

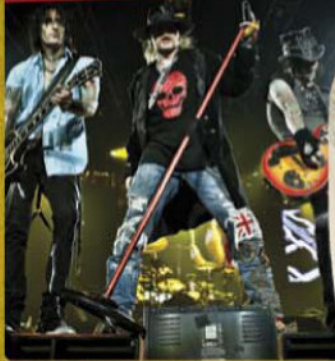
**FREE INSIDE** A NEWBIE'S GUIDE TO TATTOO JAM

**TATTOO JAM  
2013 ARTIST  
PREVIEW**

# skin deep

**TATTOO MAGAZINE**

**GUNS N'  
ROSES**



*Ain't no Chinese  
Democracy here*

**MICHAEL  
NORRIS**  
*The tao of tattoo*

**KRIS D**  
*Gets lost in  
the wild again*

# Tattoos a go go

**WIN**

**TICKETS INSIDE!**

**JUDD  
RIPLEY**  
*The wizard of  
Aus in the flesh*

# Toni

*Hungry  
for Moore*



**CGI & 3D  
TATTOOS**  
*Are they for you?*

**JOEY  
PANG**  
*Hong Kong  
on the ropes*



ISSUE 229 • OCTOBER 2013 • £3.95  
MODEL: TONI MOORE PHOTOGRAPHY: SCOTT COLE

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Michael Norris

# The needle has landed

## THE PEN IS MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD

There's a part of me that doesn't want to tell this story, but, because of the comedy value of it, I'll put any reticence I have to one side and go for it.

Over the last few years, I've been emailed dozens of stories (probably approaching the hundreds if I counted properly) about how some of you out there have felt persecuted because of your tattoos.

So, without saying where I was when this event happened (because I guess I might have to go back there at some point, and also because I don't really believe its indicative of the other fine people that live there), let me spin you a vapid tale of persecution I experienced first-hand that has precious little to do with tattooing. Perhaps.

See, I happened to be out in a bar with close on 150 tattoo artists on this particular Saturday night and some guy of the non-ink variety comes over to me—butchered out of his face and looking for some kind of confrontation—jabs a finger straight in my chest and says: "Hey Hagrid, who the fuck do you think you are?"

Which is funny right? I'll give him that much. The only response I could pull out of the hat was: "Just passing through on my way to Diagon Alley..." which confused him a lot and he walked away without me having to explain it any further—it was only later that I thought a much better response would have been: "Hagrid?"

But that would have gone even further over his head.

TEN MINUTES LATER, HERE COMES ANOTHER SPEAR: "OI, GELDOLF—WHAT'S IT LIKE BEING A FUCKING SUPERSTAR THEN?"

Ten minutes later, here comes another spear: "Oi, Geldolf—what's it like being a fucking superstar then?"

That was delivered with a fair old bit of aggression behind it, but as if by magic, I understood the ways of this place. Tattoos... they are fine. Long hair... not so fine. Apparently it makes people think off kilter things about you. My best response to this was:

"You're confusing me with a homeless person mate."

Which he though was quite humourous too and we managed to progress to

an extended four sentence conversation about the Boomtown Rats. Sadly, all four sentences belonged to me and because his knowledge of pop culture didn't extend much further than his arse. That makes it two-nil to me, and I have a whole page where I can tell 40,000 other people what an arse you are, which makes it game, set and match I believe.

I guess more than anything I was surprised that you

could still be singled out for having long hair—particularly in a room full of massively tattooed and pierced people, but wonders will never cease. I kind of thought the long hair thing was over in about 1978, but the root of it boils down to an amoeba's innate ability to hone in on what's perceived to be the lowest common denominator to make themselves feel better about failing miserably to meet the standard requirements of being human.

I know without a fraction of doubt that this is but a drop in the ocean when it comes

to prejudice. Be you disabled, fat, black, short, have one eye that doesn't work properly, unemployed, or drive a Rover... whatever... you will more than likely have been on the shit end of the stick at some point in your life.

There are movements all over the internet (not so much in the real world) where others are trying to make the world a better place (Facebook isn't one them, people—remember that), but for all prejudice to be put in its place, all we need is one person at a time to quit being a dick and that's got to start at home.

Yeah, I can be as guilty as the next man. I hate Rovers, but at least they don't have feelings.

Be cool to each other.

*Sen*



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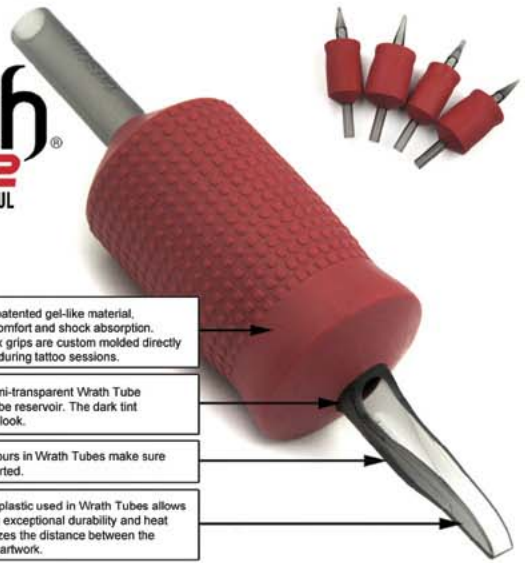


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## THE USUAL SUSPECTS

- 08 SLEEVE NOTES
- 10 CONVENTION LISTINGS
- 20 CRAIGY LEE
- 93 REVIEWS
- 98 AN EYE IS UPON YOU

## ARTIST PROFILES

**KRIS D**  
Kris considers Lovehawk Studio in Athens, Georgia, as his home base but he spends a lot of time on the road. Travelling seems to be in Kris' blood—good thing it's in ours too.

**JUDD RIPLEY**  
A hometown levelled to the ground made Australian, Judd Ripley, take to the seven seas. A long journey that eventually was going to take him to a tattoo studio in Copenhagen had only just begun.

**JOEY PANG**  
With tales from the coal face that is Hong Kong tattooing, Joey Pang gives us more than a little

insight into what it's really like keeping your dignity and head above water in a challenging and ever changing environment.

**MICHAEL NORRIS**  
These days, tattooists can't just grunt and groan and slap a stencil on. There's more to just laying down ink and the modern client knows this—cue Michael Norris.

## SPECIAL FEATURES

**3D TATTOO DESIGN**  
The future of tattooing? Some would say it's already here but our job is to give you enough information to make your own mind up... let's get it on.

**TONI: THE COVER GIRL**  
Always working, always got something up her sleeve to keep things moving in the right direction—it's been a while since we caught up with Toni Moore so what the hell—let's do it again.

P36



## GUNS N' ROSES

STILL RIDING THE NIGHTRAIN.

THIS MONTH'S PULL OUT:  
TATTOO JAM 2013  
WORKING ARTIST PREVIEW

**GUNS N ROSES**  
Yeah, yeah, everybody wants a slice of Axl, but his tattoos are nowhere near as cool as the current guitarists in the band, so we hooked up with them instead. Ladies and gents: DJ Ashba and Richard Fortus.

**CARDIFF TATTOO & TOY CONVENTION**  
All the news we can fit on the page from one of the hottest new shows around... yeah, you heard.

P60



## JUDD RIPLEY

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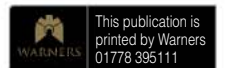
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TATTOO MUSEUM



THIS YEAR'S  
TATTOO MASTERS'  
BALL THEME IS

**TWISTED DISNEY**

Illustration: Tommy Lee Wendtner



Studio 18



CAM SUPPLY



Manchester International  
TATTOO SHOW

# WHAT'S ON?



**FIRE  
BREATHING**



**BURLESQUE**



**BATTLE OF  
THE BANDS**



**STILT  
WALKERS**



**GRAFFITI  
ART**



**FREAK  
SHOWS**



**PHOTO  
SHOOTS**



**ARTIST  
SIGNINGS**

## ARTISTS & TRADERS CONFIRMED SO FAR

**Adam Caudill**  
Aimee Cornwell  
**Akos Strenner**  
Alan Proctor  
**Alan Turner**  
Alex Roze  
**Alex Williamson**  
Amanda Greenidge  
**Amanda Ruby**  
Andy Bowler  
**Andy Macdonald**  
Andy Smye  
**Andy Walker**  
Angel Tochev  
**Anna Garvey**  
Barry Gilbert  
**Bart Janus**  
Beau Victoria  
Redman  
**Ben Carlisle**  
Ben Doran  
**Ben Gadsby**  
Ben Hamill  
**Ben Quinn**  
Ben Rollz  
**Bez**  
Big Stu  
**Billy Saunders**  
Bonita Carvana  
**Boris**  
Brett Fowler  
**Brim**  
Callum Godley  
**Casper Redmer**  
Caz Tobitt  
**Chad Newsom**  
Chantale Coody  
**Cheryl Goldthorpe**  
Chloe Black  
**Chris Collins**  
Chris Harrison  
**Chris Jones**  
Chris Lee  
**Chris Ormond**  
Chris Webley  
**Christa Zurich**  
Constance Parkin  
**Craig Cordwell**  
Craig Magee  
**Craig Measures**  
Craig Wilson  
**Crip**  
Dan Matthews

