catch up and see what everyone else was up to. There was also a good sense of camaraderie with the fully booked local



Kat from Cherry Bomb



artists sending work to the international guys to do.

Mike Devries, Mick Squires and Jasmin Austin shared one of the busiest booths over the weekend, Ruthless from LA Ink also attracted a lot of attention,

**THE NICE THING ABOUT THE EASTERN SIDE OF AUSTRALIA IS THERE ARE A LOT MORE TOWNS AND PLACES TO STOP OFF AND AS WE GET FURTHER NORTH THE CLIMATE BECOMES A LOT MORE TROPICAL AND HUMID.**



My booth

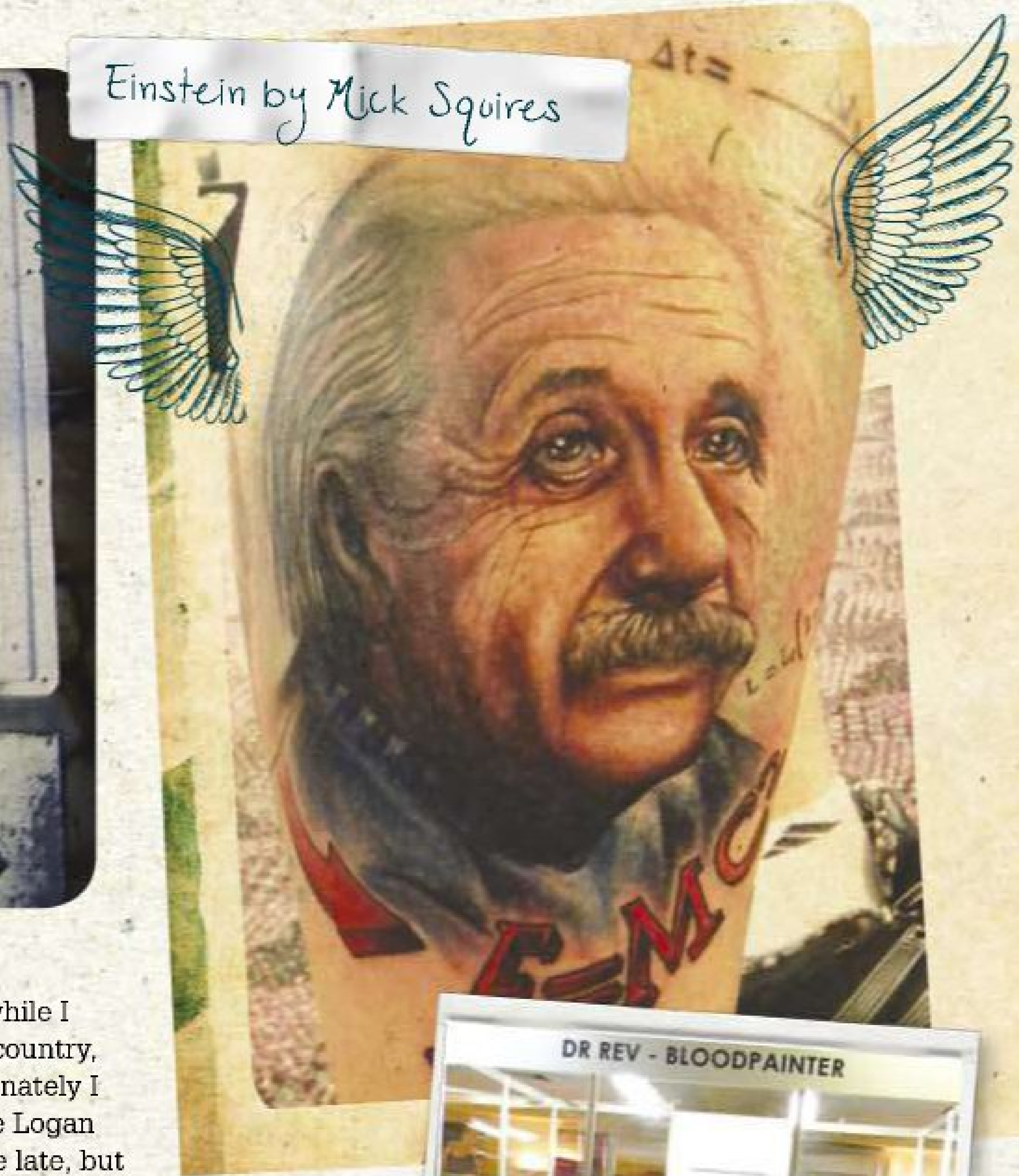
however it's finding a new artist that excites me about shows. There was a lot of people I hadn't met before doing some awesome work, Kat from Cherry Bomb was producing some very girly new skool colour work, Jess from White Rabbit in New York was creating extremely painterly tattoos and Mitch 13 from Melbourne was turning out beautifully clean traditional pieces.

There was also a skate deck charity auction for Cure For Kids, 50 skateboard decks were painted by artists working the show and sold in a silent auction, the one that rose the most money was by from Rosco at Wicked Ink who sadly passed away a week before the show, but his work mates at the shop

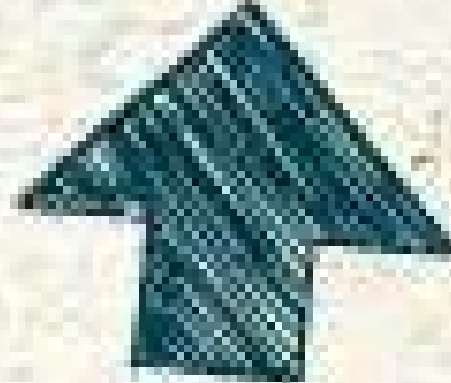
SIN THE SKIN TATTOO SHOW SAT 19 MARCH OPEN 10 30 AM

DRIVE-IN →

Einstein by Mick Squires



Road sign



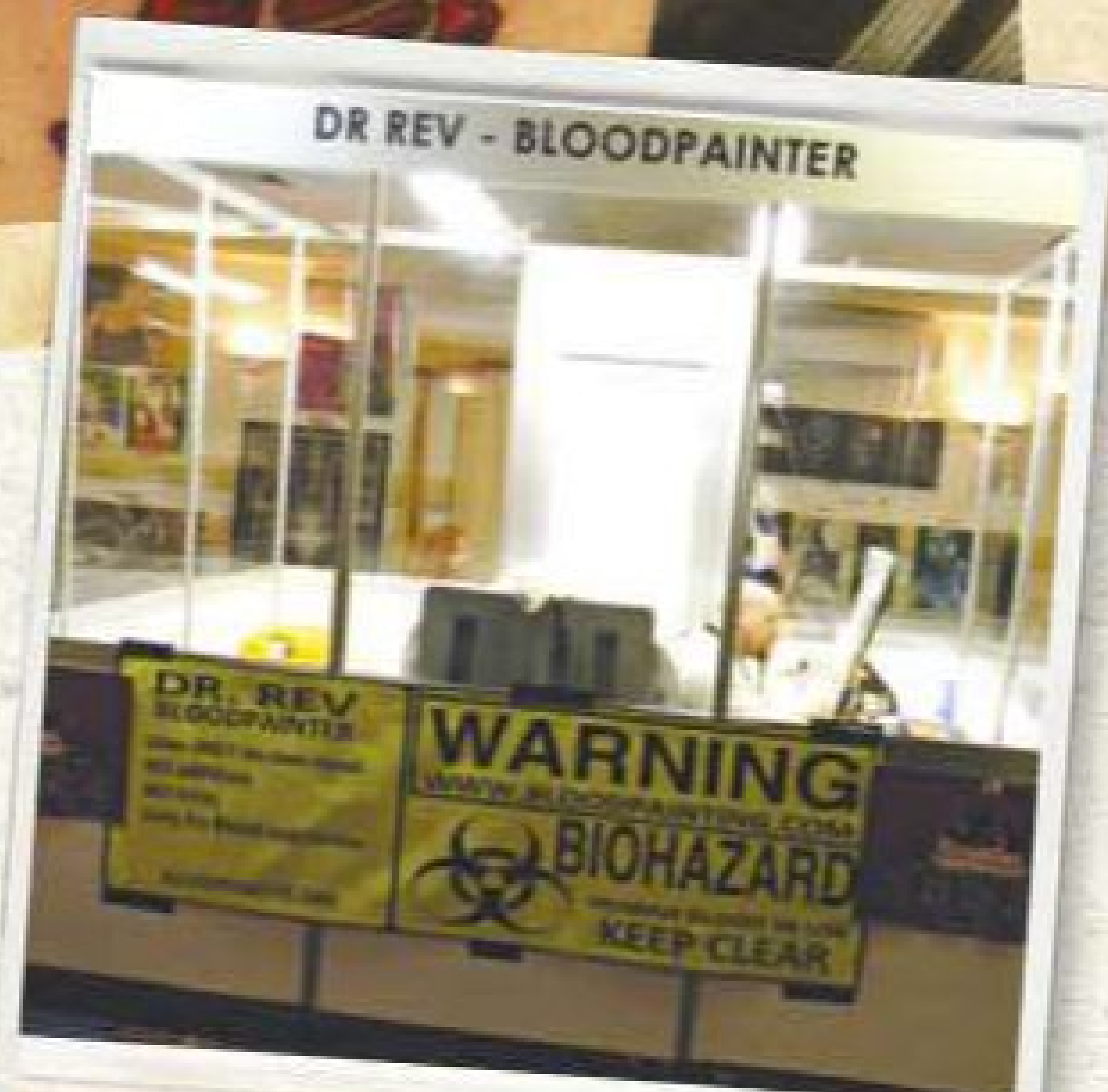
show. Now a lot of the trip thus far has been planned around Australia's conventions, the big and the small I tried to attend and work as many

managed to bring his last piece of art to the show and raise some money for a good cause.

After a very busy weekend at the Sydney Expo I have five days to recuperate and drive to Brisbane for the Logan tattoo

as I could while I was in the country, and unfortunately I got onto the Logan show a little late, but decided as I was in the Brisbane for a couple of months it would be a worthwhile endeavour to get a trade stall and sell some original watercolour paintings, sketchbooks, flash, prints and give out some of my cards and get to know the people and shops in the area.

Leaving Sydney behind, the 1000km trip to Brisbane really didn't seem that daunting compared to the ridiculous driving we did earlier in the year. The nice thing about



Street sign

THE LOGAN TATTOO SHOW IS LIKE NO OTHER CONVENTION I HAVE EVER BEEN TO AND THE MAIN ATTRACTION IS THE TATTOO COMPETITION WITH 28 CATEGORIES.

the eastern side of Australia is there are a lot more towns and places to stop off and as we get further north the climate becomes a lot more tropical and humid. I think we are escaping the cold! Escaping the cold yes, escaping the rain? Not quite.

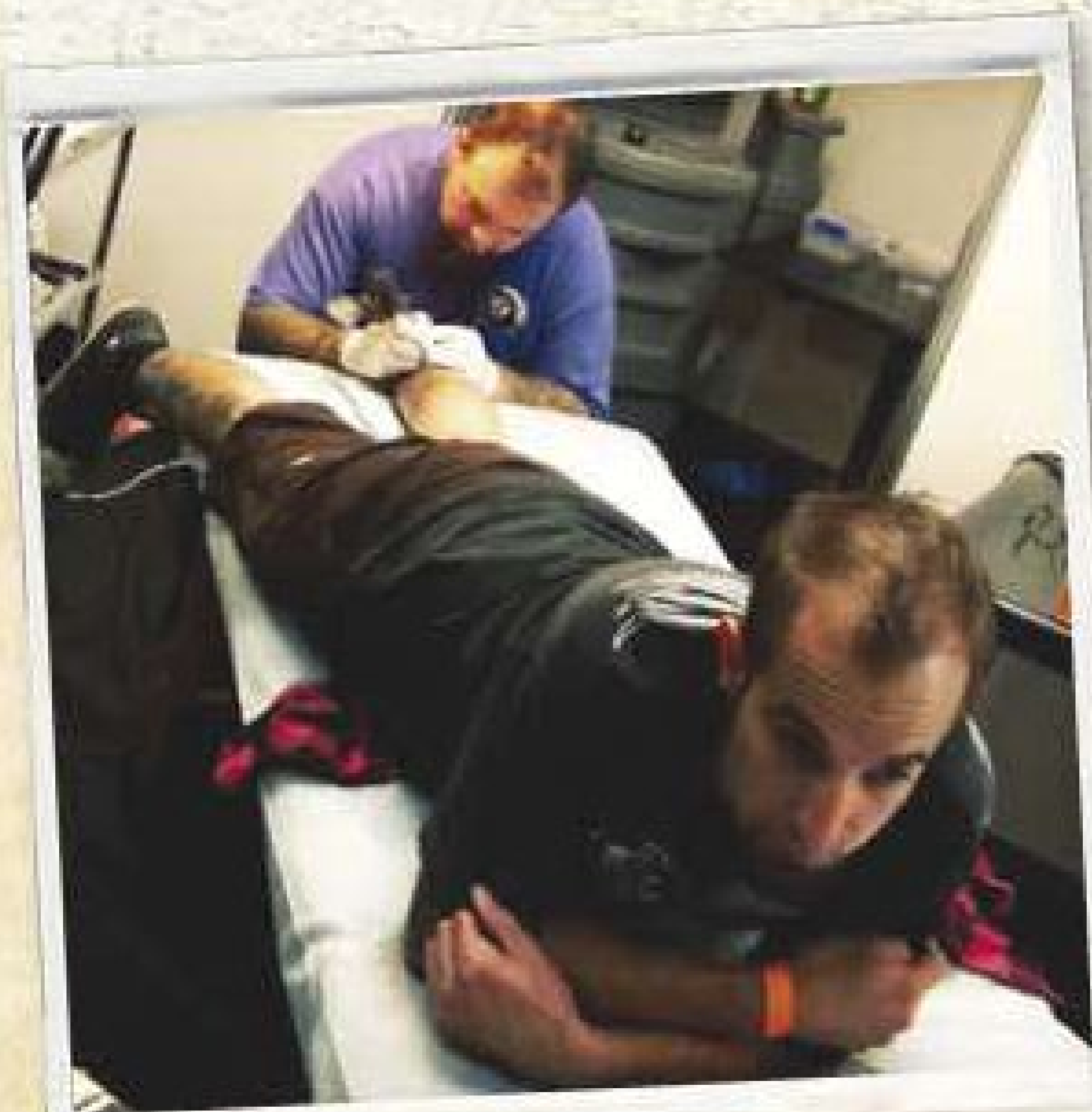
We arrive in Brisbane and get to our apartment and unpack - the first time I have completely unpacked my suitcase this year, hanging clothes up in a cupboard seems amazing, but sadly this is the end of the road for my suitcase, a broken handle, missing wheel and a split side have pretty much rendered it worthless.

Acacia Ridge Hotel is home to the show which is in its 9th year meaning it is well organised and running smoothly, with the hotel being split onto two levels, with the artists work upstairs. There are only 16 artists working but they are all in a

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the lads getting their kit off



Scotty Mskin working hard



Realistic animal category  
by Micky Wallace

competition in Australia's only "ink off", competing against each other they have five hours to complete a tattoo in the eight different categories. The Logan Tattoo Show is like no other convention I have ever been to and the main attraction is the tattoo competition with 28 categories. Anyone can enter and this is a big draw for tattoo enthusiasts wanting to show off their ink and it's packed, I have never experienced anything like it, scores of people have entered each category and they literally queue to get on stage to show off their painted body parts. In some categories there are three lines of entrants who have to swap round on the stage to be seen. Totally insane. It kicks off at 3pm and as you can imagine goes on late into the evening with the working artists categories being judged midway through.

There is also an art gallery with



Mimsy tattooing

tattoo art from all over Australia and this room has a booth housing Dr. Rev - the blood painter. Surrounded by four walls of glass with round air holes, he looks like Hannibal from Silence of the Lambs secluded in his enclosure and in a strange juxtaposition he shares his space with vintage clothing and book stalls as well as an outside seating area and a stage for the bands. Downstairs is one larger room with the stage for the competitions, in the morning there is live art fusion which is great to watch, there are TV screens throughout the venue and a live feed is constant during the day so no matter if you're in the bar upstairs, the artist area or watching the band outside you can always see what is going on in the main room downstairs. One of the nicer things about the conventions in Australia being within a few months of each other is you get to meet a lot of people and see them again at the different shows, and working almost every show this year its nice to see different tattooers again and again, it makes me feel less homesick.

Most of the working artists are from Queensland - all personally selected and invited by the event organisers. Mick Squires is up from Melbourne to

**WITH WORK OF THIS CALIBRE ON THE LARGE MAJORITY OF THE PUBLIC I CAN'T WAIT TO START WORK NEXT WEEK AND SEE WHAT THE TATTOO GODS DELIVER!**

take part, the guy gets around which is nice especially as a lot of bigger artists wouldn't bother with the smaller one day shows. I think this is probably why he has gotten so well known over the past couple of years, as well as being a great artist he sure does work hard to get his name out and get people to see him.

While a lot smaller than the booming exhibition halls of the larger shows in Australia, the Logan show is extremely busy, people were very interested in buying my water colour paintings and prints and other local artists also had stalls selling original oils and acrylics. Having a stall and not tattooing is a bit of an unfamiliar luxury for me, not only can I enjoy a drink, I can also get around and see everything. There were a lot of heavily tattooed people at the show and the standard of work across the board was pretty exceptional, with work of this calibre on the large majority of the public I can't wait to start work next week and see what the tattoo gods deliver!





WORDS: TRENT AITKEN-SMITH  
IMAGES: RICH SMITH

## THE HOUSE OF

# FIVE MAGICS

**Rich Smith's studio, Five Magics Tattoo, is tucked away down a little three-hundred-year old courtyard, in the heart of Sheffield city centre. Walking inside, you can't help but feel you are in the domain of a soothsayer from a time past - stuffed animals and upside down crosses, share space with framed old school flash by Rich, Timmy Tatts and El Bara.**



**FIVE MAGICS**  
Aberdeen Court,  
Division Street,  
Sheffield S14GE  
07943186901  
[www.richsmithtattoo.blogspot.com](http://www.richsmithtattoo.blogspot.com)

**D**on't get me wrong, this isn't like walking into some coffin kids underground lair; the studio is light, airy and very welcoming. Settling down in his little two-seater leather sofa, we get on to discussing the studio and how he came about choosing this location.

“Before I opened up on my own, I worked for a couple of years with Lee Pound and Dave Watt at a place called One Shot Charlies, outside Birmingham. Lee and Dave co-owned the studio. Dave moved on and I was tired of travelling everyday and people were travelling from Sheffield to get work done, so I decided to open up my own studio, closer to home. So that's how Five Magics came about and that was about two years ago. I went to school just outside Sheffield, in a little village and I opened up there first. I got really busy

and I live in the city centre, so after a year I moved here to bigger premises - I was actually waiting for ages for this one to come up. I have been in this studio about a year now and even though the studio is off the street, which I love, I do still get walk-ins!”

“They tried to give me the shop across the courtyard but it was too big and at the time I didn't want to take

someone else on. I work on my own at the moment, I kind of like being on my own - for now. I might move over sometime though.”

Rich has been tattooing for roughly four and a half years now and his journey into the world of tattooing is a strange one alright:

“It all started out with my getting tattooed by this tattooed biker, in a little



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room under his stairs in his house that had a bike in bits on his living room floor. At that time, I didn't know of any other tattoo studios around, it was just a place all my mates went to. No one else in my family had tattoos so it wasn't something that had crossed my mind before. I had never really seen tattoos to that degree, you know when some one is absolutely covered. It fascinated me.

I PRETTY MUCH DID RUBBISH AT SCHOOL BECAUSE ALL I DID WAS SIT THERE DRAWING ON EVERYTHING INSTEAD OF DOING WHAT I SHOULD HAVE BEEN DOING, SO THE FACT THAT SOMEONE COULD MAKE A LIVING OUT OF ART, WAS AMAZING TO ME.

"I pretty much did rubbish at school because all I did was sit there drawing on everything instead of doing what I should have been doing, so the fact that someone could make a living out of art, was amazing to me. I didn't think it was realistically possible. When I got tattooed by him, it opened up the world to me."

"I managed to get some tattoo machines off of some irresponsible tattooist who didn't mind selling them cheap and sacrificed my legs and those of friends to learn. It was all trial and error, I didn't even know how to put a needle in. I didn't do an apprenticeship, I did it all on my own and I'm really proud of that. I also worked at a shop up the road, that has now closed down, on reception and I learnt a lot about sterilisation. I watched everything I could and progressively got better and better until I had a little portfolio together.

"And that's when I went travelling."

Portfolio under the arm and a "can do" attitude, Rich found himself travelling through Asia, soaking up everything he could about a tattoo culture that is as far removed from ours ➔



as you could possibly get.

"I was tattooing with some Thai guys and I learnt quite a lot during that time. One of my best friends is Thai so I learnt to speak a bit of the language. They have their own style which I picked up a little of but it is a really difficult style



to master. It's kind of like a intricate black and grey involving demi-gods and demons. Most of the shops nowadays use machines but some tattoo by hand though unfortunately, a lot of it is used as a gimmick for the tourists. I really want to do some more work out there again but I think, next year, I'll be going to Hong Kong instead. My Mum lives out there now and I don't get to see her that often. It will be a good way to get some visiting in and learn some new tattoo techniques!"

"The other thing you have to be wary of, is Health & Safety. Out there is a bit all over the place. It depends on the shop really, as they don't have people running around checking

things. I've seen some places that are horrendous, shops using bin bags which they fill with stuff you should be getting properly disposed of or loads of needles in jars of liquid just on the side - but thankfully, the place I worked at was really good - probably the best shop in Chiang Mai, which is a little city in the north of Thailand. They did everything properly. Put it this way, not only wouldn't I have worked there if it wasn't clean, I wouldn't have got tattooed there myself either. It's on my knee - I'll show you but I'm going to have to drop my trousers, are you ready? I got this tattoo done in Thailand and the back spring broke on the machine before they had finished it.

**MOST OF THE SHOPS IN THAILAND NOWADAYS USE MACHINES, BUT SOME TATTOO BY HAND THOUGH UNFORTUNATELY, A LOT OF IT IS USED AS A GIMMICK FOR THE TOURISTS.**





That one took about ten hours. I thought I was going to die! I sat through the night drinking beer and pushing through it. I mean we would stop every now and then for Pad Tai and a walk around but it was one sitting."

All the Pad Tai and beer in the world wouldn't get me to do a ten hour sitting, still, six months later and with a new appreciation for Health & Safety, Rich headed back to England and back at the beginning of the story, working with Dave Watt in Stourbridge.

"I learnt a lot from Dave, constantly hanging over his shoulder. We have become good friends now and he comes over to Five Magics every now and then for some guest spots. He is a really good tattooist, does a lot of the Japanese type stuff. He works out of a studio called Blue Lotus with Christian Banks. With this studio, I've been really lucky, within a few weeks I was booked up. The thing about Sheffield, is that it's a student city so you get a lot of fresh people every year coming in but I do have repeat customers also stopping by."

So now the studio is up and running at full speed and Rich has established himself in the tattoo community in his own right, we move onto his style

I LOVE THE OLD SCHOOL STYLE, JUST REWORKED, KIND OF NEO-TRADITIONAL. IT BLOWS MY MIND, ARTISTS LIKE STEVE BYRNE AND CHAD KOEPLINGER. SOMETIMES IT CAN BE A BIT GIMMICKY, ALL THE 'COOL KIDS' WANTING IT, BUT I JUST LOVE DOING IT.

preferred style of tattooing.

"I love the old school style, just reworked, kind of neo-traditional. It blows my mind, artists like Steve Byrne and Chad Koeplinger. Sometimes it can be a bit gimmicky, all the 'cool kids' wanting it, but I just love doing it. I have so much fun with it and the fact that you can finish a piece in a couple of hours is a big thing with me. I'm an impatient person and I like to see the customer walking away with a finished piece. I love doing Japanese as well but just the thought of someone coming back month after month and some realism blows my mind, sometimes you don't know where it comes from! Like Niko Hurtado, the guy who works with Kat von D - wow. I just love the look of traditional tattoos, the whole 'Bold Will Hold' philosophy. The funny thing is, I intrinsically draw like that so it was a perfectly natural step to make. I love it



when I have just finished a tattoo and it looks so bold. So solid - like a sticker!"

"I use workhorse iron liners, mainly because I love that sound and you get big powerful lines, but you can't beat a rotary for shading. I have a few one-off machines which are my pride and joy. I love them. There is such an art to making a good machine, it is a craft just like tattooing. I like to work really quick, I don't have the patience to work long. Don't get me wrong, I'll never

rush it, I just naturally work fast."