**Dan Arietti**  
Dane Grannon  
**Daniel Hartley**  
Danny Light  
**Darius Niewczas**  
Darren Wright  
**Darryl Mullen**  
David Corden  
**David Robb**  
Dean Cowley  
**Dean Gleeson**  
Dean Moore  
**Dean Taylor**  
Deathpop Mole  
**Dek Kent**  
Derek Nelson  
**Diego Pangel**  
Dizzy Roulette  
**Drew Govan**  
Elisir Stefano  
**Elliot Wells**  
Emile Cook  
**Emily Dawson**  
Emma Betson  
**Emma Wroe**  
Eugene Rubels  
**Fadi**  
Frank La Natra  
**Gabor Zsofinycz**  
Gabriel Sven Hass  
**Gabriela Lastra**  
Gary Stanley  
**Gaston Oliva**  
Gav Skelton  
**Gavin Clarke**  
Gez Bradley  
**Glen Cuzen**  
Grabo  
**Grace Neutral**  
Graham Longton  
**Greg Scott**  
Guy Tinsley  
**Gyorgy Domonkos**  
Helen Courtnage  
**Henrik Gallon**  
Himemiya Neko  
**Holly Dossdale**  
Hori Len  
**Hue Nguyen**  
Ina Weiter  
**Ivan Bor**  
Jack Lewis  
**Jack Mangan**

James Bradbury  
**James Hastings**  
James Hobbs  
**James Kinear**  
James Norrey  
**Jamie Jones**  
Jamie Rees  
**Jane Mosely**  
Jarek Baka  
**Jarek Slezak**  
Jarek Stachowicz  
**Jase Jones**  
Jay Blaudums  
**Jen Taloola Maw**  
Jenna Kerr  
**Jeremy Miller**  
Jeremy Smith  
**Jessi James**  
Jodie Dawber  
**Joe Spaven**  
John Anderton  
**Johnny Adam**  
Johnny D Matthews  
**Jon B**  
Jon Potter  
**Jordan Croke**  
Jordan Oterski  
**Jorge Becerra**  
Jorn Grotwinkiel  
**Joseph Farrell**  
Josh Delaney  
**Josh Grable**  
Josh Peacock  
**Josh Taylor**  
Josie Morris  
**József Török**  
Julian Siebert  
**Justyna Obwojska**  
Karl Eginton  
**Kat Wilson**  
Keir Alsop  
**Keith Sheratt**  
Kelly Jones  
**Kelvin Slack**  
Kev Carlin  
**Kieran Hoohar**  
Kiran Parmar  
**Kirk Alley**  
Kosa  
**Kris Boyd**  
Kris Hoyle  
**Kristian Mclean**  
Kristian Richards

**Kuba Kujawa**  
Kurt Marlow  
**Kurt Mitchell**  
L W Nickson  
**Lassi "Ravi"**  
Junttila  
Laura Jones  
**Leanne Fate**  
Lee Armstrong  
**Lee Clements**  
Lee Dee Art  
**Lee Denham**  
Lee Pickles  
**Levi Barnett**  
Lewis Carver  
**Louis Molloy**  
Luke Ashdown  
**Luke Rudden**  
Luke Williamson  
**Mac Doctor-Evil**  
Mccarthy  
**Maciej Chesiak**  
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Oleksandr Minec  
**Ollie Tye**  
Otto D'Ambrina  
**Pam Green**  
Panda Conny  
**Paul Humphreys**  
Paul Johnson  
**Paul Smith**  
Paul Talbot  
**Peter Nelson**  
Peter Steventon  
**Pippa Kovacs**  
Pixie  
**Przemyslaw Malachowski**  
Quadey  
**Rachel Maughan**  
Rakhee Shah  
**Rebecca Vincent**  
Reg Redman  
**Reynold Shorney**  
Richard Peel  
**Richard Reynolds**  
Richie Guy  
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Rob Clements  
**Rob Ratcliffe**  
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Robert Kane  
**Rose Elizabeth**  
Ross Duncan  
**Rowan Kennedy**  
Ruby Quilter  
**Rudie**  
Sadee Johnston  
**Scott Owen**  
Sean Henry  
**Sebastian Nowacki**  
Shane Baker  
**Sharuzen**  
Simon Ashley

**Simon Broomfield**  
Simon Caves  
**Simon Cooke**  
Simon Greenwood  
**Soi**  
Sonny Mitchell  
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## THE HOT LIST



**SION**  
E.T.A. OF NEXT INK SESSION  
TATTOO JAM - IF NOT BEFORE. DEPENDS HOW THE CARDS FALL.

**CURRENT AFTERCARE PRODUCT**  
ROYAL

**HOLY CRAP!**  
IT'S SEPTEMBER

**BEST THING I'VE SEEN THIS MONTH**  
WHITE ELEPHANT (OTTO'S NEW SHOP) AND INTO THE WILD (A SEVEN YEAR OLD SEAN PENN MOVIE THAT PASSED ME BY - MIGHT BE THE BEST FILM EVER MADE)

**TIRED OF THIS NOW**  
NOT BEING IN COLORADO... YET.



**BARBARA**  
E.T.A. OF NEXT INK SESSION  
MUST. HUNT. DOWN. GRIME.

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**HOLY CRAP!**  
PLANE TICKETS TO THAT CONVENTION COST HOW MUCH?!

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**TIRED OF THIS NOW**  
"TRENDY" AVANT-GARDE TATTOOS.

THE 2013 TATTOO MASTERS' BALL THEME IS *Twisted Disney*  
FEATURING  
**MONSTERS INKED**

*You Won't Believe Your Eye*

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*The Sorcerer's Accomplice*

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FEATURING  
**SNOBAMBIITE**

*Fawn Of The Dead*

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## BLOCKBUSTER TATTOO JAM GIVEAWAY

By the time you pick this up, we'll be just a couple of weeks away from the mighty blockbuster that is Tattoo Jam - and we've got ten pairs of tickets to give away to er... ten of you! That sounds about right - I went to school that day.

All you have to do is send a blank email to [editor@skindeep.co.uk](mailto:editor@skindeep.co.uk) with the answer to this question in the subject line - "Which seventies glam rock band had a hit with the song Blockbuster?" - yeah, I know it's a bit of a vague link but I heard it on the radio this afternoon and it's still as great as it ever was, so that's what you're getting. To make it a little more interesting, over the last few months, I've found that we've collected some interesting bits and pieces along the way here. Stuff like books, european magazines, t-shirts, calendars, aftercare, sketchbooks - you can imagine. It's not like we don't want this stuff but a lot of the

time, we get sent multiple copies of things or whole boxes of merch... you get the picture.

So what better way to celebrate these years TATTOO JAM than by **GIVING AWAY THE WHOLE DAMN SHOOTING MATCH**. I considered splitting it up but that's rubbish and far too much admin for me and who can disagree that a big box of incredibleness arriving on your doorstep along with two tickets to Tattoo Jam isn't a great prize - there will definitely be couple of our recent bookazines in there too. Closing date is October 1st - that will give you time to organise your Tattoo Jam trip and the box will follow sometime later (hopefully before the end of October). So to recap for the short of attention: Ten pairs of tickets up for grabs, one of those winners will also get a big box of stuff - the answer is SWEET (I'm in a good mood) and you know where to find me. Let's do this.





## SHORT SLEEVES



## BLACK TIDE

Ben Gadsby has also made a move - he can be found at this address from now on: Black Tide Studio, 37a High Street, Lakenheath, Suffolk IP27 9DS



## PHOENIX BODY ART

Phoenix Body Art have a change of studio address - you can now find them right here: Phoenix Body Art, 20 Northgate, High Street, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 4ET

## RANDOM READER

## PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH



The lovely Georgina here didn't send many details about herself aside from 'I think it looked amazing, even if I do say so myself' - my work here is done, but like Mr Ali always used to say, "it ain't bragging if you can back it up..."

## THE HOT LIST



## SCOTT

E.T.A. OF NEXT INK

## SESSION:

I'VE BEEN FAR TOO BUSY, HANDS AND KNUCKLES ARE IN THE CARDS.

## CURRENT AFTERCARE PRODUCT

BEPANTHEN, IT'S KIND TO MY RASHES TOO.

## HOLY CRAP!

HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT MATT HOFFMAN ALT MODEL.

## BEST THING I'VE SEEN THIS MONTH

TRAILER FOR "STAY GREASY" FROM MR. DUCKTAIL.

## TIRED OF THIS NOW

BEING ASKED FOR FREE PHOTOS BY "ONLINE MAGAZINES" (OR, IF THAT'S CONTROVERSIAL), PILLAR BOX RED HAIR AND HIPSTERS.)



## TOM

E.T.A. OF NEXT INK

## SESSION:

LATER THIS YEAR

## CURRENT AFTERCARE PRODUCT

BEPANTHEN

## HOLY CRAP!

THE TWILIGHT SAMURAI

## BEST THING I'VE SEEN THIS MONTH

THE TWILIGHT SAMURAI

## TIRED OF THIS NOW

THE FOOTBALL TRANSFER WINDOW

## POSTCARD FROM A READER

I'm sending a quick email just to express my complete disgust at the level of "tattooism" in the world! Like many other people I have quite a few tattoos that I absolutely love and I guess because I'm a builder, people don't seem bothered that I have them but I'm guessing that if I was a bank manager or surgeon or something I would get loads of sneery remarks. There was an article about this a couple of months ago in Skin Deep and I really didn't think there was that much of a problem, but obviously there is. The only reason I'm emailing now is to see if another article can be written to raise support for the people affected by "tattooism"? Im not a fan of Cheryl Cole but she needs to stay strong and just tell all these narrow minded little do gooders to fuck right off and deal with their own issues. The majority of people must be so threatened by tattoos they feel the need to segregate people that love the art!

Anyway keep up the excellent work, skin Deep is a joy to read. Thank you to you and all the team.

# Conventions

All details correct at time of going to press.

## UK CONVENTIONS 2013

**October 11-13**

### TATTOO JAM

Doncaster Racecourse  
Leger Way  
Doncaster DN2 6BB  
United Kingdom  
[www.tattoojam.com](http://www.tattoojam.com)

**November 2-3**

### HALLOWEEN TATTOO BASH

Coal Exchange  
Mount Stuart Square,  
The Exchange Buildings,  
Cardiff, CF10 5EB,  
CF10 5FQ,  
United Kingdom

**November 16-17**

### EAST COAST TATTOO EXPO

Highfield Grange Holiday Park  
London Road  
Clacton-on-Sea,  
Essex,  
CO16 9QY,  
United Kingdom  
[www.eastcoastexpo.co.uk](http://www.eastcoastexpo.co.uk)

**December 14-15**

### JURASSIC COAST TATTOO CONVENTION

Allendale Community Centre  
Hanham Road  
Wimbome Minster, Dorset,  
BH21 1AS,  
United Kingdom  
[www.jurassiccoasttattooconvention.co.uk](http://www.jurassiccoasttattooconvention.co.uk)

**January 12, 2014**

### TATTOO FREEZE

The International Centre,  
Telford, TF3 4JH  
[www.tattoofreeze.com](http://www.tattoofreeze.com)

## INTERNATIONAL

**September 20-22**

### ITALIAN TATTOO ARTISTS

Palazzo dello Sport Parco Ruffini  
Viale Leonardo Bistolfi, 10,  
10141 Torino,  
Italy  
[www.italiantattooartists.com](http://www.italiantattooartists.com)

**September 20-22**

### GENOVA TATTOO CONVENTION

Magazzini del Cotone  
(Porto Antico)  
Magazzini del Cotone  
Modulo 9  
16126 Genova,  
Italy  
[www.tattooconventiongenova.com](http://www.tattooconventiongenova.com)

## REBELLION

These (and many others like them) pieces of jewellery are now available in the UK (as opposed to exclusively in the US) through Rebellion. You can see the full product range at [rebellionjewellery.co.uk](http://rebellionjewellery.co.uk) - nice gear!



## THE HOT LIST



### TRENT

#### E.T.A. OF NEXT INK SESSION

ARTIST FRIDAY AT TATTOO JAM...7 WEEKS AND COUNTING, THOUGH PROBABLY ABOUT 10 DAYS WHEN THIS GOES TO PRESS.

#### CURRENT AFTERCARE PRODUCT

SEX BALM TATTOO AFTERCARE... THE CHOCOLATE ONE.

#### HOLY CRAP!: DEXTER

THE FINAL SEASON. DEXTER AND DEBS AREN'T GOING TO...ARE THEY?

#### BEST THING I'VE SEEN THIS MONTH

THE ART OF DAVE TEVENAL...WATCH THIS SPACE.

#### TIRED OF THIS NOW REALITY TV.



### PAULA

#### E.T.A. OF NEXT INK SESSION

WEDNESDAY, WITH DUNCAN X AT INTO YOU AND THURSDAY WITH HANNAH CLARK (APPRENTICE) AT RAIN CITY.

#### CURRENT AFTERCARE PRODUCT

CLING FILM. WET HEALING IS THE WAY FORWARD.

#### HOLY CRAP!:

US REALITY SHOW 'DANCE MOMS'.

#### BEST THING I'VE SEEN THIS MONTH

DEAD LION OIL PAINTING BY LANDSEER (1849) IN THE CITY GALLEY, MANCHESTER.

#### TIRED OF THIS NOW

FRUIT FLIES. I KNOW IT'S YOUR RAISIN D'ÊTRE BUT GET OUT OF MY GODDAMN FRUITBOWL!

# Halloween

## TATTOO BASH '13

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[WWW.HALLOWEENTATTOOBASH.CO.UK](http://WWW.HALLOWEENTATTOOBASH.CO.UK)

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



[Facebook.com/HalloweenTattooBash](https://Facebook.com/HalloweenTattooBash)

[www.studio59tattoos.co.uk](http://www.studio59tattoos.co.uk)



# Conventions

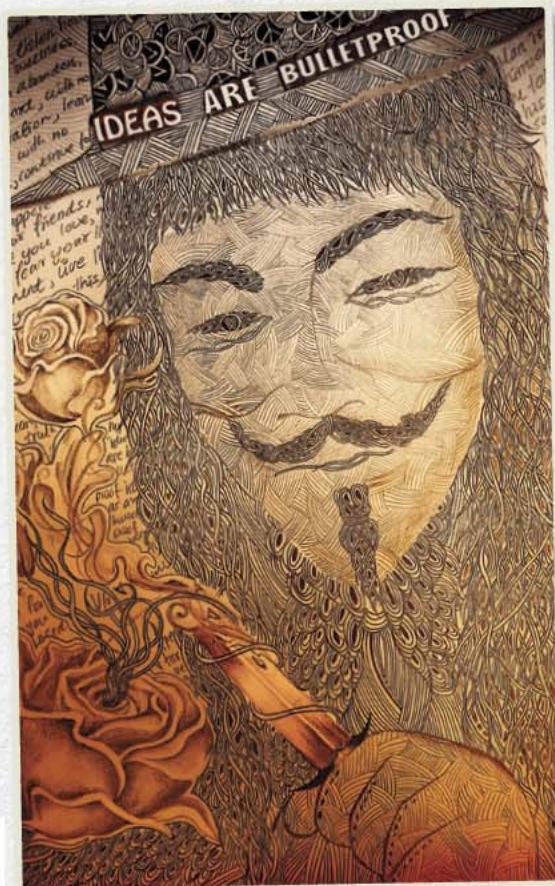
All details correct at time of going to press.

## ART FOR ART'S SAKE

I came across Maahy's work by way of an absolute fluke - to be honest I can't even remember what I was doing that led me to him but sometimes, that's just the way things work.

Recently, we've been featuring a lot of blackwork - simple lines that, in the right hands, can say so much more than colour ever can simply by leaving out the right things. OK, so that's not the opinion of everybody and like I say, it has to be in the right hands - but nevertheless, take a look at these few art samples from Maahy - who is 18! I don't know where he's going with this, but it looks like it will be quite a journey. In his own words:

"Growing up in the Maldives I have always been inspired by nature. Chilly wind, sunny skies and crystal seas still gets my feet off the ground. You could say I'm a dreamer. I believe in art, beauty, individuality and the simplicity of things. Fearless and captivating art inspires me.



I'm a completely self taught illustrator. Never having studied art and doing it just for the passion and sheer joy of it, I've come to realize that drawing is the only way to fulfil my urge to create.

My art portrays the minimalism of black and white as well as the chaotic beauty and mystery of doodling, zentangles, streams of flowing lines and the fascinating scent and touch of coffee. I work intimately with ink pens and graphite pencils. For me, The key to finishing a detailed art piece is immense patience and perseverance. I always carry a camera with me to capture organic and interesting patterns, shapes and designs I see every day. Whether it be on the road, in a mud puddle, the dancing clouds, or in a trailing foot print, I always keep my inspiration rolling."

You can investigate Maahy further at these places:

maahyart.com  
facebook.com/Maahy.art  
mahitxkaboo.tumblr.com/

...and if you're not thinking how freaking mind-numbingly off the scale something like this would look in that blank space you've got, what the hell is wrong with you?



**September 20-22**

**IMMERSED IN INK TOUR**

Tinley Park Convention Center  
18451 Convention Center Drive  
Tinley Park, IL 60477  
United States  
www.immersedinink.com

**September 20-22**

**SURF N'INK TATTOO FESTIVAL**

The Venue  
719 Flinders Street  
Townsville QLD 4810,  
Australia  
www.tattooofestival.com.au

**September 20-22**

**ISTANBUL TATTOO CONVENTION**

Kadikoy Halk Egitimi Merkezi ve Aksam  
Sanat Okulu  
Bahariye Cad. No:39  
Kadıköy Merkez/Istanbul  
Türkiye  
www.tattooconvention.com.tr

**September 21-22**

**TATTOO KUSTOM FESTIVAL**

Salle Polyvalente Jean Sarment  
Allée des Peupliers,  
95620 Parmain,  
France

**September 27-29**

**SURF N'INK TATTOO FESTIVAL**

RNA Showgrounds - Royal International  
Convention Centre  
600 Gregory Terrace  
Bowen Hills, Brisbane QLD  
Australia  
www.tattoosurfink.com

**October 4-6**

**BARCELONA TATTOO EXPO**

La Farga  
Avinguda Josep Tarradellas I Joan,  
145, 08901 Hospitalet  
de Llobregat,  
Spain  
www.barcelonatattooconvention.com

**October 18-20**

**EVIAN TATTOO SHOW**

Palais des Congrès d'Evian-les-Bains  
Place Peintre Charles Cottet  
74500 Évian-Les-Bains  
France  
www.eviantattoo.com

WANT YOUR SHOW FEATURED IN OUR  
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"Some sins don't wash away..."

# A NEW DIMENSION IN TATTOOING

*There is one area of tattooing that hasn't really been addressed until now, and that is the transition from two-dimensional drawings to the actual three-dimensional finished tattoo art. It is actually very difficult to imagine how a large piece will look when wrapped around the body. Overcoming this problem is now within our grasp thanks to our old friend technology, and it won't be long before tattoo fans can begin to benefit from this in their search for the perfect tattoo art...*

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I have drawers full of tattoo machines, mostly in bits, of

course, and I am probably having a good time somewhere annoying the hell out of everyone. Despite this there is a generally comical and exciting scene in my shop with fun-loving customers. So beyond the usual grumbles about the weather and the state of the economy all is good in my day to day world you might say. Nothing, therefore, needs to change.