And then comes the revelation that Rich, being a self-confessed Trekkie, would like to do some Star Trek flash but using the old school style. "I really would like to do some Star Trek tattoos but nobody wants them. I might do a flash set, that could be a future project. I have always thought about it, mixing something modern with something so traditional and old school. But I'm not sure I would have many people interested in having it."

TALKING ABOUT OLD FLASH SHOPS, I STILL LIKE GOING AROUND THOSE KIND OF PLACES. IF EVER I'M IN A TOWN AND I SEE ONE, I ALWAYS POP IN, LOOK WHAT'S ON THE WALLS. I JUST LIKE BEING IN THEM, THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT THEM - AND I STILL GET NERVOUS, LIKE I DID WHEN I WAS YOUNGER!

You just never know Rich, these days, anything seems to go these days...

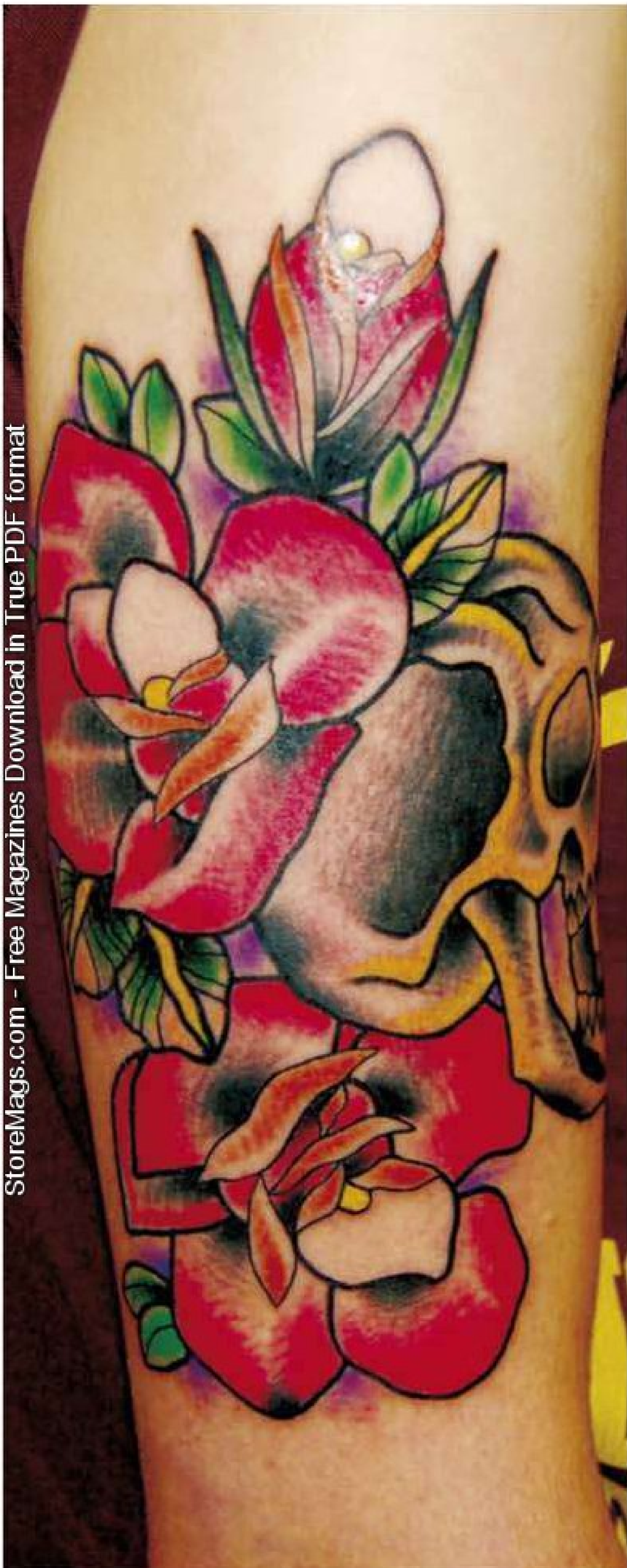
Back to earth and we start discussing the working day and how Rich keeps his designs fresh and original, while still working within the old school style of tattoos.

"I tend to not over book myself, I'll only have a couple of people through the day. Then I'll draw while they are here and they can be like, 'Yeah, that's cool'. I think it is the best way to do it. That's the good thing about traditional, say with Japanese - there is a correct way to do it, where as with traditional you can just lay it all out and do most anything and I like customers to have a say. People used to think that shops that did old school were flash shops but that's not always the case anymore. Talking about old flash shops, I still like going around those kind of places. If ever I'm in a town and I see one, I always pop in, look what's on the walls. I just like being in them, there is something about them - and I still get nervous, like I did when I was younger!"

At Tattoo Freeze, earlier this year, Rich walked away with the 'Best Small Colour' award on the Saturday. "Me and Dave had been going on about doing one for awhile and I was supposed to do the Jam last year but I messed up my hand and I had to give it a miss, so Freeze was my first convention. But saying that, I had made friends with Brandon Bond and he ended up sleeping on my sofa for the entire weekend of Jam. So I was still part of the party! I know him because a friend of mine went and got a full sleeve off of him in four days and so he just came and stayed with us. He is absolutely off his head, it was the maddest week of my life. Every day that I woke up I was thinking, 'what's going to happen next?' We had a really great time though and there were loads of positive parts as I got to chat to him a lot about different things. I learnt a lot while he was over. This year I think I am going to work at Tattoo Jam, it might be safer for me!"

"Joking aside though, I think that most tattooists are a little crazy. I think it is because you live how you want because of the kind of environment you are in. You have no-one to conform too. Saying that though, I am probably the most mundane tattoo artist that there is! I don't really go out and drink, I work, come home, watch Star Trek and go to bed. I used to go out a lot in my twenties but now I just want to work hard and make something of myself."

"If I didn't come in to work, or I was late, I'd feel guilty because at the end of the day I'm doing this for myself! When you're doing something you love and have always wanted to do, there really is no excuse. If I worked in an office, I would be doing this on the sly! I love getting up in the morning, coming to work all day and drawing." ★



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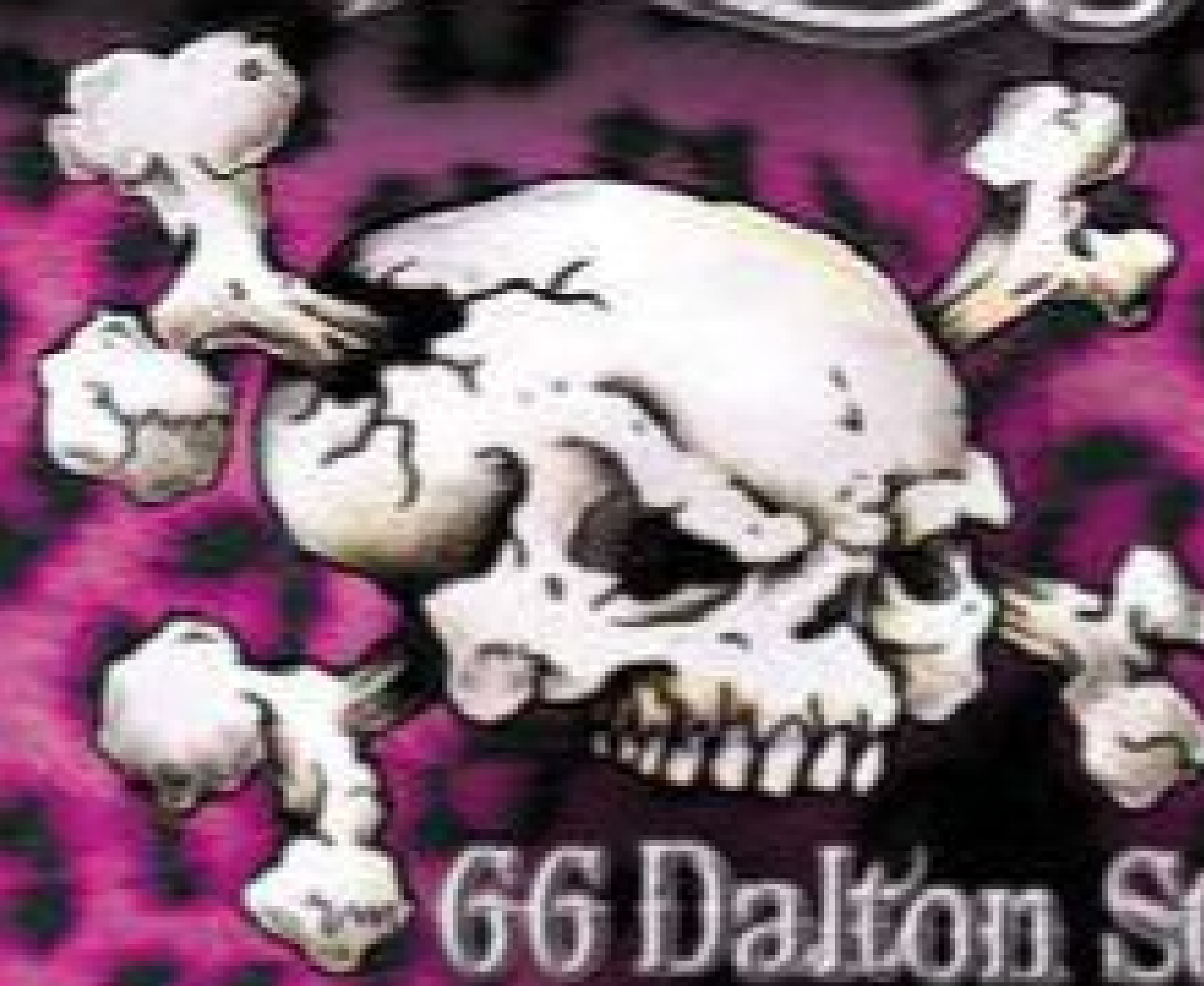
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# SAN FRANCISCO TATTOO BODY ART EXPO

**Porn, best stud and orgasm-contests and still family orientated? The Tattoo Body Art Expo in San Francisco is just one of seven on the tour of Megaproductions gigantic shows in the American tattoo world and its goal is to be big, varied and weird...**

**“** You should go to the convention in Pomona. It's better. It's even bigger than this one!”

As the guy in the smoking area outside the Cow Palace points out, big is a key word when talking about this specific chain of conventions that are held twice annually in San Francisco and Pomona, and once a year in

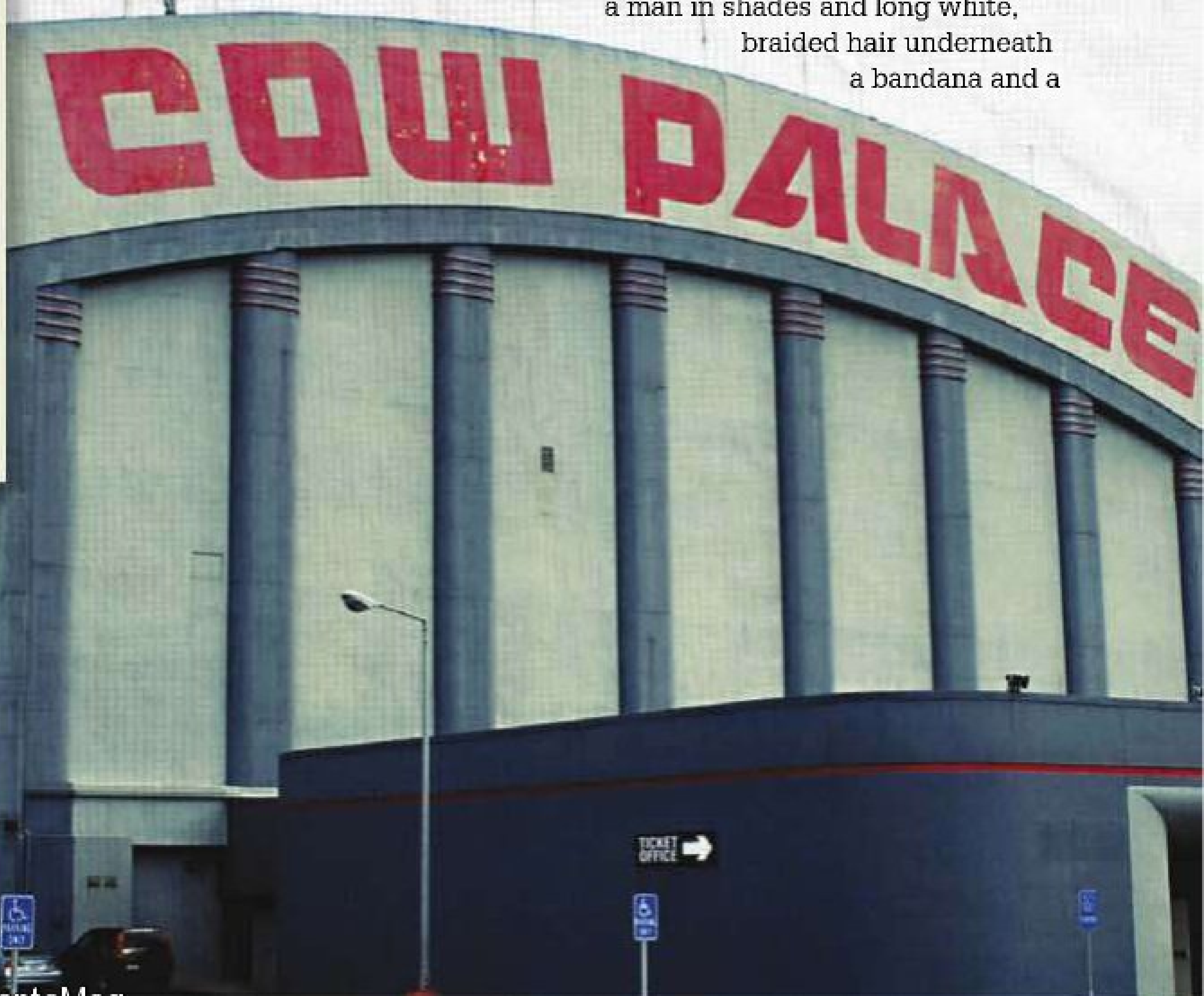
Arizona, San Diego and Houston. One of three, actually. At least according to Baba at Vintage Tattoo in Los Angeles, the main sponsor of the show:

“It all started in July 2003”, he says. “Megaproductions is a company who puts on large productions of any kind and they wanted a large scale tattoo convention. So they called Skin ‘n’ Ink Magazine. At the time I had a column called “The Gospel According To Baba” in the magazine so they turned Megaproductions on to me since I’ve been tattooing since the 80’s. The idea is to show off many different styles on a large scale.” Which brings us key word number two, variety. At least within certain boundaries.

“We always try to give the customer as much value for his or her money as possible, but it’s all tattoo related. Other conventions have burlesque shows, concerts, hot rod shows and so on, but not us. We do, however, have competitions to hype up the crowd before the tattoo contests... ‘Hey



Crazy! What's the weird thing we have today?” Down one of the aisles comes a man in shades and long white, braided hair underneath a bandana and a





## (1) THE STREETS OF SAN FRANCISCO

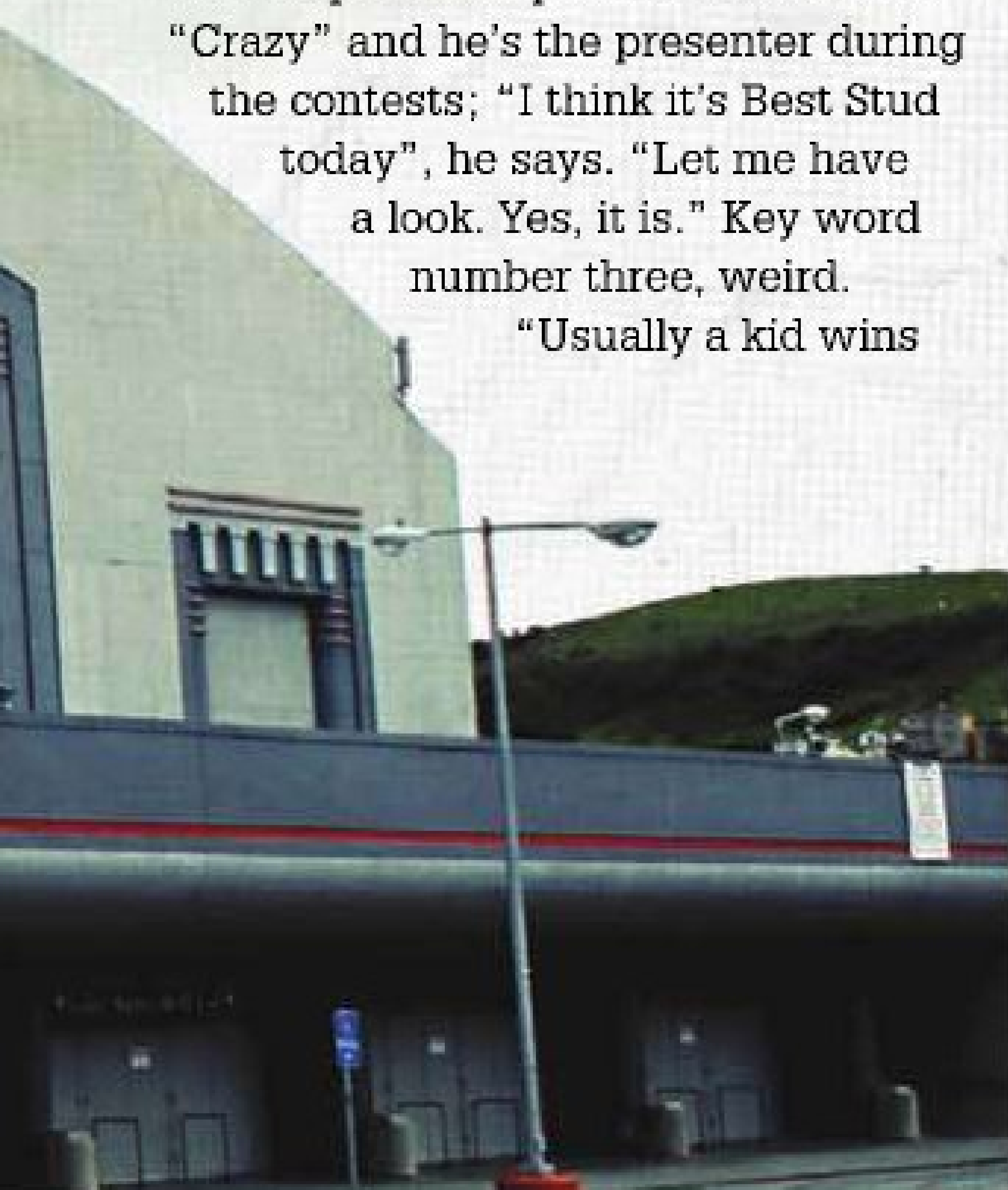
San Francisco - officially the City and County of San Francisco - is the fourth most populated city in California and the 13th most populated city in the United States, with an estimated population of 805,235.

In 1776, the Spanish established a fort at the Golden Gate and a mission named for Francis of Assisi on the site. The California Gold Rush in 1848 propelled the city into a period of rapid growth, increasing the population in one year from 1,000 to 25,000, and thus transforming it into the largest city on the West Coast at the time. After three-quarters of the city was destroyed by the 1906 earthquake and fire, San Francisco was quickly rebuilt, hosting the Panama-Pacific International Exposition nine years later.

After the war, the confluence of returning servicemen, massive immigration, liberalising attitudes, and other factors led to the Summer of Love and the gay rights movement, cementing San Francisco as a centre of liberal activism in the United States.

**WE ALWAYS TRY TO GIVE THE CUSTOMER AS MUCH VALUE FOR HIS OR HER MONEY AS POSSIBLE, BUT IT'S ALL TATTOO RELATED. OTHER CONVENTIONS HAVE BURLESQUE SHOWS, CONCERTS, HOT ROD SHOWS AND SO ON, BUT NOT US...**

black top hat. He presents himself as "Crazy" and he's the presenter during the contests; "I think it's Best Stud today", he says. "Let me have a look. Yes, it is." Key word number three, weird. "Usually a kid wins



the contest for Best Stud", Baba says with a smile. "Some parent will put him up there. We also have the contests for Best Ass and Best Orgasm where people come up and fake orgasms. The guys from China love that and it works well here in San Francisco. In Chicago, however, where we used to have a convention as well, they didn't get it at all. In San Francisco they're more open to all that perverted stuff."

In the booth next to Vintage Tattoo sits Joanna Angel, the owner one of one of the tattoo related companies that attends many of these conventions. Burning Angel is a porn company where most employees are tattooed. At the conventions she sells movies, posters, photos, and she sees a clear connection between her line of work and tattoos.

"First of all, I think tattoos are sexy and two cultures have many similarities. People who are into tattoos are normally exhibitionists.

If you look around at a convention you

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**(2) THE STREETS OF SAN FRANCISCO**

In recent years, the wealth resulting from the IT boom from the nearby Silicon Valley, as well as from the recent Dot-Com booms has created a high standard of living in San Francisco, attracting white-collar workers to San Francisco from all over the world. Many neighborhoods that were once blue-collar, middle, and lower class have been gentrifying, as many of the city's traditional business and industrial districts have experienced a renaissance driven by the redevelopment of the Embarcadero, including the neighborhoods South Beach and Mission Bay.

The city's property values and household income have risen to among the highest in the nation, creating a large, and upscale restaurant, retail, and entertainment scene. According to a 2008 quality of life survey of global cities, San Francisco has the second highest quality of living of any U.S. city. Due to the exceptionally high cost of living, many of the city's middle and lower class families have been leaving the city for the outer suburbs of the Bay Area, or for California's Central Valley.

The city's large gay population has created and sustained a politically and culturally active community over many decades, developing a powerful presence in San Francisco's civic life. The most popular destination for gay tourists internationally, the city hosts San Francisco Pride, the largest and oldest of the world's pride parades.



CHRIS FLACH @ INK THERAPY, GLENDALE



BENI MADREN @ INK ADDICTION, DES MOINES



JUAN GONZALEZ @ EXCLUSIVE INK, SALINAS



JUAN GONZALEZ @ EXCLUSIVE INK, SALINAS



CARL GRACE @ THE INK SHOP, ARCADIA



ROB HILL @ HIGH CLASS TATTOO, SIMI VALLEY

see people walking around in their underwear or with their tops off. They feel free to show off their bodies."

Despite the presence of Burning Angel and the Best Orgasm contest, Baba still feels it's a convention for the whole family:



"It's very family orientated", he tells me. "We black out the porn and we just want to show that nowadays tattoos are for everybody, not just sailors. We also have clothing companies, often started by wives or

girlfriends of tattoo artists." Other tattoo related businesses at the different shows includes after care companies and, maybe more unexpected, lawyers. "We've had lawyers who strictly





defend tattoo companies”, Baba tells me. “Some of them look down on tattooed people so we invite tattooed lawyers. We’ve also had tattooed travel agents. Sometimes, you can go into a place and people often think “Who’s this guy?”, but if the lawyer or travel agent has tattoos, he’s going to be cooler about it.”

Unfortunately there are no lawyers present at the Cow Palace this time – or travel agents, for that matter.

The Cow Palace is never really packed with people. Saturday is the most crowded day, but it never gets unbearable like at some other shows. The style of tattoos varies a lot, as Baba pointed out, but one of the contests on Saturday attracts a surprising amount of participants, Best Black and Grey Big. Suddenly the area around the stage is filled with bare male backs, mostly covered in realistic tattoos. As it turns out, one of the first tattoo artist to start doing portraits



**USUALLY A KID WINS THE CONTEST FOR BEST STUD, SOME PARENT WILL PUT HIM UP THERE...**

is at the convention, namely Freddy Negretti at Mark Mahoney’s Shamrock Social Club in Hollywood.

“Jack Rudy and I introduced black and grey portrait tattooing to the world in 1977. I remember going

to a convention in Sacramento in 1980. Back then, there was like one convention per year. We both did portraits there and blew everyone away. Nowadays it’s the main style. It’s amazing what’s happened, ☺

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1ST PRIZE, BEST MOVIE CHARACTER, JUAN GONZALEZ @ EXCLUSIVE INK, SALINAS

### (3) THE STREETS OF SAN FRANCISCO

The major daily newspaper in San Francisco is the San Francisco Chronicle, which is currently Northern California's most widely circulated newspaper. The Chronicle is most famous for a former columnist, the late Herb Caen, whose daily musings attracted critical acclaim and represented the 'voice of San Francisco.' The San Francisco Examiner, once the cornerstone of William Randolph Hearst's media empire and the home of Ambrose Bierce, declined in circulation over the years and now takes the form of a free daily tabloid. Sing Tao Daily claims to be the largest of several Chinese language dailies that serve the Bay Area.