But it is still true, however, that tattooing always needs new ideas and a forward momentum to prevent us getting stuck in the past. We should look to the future as a place to aim for, knowing that until recently mankind was negative towards tattooing anyway. It certainly was when I started out in the days before we had tattoo magazines to read, and it is only due to the forces of progress that we've gotten to where we are now—enjoying some superb body art.

If George Lucas were to make *Star Wars* today, I suspect Obi Wan would have a full set of cool sleeves. In fact, with the advances in laser technology and the developing picosecond alexandrite technology, he would probably be able to remove and change them on a weekly basis. Yoda would have had a million sleeves for sure at his age that featured slogans like,



*Without looking forwards, we stay in the past; and if tattooing had done that we would still be tattooing the same stuff your grandad was wearing under his string vest*

'Only the Force can judge me'.

Tattooing is getting so acceptable today that by the time the Empire takes over, we will surely find that tattooing is going to be on everyone. It will probably be instantly applied and done in a way that doesn't break the skin, but instead utilises some other osmosis-driven method and is therefore painless. This is where the nano-technological world could offer benefits as the nano-bots of the future could be programmed to knit you a sleeve in a moment—while you sleep—ready for the next night out on the town on whatever planet you happen to be on. You might even be able to swap your head for a new bodysuit as fashion dictates since we are now in the mode of predicting how far things can be taken.

To finally cut to the chase here, I have always been someone who has an eye on the future. I like to

imagine where we might be going and this is why George Lucas made *Star Wars*. Without looking forwards, we stay in the past; and if tattooing had done that we would still be tattooing the same stuff your grandad was wearing under his string vest. Come to think of it, since old school is back big time, we probably are.

For those that are looking objectively at tattooing, there is clear-cut evidence that our favourite art form is advancing. Shops are getting nicer, tattooists are becoming more professional, and the media, internet, TV and magazines, are teaching the world about a lot of the possibilities that can be strived for—I know there are negative issues that need to be addressed, but on the whole, things are looking up. And there is no greater proof of this fact than the technology behind the pictures shown here. I came across some 3D imaging 🙌



Woody



last year that is going to get tattooing into the fast lane. It can be used for the benefits of tattoo art and the technology probably began with the stuff that Lucas worked on back in the '70s when he had to get the droids wielding light sabres in a non-real way that looked convincing.

So imagine if you could get to see the sleeve you want, fully finished, on a computer pretty much how it would look on your arm. It had to happen that someone with the talents of Bez

at Triple Six was going to make some models that would use Photoshop Extended's platform to build virtually realistic body parts that could display the full spectacle of what tattooing can offer. The fact that it does it painlessly and instantly is great, because I can now drop pictures onto virtual bodies with the most bizarre and chaotic consequences that take away the safety needs of normal tattooing, and which truly allows for out of the box creativity and enlightenment.

What you see on these pages is the result of using Bez's 3D package.

The images here are in my shop window and are a good advert for the progressive nature of our business, which sort of

gets us head and shoulders above the competition too. Within the images, the beautifully flowing lines that effortlessly meander around the model's arms come originally from designs created on flat pieces of paper. I usually work on the images digitally towards the end, adding colour and depth, before dropping the designs onto the 3D models—and the whole process is pretty quick which is a huge benefit to the clientele as it saves time and money.

The end result is very impressive as you can see. These images came from winter evenings back in February spent in the company of potential customers in which I created their dream sleeves or other body pieces during what I

*Within the images, the beautifully flowing lines that effortlessly meander around the model's arms come originally from designs created on flat pieces of paper*





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[www.camwholesale.com](http://www.camwholesale.com) (wholesale catalog)

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called the 'Thirty Minute Sleeve Sessions'. In effect, the complete package of sleeve designing, start to finish, was handled in a mere 30 minutes—blank paper to fully coloured 3D mock-up.

What you have to bear in mind here is that the images shown are not animated—they come from screen grabs taken at different angles. Viewed on screen, they rotate like they are real. It is therefore possible for the client to view how a sleeve looks when rotating and also to see how things will look when viewed up the arm or down—showing the sleeve the way you or your friends will see it.

The designing is done using Photoshop Extended which is readily available, and if an artist sources Bez's templates, the art can easily come to life. There is nothing difficult here with the simple set-up of computer, software and templates.

Also, the images that are rendered to the 3D templates can be modified in a moment. If the design is too colourful, too small, or in need of adjustments, the software allows for the changes to be made instantly. The fact that a customer can see the piece in its entirety means there is a new way of looking at the piece allowing the concept as a whole is grasped. This means there is less likelihood of a larger piece looking like a bolt-together and the clients (that means you) should be able to get their heads around the larger picture.

This is all very positive because it is now possible for someone such as yourself, dear reader, to become part of the creative process which spotlights a very real characteristic of the 21st century... namely, customer empowerment.

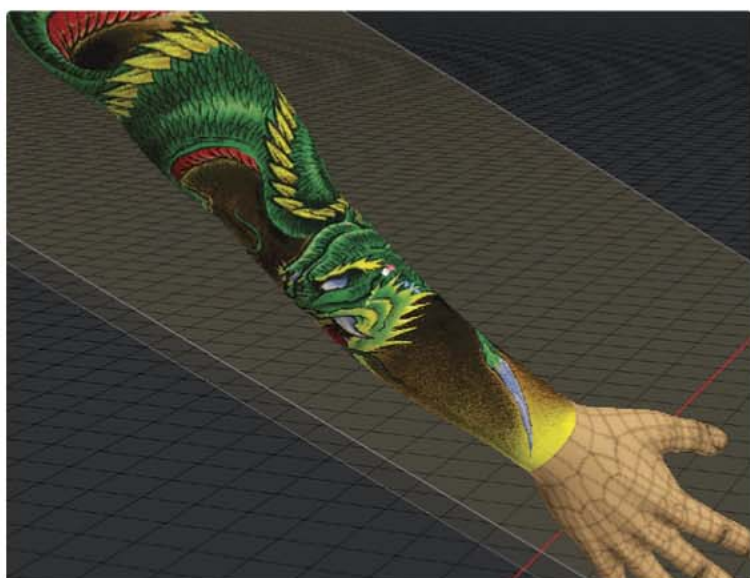
The significance of this is that someone with a tattoo would usually want to feel they had options and choices, and they can now help out in the creation of their piece. Since the software is geared for speed, the process shouldn't be expensive despite the bespoke nature of the pieces created and with an extra hour or so factored into the process a better customer-tattooist relationship can occur with the concurrent mutually satisfactory end point.

In fact, I can see a time when the 3D sleeve building software can be added as an app to an iPhone or iPad which would mean that people could play at making a cool back piece in a spare moment from imported images, in offices, schools, on the train... wherever.

As it happens, there are a great many advancing scenarios within the tattoo world. Whether it is lasers, big company interest in tattooing, internet advances, TV or other media involvement, the future is looking brighter. Perhaps it won't be long before TV starts to become better aligned to the art of tattooing and we might then start to get some positive programmes that capture the excitement



*The fact that a customer can see the piece in its entirety means there is a new way of looking at the piece allowing the concept as a whole is grasped*



of advances such as this 3D platform—which will surely be in all studios in a year or two—rather than the usual tendency for TV to focus on the negative stuff.

Next month, I will begin a series of interactive stuff for readers of Skin Deep that will help you become more able to design your own tattoo art than is presently the case.

Let's share the knowledge. There are nice, simple tips and tricks to get you creating better designs to take to the tattoo shops and even Yoda will be of the opinion:

"Ideas, cool, they will be." 🗿

# Barber Dts



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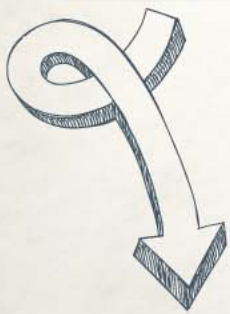
Churchill Way, Chapeltown, Sheffield, England S35 2PY



# THE END OF THE ROAD



Well it's true what they say, all good things really do come to an end. When I started travelling at the end of 2010, I didn't think I'd be on the road as long as I have. Now nearly three years later I can say it's been one hell of a ride and a great pleasure to be able to share it with you all through the pages of the ever evolving fantastical magazine that is Skin Deep...



In the beginning all I had was a plane ticket, an idea and a chance from Sion to go out and 'do something'. I don't think either of us knew exactly how it was going to work out or be received; there was some doubt and some uncertainty too maybe, but sitting writing this over 30 issues later it was obviously worth the shot, so I'd like to say thanks to Sion and the hard working guys an' gals who put it all together every month.

A thank you is also due to you readers, who read and buy it every month—all the feedback you guys send us via social media, email and in person at conventions made it extra special, and I think it's safe to say it was a success.

There have been many highlights for me—where it all started in Australia was a big one. Getting to spend a whole year immersing myself in their

tattoo culture was amazing. The industry there was so friendly and open, becoming part of their tattoo community and meeting amazing artists like Mick Squires was very humbling, then meeting up with him in other places around the world and seeing his talents and skills develop and evolve first-hand has been inspiring. In fact, I have been fortunate to meet and share with you so many incredible, talented and down-to-earth artists—it has been an absolute pleasure. So if you're under 30, get a working holiday visa and get out there!