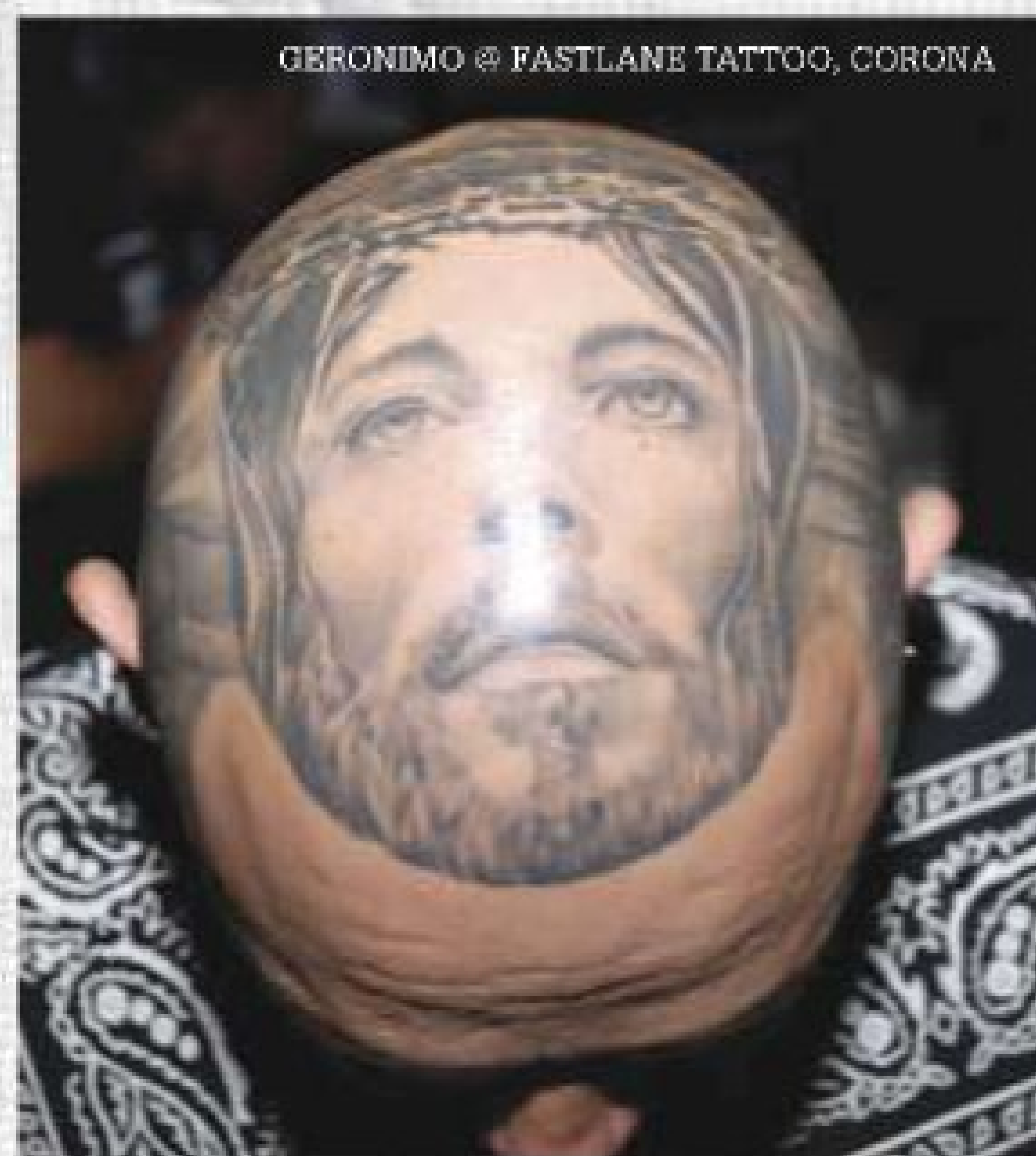
Alternative weekly newspapers include the San Francisco Bay Guardian and SF Weekly. San Francisco Magazine and 7x7 are major glossy magazines about San Francisco. The national newsmagazine Mother Jones is also based in San Francisco.

The San Francisco Bay Area is the sixth-largest TV market and the fourth-largest radio market in the U.S. The city's oldest radio station, KCBS (AM), began as an experimental station in San Jose in 1909. KALW was the city's first FM radio station when it signed on the air in 1941. All major U.S. television networks have affiliates serving the region, with most of them based in the city. There also are several unaffiliated stations, and BBC, CNN and ESPN have regional news bureaus in San Francisco. The city's first television station was KPIX, which began broadcasting in 1948.

Public broadcasting outlets include both a television station and a radio station, both broadcasting under the call letters KQED from a facility near the Potrero Hill neighborhood. KQED-FM is the most-listened-to National Public Radio affiliate in the country. San Francisco-based CNET and Salon.com pioneered the use of the Internet as a media outlet.



EDGAR TAGLE @ IGUAMAS ARTE, LOS ANGELES



GERONIMO @ FASTLANE TATTOO, CORONA



GERONIMO @ FASTLANE TATTOO, CORONA



1ST PRIZE, BEST UNUSUAL, JUSMARK @ TRUTH TATTOO, TRUCKEE

especially in the last five to ten years. It's really taken off."

Dean Dennis from Dean's Tattoo Headquarter, another veteran at the show, was one of the impressed ones.

"I was really blown away to see them hold up a photo next to the tattoo and see how the picture on the arm looked better."

According to Freddy Negretti, European tattoo artists were the first to adapt this new style.

"Europe was first to get illustrators into tattooing, in the 90's, and their favourite style was black and grey, like portraits and realism."

One of the main portrait practitioners in California seems to be Juan Gonzalez at Exclusive Ink in Salinas. Especially if you consider the fact that he wins 1st and 2nd prize in Best Movie Character, 1st prize in Best Leg, 2nd and 3rd place in Best Portrait and 1st prize in Best Black and Grey Small. Even more dominant in the Best Colour Big category is Troy Harless at Triple R Tattoo in San Bruno. He has no less than seven entries - more than half of the contestants. Even so he doesn't win the category. That title goes to Ambre Vale at Studio 66 in Porterville. He does, however, claim both runner up and second runner up.

Another studio with a lot of talent seems to be Fallen Angel in Sacramento. Three different artists at the studio take home one prize each in the Best Colour Small category. The 1st prize went to Brandon Bracamonte who also claimed 1st prize in Best Sleeve and 3rd prize in Best Unusual. ★

**I WAS REALLY BLOWN AWAY TO SEE THEM HOLD UP A PHOTO NEXT TO THE TATTOO AND SEE HOW THE PICTURE ON THE ARM LOOKED BETTER.**



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WORDS & IMAGES: GEMMA BELL

## YOUNG GUNS

# BLAZE OF GLORY

In the quest to find young, inspiring and inspired artists, we come across many who fit the bill but one name keeps coming up over and over again. Ladies and gentlemen, we give you Toni Moor:



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### TO THE READERS THAT DON'T KNOW, YOU HAVE ONLY BEEN TATTOOING FOR 3 SHORT YEARS, CAN YOU TELL ME HOW YOU STARTED?

I first started my apprenticeship in 2006, in a studio situated in North Devon, called 14 Tattooing. It was, what I'd call, a really old school apprenticeship. I made endless cups of tea, learnt to make needles, scrubbed everything from top to bottom and took care of everything on reception, from taking phone calls to ordering stock. I did this for about 18 months before I was allowed to start tattooing. It was super hard work and frustrating at times but I now totally understand that I had to prove myself. I then started off tattooing myself, Chalky (my boss) and anyone willing to let me practice. I was only tattooing maybe once a week, whenever the shop was quiet or in my own time after work.

It was awesome how many people had the confidence in me to let me practice on them and I greatly appreciate them for it. January 2008 was when I first started to tattoo paying customers. I was basically doing all flash work, little flowers and Chinese symbols. But I do think this is defiantly the best way to learn. You can concentrate on lining and colouring, whilst finishing a tight tattoo, instead of being overwhelmed with a huge custom piece where you don't know where to start!

I moved to Bath Spa about a year and a half ago now and I am totally in love with the place. I work at Broad Street studio which is an exciting new studio situated right in the heart of the city. We are a custom studio and the three of us cover pretty much all styles. Fil Norman co-owns the studio and has done some amazing dot and black work. He's been doing the iron cross on my palm, and going to be doing a dot work flower design on the tops of my collar bone. Marcos Attwood came to work at the studio last summer and he does some sick old school work.



### SO HOW LONG HAVE YOU ACTUALLY BEEN DRAWING THEN? WAS THAT ALWAYS THE ENDGAME?

I have been drawing for as long as I can remember. It's something that I have always loved doing. I find I get too bored doing anything else, and I always end picking up a pencil and sketching something new. Art was the only thing I was interested in at school too, and I

also went on to college to study art and design at A level. I decided not to go to university as art at that level doesn't tend to be about your artist ability, it's about analysing and understanding. I hated it and just wanted to draw and paint cool shit without explaining it or having to justify myself.

I also knew by then that I wanted to become a tattoo artist and there is

I HAD, WHAT I'D CALL,  
A REALLY OLD SCHOOL  
APPRENTICESHIP. I  
MADE ENDLESS CUPS OF  
TEA, LEARNT TO MAKE  
NEEDLES, SCRUBBED  
EVERYTHING FROM TOP  
TO BOTTOM - I DID THIS  
FOR ABOUT 18 MONTHS  
BEFORE I WAS ALLOWED  
TO START TATTOOING.

obviously no degree at university for that. So I decided to get a full time job and try to find an apprenticeship. I worked a lot of crap jobs when I was younger, but I knew it wouldn't be

forever and if you want something bad enough you will make it happen. I was still drawing in my free time. And worked hard to try and find an apprenticeship. Thankfully it all

paid off a couple years later and I got my opportunity.

**SO WHAT KIND OF ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE ANYONE WHO IS IN THE SAME BOAT AS YOU - DO YOU HAVE ANY WISE WORDS TO PASS ON?**

Like I said, if you want something badly enough you can make it happen, but you have to work, and work hard for it! You can't expect things to be handed to you on a plate, and anything in life that's worth having, is worth working hard for! Just don't give up and always listen to advice, good or bad.

IF YOU WANT SOMETHING BADLY ENOUGH YOU CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN, BUT YOU HAVE TO WORK, AND WORK HARD FOR IT! YOU CAN'T EXPECT THINGS TO BE HANDED TO YOU ON A PLATE, AND ANYTHING IN LIFE THAT'S WORTH HAVING, IS WORTH WORKING HARD FOR!



**IN YOUR SHORT CAREER AS A TATTOOIST YOU ARE ALREADY WELL KNOWN AND SOUGHT AFTER, WHERE CAN PEOPLE HOPE TO CATCH YOU OVER THE YEAR, ARE YOU DOING ANY CONVENTIONS OR GUEST SPOTS?**

Well, I'm at Tattoo Jam in August. I may also be doing a couple of guest spots later this year, so keep checking the website ([www.broadstreetstudio.co.uk](http://www.broadstreetstudio.co.uk)) for more info, but I love going to conventions whether I'm working them or not. I would love to work the London Convention one day too. Milan is also a great convention and I've been lucky enough to work there over the past few years. I'd love to travel and travel to some more abroad over the next few years as there are loads of good ones.

**SO CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT ANY EXCITING PIECES YOUR WORKING ON NOW?**

I have so many awesome pieces that I'm working on at the moment. My customers are really pushing me with new ideas and concepts and helping me to explore new avenues in my work. I have nearly come to the end of my first back piece, which has been

so much fun. Kris is a great customer to work with. He comes in with great ideas and totally lets you do what you want with it. He can also sit like a rock and doesn't complain at all. I'm really excited to finish it in the next session. It's a traditional inspired piece, but with more of a new school feel - it's also really bright. I'm doing a big pin up in collaboration with Marcos Attwood, (who also works in Broad Street) on a Lucky Vegas style sleeve, which I can't wait to work on again. It's pushing me to work a little more old school than I normally would, but it's a lot fun.

**YOU'VE BUILT UP QUITE A COLLECTION OF YOUR OWN TOO I SEE...**

I've been so lucky to get tattooed by the artists that I have. Tim Kern being my favourite. He did my chest piece and recently finished my evil Japanese ghost lady on my leg. I am always mesmerised by the way he works, he's such a perfectionist. As soon as one piece is finished I'm already sorting out the next with him, and can't wait for piece number three. I've also been tattooed by Jason Butcher who did my throat and my armpit, Jo Harrison did my right sleeve, knuckles and the diamond on my front. Matt Difa did the



**I REALLY DON'T FEEL LIKE I HAVE A STYLE. I LOVE TATTOOING SO MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF THINGS AND I DON'T REALLY WANT TO BE PIGEON-HOLED INTO ONE TYPE OF TATTOOING STYLE.**



pin ups on my thigh and the outside of my left forearm. He is also going to be doing another one as part of a full back piece on me.

I'm having a lot of lasering done on my back before we start, but am super excited about getting it done with him. I've also been tattooed by Dan Marshall, Jimmy Litwalk, Derek Noble, Wez4, Denis Pase, Fil Norman, Marcos Attwood and Maneko. I'm also getting tattooed by Turk this year. He will be covering some stars on my forearm which I have been getting layered for a while now. I also really want to get some more script from Maneko when he is in the UK in September - and then some from Norm, in LA later this year too. ☺



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**WHO IS REALLY EXCITING YOU RIGHT NOW?**

There are so many amazing artists at the moment - I'm discovering more and more all the time. I'd absolutely love to get tattooed by Jeff Gogue and I really hope I can sometime soon. He's probably the only other artist that is high on my list. There are so many others artists I'd love to get tattooed by, but there just isn't enough skin on me!

**WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR INSPIRATION FROM, WHO DO YOU REALLY LOOK UP TO WITHIN THE INDUSTRY?**

I've been really privileged to work with some amazing artists in my career so far. Obviously I learnt a lot in my time at Modern Body Art. Working with Jo (Harrison) even for a short time was awesome and she was a great inspiration. I also got to work for a few days with Tim Kern, Jeff Gogue, Derek Noble and Denis Pase whilst they were doing guest spots at MBA, which again was awesome and I learnt different things from all of them.

I LOVE BEING CHALLENGED AND TRYING OUT NEW THINGS. I LOVE GOING CRAZY WITH DESIGNS AND PUTTING LOADS OF DETAIL INTO THINGS WHERE POSSIBLE, AND EXPERIMENTING WITH DIFFERENT COLOUR PALETTES.



Admittedly it was really intimidating as I hadn't been tattooing long, but it was great to learn from talented artists who I really look up to. I really get inspired by people that work hard and love what they do. Music is also a massive part of my life and I take a lot of reference from it in my artwork, I recently did a Slayer piece and I'd love to do more.

**GOING BACK TO YOUR OWN WORK, WHAT KIND OF STYLE WOULD YOU SAY THAT YOU WORK TO, AND HOW LONG DID IT TAKE YOU TO FIND THAT? PERSONALLY I THINK YOUR LETTERING IS DEFINITELY WORTH LOOKING OUT FOR, IS THAT SOMETHING THAT YOU WERE WORKING TOWARDS?**

I really don't feel like I have a style. I love tattooing so many different types of things and I don't really want to be pigeon-holed into one type of tattooing style. I do love doing lettering and would love to do more, but I couldn't do it day in day out. I love being challenged and trying out new things. I love going crazy with designs and putting loads of detail into things where possible, and experimenting with different colour palettes. My customers have been amazing so far and always come to me with

completely different ideas which I love.

I think it is really important as a tattooist to explore other avenues that can help you develop your skills and understanding as an artist. I brought out a sketch book early last year full of new, unused sketches that other artists could use as reference. I have a lot of different sketch books by other artists and they are a great help when you are feeling a bit uninspired or you want to look at someone else's take on a design. I have had great feedback from it and as it's been a year on, and I feel my artwork has progressed a lot in the past 12 months, I'm now working on my second and hoping to have it finished in May.

I'm aiming to have a lot more detailed images in this one, including lots more script. The guys from the studio and I have also decided to collaborate and create a set of flash. So keep your eyes out for this as it will be available to buy at conventions. I also like to paint, although I feel I still have so much to learn in this area. I have previously used acrylics but more recently started using oils and I was like, wow! What a totally amazing, excellent discovery! They are great fun and I'm looking forward to doing more with them. I paint and sell other things as well like canvases, vans, trainers, jewellery boxes, skate decks and handbags. ★

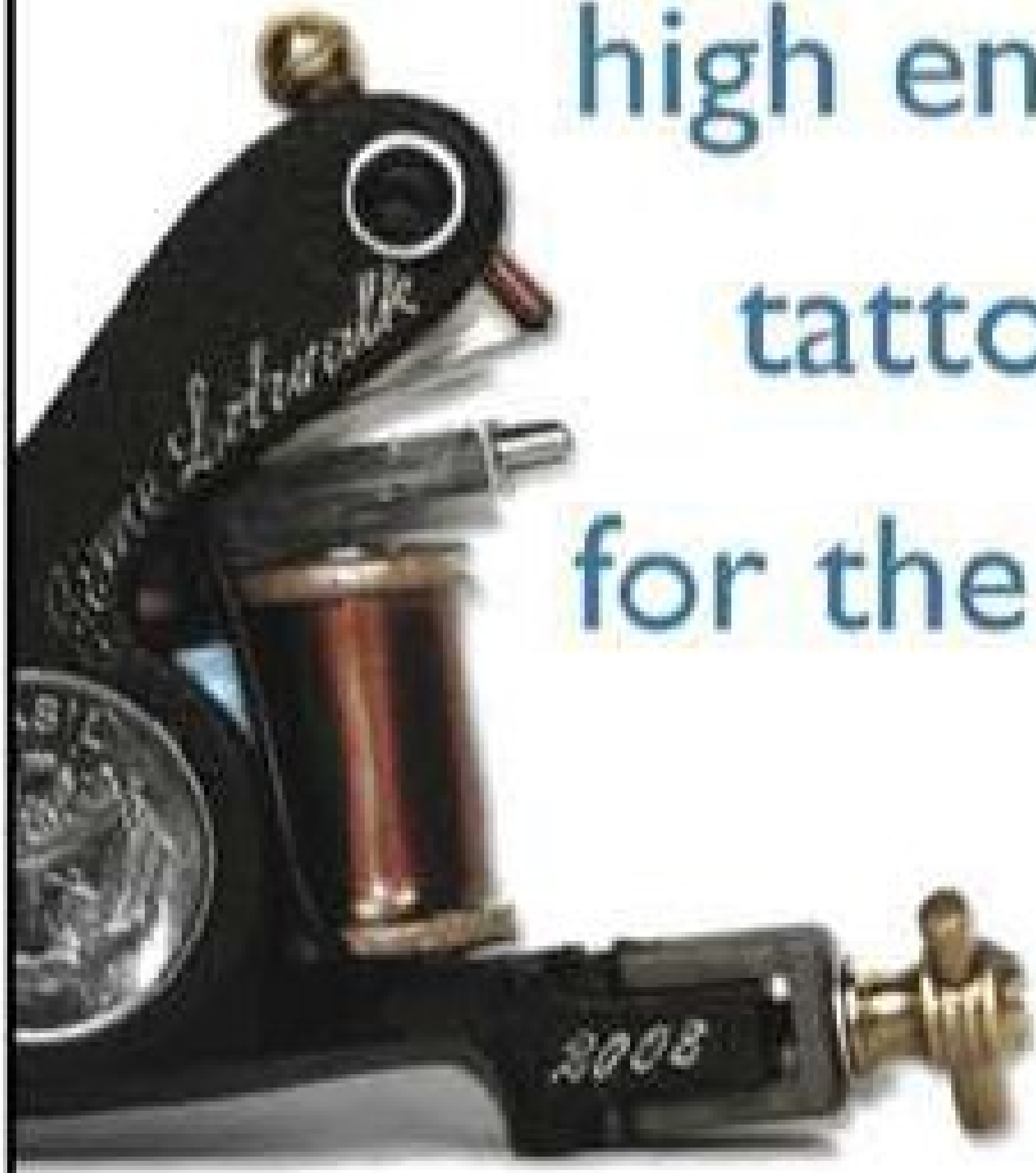


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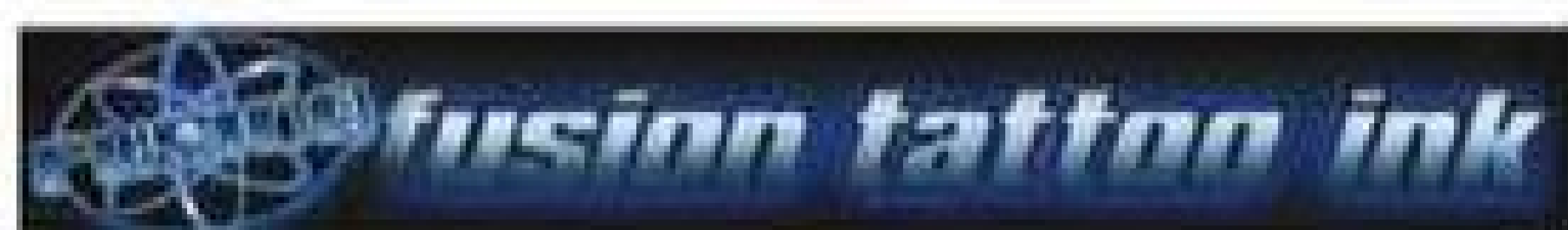
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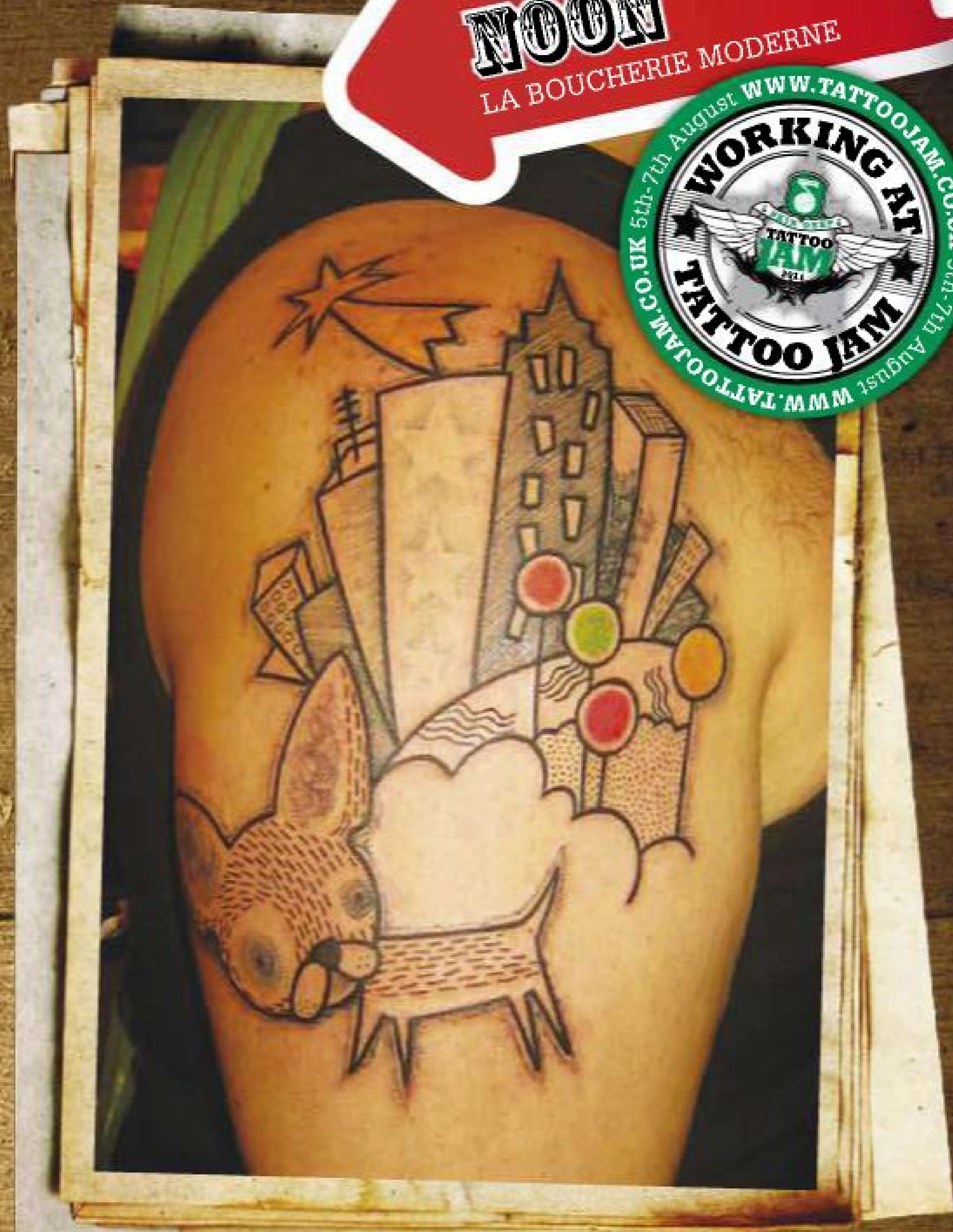
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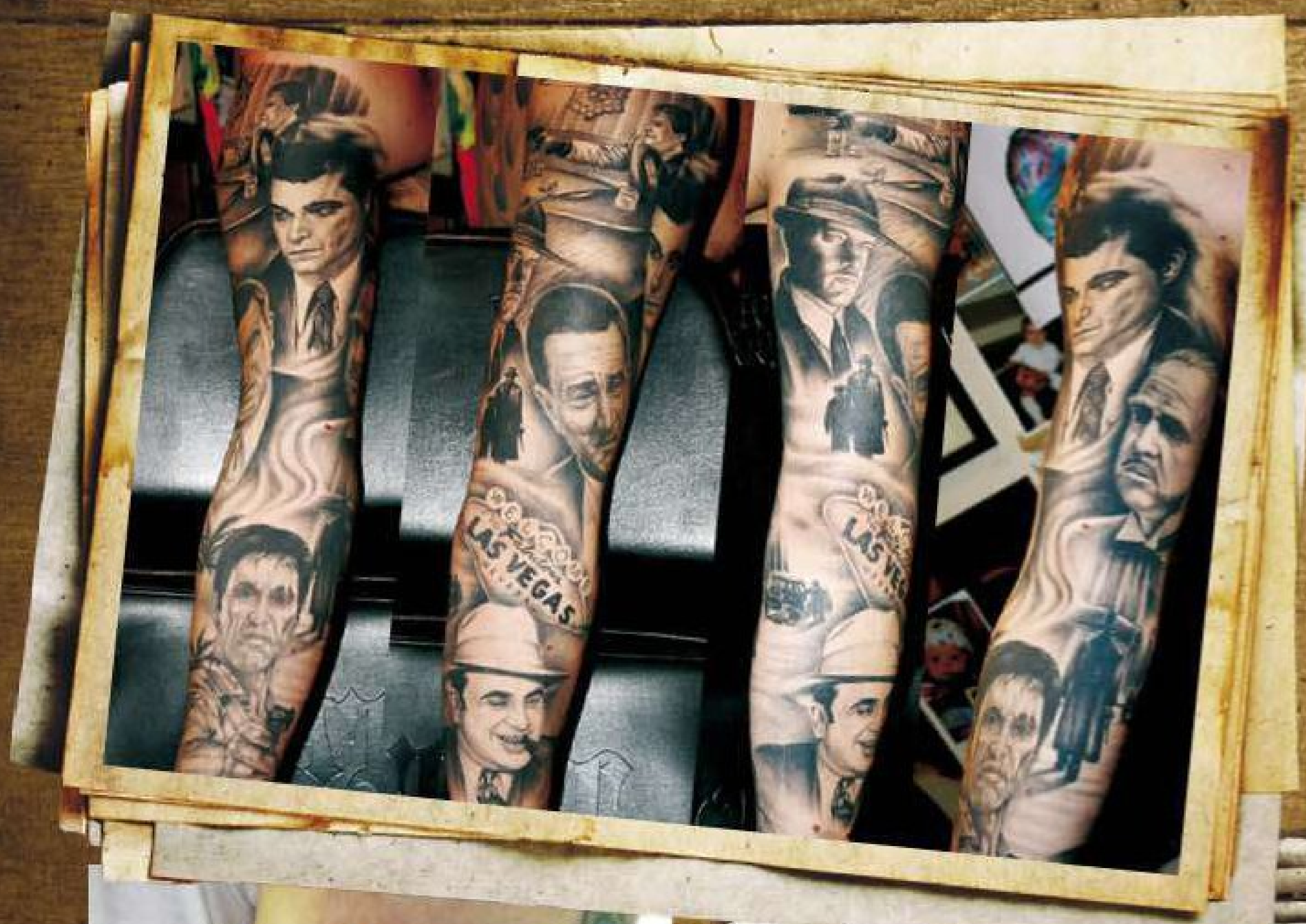
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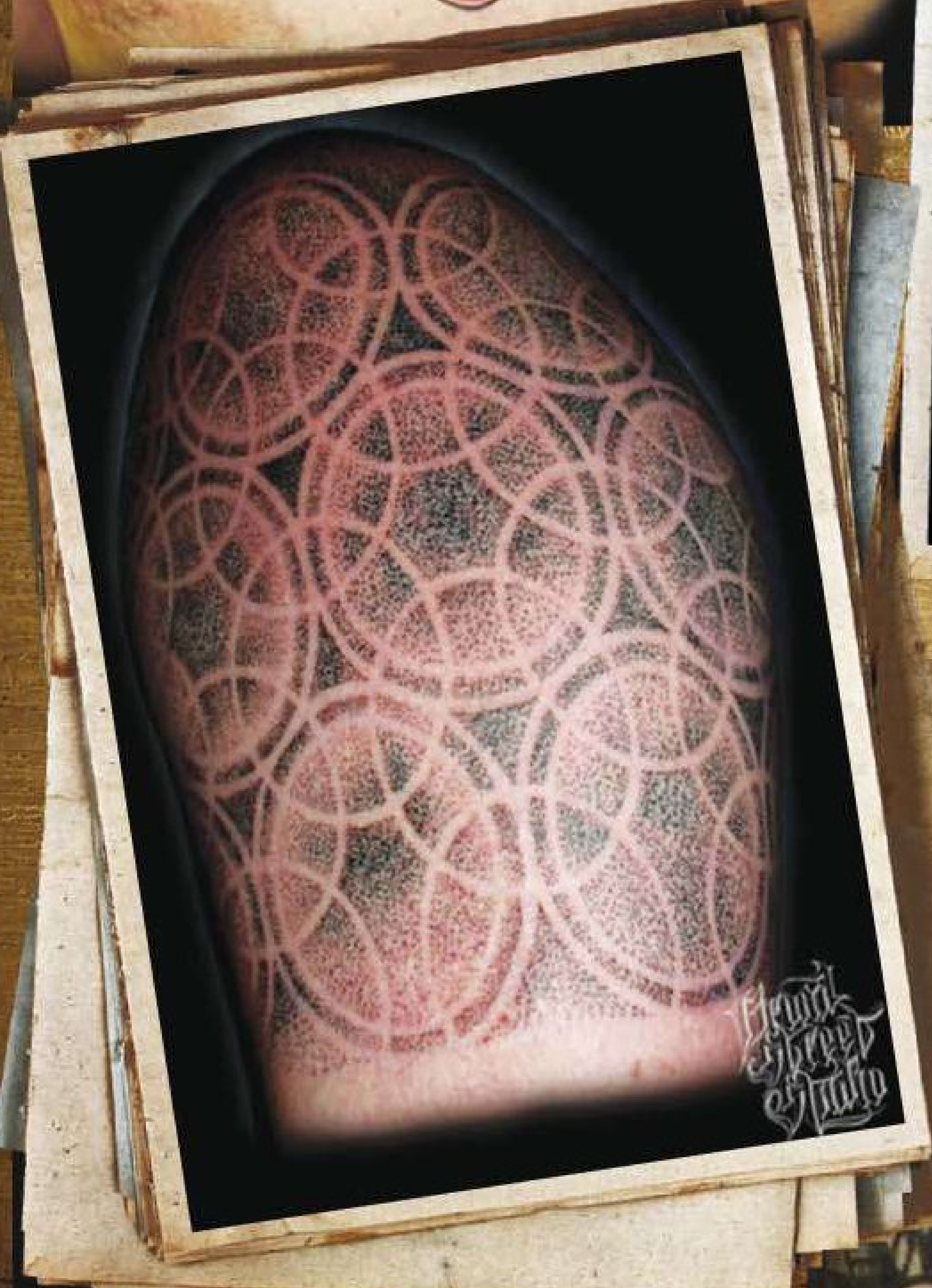
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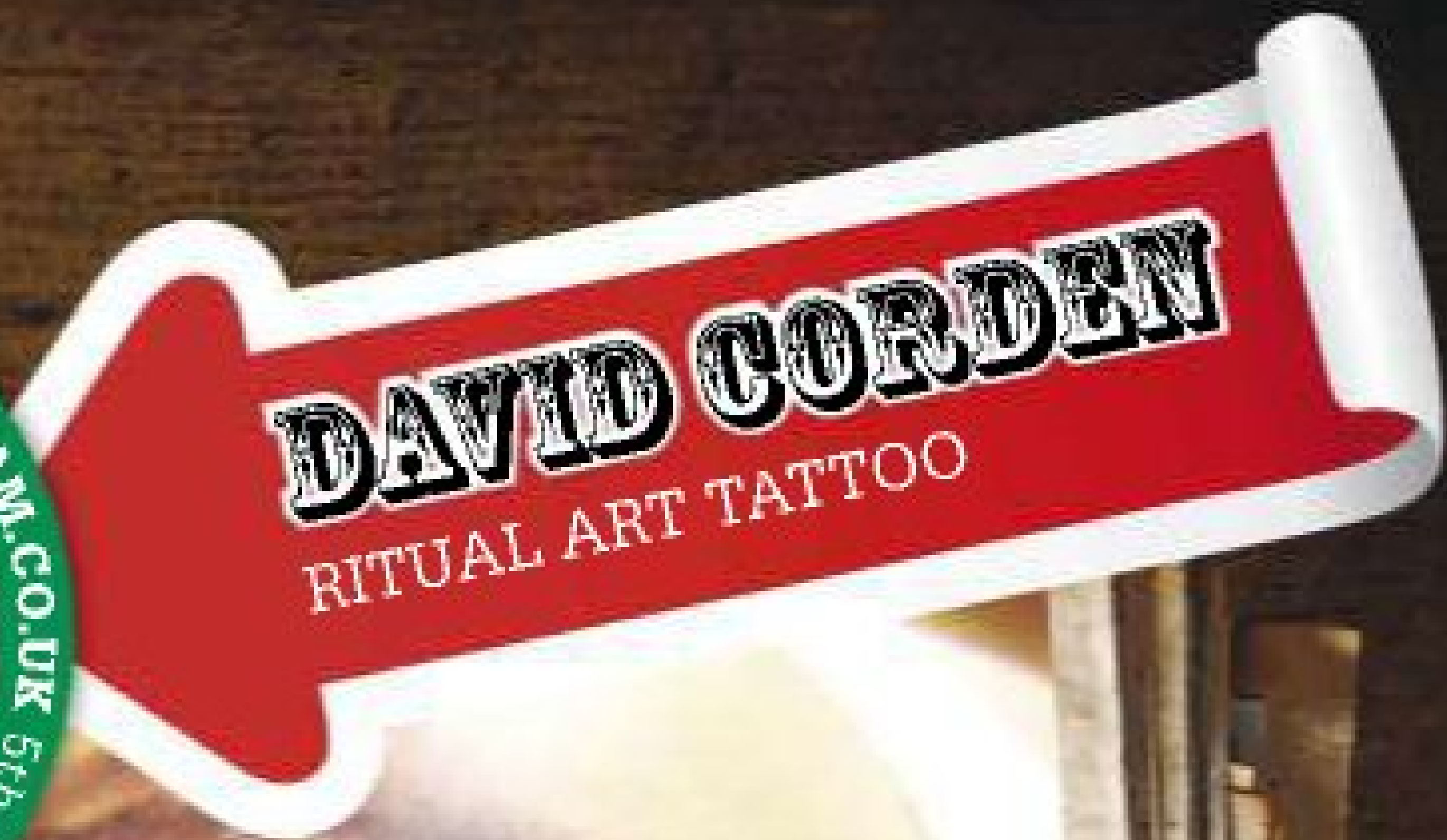
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WORDS BARBARA PAVONE IMAGES MARIO BARTH

# THE KING OF INK

PART TWO



**Here we go again...** the second half of tattoo legend Mario Barth's extensive, intimate interview. Having already tackled his upbringing in Austria, his move to the United States and his ever-growing tattoo world domination in Part I, the King of Ink now talks about his artists, Tasmanian Devil tattoos, how he keeps motivated after 30 years in the industry and what's next on his never-ending agenda...

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**ALL OF YOUR ARTISTS ARE INCREDIBLE - HOW DO YOU GO ABOUT CHOOSING THEM? DO YOU TRAIN THEM OR JUST LET THEM DO THEIR THING?**

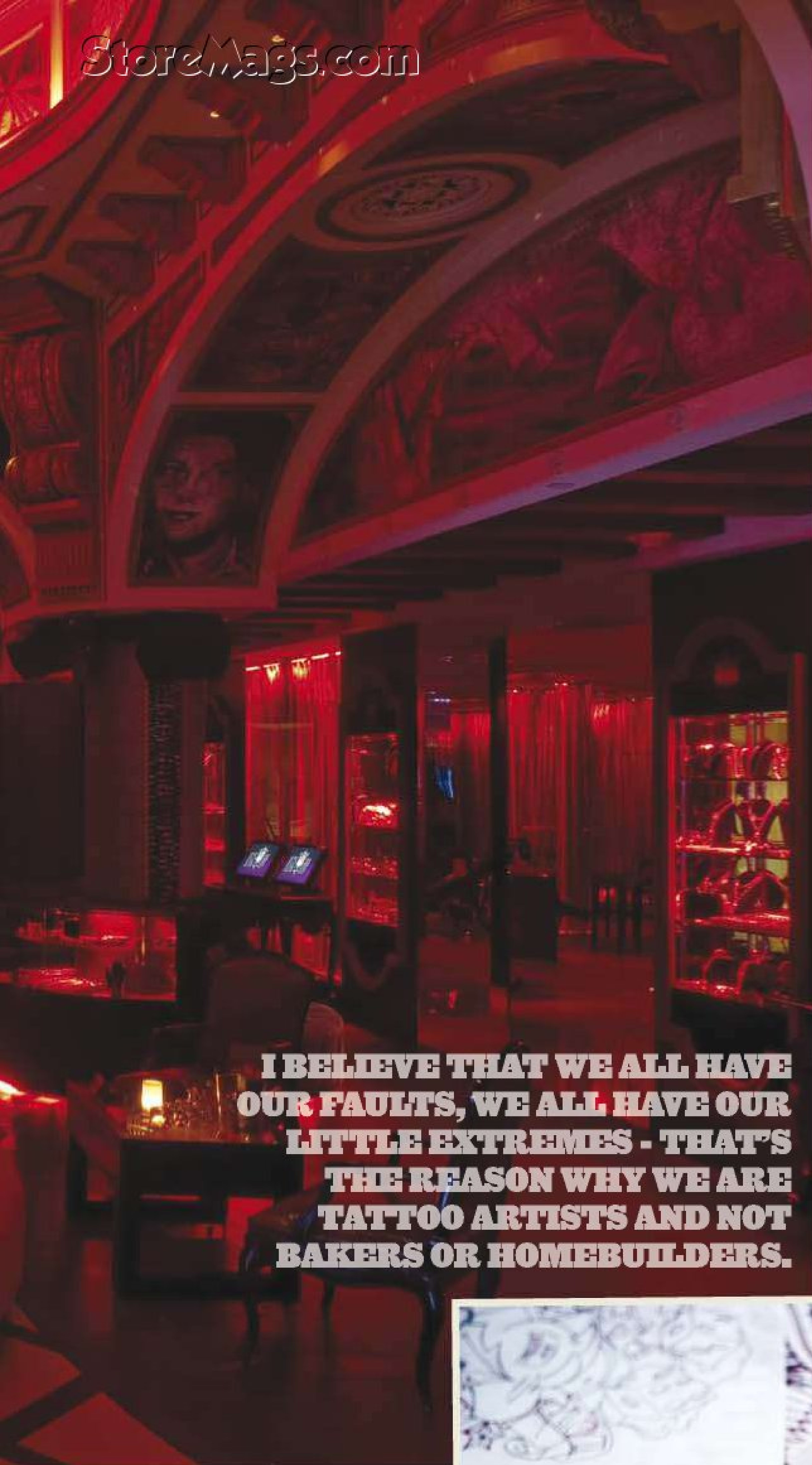
"I take them on and then train them constantly. They also have an order to train each other constantly. I have an open phone to all of my artists; every single one of my artists has my personal cell phone number and it doesn't matter where I'm at in the world, they can call me at any time they want to and I will sit down and I will check out their work.

"I check all the tattoos which have been done in my tattoo shops every single day. I get e-mails every morning - with photos - from all the work that has been done the day before and I

go through every single tattoo in the picture. I make comments, I pick them out, I mean, obviously, I'm only picking out the ones where I think we should make some changes. I'm gonna call up and say like, listen, what's going on? Why did this happen? Why did that happen? What's the situation? So it's a really interactive partnership which I hold with my tattoo artists.

With time and innovation bringing an increasing need for a growing team, Barth proclaims that one of his greatest keys to success is good old fashioned teamwork. "We're like a big family, I have like 180 kids," he laughs and continues, "I don't believe that one person can rule the world, you know?"





**I BELIEVE THAT WE ALL HAVE OUR FAULTS, WE ALL HAVE OUR LITTLE EXTREMES - THAT'S THE REASON WHY WE ARE TATTOO ARTISTS AND NOT BAKERS OR HOMEBUILDERS.**

I just think that one person can give instructions and then he needs an army to follow, and that's really how we build our team. We build it very, very strong, and I try to be as good of a leader as it gets."

Good indeed. Barth admits to a rather innovative approach when it comes to managing his team, which involves embracing the uniqueness of each individual, rather than trying to shape everyone so their thought processes and beliefs match his own. There's also the fact that it's rather hard to get dumped by Barth.

"In good or in bad times, I don't believe in firing people. I have people working with me 15 years now and I'm 15 years in the States, so I believe



that we all have our faults, we all have our little extremes - that's the reason why we are tattoo artists and not bakers or homebuilders. I try to mould around those little elements we all have because even if it feels for me that maybe that person is not correct, for him, it's might be. That's maybe his life; that's his way of expressing himself; that's his way of dealing with the situation."

And when it comes to working for Barth, it's not all work and no play either. "Sometimes we have some crazy ideas where we take the whole crew on a class trip like, let's all go in the mountains for a week and then we party it up there and we come back and work harder." ↻

**MARIO BARTH ON ... HIS TEAM**

[It's a] very, very young team. It's crazy, I have like, our color company, all my people have to work out. They go to work at nine o'clock, but instead of going to work they have to go to the gym, and they get paid for it. So we have a real different concept of building a new generation of workers, and a new generation of businessmen. All my people are trained to hopefully take over one day and be on their own.



**MARIO BARTH ON... LIFE AS A TATTOO ARTIST**

It's a very tough life; you do this for 30 years and every time you step into the tattoo studio, regardless of what happened in your private life, you have to be perfect. I mean it's crazy. It doesn't matter if my grandmother died, it doesn't matter if I had a fight with my wife, or whatever happened in life, I have to go in, I have to sit down and turn this off and turn on the tattoo artist. It's just a crazy job, you know?

**ARE THERE ANY TATTOOS YOU PERSONALLY WON'T DO BECAUSE OF THEIR PARTICULAR DESIGN, STYLE OR SIZE?**

"No, I do the little rose as happy as I would do the backpiece. It's a big surprise to a lot of people, it's like, 'Oh, Mario, you're still doing little roses for a hundred bucks?' And I'm like, 'Yes, I do, because it's my job.' I'm a tattoo artist. I understand that everybody wants to be this great Van Gogh artist, but your job is to be a tattoo artist. It means if a person gives you the honor to work on their body and make an alteration for the rest of their life, it doesn't matter what it is and how big it is, it's your duty as a tattoo artist to make this happen to your best abilities.

"I can come in and people ask me,



**I DO THE LITTLE ROSE AS HAPPY AS I WOULD DO THE BACKPIECE. IT'S A BIG SURPRISE TO A LOT OF PEOPLE, IT'S LIKE, 'OH, MARIO, YOU'RE STILL DOING LITTLE ROSES FOR A HUNDRED BUCKS?' AND I'M LIKE, 'YES, I DO, BECAUSE IT'S MY JOB'.**

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'Hey, you wanna do a Tasmanian Devil?' and I'm like, 'Sit down, I'll give you the best one you ever had.' It doesn't matter to me; I have no emotions attached to the tattoo. None. Zero. My emotions are attached to the client.

**WHAT MAKES A GOOD TATTOO ARTIST THEN, IN YOUR OPINION?**

"I'm not discrediting anybody or crediting anybody more, but we have to be able to switch with our client because we're not working on the same canvas at all times. Every person is different - different emotion, different beliefs, different historical outcomes, where the person lives - so it's like, it changes daily, and so our art form should change daily as well.

"Because the person, if he looks in the mirror and the tattoo is only five percent off of what he ever wanted, it will come out in 25 years. Imagine you have a five million dollar mansion and you walk in and there's this broken moulding, and every day you see this broken moulding - you will not see the five million dollar home anymore. You will focus on this moulding every day you come home, and that's the same with a tattoo that's not 100 percent for the client. He will see this and sooner or later, it's gonna come out because he will have to start justifying to himself why he did what he did."

With his waiting list steadily hovering

between 18 and 22 months, and this being the case for the past eight to nine years, it is evident that there's no shortage of individuals willing to wait for Barth's perfection, and passion. With 30 years in the business under his belt, Barth admits it's not actually hard to stay motivated, as long as you're always looking to improve. "For me, the freshness is that I constantly strive to do something new and better for my industry. I think I learned over the years to really look at the bigger picture and then the payoff on that is just enormous ... I have some artists which are following my path and you can teach one person and they go for it, and they go out in the world and spread their wings - those are payments for me."

There's sure to only be more of those rewards to come, as Barth has recently recruited a 16-year-old apprentice. "I didn't have an apprentice for the last five years and before, I really only had one, who is still with me now after 12 years. That's how I keep it fresh: I have to train him, I have to be a good example in my life, and I have to be a good example as a tattoo artist every single day because that's what he's gonna learn. It's not what you teach them, it's what they learn from you when they observe you and you are not watching. That's really what's gonna shape them. You can teach them whatever you want, but if you go out

MARIO BARTH  
**KING**   
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**MARIO BARTH ON ... THE INDUSTRY'S RESPONSE TO SUCCESS**

Over the years, I've seen so many tattoo artists [who are] very successful, but every time they get asked from outside the industry 'What are you doing for a living?' they look down and say, 'I'm a tattoo artist.' I'm like, why you looking down? The first part, that's what you are and then secondary, our own industry in itself always was a little bit biased to success. It was always oh, you can't have too much success; you can't have a nice house; you can't have a nice car. I'm like, says who?

Our own industry had to learn, and it's learning now slowly, but it still has a lot of learning to do, people can be successful in tattooing. And they will enjoy the fruit of life. But industry peers about 15 years ago were looking down upon when somebody became successful like, oh, that's not right, what is he driving? A Mercedes? Are you crazy?

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with a bottle of whiskey every single night and throw up on the front steps of your shop, he's gonna do that one day."

It doesn't seem like Barth will ever have any difficulties instilling the best of values, including hard work and perseverance - "I came from Austria, a town of 200,000 people, tattooing was illegal, my parents had nothing when I grew up, and my room was in a chicken shed" - in anyone he comes across, but one of his greatest lessons is the simplest of them all: enjoy what you do. "If somebody tells me I have to be 20

hours in a tattoo shop, I'm like, 'Yeah, let's do it!' To me, it's a party."

As Barth continues, he points out it's equally important to embrace life's opportunities and always make the best of every situation, "especially with tattooing, which is the last legal business run by outlaws. Look, we have a gift: we can go anywhere in the world at any time, at any day, and start over. Nobody in the world has this gift - nobody, besides a tattoo artist. I can pick up my shit right now and I can move to India and I'd be tattooing"



**MARIO BARTH ON ... TATTOO ARTISTS ON REALITY TV SHOWS**

If I can give every single one of them a hug and say 'Great job,' I will. Think about it, it's like, how can you reach masses and send a message? [The shows, like Miami Ink and LA Ink,] have changed the whole history of tattooing. Anybody who says different is lying to himself.

It opened our industry up to a way broader audience and not only to the audience but, our industry forgets this, it opened it up to a lot of better artists; people like the Nikkos, all those new people which are out there to make enormous work, which nobody would have touched with a stick [before].

tomorrow. On my terms. That's a gift that nobody can take away from us, so it's beautiful."