Learning about the tattoo history of Singapore and exploring the amazingly multicultural



little island was also something I would strongly suggest to anyone. If you're flying to Australia or New Zealand why not stop off there for a few days



**MEETING AMAZING ARTISTS LIKE MICK SQUIRES WAS VERY HUMBLING, THEN MEETING UP WITH HIM IN OTHER PLACES AROUND THE WORLD AND SEEING HIS TALENTS AND SKILLS DEVELOP AND EVOLVE FIRST-HAND HAS BEEN INSPIRING**

*Amsterdam's famous canals*



*Craigy Lee ties the knot*



and experience it for yourself?

If that's a bit far, how about the natural hot spa's in Budapest? The bleak landscape in Oslo? The forests of Luxembourg? A visit to Amsterdam by night? A cut by the barbers of Rotterdam? Or the pre-convention artists meal in Belgium? All amazing experiences, but for me tattooing in Europe is best in one country... Germany.

For all of you who have read this every month and are maybe thinking of visiting or working one convention in Europe this year, pick a German one. Germany does not always get the best rap from the English, but the people are super-friendly, the conventions are well organised, the food is great, the beer cheap, and there are some truly amazing artists there—Randy Englehard, Tommy Lee, Mr.Halbstark and 🍀



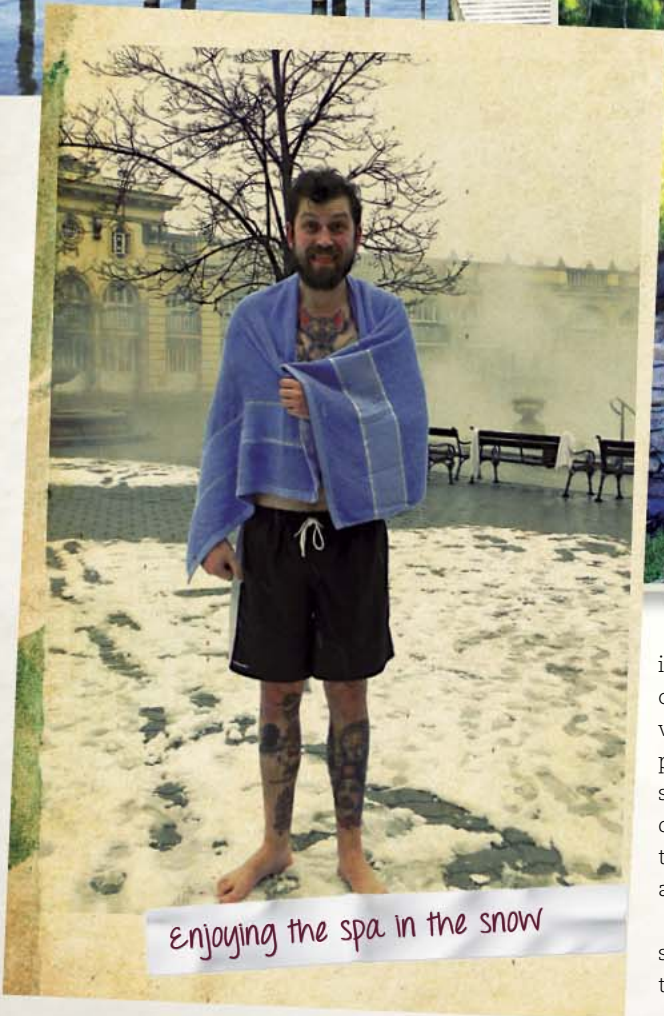
*With Jason and Carina at Bodyscript*



*Enjoying a fresh Guinness*



**GERMANY IS ONE OF THOSE PLACES WHERE TATTOOING IS THRIVING, PEOPLE GET TATTOOS, THEY UNDERSTAND WHAT IT'S ABOUT, THEY GET CONVENTIONS AND THEY DON'T MIND SPENDING MONEY ON A GOOD TATTOO**



*enjoying the spa in the snow*

Andy Engel to name very few of them! Germany is one of those places where tattooing is thriving, people get tattoos, they understand what it's about, they get conventions, and they don't mind spending money on a good tattoo. So why not make your first overseas show a German one?

On a personal level though, my absolute favourite place was New Zealand. Not only is it a pristine and beautiful place, but



*Finding a new hobbit hole*

it has one of the oldest tattoo cultures in the world—it's a very special place indeed. A place where it is not unusual to see a man or woman walking down the street with their face tattooed, tattooing is not judged and it's accepted as an art form.

This is where I will be setting down my bags for the foreseeable future.

Obviously I cannot write about travelling if I'm not travelling anymore so keep your eyes peeled for a new feature in Skin Deep where you can have your say and input into what I write about.

I hope I did the artists I wrote about justice. I hope you enjoyed reading and maybe



*outside the tattoo museum*

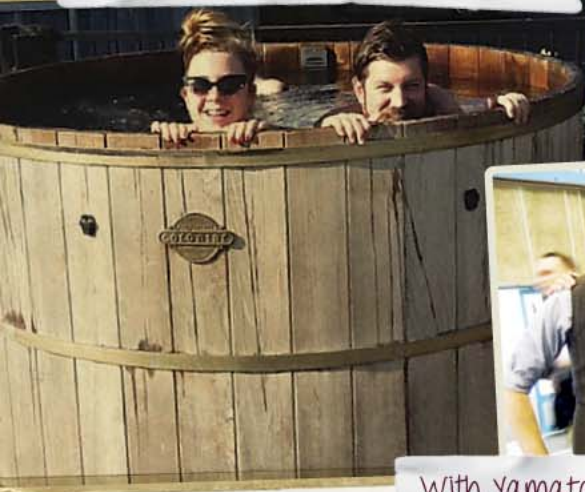


working hard



Me with Matty, 'Gentle' John, and Harry Morgan

Cooling down after the road trip



With Yamato Bonten from Tokyo

**EDITOR'S NOTE**

I feel the need to say something, but I don't actually have anything to say aside from "Thanks a bunch dude"—insert smiley face icon of choice. Craig is right, when we started this, neither of us really had a clue how it would pan out, but if you let stupid details get in the way of a good idea, you'll never do anything, and that's where Craig and myself meet on the same solid ground. Throw stuff around, hit the road, see what happens. If he can mail me stories from the other side of the world via some old bean tins strung up to a tree to find some wifi, then there's not much that can't be accomplished if you put your mind to it. Throughout Mr Lee's travel diary, there's one thing I have never said, that I thought was really important not to say until this very moment. The fact that Craig is dyslexic has never been an issue—to be honest, I've seen writers that aren't dyslexic hand in dirtier copy than he does—but that's just one more reason as to why he's one of the most respected and first class genuine tattooists out there. Because he cares. Enough of the sentimentality... back to work slackers.

you learnt a little something along the way. But most of all, if nothing else I hope it's inspired you to travel, to get out see the bigger picture. Go and work a convention/guest spot in a far off place, or make the effort to go get tattooed by that overseas artist you always wanted a tattoo from. If you'd like to keep up-to-date with what I'm doing, you can

find me on instagram @craigy\_lee.

Remember life's not about the destination, but the journey and adventures along the way.

Peace and safe travels to you all.

Craigy 🐼



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# Toni Moore

With the launch of her new clothing brand (Hungry For Moore) under the proverbial belt, Toni Moore once again pushes herself forwards and into the great wide open. Time to catch up methinks...

[hungryformoore.co.uk](http://hungryformoore.co.uk)

**LET'S JUMP INTO THE DEEP  
END—THIS IS YOUR SHOT TO PIMP  
THE HELL OUT OF YOUR NEW  
CLOTHING BRAND HUNGRY FOR  
MOORE—KNOCK YOURSELF OUT!**

I've always been looking to expand my career and push myself to the limits of what I can do creatively in and out of tattooing so creating Hungry For Moore was just the next step for me. I previously designed T-shirts as most tattoo artists do. I had a lot of unused sketches lying around and I was toying with the idea of creating a few different designs at a time. When the idea of branding myself as Hungry For Moore came up, I absolutely fell in love with it straight away and saw it as a sign to start the brand and label myself.

The aim is to create a range of clothing and accessories that is a little different than you see day to day. Mixing fashionable styles with tattoo-related images and music inspired designs. I love drawing and I love clothes—so why not combine to two and have fun with it—it makes sense, right?

Of the items I'm having printed, there is a limited run of each, between 20 and 50—depending on the item—meaning that once they're gone, they're gone. I hate seeing someone in the street wearing the same top or jumper as me, so I took this into consideration when deciding to run the limited stock. I'm also doing some complete 'one-off' custom pieces. I've hand-painted

script onto high heels and shoes, decorated jackets with material, patches and studs. Everything will be created just the once, so you're pretty safe in the knowledge that you'll be the only one wearing it! The brand has also got some one off stationary accessories and I'll be doing bags in the future too, so things are looking busy if nothing else!

On the website so far you can find T-shirts, vests, jackets, shoes, patches, badges, prints and pants—so a lot of stuff! I'm looking to take the brand further and introduce clothing like jumpers and polo shirts.

The idea is not just to reach the tattoo community but also fans of music, fashion and creative arts, so I'd really like to get some feedback on what people would like to see from the brand and how I can develop the ranges—there are always lots of things to take into consideration, like when you're producing a limited run, what size do you make them available in, what colour, etc.? It's



not as simple as you might think.

Hungry For Moore has only been available to buy online for the past few weeks and I've already had an amazing amount of orders and feedback. I couldn't have asked for a better beginning to all this.