**YOU'RE ALWAYS WORKING ON SOMETHING EXCITING, SO WHAT'S NEXT FOR MARIO BARTH?**

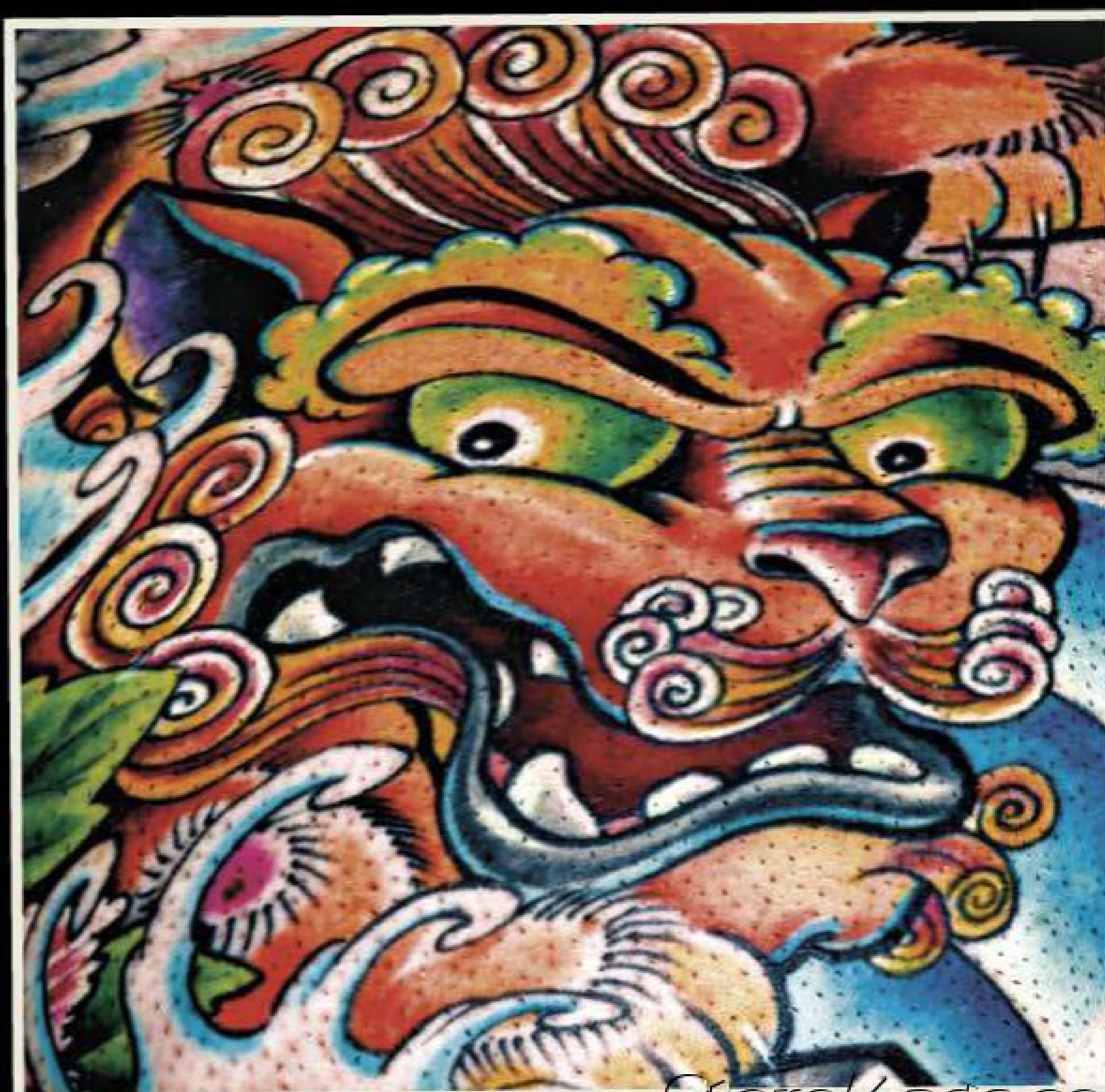
"I don't know [laughs]. We just finished up the Vegas thing with King Ink and we have some very, very big offers. I have also been asked to go on television several times now and I have refused because I don't know if it's the right thing for me - yet.

"I work a lot in my colour industry; I try to create a very, very big network there and try to improve our products constantly so that's a very, very big part of what I do, and I have a very strong team there. We have a full-blown marketing team and it's all new: I really built a corporate structure with that.

"It's also a big undertaking putting the tattoo show on in New Jersey and then a week later, putting on the tattoo show in Las Vegas, so we're making it two shows in one week. Which is a crazy project. Everyone says I'm insane, but we're gonna try to do it because we have all the people here from all around the world; try to do an East Coast and a West Coast show within ten days.

"And after? We'll see. This is all I do; it's like I'm gonna fall off the chair tattooing. That's just what it is. It's my life, and I'd never want it to be different. I never went to work - how much more grateful can you be?" ★

**THIS IS ALL I DO; IT'S LIKE I'M GONNA FALL OFF THE CHAIR TATTOOING. THAT'S JUST WHAT IT IS. IT'S MY LIFE, AND I'D NEVER WANT IT TO BE DIFFERENT. I NEVER WENT TO WORK - HOW MUCH MORE GRATEFUL CAN YOU BE?**





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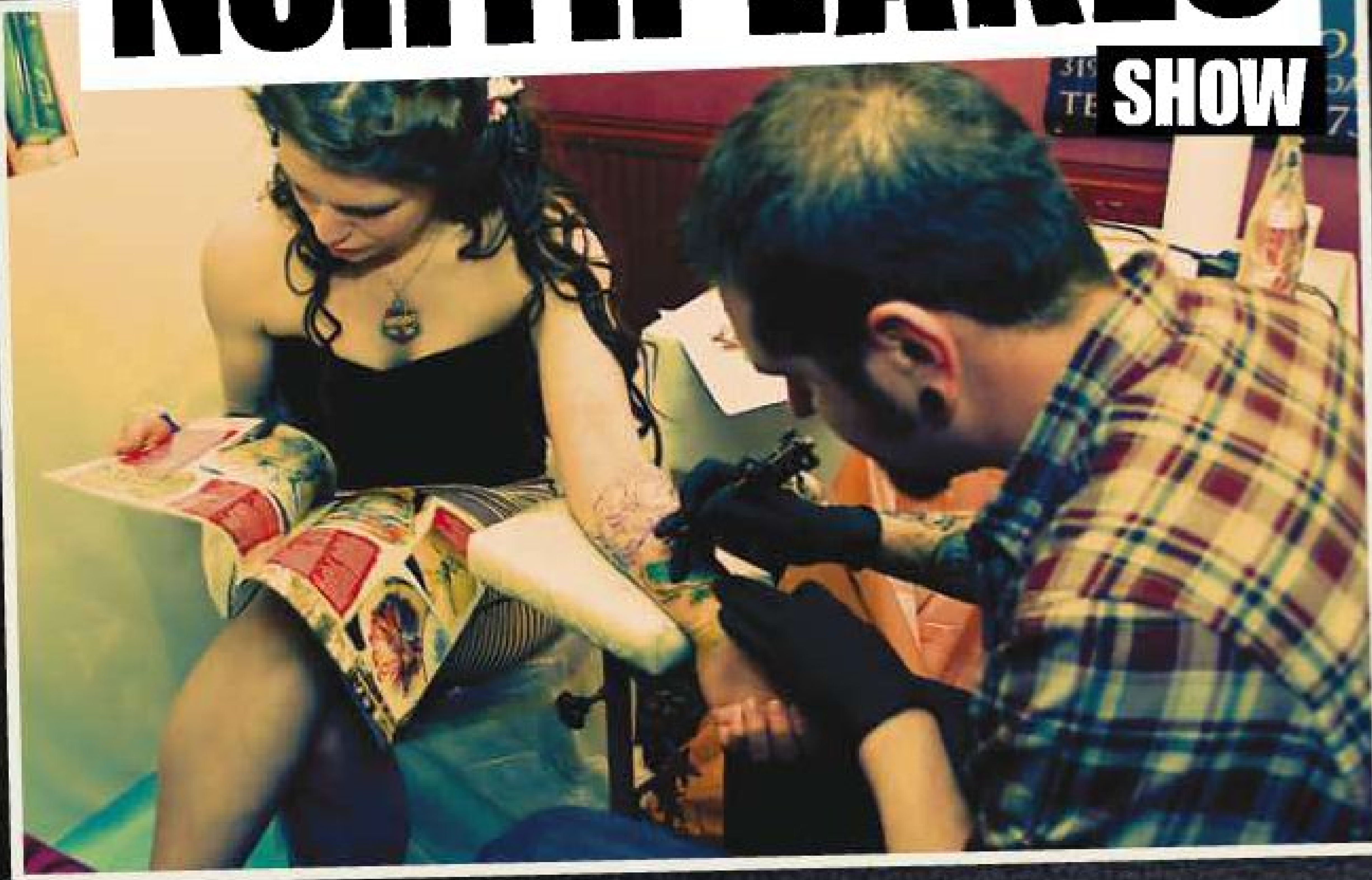
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# NORTH LAKES

SHOW



## AND THE WINNERS ARE...

### Best of Sat

Kimberley by Dave the Buddha  
All Style Tattoo

### Best of Sunday

Crash by Paul Naylor  
Indigo Tattoo

### Large B/G

Steve by Martin Couley  
Couley's Tattoo

### Small B/G

Margaret by Roy Priestly  
Skinshokz

### Tribal/Celtic

David by Mel  
Dark Circle Tattoo

### Leg Sleeve

Nikki by hazel  
Saz's Tattoo

### Large Colour

Jeanette by Bez  
Triple Six Tattoo

### Small Colour

Julie by Bez  
Triple Six Tattoo

The North Lakes Tattoo Show is always a personal highlight of the UK convention scene; being one of the smaller, more intimate shows you could be forgiven for thinking this is just another small local show, but you couldn't be more wrong! With a long history and a lot of expectation behind it, every year the show succeeds in going from strength to strength 2011 was no different.

Colin and Mike who run the North Lakes Show, located at the Shepherd's Inn in Carlisle, really go all out for their artists, traders and public. The warmth of the welcome is obvious as soon as you enter; these guys really care about everyone having a great time, the show runs not only smoothly but with an ambience about it so relaxed you know you're in for a great weekend as soon as you enter.



The diversity of work on show is obvious coming from the great selection of both national and international artists plying their trade over the weekend; Oliver Peck of Elm Street Tattoos, Texas sat comfortably among some of the cream of the UK scene including representatives of Modern Body Art, Jayne Doe and Black Garden with the Europeans being represented nicely by Infamous Tattoos of Sweden.

Wading through the crowded aisles,

the quality of the work on display was clear... not least the smile on Martin Couley's face for the amazing gangster sleeve he won an award for and Bez taking a couple of trophies for best large and small colour let the rest of the world know what we did already!

Some may think there are too many conventions around these days, but whether you agree with that or not, the North Lakes show continues to be one of the best in the country and for me, always will be. ★

For more images from the North Lakes Show, pick up Skin Shots issue 75 - out now!



# SCENES FROM THE

WORDS: SION SMITH PHOTOGRAPHS: JOE O'BRIEN

# PORTSMOUTH

## TATTOO EXTRAVAGANZA



Team Extravaganza



### AND THE WINNERS ARE...

**Male small**  
Clive Bilham  
*Ink To Envy/Portsmouth*

**Female small**  
Carl Zambra  
*Body Art/Dudley*

**Female large**  
Danny Stoner  
*Poison Ink/Basingstoke*

**Oriental/Japanese**  
Derek Campbell  
*Ultimate Tattoo/Winton*

**Best realistic**  
Darren Stares  
*Unique Tattoos/Portsmouth*

**Best tribal/celtic**  
Lucky Lee Nicholls  
*BodyImages/Portsmouth*

**Best of show**  
John O'Conner  
*Tattoo Magic/Weymouth*

**Best overseas artist**  
Bernie Luther  
*Tattoo Demon/Austria*

**Best dressed booth**  
Tony B & Lady Trish  
*Tilbury Tattoo/Essex*

**Dave Ayres memorial award** (sponsored by the legendary Micky B), was presented to who we thought had promoted and contributed the most towards the tattoo industry throughout the year:  
Lal Hardy  
*New Wave Tattoo/London*

The first show of the year on the South Coast got off to a fantastic start - you can't beat a coastal event that's held on a pier! There's just something so brilliantly British about something like that, but honestly, how many more years will it take me to learn that you can't win a fluffy meercat from one of those crane grab machines?

**R**eno and his crew went all out to ensure this was going to be a show that harked back to how conventions used to be - and by pulling in Lal Hardy, Hannah Aitchison and George Bone got that dream off to a flying start. As expected, Hannah and Lal drew a lot of attention from the punters who watched captivated for a good few hours without moving much at all. Also drawing some attention in the room was Sean Vasquez from XXX Tattoo and the crew at Sacred Art in Manchester.

Conventions are a great place to get some cool stories, my favourite this year being from Kelly Wood who sat for a marathon session of 7+ hours with Sandy Green of Sacred Art who laid down an awesome psychedelic mendhi peacock. I heard later that Kelly had to get a cab back home from missing the last train home as she was due to fly out to Vegas the next morning. You can't rush awesomeness.

Not to be outdone, over on the other side of the venue, Dan Gold was laying some serious ink whilst next-door to him, the CupCake Club sandwiched between the ABH/K2 booth continued

to kick out the jams in aid of a good cause as they have done for the best part of a year now. Poison Ink from Basingstoke were also pumping iron - culminating in a nice award for best female large at the end of the day. Given the judging panels experience, there was no arguing over their choices at the end of the show.

After a cracking long and hot weekend, the Portsmouth Extravaganza proved that there's an awful lot of talent kicking about along the south coast. Same again next year? I hope so. There's a meercat with my name on it down there.★



Lal wins the big one!





**DOWN THE  
BARREL OF A**

# COLT

**In a world where we constantly celebrate the mundane in the name of 'modern' art, Colt Prehm's paintings are a tour de force of visual pleasure.** The first thing that strikes you, when you see Colt's work, is the quality and detail he puts into them. We are talking about portraits that look like Rembrandt himself could have painted them. Then look a little closer and you realise that these amazing paintings must be modern - because as far as I am aware, not many people living in the 16th century had ear tunnels or owned electric tattoo machines...



**PREHM STUDIOS.**  
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(515)451 7652.  
Coltprehmart.com

**T**his is what I love most about Colt's work, the mix of a classic style of painting with very modern subjects! It's as if one of the old masters has found himself a time machine and travelled to the future to record how we are now - or Colt has travelled back in time to learn his craft. So when I was given the opportunity to talk to the man behind these works, I jumped at the chance to find out what drives a twenty-six year old from Santa Fe, New Mexico, to paint like a master from 16th century Europe!

"I have always been drawn to the great, old masters of the past; some of my favourites being Rembrandt, Caravaggio, and Ingres. There is an underlying sense of craftsmanship to

the work they were creating that you don't find in most modern art...and I know I am probably stepping on a few toes here. I remember the first times looking at Rembrandt's drawings and paintings and being blown away by the technical ability that he possessed. I have always loved art, just like any kid. I don't think there is a child alive that doesn't draw, paint, love music or build things. Our creative nature is, well... part of our nature. As I have grown older (to the ripe ol' age of twenty-six) my life has begun to be profoundly affected and changed by art. Whether it's creating a tattoo for someone that is helping them move into new places in their life or making/viewing art that is meant to inspire you or help you to consider new possibilities and ideas; art has no choice but to impact the human race on

a personal and societal level."

Did I mention that Colt is also a very talented tattooist? Though his tattoos are not in the same style as his paintings; artistically and technically they are bang on the mark! And it seems, in a roundabout way, that it was tattooing that led him along the path to becoming a better painter!

"I sort of fell into tattooing and painting. I was in college studying biology and psychology and began working at a local tattoo studio where I apprenticed for both piercing and tattooing. By the time I was ready to start tattooing there, my boss at the time, Bob Parr, told me that I needed to get my art degree so that's when I switched majors in school and started studying drawing, painting and art history. I guess that's when I started



**WHETHER IT'S CREATING A TATTOO FOR SOMEONE THAT IS HELPING THEM MOVE INTO NEW PLACES IN THEIR LIFE OR MAKING/VIEWING ART THAT IS MEANT TO INSPIRE YOU OR HELP YOU TO CONSIDER NEW POSSIBILITIES AND IDEAS; ART HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO IMPACT THE HUMAN RACE ON A PERSONAL AND SOCIETAL LEVEL.**

painting. I realised right away that although I really enjoyed tattooing, painting was what I have been called to do. Not to take anything away from tattooing; it offers an opportunity to explore a unique form of art and also to interact with people in ways that very few professions allow but painting is what I was born to do."

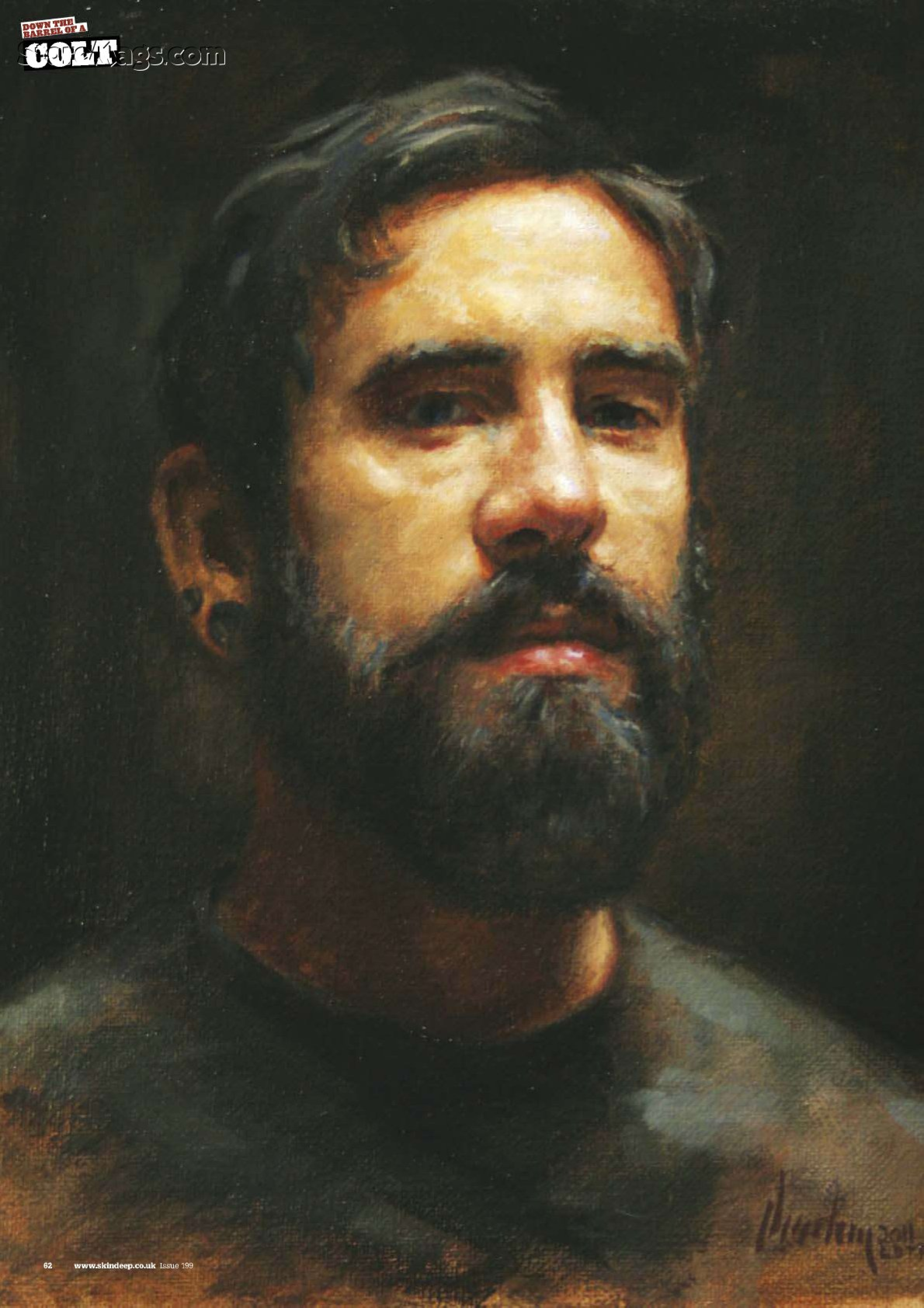
"I don't believe that art is all about self expression because if all you are concerned about is expressing yourself and sharing 'your voice' then you can't expect anyone else to care. I feel that art is a means to communicate ideas to the population at large and that in order to do that you need to 'speak' clearly through the art. The best way to accomplish this is to get really good at drawing, really understand colour theory and composition, and also understand



not only the history of art but contemporary art as well. I am definitely still working on trying to get good at all the things I just mentioned."

With both painting and tattooing being visual expressions of a mental image, does Colt find the process leading to the end result, is the same in both or does he approach each medium differently during the creative process?

"To me there is not a separation in my mind between tattooing and the other work that I do in terms of process. Drawing is the foundation of all of the visual arts and painting seems to me to be a combination of drawing and colour theory. Just as working in oil paint is a different medium from charcoal drawing, tattooing is a separate medium as well; although it relies on the same fundamentals of drawing and colour theory. So when I'm tattooing I'm thinking about the exact same things as when I'm doing my other work. I'm trying to understand the structure and form of what I'm tattooing, gesture in the piece, composition, and in a colour tattoo imagining and trying to understand the relationship of the different hues that I'm using. I treat a colour tattoo just like painting for the





## REMBRANDT

Everybody has heard the name but most presume it to be Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn's surname - when as you can see, it's plainly not. A Dutch painter and etcher (15 July 1606– 4 October 1669), he is considered one of the greatest that has ever lived. He is one of the very few to have been popular whilst he was still alive too.

In his paintings and prints he exhibited knowledge of classical iconography, which he moulded to fit the requirements of his own experience; thus, the depiction of a biblical scene was informed by Rembrandt's knowledge of the specific text, his assimilation of classical composition, and his observations of Amsterdam's Jewish population. Because of his empathy for the human condition, he has been called "one of the great prophets of civilization."

It is known that Rembrandt ran a large workshop and had many pupils. His fame was such that important dignitaries visiting Amsterdam wished to buy pieces, and he was more than willing to comply if he could. The list of Rembrandt pupils from his period in Leiden as well as his time in Amsterdam is quite long, mostly because his influence on painters around him was so great that it is difficult to tell whether someone worked for him in his studio or just copied his style for patrons eager to acquire a Rembrandt.

Interestingly, a letter published in 2004 by Margaret S. Livingstone, professor of neurobiology at Harvard Medical School, suggests that Rembrandt, whose eyes failed to align correctly, suffered from stereo blindness. This conclusion was made after studying 36 of Rembrandt's self-portraits. Because he could not form a normal binocular vision, his brain automatically switched to one eye for many visual tasks. This disability could have helped him to flatten images he saw, and then put it onto the two-dimensional canvas.

most part. I use a 10-20 colour palette for tattooing depending on the piece."

Besides landscapes and still life, Colt's paintings tend to focus on portraits, something that he does not seem him cover in his tattoos. Was this a conscious choice on the part of Colt, to keep the two completely separate?

"I don't do a ton of portraits. It's not a conscious choice but I think a lot

of that has to do with the fact that I don't work from photographs in my painting and drawing and as little as possible with tattooing as well. I feel that photos are a non- experience and I want my work to be based on interactions with real people, things and places; not an interaction with a photo. A lot of the joy of painting and drawing for me comes from spending time with my subject, a 3-dimensional being, and transposing it to a two dimensional surface. It's a really difficult and rewarding process and is much different than copying or utilizing pictures as they are already put into a 2-d context. Not to say that good art is never made by using photos as tools, it just doesn't interest me much."

"Besides working from observation I

create a lot from imagination too which I really enjoy. It's taking all of the information that has downloaded into my brain through making thousands of drawings, paintings and tattoos and creating a new reality out of those experiences. It's amazing to me that as artists we can construct a new reality! We can take a culmination of experiences that we have had and mesh

## WHEN I'M TATTOOING I'M THINKING ABOUT THE EXACT SAME THINGS AS WHEN I'M DOING MY OTHER WORK. I'M TRYING TO UNDERSTAND THE STRUCTURE AND FORM OF WHAT I'M TATTOOING

and mix them to create an image that the world has never witnessed before. And by showing them something new you are providing them with a new construct to their reality. It's really powerful and I think that is why it's important that we are responsible about what we are putting out there as artists. I make a conscious effort to be uplifting with my art and interactions with

people; I believe it's important."