**I hate seeing someone in the street wearing the same top or jumper as me, so I took this into consideration when deciding to run the limited stock**

**BACK ON PLANET EARTH, HOW'S LIFE IN THE TATTOOING FAST LANE? THE LAST TIME WE SPOKE, YOU WERE PUSHING THE BOAT OUT WITH YOUR SCRIPT WORK—STILL HITTING IT HARD OR HAVE YOU MOVED OUT INTO OTHER DIMENSIONS?**

I'm still very much in love with doing script and I'm so happy when people come to me to get custom, over the top, crazy shit. But I'm trying to push the boundaries of my tattooing overall, not just script, and learning and developing my techniques to make my work the best it can be.

I still feel like I have a long way to go but finally feel that I'm moving in the right direction. I'm still doing a range of styles to help me develop these techniques 🍀



# Tattoo Vixens



**‘I’m sill very much in love with doing script and ‘I’m so happy when people come to me to get custom, over the top, crazy shit**

which I feel, for me, are important to my skills as an artist. I’m also lucky that I love tattooing in so many different forms from realistic, black and grey to bright, bold, solid new skool...

**GOOD TO SEE YOU MOVING AWAY FROM YOUR BLOG TO A FULL-ON WEBSITE OF YOUR OWN THESE DAYS TOO... WHAT PROMPTED THAT? BLOG NOT BIG ENOUGH FOR YOU TO SAY ALL THE THINGS YOU WANT TO SAY? DO YOU HAVE THAT MUCH TO SAY OR ARE YOU JUST TRYING TO MAKE IT EASIER**





**FOR PEOPLE TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH WHAT YOU'RE DOING?**

I decided to have a website built as—even after all this time—I didn't have an online portfolio of my work, and I definitely feel that the internet is the greatest tool for people to find new artists. I've also moved around throughout my tattoo career and have a lot of customers all over the country, so I thought this was the best way for them to find me and keep up to date with everything that I'm doing.

My blog was good, but I felt I needed to expand and take it to the next level. My website is still very new and there are a few things still to tweak, but it's great to have everything together in one place, instead of how it was before with a separate blog, store and Facebook page. Now you can hit all the ideas of those pages together on one site.

**TALK TO ME ABOUT INSTAGRAM—A LOT OF PEOPLE I TALK TO SAY IT'S LIKE IT'S BEEN TAILOR MADE FOR TATTOO ARTISTS—I ALWAYS THINK THAT'S A LITTLE OVER THE TOP, BUT THEN AGAIN, I'M NOT**

**POSTING MY WORK ON THERE EVERYDAY. IS IT THE SAVIOUR OF SOCIAL MEDIA SOME THINK IT IS OR IS THERE STILL LIFE IN A GOOD OLD FASHIONED PORTFOLIO?**

Instagram is a great tool for me, and I'm sure most tattoo artist would agree. You can instantly post new work and progress shots of pieces without fucking around with uploading pictures from cameras onto your computer. As an artist, I hate all the computer shit I have to do—it takes up drawing time! So the quicker and easier I can get my work out there for people to see, the better. I've also found so many amazing artists through other profiles, that I may have never come across previously.

Instagram is the only social media thing I use now—just pictures and no bullshit bitching. Love it!

**ARE YOU HITTING THE ROAD ANYTIME IN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS? IF NOT... WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOUR PLANS?**

I have taken the past couple years out of conventions. I only did one last year. There were

several reasons, but mainly because I wanted to concentrate hard on my work at the shop. After a little break from them I'm really keen to get back into them. Hopefully I'll be at Tattoo Jam this year and then I'll hit up several in 2014. Although nothing is yet set in stone, my website will be a great way for people to find out what conventions I'll be working in the future.

**FINALLY, NOT SO MUCH A QUESTION, BUT WITH THE NEW SITE AND EVERYTHING, CAN YOU DROP IN ALL YOUR LATEST CONTACT INFO SO THAT WE'RE UP-TO-DATE? IT'S BEEN HARD KEEPING UP WITH YOU LATELY!**

I'm currently working with a great bunch of guys at Imperial Tattoo Company in Bath. They have all made me feel extremely welcome and we have a great laugh. There's no egos and no pressure. It's a great laid-back place and I'm definitely enjoying my time here and able to concentrate on the work I really want to be doing.

You can find me here: Imperial Tattoo Company, 12 Cleveland Place West, Bath, BA15DG UK. 🇬🇧

**TONI ON SLAYER**

Let's talk about Jeff for a second... I know Slayer were pretty much your favourite band. Does his death change the way you're looking at life at all? When you're close to a band or person in spirit and they disappear, it can have a real effect on a day to day level—in the way that you realise that nobody lives forever...

Obviously hearing of the death of Jeff was massively upsetting. Slayer are a huge influence in my life and one of the bands that got me into tattooing as a kid. To me it's definitely the end of an era and the band will not be the same for me without him, but I'll still continue to listen to them and they will always be the best thrash metal band out there!

# DEER HUNTER



A few years back, while rooting around online, I stumbled onto the work of Kris Davidson. He had posted an image of a blue deer that was one of the most beautiful works of sacred geometry I had ever seen. The detail he had put into the piece was mind-blowing

Website:  
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I contacted Kris about getting the piece tattooed, and though it never happened, we stayed in contact, chatting every now and then and promising to work on something together in the future. Well the future finally came around, and in between trips, I pinned Kris down long enough to find out more about him and his amazing art.

Kris considers Lovehawk Studio in Athens, Georgia, as his home base, but he spends a lot of time on the road. Travelling seems to be in Kris' blood; nearly every time I spoke to him he was either heading off, or returning from, somewhere new. His latest travel plans are Peru in the early part of 2014, a country he has only recently returned from. But the gypsy soul was in Kris even before he was a tattooist. He was a long time on the road before he picked up some ink and changed his medium to skin, though it was an idea growing in the back of his mind.

"Well I had thought about tattooing for years and I had different friends who would encourage it, but I was busy being a painter. I did art shows in galleries and also spent about ten years



travelling with bands, doing live performance painting. I sustained myself well doing this and had incredible experiences. It was an amazing chapter in my life, but it grew old and I became a bit isolated from myself and from the people supporting my art. I wanted more connection.

"I sort of dropped everything and started travelling through India and then South America. This was a really transformative time in my life, things changed on so many levels. When I came back to the States, I started working on a collaborative art show with my dearest friend and super



I DID ART SHOWS IN GALLERIES AND ALSO SPENT ABOUT TEN YEARS TRAVELLING WITH BANDS, DOING LIVE PERFORMANCE PAINTING. I SUSTAINED MYSELF WELL DOING THIS AND HAD INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCES

with David that Kris learnt to tattoo, but as Kris puts it, not in the traditional tattoo way but more in the old, artist/mentor way. Three years later and Kris is still tattooing out of David's studio,

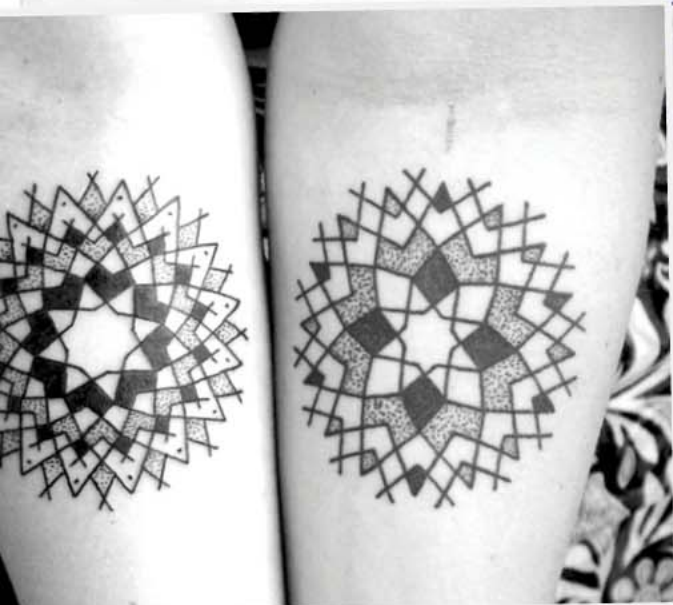
Lovehawk, their creative partnership going strong.

Just look at Kris' work and you can see that sacred geometry, mathematics and the Golden Ratio are a few of the themes and images that stand out in his work.

As Kris puts it, "There was a thread all along for sure. I started drawing when I was very young, probably as soon as I could hold on to a pencil I was regularly drawing on things. Amidst the spectrum of things I would draw when I was a kid, it's the mazes that most relate to what emerged in my teenage years and beyond. These endless mazes of asymmetrical and flowing geometry turned into psychedelic doodles in my teenage years, which led to more refined geometrical

gifted artist, David Hale. During this time, through the seemingly natural course of things, he started showing me how to tattoo."

Kris counts David as his primary mentor in tattooing and it was



**PISAC & THE SACRED VALLEY**

The Sacred Valley of the Incas (Urubamba Valley), located in the Andes in Peru, is a popular traveller destination as it's close to the Inca capital of Cusco and the ancient city of Machu Picchu. It was called the Sacred Valley because it contains some of the best land in the region and was not a part of the Empire but the property of the Emperor, or Inca, himself. Pisac is a market village located in the valley and contains the famous Sun Temple in the Pisac Ruins.

drawings. Eventually those turned into the geometrical styles of my early paintings which all evolved into the designs that I now tattoo.