With his combined tattooing and painting styles being quite encompassing and covering a broad spectrum, I ask Colt who and what his influences are?

"I think that the question regarding influences is really important because of the massive impact those people we respect have on us. I already mentioned several of the old masters that I really

get inspired by but there are definitely contemporary artists I love as well. First of all I have to mention my teacher and mentor, Tony Ryder. I have not met a more influential, gentle, talented and humble person...ever. I feel that I must give him the credit for anything that I know about drawing and painting. Several other painters and craftsmen working today

that I really respect and study are Yuqi Wang, Jacob Collins and Johannes Heisig. There are a ton more but those are a few that popped into my mind. In terms of tattooing my biggest influence has been Guy Aitchison. I don't necessarily want to tattoo like Guy but I really respect what he has done to raise the bar in the tattoo industry; he's a really great tattooist. I doubt ☺

**IF YOU HAVE DISCOVERED YOU HAVE A PASSION OR DESIRE FOR SOMETHING I BELIEVE THAT IT HAS BEEN PLACED THERE FOR A PURPOSE AND YOU SHOULD DO WHATEVER YOU HAVE MUST TO PURSUE IT AND CULTIVATE IT.**



and drawing but I have done short term tattoo apprenticeships as well. I am teaching a lot locally right now and am also teaching a portrait class at BACAA (Bay Area Classical Artists Atelier) just south of San Francisco this fall. There is info on my website about the class. I feel that teaching is not only something that I enjoy doing but it is a kind of responsibility I have to others. I have been blessed with one of the best art educations available and need to share what I have been so graciously given."

"If you have discovered you have a passion or desire for something I believe that it has been placed there for a purpose and you should do whatever you have must to pursue it and cultivate it. This often means seeking new training or taking classes but it's worth the investment, even if it's to advance yourself in what you are already doing. There is always learning to do and I try constantly to stimulate my mind by obtaining new information. At this point specifically for me that has been by inventing my own personal drawing course to put myself through in order

to improve. The second and most important thing is to discover why it is you do what you do. If you understand the reason you are doing/ pursuing something you won't lose heart or feel like you want to stop. Keep your reason in your mind always; write it down on things around you and don't allow yourself to lose sight of your goals and the cause for your feeling of passion for something. As I always say, feel free to contact me anytime and I would be happy to talk more about... anything! Whether it is for asking questions, having a discussion or commissioning a piece of artwork!"


So consumed by his passion is Colt, that even his studio he works out of is considered a project! "Prehm Studios is a new project I just recently started and I think it's a really special place. It's

essentially just my personal painting studio with a private tattoo station in there as well. I have had an enormous positive response to the space. Clients coming to get tattooed there are in for a new experience in collecting their body art. There is something really stimulating and calming at the same time about being tattooed/tattooing in a place where you are surrounded by drawings and paintings, many of which are in progress. Most clients who walk into the studio do not even look at a tattoo portfolio, I think they are comforted by seeing all of the work that is going into creating the drawings and paintings and I treat giving someone a tattoo exactly the same way that I would approach someone wanting to commission a new piece of art on the canvas. I always tell people that ↻






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## CARAVAGGIO

Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio (29 September 1571 – 18 July 1610) was an Italian artist active in Rome, Naples, Malta, and Sicily between 1593 and 1610. His paintings, which combine a realistic observation of the human state, both physical and emotional, with a dramatic use of lighting, had a formative influence on the Baroque school of painting.

Infamous while he lived, Caravaggio was forgotten almost immediately after his death, and it was only in the 20th century that his importance to the development of Western art was rediscovered. Despite this, his influence on the new Baroque style that eventually emerged from the ruins of Mannerism, was profound. It can be seen directly or indirectly in the work of Rubens, Jusepe de Ribera, Bernini, and Rembrandt, and artists in the following generation heavily under his influence were called the "Caravaggisti" or "Caravagesques", as well as Tenebrists or "Tenebroso" ("shadowists"). Andre Berne-Joffroy, Paul Valéry's secretary, said of him: "What begins in the work of Caravaggio is, quite simply, modern painting."

Only about 80 works by Caravaggio survive. One, The Calling of Saints Peter and Andrew, was recently authenticated and restored. It had been in storage in Hampton Court, mislabeled as a copy. Richard Francis Burton writes of a "picture of St. Rosario (in the museum of the Grand Duke of Tuscany), showing a circle of thirty men turpiter ligati" which is not known to have survived.

my goal is to give them the best experience and body art they have ever had, period."

Talking of goals, what does the future hold for Colt? Any new projects on the horizon?

"My plans for the future are relatively straight forward. Keep making art. I set goals for six months in advance, one year in advance, five years and ten years. Within the next year I want to be published ten times and be featured on television for my art. And I want to be making the most beautiful paintings that I have ever created. Also, I have shown with several galleries but I would like to have full time representation at one of my 'dream galleries' this next year. In the future you can plan on seeing much larger paintings too. I am finally feeling confident enough to begin approaching more ambitious projects and I have some pretty large canvases stretched and ready, up to 2.5 meters. I feel like scale is going to play an important role in my work later on. One goal for the distant future, is to have work hanging in the Metropolitan Museum of Art

while I'm still alive."

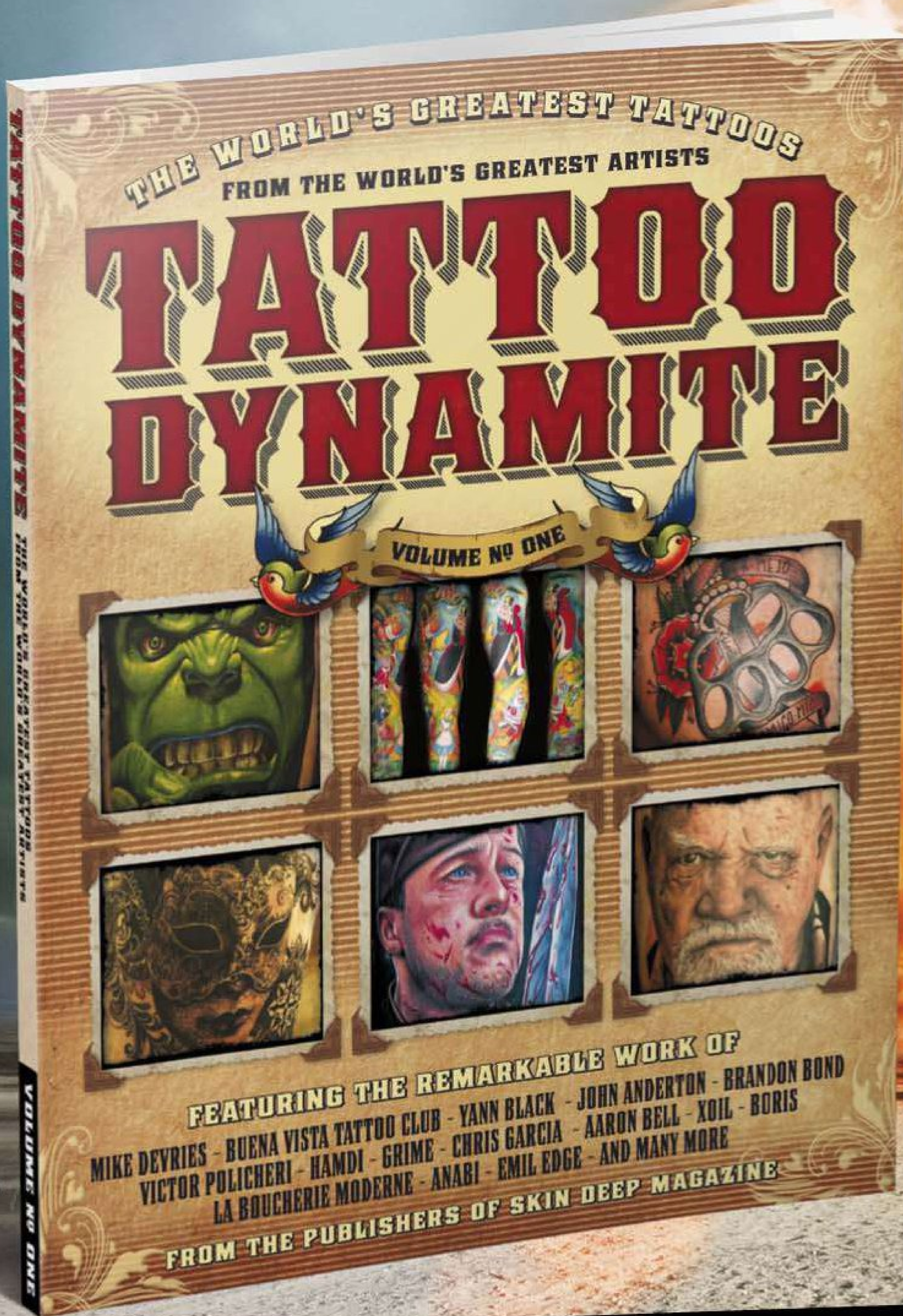
With direction and focus like that, I can see Colt being huge in the near future. But with such big ambitions and such a busy creative life, I ask Colt what inspires him, keeps him fresh and driven to work so tirelessly at his chosen path?

"My inspiration for the art I make is primarily spiritually based. I really feel that I have been destined to be a visual artist by God and that through my work I am going to have a positive impact on the world. I chose painting, drawing and tattooing as my creative vehicles because of the history and effect these arts have had on humanity. It's wild when you think about the amount of lives that have been changed though art. Take Rembrandt for example. His work is not only evoking feeling and telling a story, but it has been passing on his ideas and beliefs for hundreds of years. By his work he is still living, having an impact on the lives of millions of people. If after I physically die I can influence multitudes of people to love more, care more and discover their meaning for being and their passion then I guess I will have done what I needed to do while I was alive." ★

**I DON'T BELIEVE THAT ART IS ALL ABOUT SELF EXPRESSION BECAUSE IF ALL YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT IS EXPRESSING YOURSELF AND SHARING 'YOUR VOICE' THEN YOU CAN'T EXPECT ANYONE ELSE TO CARE.**



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INTERVIEW: PAULA HARDY-KANGELOS IMAGES: RACHEL MCCARTHY

# THE MODERN FACE OF TRADITIONAL ART

Rachel Jamie McCarthy is a young woman with a fresh talent, the latest in an impressive line up of talented tattoo ladies originating from Modern Body Art in Birmingham. She makes traditional tattoos with a feminine flair...

## MODERN BODY ART

183-185 Corporation Street,  
City Centre,  
Birmingham,  
B4 6RG

Rachel McCarthy can be contacted via facebook or by calling Modern Body Art on 0121 236 0753 [www.modernbodyart.co.uk](http://www.modernbodyart.co.uk)



I've always been quite creative. I have my mum to thank for that. I wasn't an academic child so she encouraged me to express myself on paper. My earliest memories are of drawing and painting. Going to university to do a degree in Fine Art Painting was just an excuse to paint all day, drink most nights and put off finding a 'real job' for as long as possible.

"I'd always wanted a tattoo but could never decide on what. A lot of my friends were showing off lovely tattoos at the time and I was dying to get one too. Dawnii very kindly offered to do my first tattoo for my 19th birthday, just after she had finished her apprenticeship at Modern Body Art.

"That first tattoo was really for my dad; it's a little heart in a shamrock, with a cobweb, to do with my heritage and how much I love my family. Now I can see that I was a bit of a cheesy idea

and I wish I hadn't got it right in the middle at the top of my back.

Still, I don't regret the tattoo, just my naivety in its placement.

"That was when I knew I wanted to learn to tattoo, I was about halfway through my degree. So from then on, my artwork completely changed. I went from stylised portraits in oils to stupid tattoo inspired cartoons. I tried very hard to draw traditional tattoos but I was nowhere near neat enough. At art school I was always taught to be loose and expressive with my painting, not precise and restrictive, the way it has to be for neat tattooing.

"I had to slow myself right down and practically learn to draw all over again.

"People seem to think you learn a lot about drawing and painting at art school but really you just learn how to cope with life a bit better and that no one owes you anything! Going to art school definitely broadened my mind, but it didn't really teach me anything about





**THAT FIRST TATTOO WAS REALLY FOR MY DAD; IT'S A LITTLE HEART IN A SHAMROCK - NOW I CAN SEE THAT I WAS A BIT OF A CHEESY IDEA AND I WISH I HADN'T GOT IT RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE AT THE TOP OF MY BACK.**

how to make art. Still, I stuck it out and finished my degree, collected a few more tattoos and then started looking for an apprenticeship.

"At 22, I got my chance. It was a year after I finished my degree and up until then I had been working in bars and badgering every tattooist I met, trying to get into it, most of them tried to fob me off but a few were helpful. I met Sean and Gav on a night out and a couple of days later I went to 72 Tattoo to show them my drawings and started apprenticing with them a few weeks after that.

"By the time I started tattooing I was confident in my drawing and was mature enough to understand the great responsibility I had been given, I suppose that's what I really got from art school. Now I'm tattooing full time I try not to pigeonhole myself when it comes to the style of the tattoos I make, I suppose they are kind of traditional... but a lot girlier than most traditional tattoos. Everything I draw seems to turn out cute, whether I like it or not!

"In turn, I also collect tattoos in the style that I aim to create, so far I've been tattooed by Valerie Vargas, Nick ↻

# THE MODERN FACE OF TRADITIONAL ART

Baldwin, Dawnii, Jori, Steve Burlton, Daniel Morris, Sam Ricketts, James Kiley, Danny Rossiter, Gre Hale, and Tom Divine. Not to mention Sean, Gav and Dan at 72 Tattoo.

"It was punk rock that pushed me towards tattoos; I grew up listening to Bikini Kill, Sick Of It All, Rancid, Black Flag and NOFX. To express myself in a

middle class village I cultivated colourful rebellion hair that changed every week and a mouth full of piercings. Now I put all that energy into my tattooing and I'm more likely to listen to bands like Sonic Youth, The Pixies, and the Cure. I must be mellowing out with age!

"I get lots of inspiration from other tattooists; my favorites have to be Valerie, Steve Byrne, Xam, Sarah Schor, Chad Koepfinger, Claudia DeSabe, Uncle Allan, and Lu's Lips.

"I'm very privileged to be tattooing from Modern Body Art, some great female tattooers have worked there, Jo, Dawnii and Becca are all hard working talented women whom I admire very much. To have the opportunity to be part of that is incredible.

"I love conventions, I have only worked two so far but I intend to work a lot more. It's a great way to make new friends and get tattooed by people I admire. It's also a nice way to work alongside my very talented (and very modest) boyfriend, Nick Baldwin. Nick and I actually met doing a tattoo swap. We really liked each others work and met up to do some fun tattoos, Nick tattooed a deep sea diving helmet on me and I did a peacock mantis shrimp on him... we hit it off straight away.

"Then I stole all his best machines and broke all his pens!

"It would be difficult to be with someone that didn't understand how much of my life this takes up. We are both obsessed with tattoos and share

**AT ART SCHOOL I WAS ALWAYS TAUGHT TO BE LOOSE AND EXPRESSIVE WITH MY PAINTING, NOT PRECISE AND RESTRICTIVE, THE WAY IT HAS TO BE FOR NEAT TATTOOING.**

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everything (except pens!) and we have just worked our first convention together, Tattoo Freeze, and will be doing a few others this year, too. It's really fun getting to tattoo alongside him, we're both progressing in our work and it feels like all the hard work is finally starting to pay off.

"Right from the start of my tattoo career I've had a ton of support of my family and friends, they let me practice on them and helped me get where I am now. My Dad's first tattoo was a half sleeve I designed and Sean tattooed and his second tattoo was my first oriental style half-sleeve, which I did way before I was ready.

"I'm still thrilled when my friends want me to tattoo them. It's nice when they let me run with an idea and trust me to do something we can both be proud of.

"I'd like to thank my friends, family and my fantastic customers for letting me draw on them! While I've got this opportunity I would like to say a big

**I'M VERY PRIVILEGED TO BE TATTOOING FROM MODERN BODY ART, SOME GREAT FEMALE TATTOOERS HAVE WORKED THERE, JO, DAWNII AND BECCA ARE ALL HARD WORKING TALENTED WOMEN WHOM I ADMIRE VERY MUCH.**

thank you to my family as without their help and support I don't think I would have made it through my degree and apprenticeship. I would also like to say a massive thank you to Sean Lyons and Gavin Rourke who took me on as their apprentice, they gave me a chance when nobody else would, I owe them big time!

"And finally, I would like to thank Matt Hunt and everybody who I've worked with at Modern Body Art. We all get on really well and creatively feed off of each other... I'm really happy to be a part of the team." ★



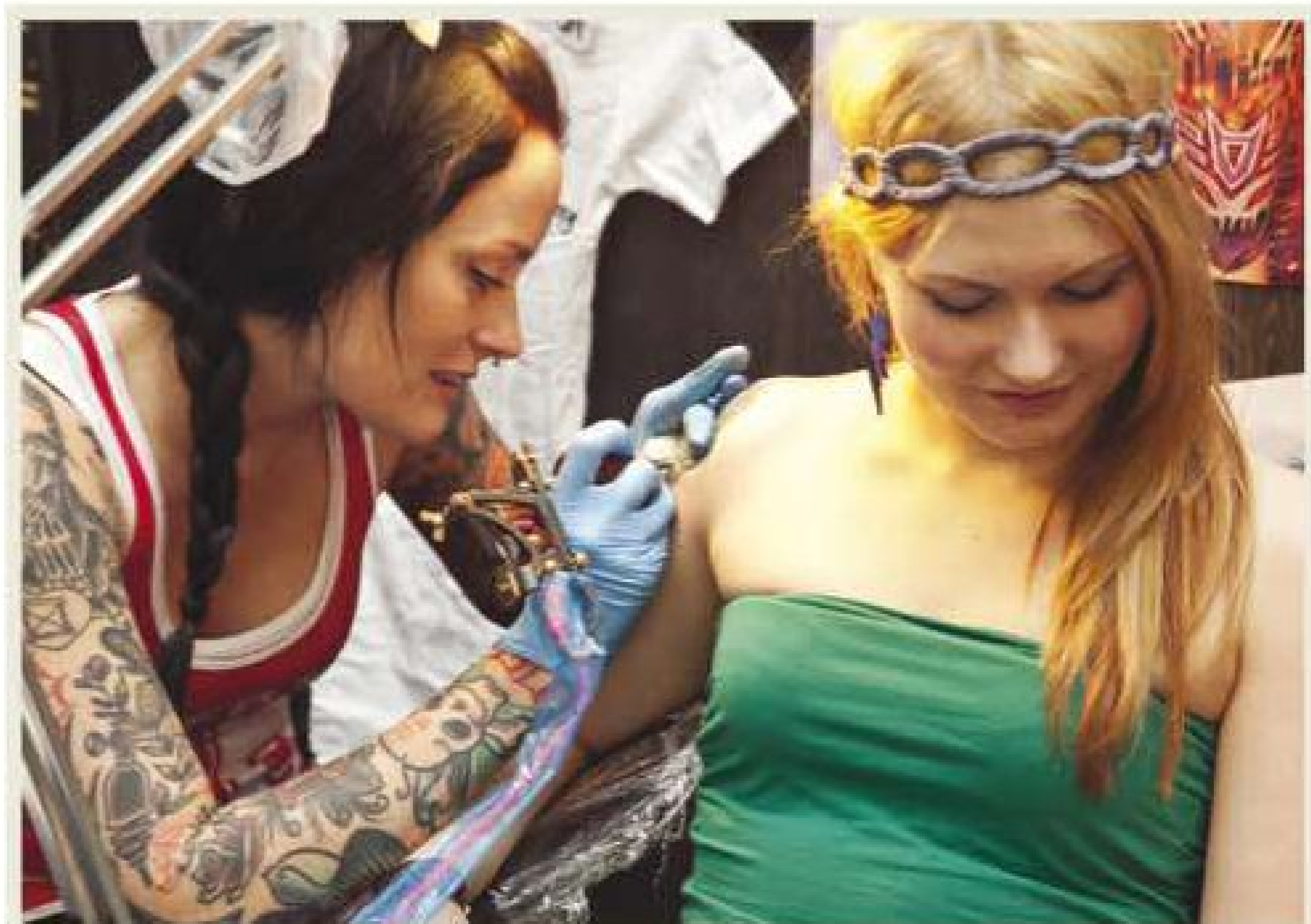


# HELSINKI INK

2011

The first impression you get, looking out from the window of the plane, is that there are a lot of trees and snow. An endless carpet of forest with lakes in between. So it's kind of a surprise when you land in Helsinki to find that the airport is so modern and efficient. Not a polar bear in sight.

Due to the cultural influence of neighbouring Russia, Helsinki has a quite different character from other Scandinavian capitals. Helsinki is a sea-town par excellence and an exciting, dynamic place. Half the city seems to be water, and the tortured geography of the coastline includes any number of bays, inlets and a speckling of islands.



Hexa from Takomo Tattoo working in the Finnish artist side at the convention.



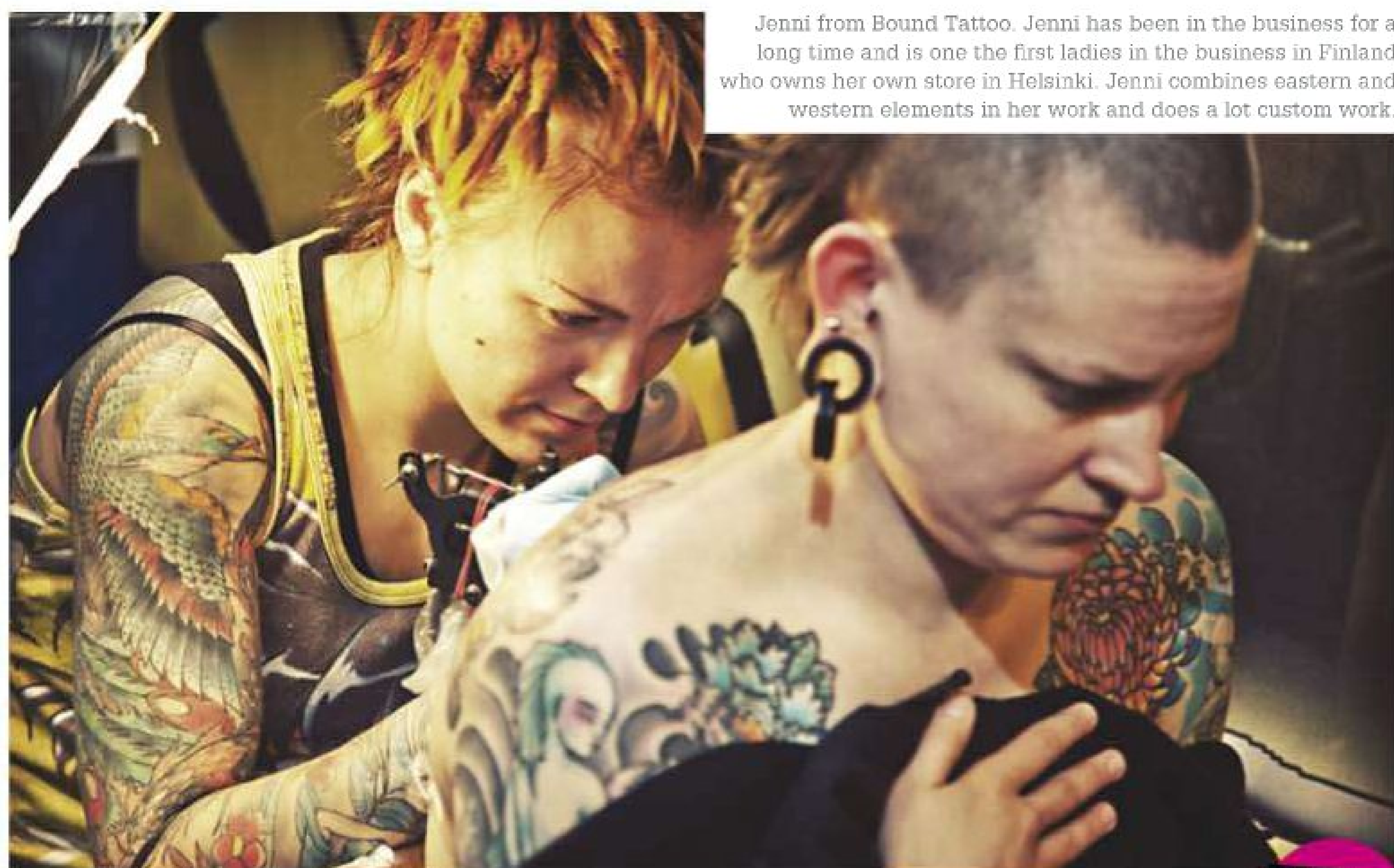


Kimmo Rosti, is the organizer of Helsinki Ink. He is also the founder of the Finnish Tattoo Artist Association. Kimmo is also a tattoo artist himself and owns a Vida Loca Tattoo store in Helsinki.



**LEENA LUMILAMPI/ BONAFIDE TATTOO, FINLAND**

This kickboxing beauty has been doing amazing work recently. This was her first time in Helsinki and afterwards, she will continue her road trip and visit conventions around Europe if you want to catch up with her.



Jenni from Bound Tattoo. Jenni has been in the business for a long time and is one the first ladies in the business in Finland who owns her own store in Helsinki. Jenni combines eastern and western elements in her work and does a lot custom work.

Jonna Metsälä, Hexa Takomo Tattoo. Jonna's chin tattoo says 'Love' in Finnish and it's done her man Hexa. True love...we think!



Agrypa, from Kult Tattoo, Krakow. A female Polish tattoo artist. She has been in tattooing for 5 years and started while living in Australia. Now she is back in Poland and touring around Europe conventions - this was her second time in Helsinki-Ink.



These artist designed and painted skate decks were auctioned off for charity. The skate deck auction is traditionally a part of Helsinki Ink Convention every year. Everyone can place a bid on the deck they like and the deck goes to the highest bidder with all the money from the decks going straight to the charity.



**JOHANNA/ BLUEBIRD TATTOO, SWEDEN**

This 28-years old Swede is already a veteran when it comes to tattoo conventions and has been in the business for ten years. Johanna's favourite tattoo conventions are in South Africa and she has also illustrated a children's book.

If Finnish Metal bands aren't enough reason to visit Finland, tattooing here is like it was 15 years ago in States. There's a lot of emerging artists and the scene isn't that mainstream. Sounds great, right? Helsinki is cool without - as yet - being self-consciously so.

The Helsinki Ink 2011 Convention is the most extensive ink happening between the east and the west and it ➔



Teresa, Flame Tattoo, Helsinki. This pin-up got more detail into it with Teresa wanting to add her long time friend into the tattoo - her dog which has now sadly passed away is right here...



Veera Moberg, by Jarmo Kantala, Tatuata Tattoo. Veera is also a tattoo artist herself. This white-tailed deer tattoo is an ancestor of all the white-tailed deer in Finland.

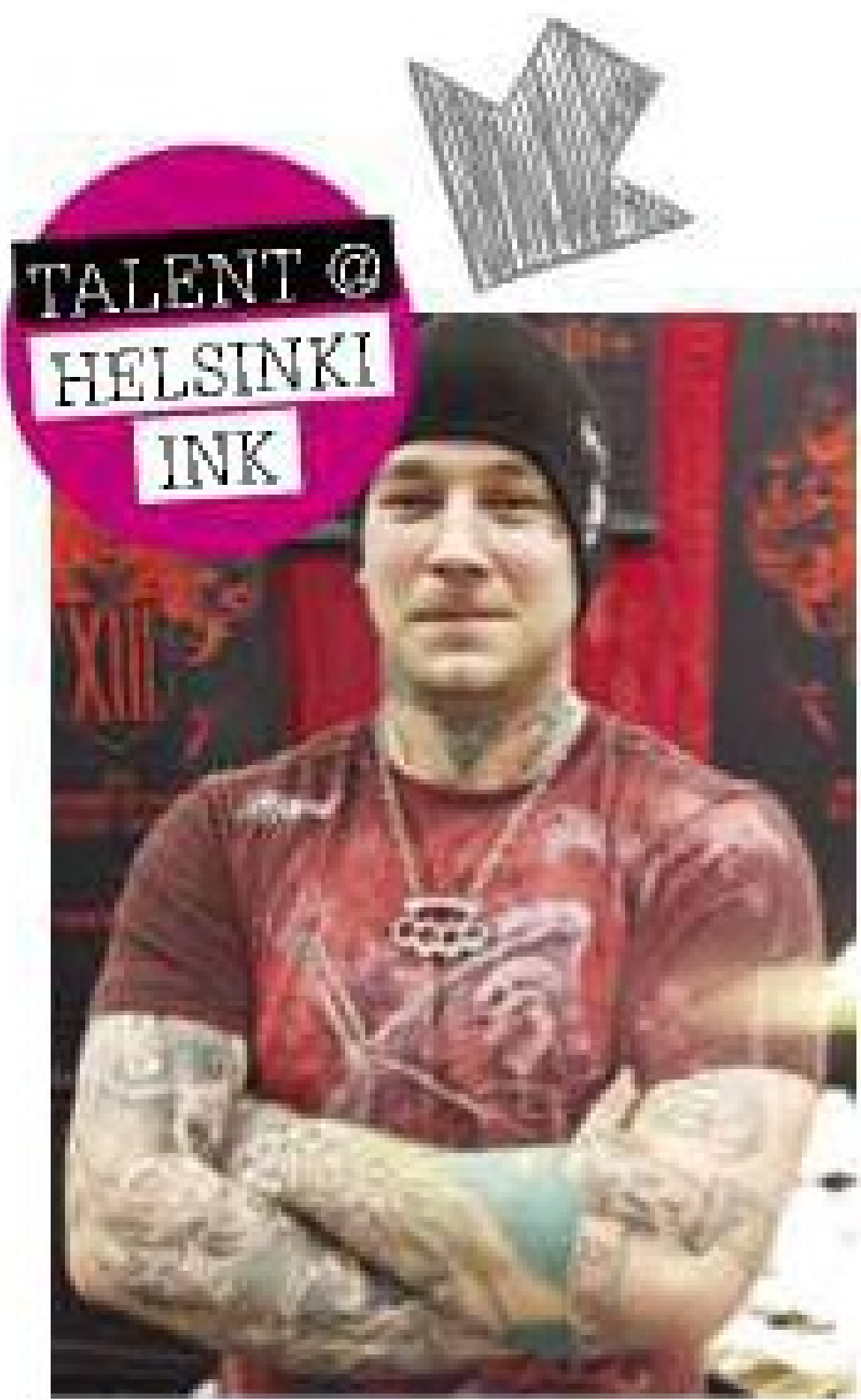


Petri Syrjälä, Art For Life Tattoo, Helsinki. Petri is an amazing talent and well known for his realistic animal tattoos. Petri is high in demand these days as the Finnish businessmen elite want only Petri's work - he does a lot work for CEO's: big back pieces and full sleeves.

The event place in Helsinki The Old Cable Factory (Kaapelitehdas).



Sailor Andy from Legacy Tattoo, Helsinki. Legacy Tattoo is one of the only places in Helsinki which organizes walk-in's on Fridays. These super popular walk-in's are always fully booked. Legacy boys are masters of American traditional and specialize mainly in old school work.



**ALEX/HOUSE OF PAIN, SWEDEN**

Straight from the city of Stockholm, black and grey tattoo artist Alex has been tattooing for over 6 years now. This was Alex's second time at Helsinki Ink.

was held for the 17th time this year. The Finnish Tattoo Artist Association organised their first Helsinki Ink Tattoo convention back in 1995. Helsinki Ink is free for the tattoo artists and it's one of the oldest tattoo conventions in Europe. The entire weekend, the place was

teaming. Roughly 3,000 people came through the door to see 65 foreign artists from all over the world - from Japan to Russia, Singapore to Bulgaria, Spain and so forth. There were also 25 Finnish tattoo artists representing Finnish tattooing talent at its core. ➡



The convention hotties, the true foxy lady, tall blond Kaisu with her new half sleeve foxy lady tattoo.

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**MATTSON  
 / ZOMBIE  
 TATTOO,  
 FINLAND**

Mattson is a amazing talent and is one of the finest Finnish Tattooing artists today. He has been working as a tattoo artist since 2001 and he's been awarded as the best Finnish tattoo artist 2006. He specialises in old/new school and oriental styles and does mainly custom work.



The Helsinki Roller Derby Girls where in show promoting Roller Derby events. The sport is getting really popular in Finland.



Steve by Maximo Lutz



Emma by Bernhard Happy Needsles



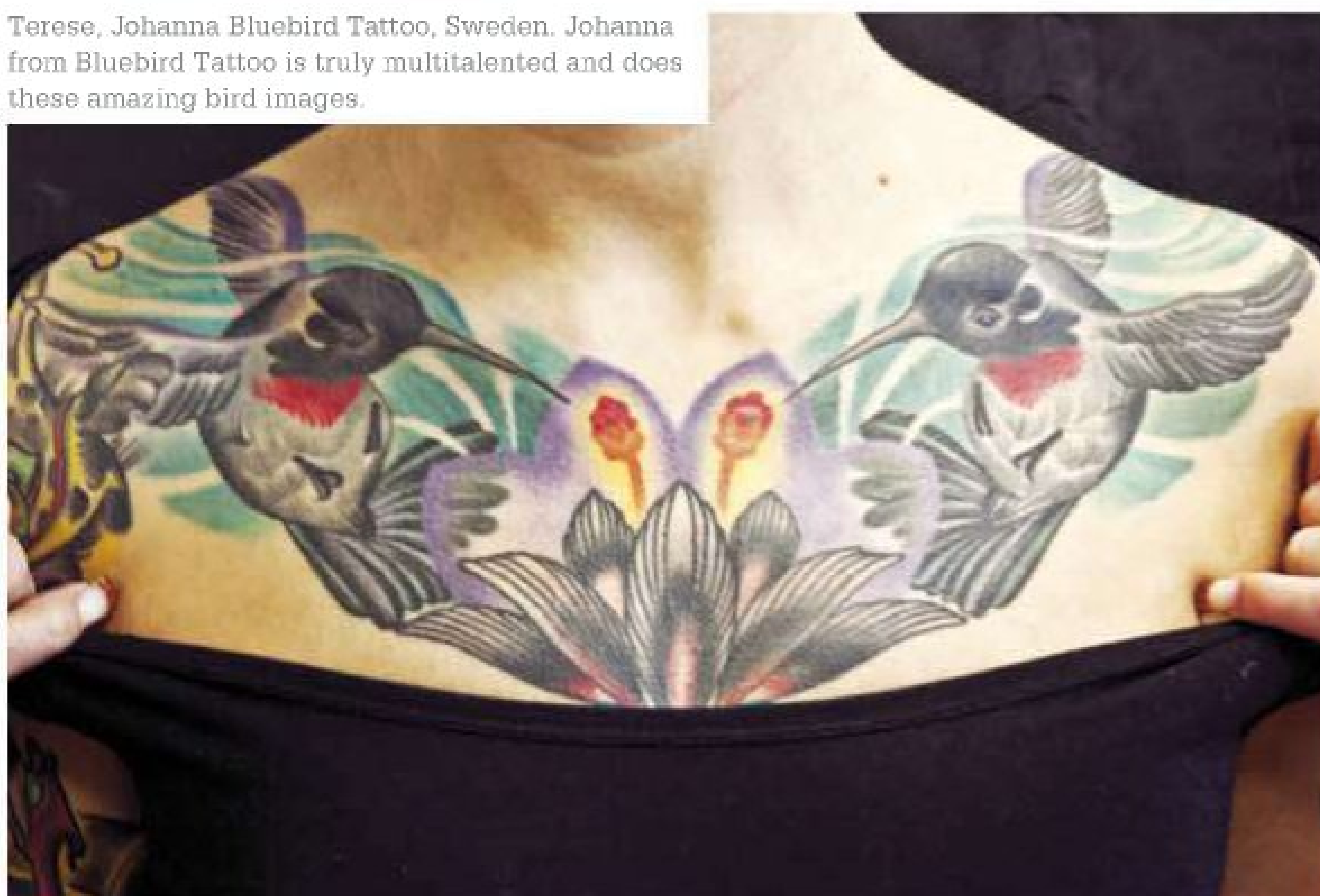
Kerry by Bailey Blue Blood

The venue was besieged with tattooed folks from all spectrums of tattoo colour wheel; rockers, rollers, Goth kids, skate punks, serious collectors, first-timers, last-timers, beauty queens, freaks and geeks.

Helsinki Ink lasted for three days with constant action on stages with competitions and performances. From sideshow performers like sword swallowing, and burlesque artist Luckyhell and LouLou De'Ville.

After cruising all day at Helsinki Ink, the organizers had even more entertainment to offer in the after-party at Bar Bäkkäri in the heart of Helsinki City. The after party had excellent line up of bands for two days in a row and the place was packed every night. ★

Terese, Johanna Bluebird Tattoo, Sweden. Johanna from Bluebird Tattoo is truly multitalented and does these amazing bird images.



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All details correct at time of going to press. Adverts cannot be taken over the phone. Please include your full studio details even if they are not to accompany the wording.

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**TATTOOISTS WANTED** for a busy, recently refurbished studio in Northampton town centre and Tattooist(s) and Piercer wanted for studio in Banbury. Please email portfolio to pulse\_northampton@hotmail.co.uk or drop into PULSE Northampton. Possible apprenticeship for the right person.

**INKERS TATTOO STUDIO CHERTSEY.** Looking for experienced tattoo artist to be a third addition to our team, an ability to execute all styles and genres preferable. Any enquires please contact Jules on 07904609575

**TATTOOIST WANTED:** We are looking for an experienced full time tattooist to work in our established shop. No drug/alcohol or attitude problems, must be polite and friendly. Also needed to train my apprentice. Must have full portfolio and references. For more details contact Paul on 07852 717872 (W. Yorkshire)

**TATTOO ARTIST WANTED:** Raven Art Tattoo Studio is looking for a tattoo artist in Exeter for our new studio in the city centre, must have a strong portfolio of art work and tattoos, with the ability to do custom designs and flash, preferably with at least 3 year experience, to apply or for more details please contact Kev on: 07563 508 783 or email at ravenarttattoo@googlemail.com

**MY NAMES SAKURA.** I'm a hand poke tattoo artist. I've been tattooing for four years now and lucky to have worked guest spots and conventions abroad as well as in England. I'm hard working, turn up on time and drink and drug problem free. You can see my work here: [www.facebook.com/sakuramudraink](http://www.facebook.com/sakuramudraink) or contact me through [sakuraink@hotmail.com](mailto:sakuraink@hotmail.com)

**OPENING AVAILABLE FOR A PART-TIME TATTOOIST** to work alongside award winning tattoo artist in a busy town centre location. Must also be flexible with hours to cover holidays, conventions etc. No drug/alcohol problems. No apprentices. Please contact [glynuren@gmail.com](mailto:glynuren@gmail.com) with examples of your work.

**DOUBLE 7 TATTOO IN MILTON KEYNES** is looking for an experienced Tattoo artist. Must be willing to work

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**APPRENTICE AND SHOP ASSISTANT REQUIRED** for busy tattoo studio in Birmingham city centre. If you are interested or for more info please ring 0121 2332331, or pop in, Birmingham Ink Tattoo, 66 dalton street, city centre, birmingham, B4 7LX

**'KAYA TATTOO STUDIO,** Glasgow, Scotland - Guest spots available in our busy established studio in the west end of Glasgow, must have relevant studio experience and a portfolio of your work, contact us through our inbox on our facebook page at [www.facebook.com/kayatattoo](http://www.facebook.com/kayatattoo) ( or search for kaya glasgow), or call 0141 339 6171'

**TATTOO ARTIST REQUIRED** at a busy studio in Basingstoke, Hampshire. Studio is on a rental basis and can be run as your own business. We currently have 1 full time and 1 part time tattooist and 1 full time piercer. Must have shop experience and a good portfolio. If interested please call 07774272990 or e-mail [lnky.fingers@live.co.uk](mailto:lnky.fingers@live.co.uk)

**GREAT OPPORTUNITY,** Tattoo business for sale due to ill health. Located in Southend On Sea close to town centre and seafront, ongoing lease, established for 10 years with good customer base. Great potential for expansion, must be seen. Call 07763426475 for more details.

**OHH MY GOD TATTOO ARE CURRENTLY SEEKING A NEW TATTOOIST** for their shop based in Wimbledon, London. Must have established portfolio and be able available immediately. Applicants with existing client base would be preferred. [www.ohhmygod.co.uk](http://www.ohhmygod.co.uk). Please contact Levi 07807 839242 or Dylan 07988 890053

**DRAGON HEART TATTOO UK** are looking for an enthusiastic tattoo artist with at least 2/3 years studio experience to start immediately in our busy Edinburgh studio. Applicants must have a portfolio of a high standard and a professional attitude/outlook. They must also be able to do all styles of tattoo artwork and be flexible. We are looking for a friendly individual with a positive outlook - no bad attitude problems/drama queens/alcohol or drug related problems! If you think you can tick all our boxes contact Russ on 0131 657 3831.

**INKA TATTOOS BRIGHTON** is looking for guest artists for the forthcoming summer months. A minimum of 5 years experience is preferable. Please apply with a current CV and portfolio by post or email to: [inkatattoosbrighton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:inkatattoosbrighton@yahoo.co.uk) Inka Tattoos, 80c St James Street, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 1PA

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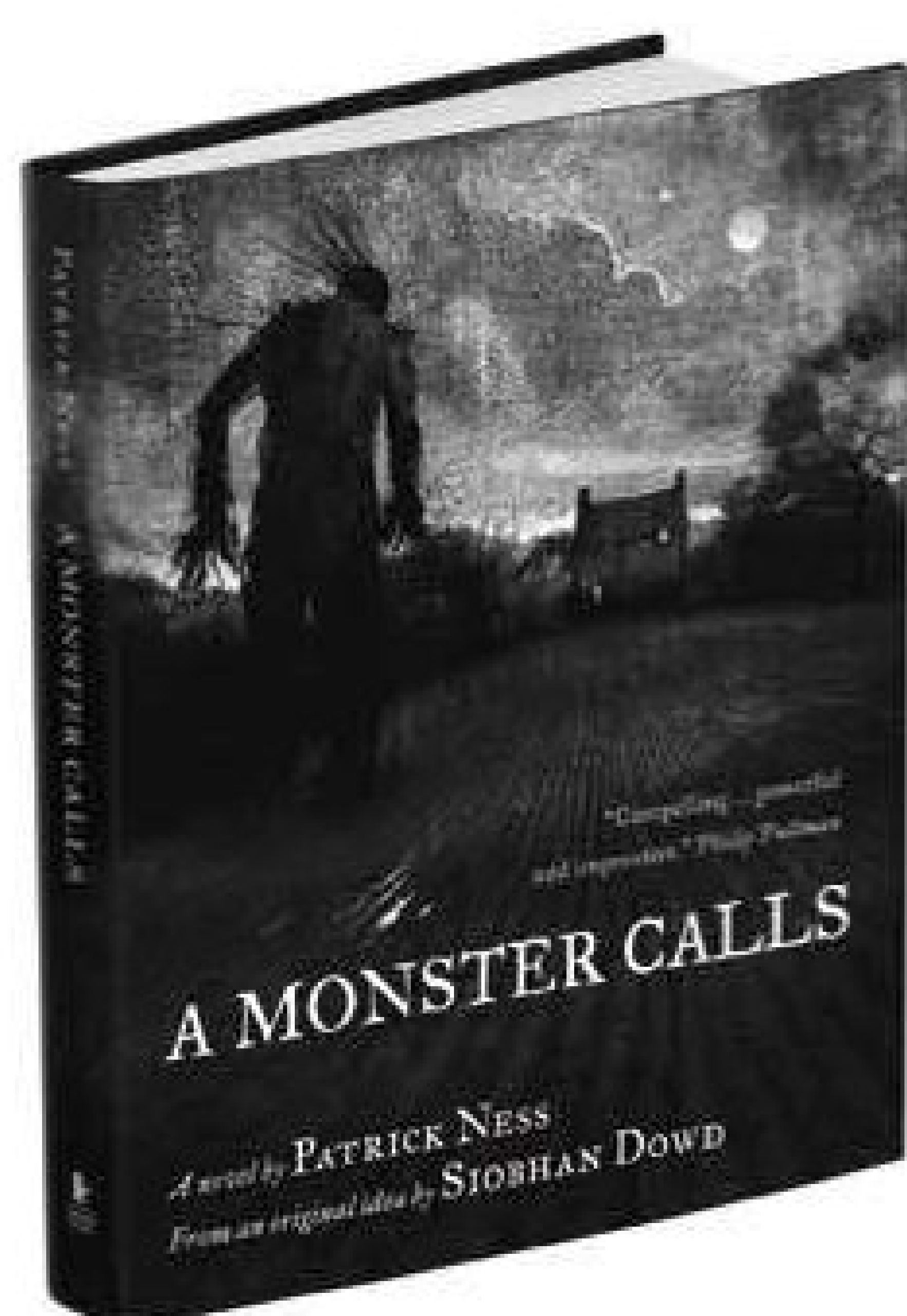


# REVIEWS



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

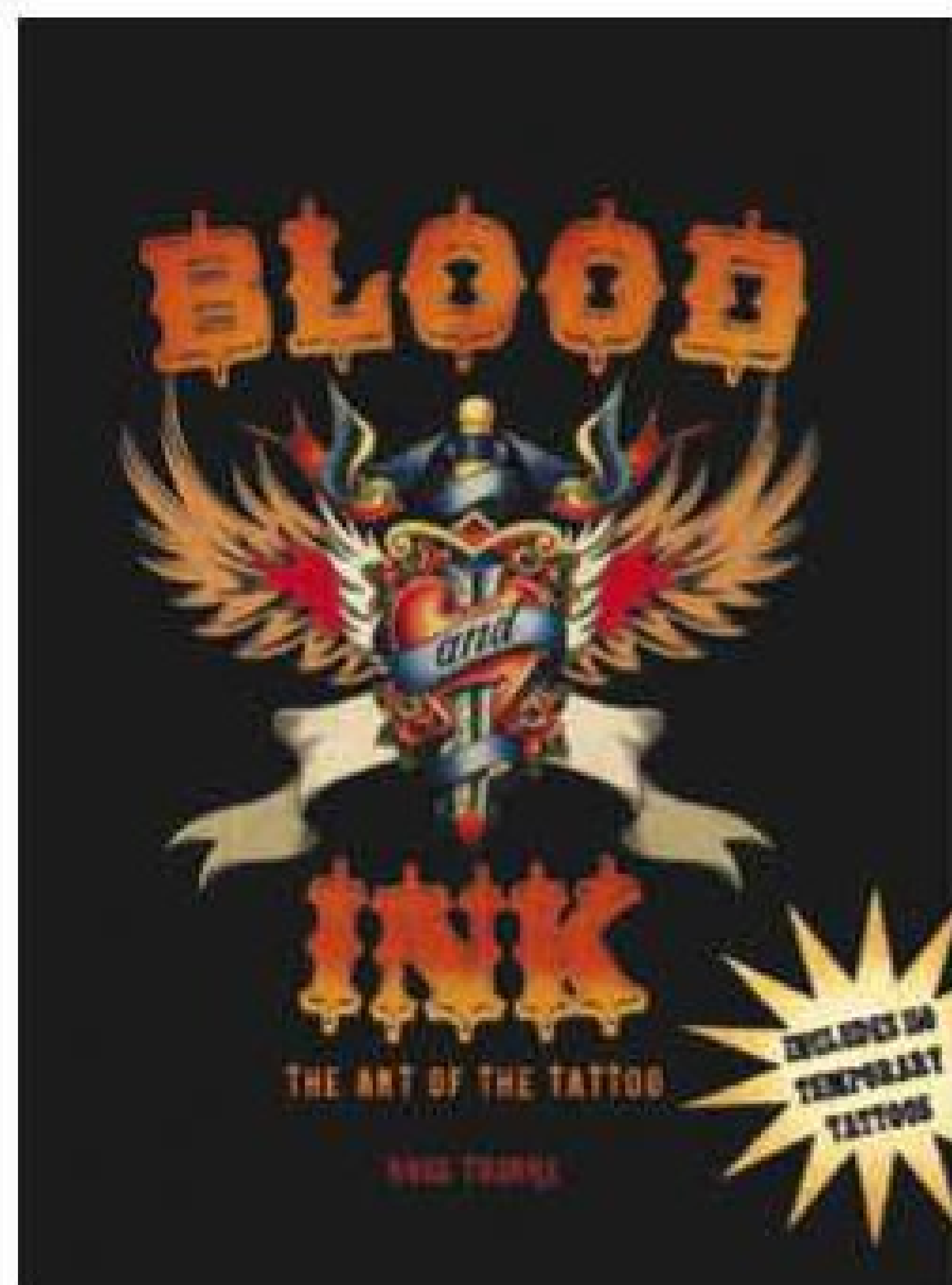
Be they Books, DVDs or VHS are all welcome at Skin Deep where judgement shall be passed upon them...at the very least, we'll tell you if they're any good or not.