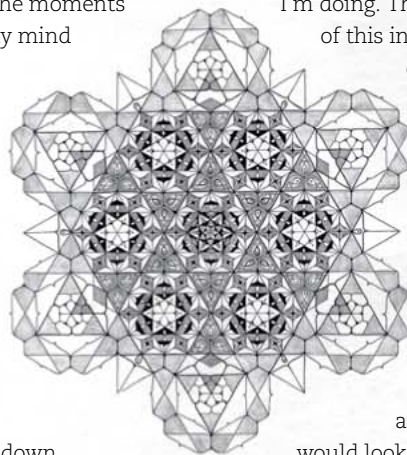
"There is such a mystical depth with geometry. It's a language beyond the parameters of words that is all about cohesion and interconnectivity. On various levels it weaves and permeates through, well, everything. So, potentially, it speaks to everyone, this universal language. For me there is this meditative aspect of working with geometry. When I start a new piece, I go through this process of clearing out my mind of expectations and

memories of what I've done before. Sketching and erasing, sketching and erasing. The point where something new happens usually coincides with the moments around when my mind gets quiet and empty. It always seems to come from a place beyond my mind."

And while we have Kris on places beyond his mind, how does he sit down and come up with one of his intricate works of art?

"The process with each drawing is a little bit different depending on where I am and the material/

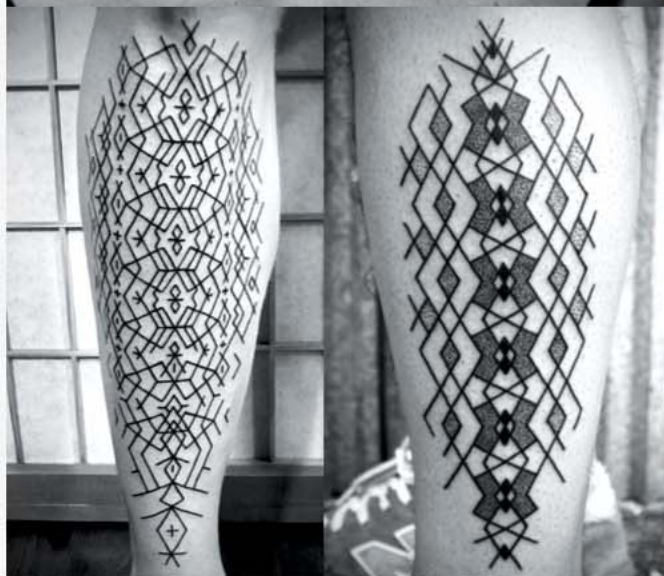
resources that are available to me. With drawings that are totally geometrical, for most of the process, I don't really know what I'm doing. There is still a bit of this in the drawings I



do with realistic elements... with the Blue Deer piece I knew I wanted to draw a deer with antlers, but I had no idea how it would happen and what it

would look like. The initial spark of a drawing comes in many ways. Ideas may sort of pop into my mind or come through conversations and connections I have with people. Animals I dream

THERE IS SUCH A MYSTICAL DEPTH WITH GEOMETRY. IT'S A LANGUAGE BEYOND THE PARAMETERS OF WORDS THAT IS ALL ABOUT COHESION AND INTERCONNECTIVITY







about often lead to drawings which are also a common element in my collaborations with David Hale. Often it's just a combination of an idea and appropriating the current of creativity that has been culminating and building through all the previous and recent work... through this, new things keep emerging, growing and refining.

"I was inspired to draw the Blue Deer when I went to visit a friend in Hawaii last year. I was sort of in a Hawaiian jungle retreat eating fresh island food and drawing a lot. I started the Blue Deer as a little drawing where I had a geometrical grid superimposed on a reference photo of a deer. I drew it all on that little piece of paper and eventually scanned it, blew it up to a larger scale, redrew it on a nicer piece of paper."

But the transition from paper to skin wasn't as easy as Kris



SINCERELY, I LOVE TATTOOING, BUT IT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT VISUAL MEDIUM I HAVE EVER ENCOUNTERED. TRANSITIONING FROM PAINTING AND DRAWING TO TATTOOING WAS QUITE HUMBLING



anticipated. As he says, "There is nothing easy about tattooing!" But with David helping him in his informal 'apprenticeship' Kris soon found he was picking it up.

"Sincerely, I love tattooing, but it the most difficult visual medium I have ever encountered. Transitioning from painting and drawing to tattooing was quite humbling. Having drawn straight lines and geometries for most of my life has definitely been a big help, but there is no getting around entering this medium as a beginner and gradually progressing 🌸"



I THINK ANYTHING THAT AFFECTS YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS IN A SIGNIFICANT WAY SIMULTANEOUSLY AFFECTS YOUR LIFE EXPERIENCE. WHAT FOLLOWS FOR THE ARTIST, IS THE ART

**SACRED GEOMETRY**

Sacred geometry refers to geometric forms that were once used in the design of holy sites. Geometric forms and/or ratios were given certain esoteric significance and meanings based on their attributes. These forms were thought to give insight into how the universe works, or at least symbolize some mystical aspect of the universe. People who work with sacred geometry often claim it stimulates both sides of the brain at once: the right side (which deals with art and intuition) and left side (which deals with mathematics and logic

from there through lots of practice.”

And with almost constantly being on the road, travelling to exotic far off lands, seeing traditional and modern art and meeting just as exotic people, inspiration is always at hand.

“I think anything that affects your consciousness in a significant way simultaneously affects your life experience. What follows for the artist, is the art. Change your consciousness = change your art. If your consciousness gets stale, so does your art. If your consciousness expands, so does your art. For me, the experiences I have through the course of my travels effect my inner world in such a way that what I share through my art to the outer world continues to grow, change and evolve, which hopefully, keeps me

staying fresh and new and having something relevant to offer.”

So, as we said at the top of the piece, the next trip is Peru in 2014... and then who knows where for this wanderer? Well, if I have it my way, hopefully a stop off in England along the way.

“I’d love to come to England, though no plans have coalesced in the right way for that to happen yet. Travel-wise, I am trying to stay in one place longer these days. It’s better for the tattooing and all other practices too. I’ll be setting up a studio in the Sacred Valley in Peru, in a town called Pisac.”

And in Kris’ own way, that’s how we draw the line under this chapter in his life. Plans are being made but the future is wide open and there is much more on the horizon to be discovered. ✨



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Shane O'Neill



THIS IS GONNA

**HURT...**

Iconic rock band Guns N' Roses have a colourful past, to say the least, but all it takes is a sit-down with guitarists DJ Ashba and Richard Fortus, to realise that, regardless of what the critics like to harp on about, GnR has entered an exciting new era with its current reincarnation—the best it's ever been since the original line-up called it quits decades ago...



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Meeting Ashba (who's also a songwriter for Mötley Crüe and Neil Diamond, and guitarist of Sixx:A.M.) and Fortus (who has played with everyone from Thin Lizzy to Rihanna) in the band dressing room before GnR's Montreal show, I was privy to the guys oiling up their tattoos with help from an onsite masseuse, as well as Ashba's envious assessment of Fortus' abs.

Following a rather amusing false start that included Ashba informing me that certain things were eight inches long and my smartass rebuttal that, really, that was all anyone needed to know, so our interview was indeed done, it was time to hit 'em with the real pressing questions. Sort of... 🍌

Barbara Pavone 📷 Katarina Benzova/Barbara Pavone

WE GIVE YOU

# DJ ASHBA

"I'd just come off the road with Sixx:A.M. and I got a call; management said Axl had been looking for the right guy for a year-and-a-half and they'd tried out hundreds of guitar players and were wondering if I'd come down," starts Ashba, recounting his fall down the GnR rabbit hole. "Axl called management and said 'If he shows up, he has the gig', so it was kind of easy," he laughs.

"I'd always been a fan and maybe I was kind of naïve about it, but I didn't give it a whole lot of thought. I probably would have freaked myself out and that's kinda how I go into anything—I stay focused on what I'm there to do and I don't worry about everything else."

**IT WAS A TIGER ON MY ARM AND I CAME HOME AND MY MOM STARTED CRYING**

**DJ ASHBA ON GETTING TATTOOED WITH NIKKI SIXX**

It was late one night and we walked in and I didn't know what I was gonna get, so I just drew something and put it on my foot and Nikki got a little dotted line that says 'Tag Here' on his big toe.



Joining the band after Robin Finck decided to return to Nine Inch Nails in 2009, one year after the release of the now infamous Chinese Democracy, Ashba wasn't there for its recording, but calls it "a great rock and roll album. It's a very artsy record and it was actually a really great success. Albums just don't sell these days and I think it sold like six million worldwide and that's pretty incredible, so I would look at that as an outsider, going, 'I would give my left nut to be able to sell that many records', and many bands would."

"What's cool is that I've seen, just being with the band for five years and touring the shit out of this thing, it's such an artistic album. I think you almost have to see the songs live because they translate a little different live, plus it's a little different line-up now and this band's finally on all cylinders."

Turning to his collection of tattoos—"I just have one really big one"—Ashba starts with his inaugural piece, which he got at 16.

"It was a tiger on my arm and I came home and my mom started crying," he laughs. "What's really weird, I got the rebel flag around it, but where I was raised and where I was from, to us it didn't mean anything racist. I grew up on *Dukes of Hazzard* and Billy Idol, seeing Zakk





## IN THE ROCK AND ROLL WORLD, IT MEANT REBEL, IT MEANS YOU'RE NOT FOLLOWING ANYBODY'S RULES... SO THAT ONE'S MISINTERPRETED AND IT KINDA BUMS ME OUT

Wylde's Rebel guitar and to me, in the rock and roll world, it meant rebel, it means you're not following anybody's rules... so that one's misinterpreted and it kinda bums me out."