## A MONSTER CALLS

Author: **Patrick Ness**  
 Publisher: **Walker Books**  
 Price: **£12.99**

**A Monster Calls has absolutely nothing to do with tattoos or tattooing, but sometimes, a product is so inherently brilliant, you must use the stage you have to tell everybody about it - and that's pretty much the case here.** Depending where you pick this up, you'll likely find it filed under young adult, modern fiction, horror, children's - seemingly, no bookseller can really decide where it belongs, and that's fine. It belongs in all and none of these for *A Monster Calls* is simply a fantastic story that, for lovers of such things, is just about the best story to have been told in what must be ten years. Superficially, it's about a young boy whose mother is dying of cancer and not getting better despite constant treatments. It's also about a young boy who is bullied at school and whose grandmother comes to stay, and it's also about his nightmares and the monster that uproots itself on a nightly basis and comes to call for him... and you can read it superficially if you want to. Beneath this however, it's a book brooding with very clever parables on what it means to be alive and how life really works when you're not busy blaming somebody else for your troubles. I shall say no more other than, as a book lover, this might be the most important book I've ever read - luckily, the story itself will please most. My work here is done! Trust me.



## BLOOD & INK

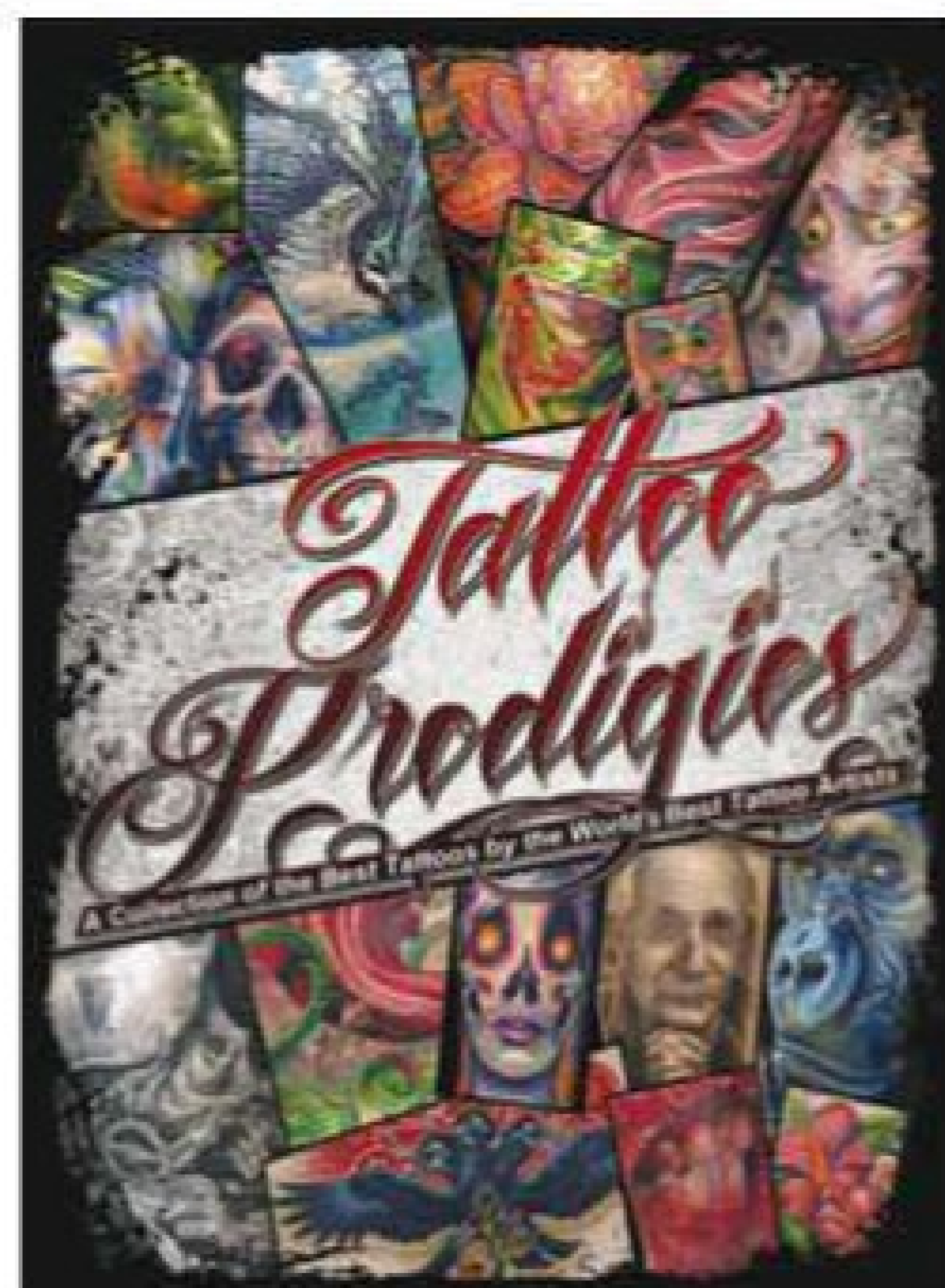
Author: **Russ Thorne**  
 Publisher: **Running Press**  
 Price: **£12.99**  
 Pages: **96 + 8 pages of temporary tattoos**

**For those of you out there about to embark on your journey into tattoo-land, you could do a lot worse than to check yourself out a copy of Blood & Ink. For anybody who has already experienced the call of the wild, this is probably not for you, but if it's your first time and your looking for some good background information on the genre stereotypes we call tattoo schools, this will be right up your street.**

Covering just about everything you could want to know about style and some of the meanings behind various schools, as you begin to make decisions about what to get tattooed, Thorne takes us through a wide range of sub-genres as well. If it's the demonic you're after, you'll find many aspects of it drilled into here to give you some idea of how to navigate your options.

Thorne has also taken the time to check in with some really big guns in the editing of the book - Guy Aitchison, Buena Vista, Oddboy... these little details, make it work just that little bit more than your average introductory package.

Also of interest are the 150 temporary tattoos that come with the book - and in this publication, you'll find them a lot more durable and classy than the ones found in other similar books. Overall, a fine introduction for the novice trying to figure it all out.



## TATTOO PRODIGIES

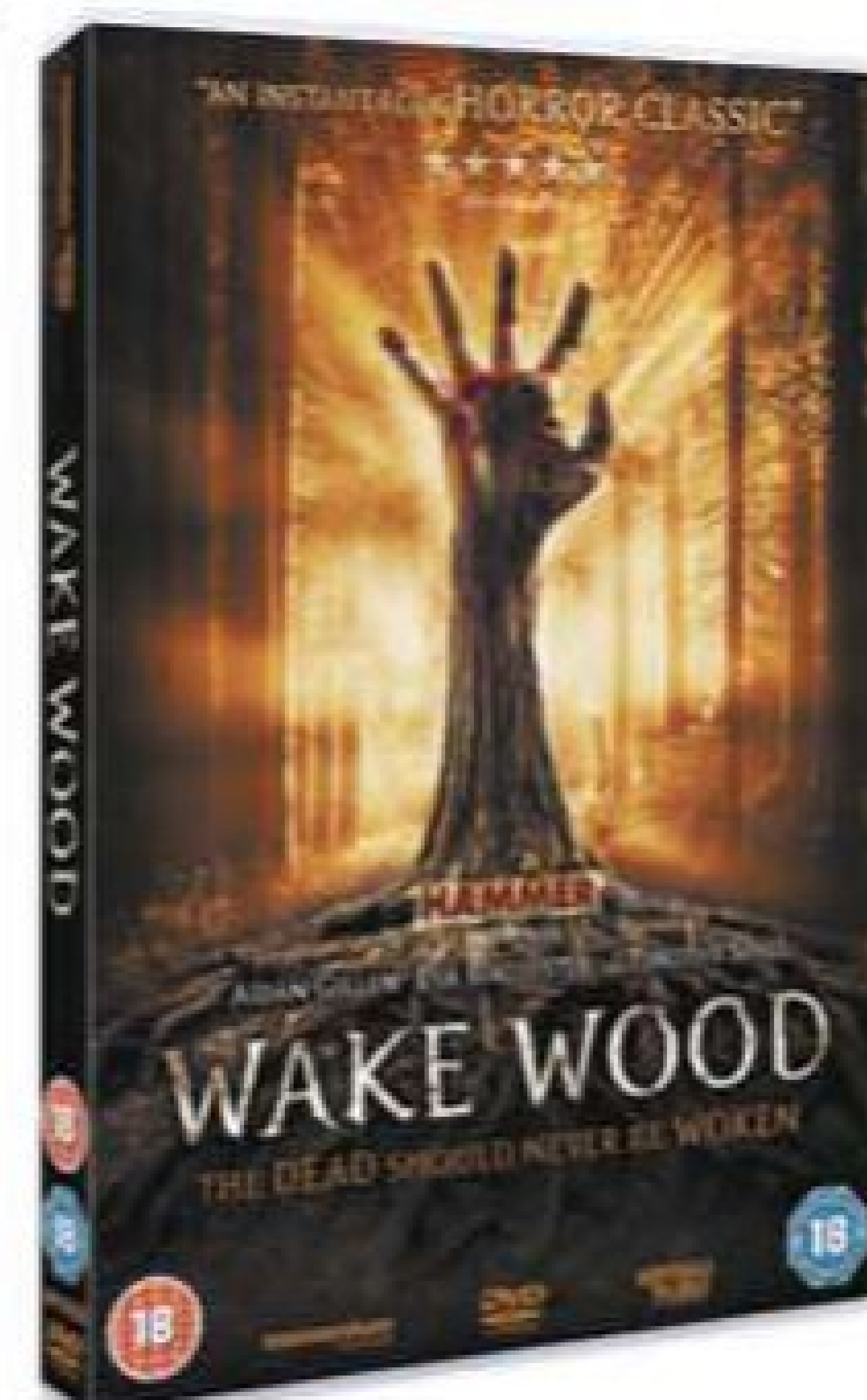
Author: **Mike DeVries**  
 Publisher: **Memento Publishing**  
 Pages: **256**  
 Price: **\$100.00**  
 Buy it here: [www.MDTattoos.com](http://www.MDTattoos.com)

**Undoubtedly one of the best tattoo books to have recently been released, Tattoo Prodigies comes from the very heart of the industry itself. Originally the brainchild of tattoo artist extraordinaire Mike DeVries, the book was brought to life through his collaboration with Guy Aitchison, Jinxi Caddel (editing/interviews) and Jamie Parker (design/layout).**

The hardbound, full-color masterpiece features the tattoos and paintings of 83 of the world's most unbelievably talented artists. And with 800 photos and 25 in-depth interviews, it's not only beautiful to look at (in fact, the images often require a double take), but also a fascinating read, as tattooers answer questions about their journeys, inspirations, balancing tattooing with other art forms, personal accomplishments and the industry (good and bad).

Spanning 256 pages, the layout of *Tattoo Prodigies* is dynamic and the images are unforgettably vibrant, offering wonderful insight into the art and minds of artists like Nick Baxter, Jesse Smith, Bob Tyrrell, Nikko Hurtado, Aaron Bell and Paul Booth.

Also included is contact information for all the tattooers featured, truly making this the perfect release for everyone from collectors looking for new ink to artists looking to be inspired.



## WAKE WOOD

**HAMMER FILMS**  
 Available on DVD now

**There was a time when Hammer made films that the whole world loved - there were very few from the entire catalogue that didn't become cult classics in one way or another. Then, there was a time when Hammer didn't do anything at all - it was little more than a genre stereotyping of a time long since passed. And then, something a little surprising happened - Hammer came back. With bells on.**

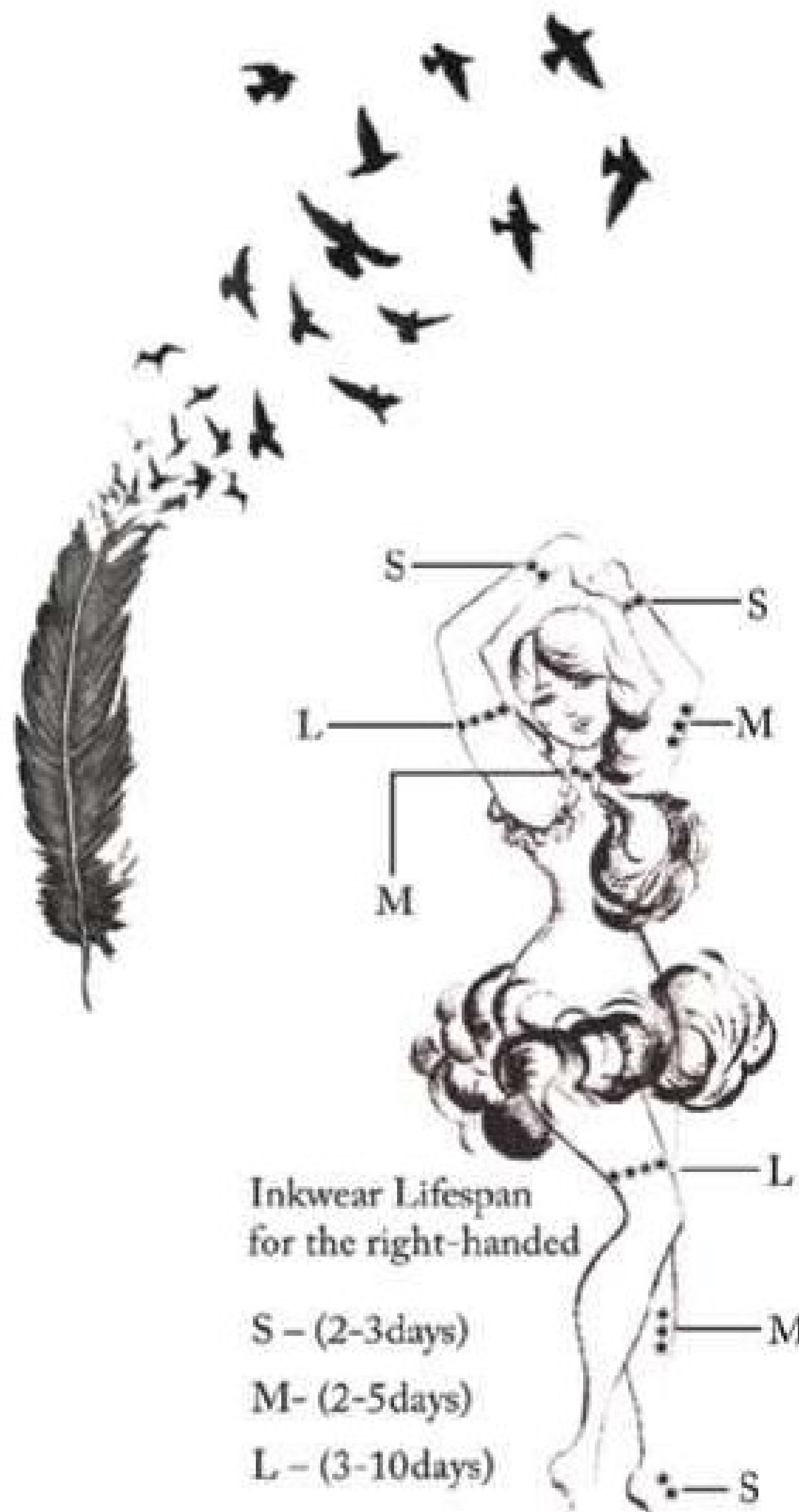
If anybody was thinking that the latest batch of Hammer releases might harken back to the good old days, they'd be screaming up the wrong tree. The film succeeds as being a real creep-a-thon, it has its fair share of gore and scares. For the young bloods (which is who it's primarily aimed at) and those who are willing to let a bit of 'theft' slide for the sake of enjoying the movie, it's absolutely essential viewing. If on the other hand, you're a bit of a horror connoisseur, it can sail a little too close to the wind to the production of both *The Whicker Man* and *Don't Look Now* for comfort. A point mentioned in various press reviews, but frankly, I found it had more in common with *Pet Sematary* - for a whole host of reasons.

The choice is yours - but to be honest, I'd take the former path. The similarities are merely nods of the head to genre classics and it wasn't as if the original batch of Hammer's were above it either. Welcome home guys.

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# THE WEB OF DECEIT

**A recent article in *The Independent*, ostensibly about a charity providing tattoo removal services made a direct link between tattoos and self-harm. It was an average mainstream newspaper article, not favourable in its discussion of tattoos but not offensively critical either, however, one statement stood out:**



Paula Hardy Kangelos

Those bemoaning the mainstream attention afforded to tattoo art, concerned by the proliferation of studios and horrified by the number of hopeless aspiring apprentices often blame tattoo TV shows – thinking of these phenomenon as the Miami Ink effect. But a staged documentary on a back of beyond channel is perhaps not the bogeyman we imagine it to be. Instead there is something far more widespread, far more accessible and perhaps far more damaging to the tattoo world, something that's in all our homes. The internet.

Everyone is expected to have their portfolio on the web and the web is usually the first port of call when searching for tattoo related information, but it hasn't always been this way. Once, a tattoo artist might have sourced a font online, or researched a language translation, a fan might have used the internet as an image library, but somewhere along the line, it changed from a research tool used in addition to books and shop portfolios, to a talent showcase. The internet is no longer a place to find inspiration on what your next tattoo might be, but instead, who should do it.

This inevitably means that talented tattooers have become internet heroes and others this apparent easy-found fame and aspire to be online tattoo celebrities, too. While this positively encourages many tattooers to up their game, it can also encourage less experienced, new generation artists to tattoo for photographic documentation, aiming to complete a piece in one session, desperate for online compliments, the focus is on the immediate finish, rather than striving for excellence in the tattoo's ongoing longevity.

The easily accessed, quick gratification of the internet comes with other problems too. As the number of tattoo studios has increased, so have those supplying the necessary equipment. Once hard to find items are now easy to obtain online, non-industry general retailers sell previously restricted equipment to anyone. This ease of purchase surely makes it seem as though these items are also easy to use.

Disastrous results normally ensue but even these sub standard scratchings are posted online in emulation of talented artists, approved by and complimented on by yet more uninformed people.

In the traditional print media of the tattoo community, only the best tattoos displayed on any given occasion will be published. While this may not always be the very best tattoo art in the world, the quality should never fall below an above average baseline. Yet the internet has everything, good, bad, mediocre, hopefully, interested parties are able to spot the difference between an excellent piece and a poorly executed or drafted tattoo. Unfortunately, it appears that this is not the case.

Now, it's important for me to admit that a great deal of my interest, information and tattoo related friendships have originated online, particularly MySpace in its heyday and the forums at [bigtattooplanet.com](http://bigtattooplanet.com). We've discussed almost everything

Many of my friends have had a custom tattoo copied and seeing an image crafted just for you replicated elsewhere, usually to inferior effect, it is an upsetting experience.

there, from acceptance of tattoos in the workplace to how to tell someone that their tattoo isn't very good. We've talked healing methods and reviewed conventions and showed each other work we've found that has left us in awe. So it wouldn't be right of me to write about tattoos and the internet without referencing the forum and its members. It was a forum discussion centred on the sharing of great tattoo work that came to mind when I read the *Smith Street Tattoo* blog last week.

*Smith Street Tattoo Parlour* in Brooklyn, New York, is home to some very accomplished artists mostly specializing in Traditional Western Tattooing and its related offshoots. These are artists that are known world over through conventions, magazines and internet postings.

This particular blog entry asks for the public to refrain from reposting images from their website elsewhere, reasons stated being displeasure at their work being displayed alongside tattoos of inferior quality and worse still, images

mislabeled as the work of others.

Disappointingly, when online, people feel absolutely entitled to take whatever they fancy, to save and redistribute at will, without regard to the personal. This is an activity well documented in relation to music files and I believe it usually comes from a place of innocence, a joyful sharing of something that was found pleasing, but sometimes, sadly, it comes from a less innocent place. Many of my friends have had a custom tattoo copied and seeing an image crafted just for you replicated elsewhere, usually to inferior effect, it is an upsetting experience. This thoughtless violation has dissuaded many from showing their personal artwork online and while this is doubtless an effective way to prevent duplication, it's also rather sad that this should be necessary.

So what of the tattooer posting their portfolio online? It's a difficult

thing to avoid; so many artists have an online presence that it's almost a requirement for visibility. Many tattooists even use multiple websites, after all, it's a useful

way of attracting new customers, demonstrating how your art is evolving and inviting critique from peers.

To put your work into the public domain for these reasons, only for it to be copied and redisplayed, must be painful, both professionally and personally. Worse still is the discovery that your own photographs have been stolen and passed off as the work of another.

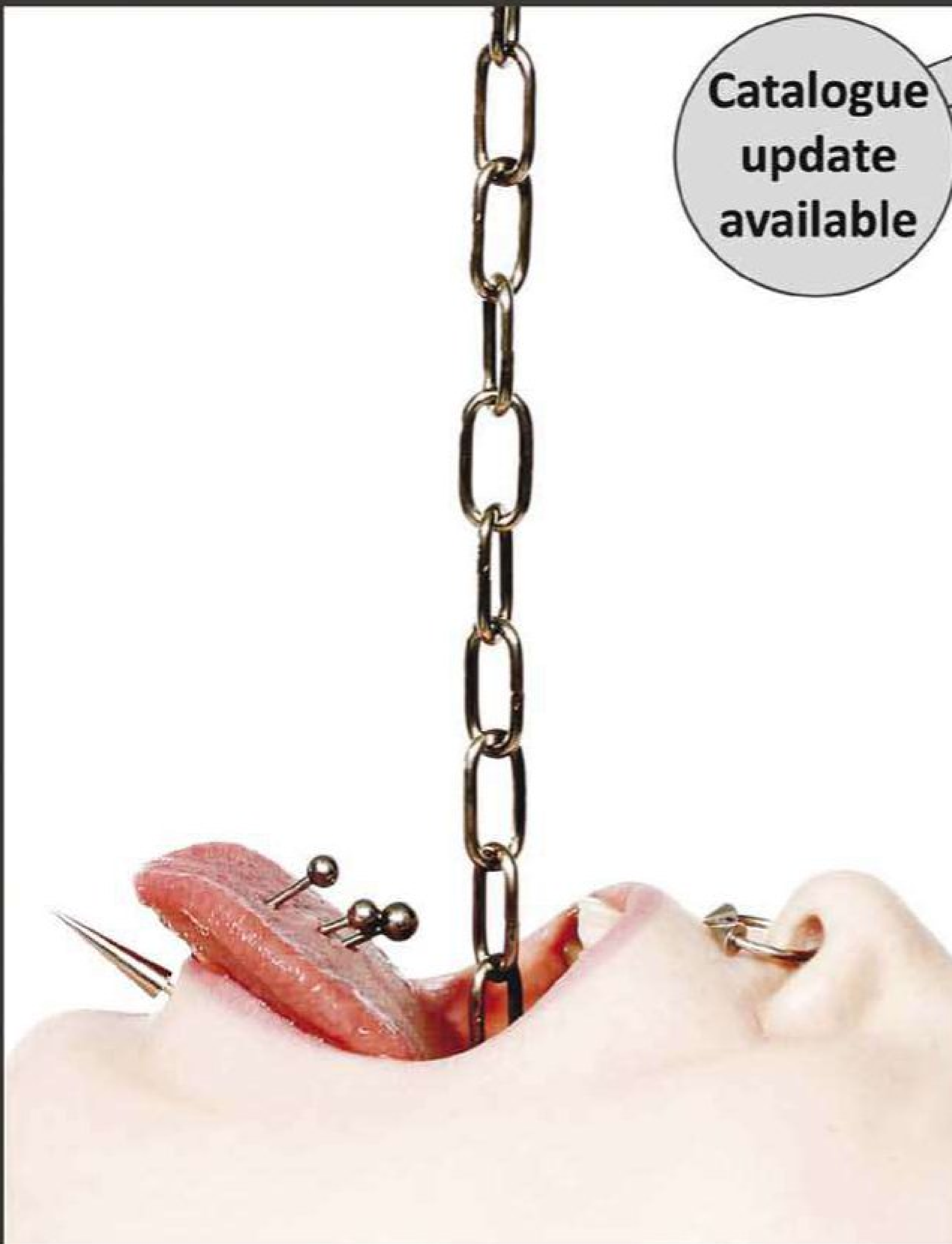
So what's the answer? Should tattoo artists restrict the viewing of their portfolios to those who visit the shops in which they work, limiting their exposure to local custom and word of mouth reviews? Should an artist's exposure be restricted to a single magazine article, even if their career goes on to span decades?

Or, perhaps those of us that witness inappropriate behaviour occurring have an obligation to speak out against the image-thieves, unscrupulous suppliers, non-creditors and plain old-fashioned bad tattooists? To debate, discuss, critique and praise? I think so. ★

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