From there, Ashba shows off the five crows on his chest and the massive chrome bones on his back, but some of his most important pieces may just be his smallest. Like the 'Trailer Trash' tattoo on his hands.

"I played guitar in a tiny religious town and we had one cop and he came over when I was playing guitar really badly on the rooftop of my crappy house to an empty park across the street that, in my mind, was sold out, you know? And he pulled up and said, 'We're either gonna confiscate all your music equipment or you gotta move to the outskirts of town'. So I moved out to this tiny beat up trailer out by myself when I was 16 so I could play music. I tattooed that on me to always remind me how I started from scratch."

Then there's the 'I'll Always Love You' on his wrist, his latest addition. (Get ready to "Awww", folks.)

"My mom recently visited and stayed at my house 'cause I was on tour and she left me a little note that I found when I got home: 'I will always love you, mom.'"

Other than working on the next Guns album,



### DJ ASHBA ON SONGWRITING

When you go in and write for Mötley Crüe, it's a completely different band than GnR or Sixx:A.M.—I study every guy in that band, I break down and study every aspect of their playing style to be able to write like them. As a songwriter, it's super important to go and do your homework.

which hopefully won't take as long as the last one: "We have tons of stuff written, tons of stuff recorded, we need to come together and put together what we feel, collectively as a band, is gonna be the next best Guns N' Roses." Ashba also admits a new Sixx:A.M. record is almost wrapped up (*fuck yeah! And fuck yeah again! Ed.*) and is his "favorite one so far and it's gonna blow people's minds."

We don't doubt it. 🍌

WE GIVE YOU

# RICHARD FORTUS

## RICHARD FORTUS ON HIS (RELIGIOUS) BACK PIECE

Buddhism and Hinduism exemplify the most adult religions, the least dogmatic. I love the stories behind Krishna, Kali, Ganesh—they're really beautiful. Shiva will be added down at the bottom, Kali's standing on him. She was ridding the world of demons and in her victory dance was so excited that she was in danger of destroying the earth, so he threw himself under her to stop her from destroying the world.

"I called them up and said 'You need me, no, trust me, you need me' and Axl said 'Really? Okay!'" jokes Fortus when asked about how he and GnR came to be.

In reality, it took a couple of tries and a number of years between when Axl first showed interest and when Fortus joined the band in 2001.

Asked about THAT album, Fortus has mixed emotions—"There are things I really like about the record, but at this point it's hard to be truly objective 'cause I've been in it for so long and the songs have been played to death"—but believes that had it been released under another band name "it would've been viewed as an underdog album and probably would have been treated

much differently, especially by the press".

"It was a challenging record for a lot of GnR fans and Axl really wanted to distance himself from the old band. He's a real artist in that, and we're going through it now, he doesn't wanna do the same shit, he doesn't wanna do Appetite again. Sure, fans want that, but it doesn't mean that he's necessarily in that place.

"That's the difference between an artist and a businessman and I'm not sure how great a businessman Axl is," he laughs. "It's rare you meet somebody that's not motivated by money, but that's him. Honestly, I swear to God, I've never met anybody who was like 'No, I don't wanna do something for money because whenever I do something for money, it goes wrong. I wanna do something that I believe in'. Say what you want about Axl, but that's my view."

Unfortunately, most of the things that are in fact said about the over-the-top frontman usually come from a negative place, but Fortus' policy has always been to just let the critics be.

"It's not really difficult for me because... I mean, it affects me business-wise, but it

## I SAW THE MOVIE ONCE WERE WARRIORS—IT'S PHENOMENAL AND IF YOU'RE INTO TATTOOING, YOU SHOULD DEFINITELY SEE IT

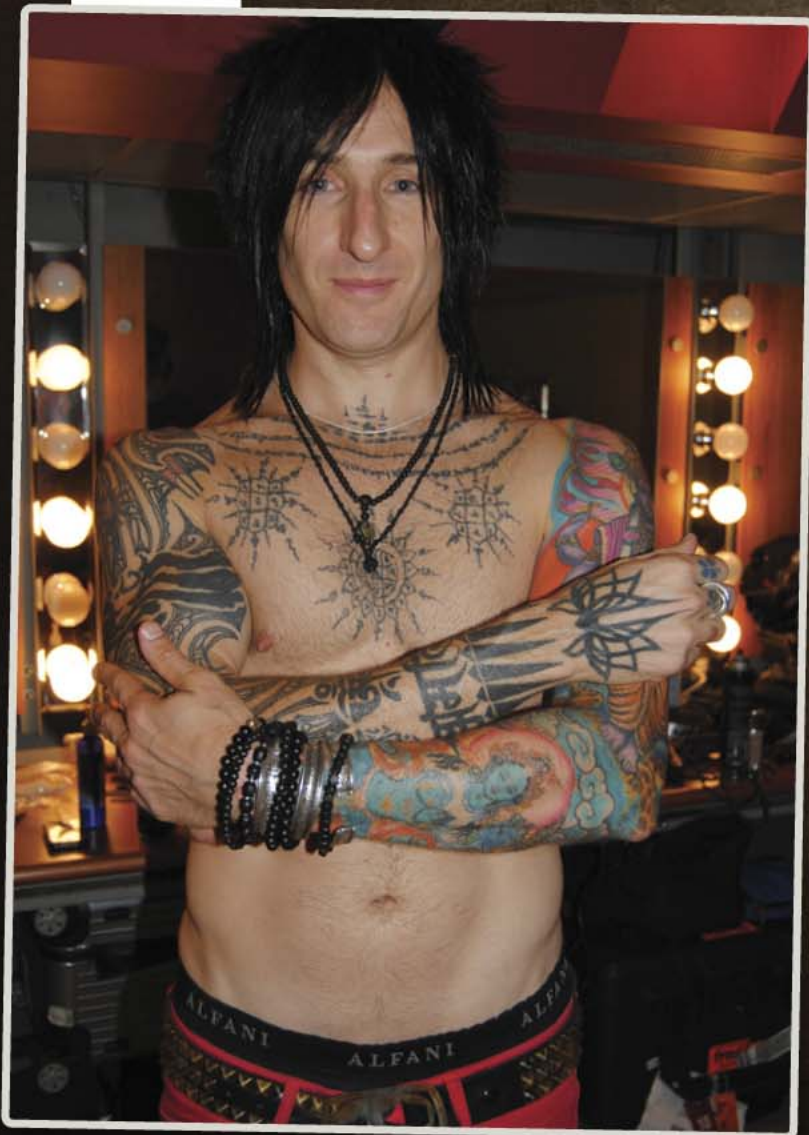
doesn't affect me personally—99 percent of it is assumption because he doesn't defend himself in the press, and journalists, especially in Europe, know that, as does Slash," he says. "They can say whatever they want and they know he's not gonna come back and say 'You're full of shit'. It's unbelievable to see it from this side because I know what really happened."

Changing topics to something more positive, Fortus starts showing off his impressive ink, which includes works by Mike Ledger and Josh Lord—"The way he lays colour in and as far as the detail, nobody beats him"—but it's his traditional tattoos that come with the craziest stories.

There's the piece on his chest, which is dedicated to his two young daughters and ex, done in Thailand by "two monks starting at opposite sides. You're meditating on each subject so it's really not that bad, you're in that zone. It's slow and arduous, but detailed coloured stuff is far more painful," he says, pointing to his left sleeve.

But if we're talking about a tattoo that should win the award for the Best. Story. Ever... it's the Maori sleeve on his right arm.

"I saw the movie *Once Were Warriors*—it's phenomenal and if you're into tattooing, you should definitely see it—about the Maoris and their plight in New Zealand... they have beautiful facial moko, it's stunning work and it's such a big part of their culture.





"I started reading about it and trying to find this guy, Gordon Toi. Guns went to New Zealand and I was on a mission, asked everybody I knew in the tattoo community, but nobody could give me any leads, I couldn't find him anywhere."

That's when a little luck helped him out. Hanging out at his daughter's school, Fortus met Bob Baxter's daughter who informed him that her dad was not only the former editor of *Skin & Ink* and author of two books on Polynesian tattooing, but also good friends with Toi.

Getting a call from Rihanna (talk about variety!) to play in New Zealand, Fortus used his newfound contact to get in touch with Toi. Following an intimidating call, he had his long sought-after appointment planned for the one—read that,



**GUNS WENT TO NEW ZEALAND AND I WAS ON A MISSION, ASKED EVERYBODY I KNEW IN THE TATTOO COMMUNITY, BUT NOBODY COULD GIVE ME ANY LEADS**

ONE—day he was going to be in New Zealand.

After meeting Toi's family, the interrogation began. Putting on his best New Zealand accent (actually a pretty great one), Fortus remembers being told, "Right, this isn't a collection of pretty fucking pictures to us, this is serious. This is our culture and we don't take this lightly. Why don't you tell me about some of your other work?"

Fortus did and after 45 minutes, Toi said, "All right, I'm gonna work on you and I know what I'm gonna do. Obviously family's very important to you, I'm gonna start there, that's a big part of what we are and what's important to us, and I'm gonna go from there." So he just started and worked his way up."

Arriving at the sun on his shoulder, Fortus' first tattoo from when he was 17, Toi asked about its meaning, and finding out there was none said, "Good, I need the space" and he kinda glazed over it. It was all freehand—it was amazing."

Like Ashba, Fortus will be working on the new Guns N' Roses album, but he's also set to record and tour with The Dead Daisies and is always on the lookout for new musical projects.

As he puts it, "I can't afford to stop. I would love to be able to stay home and spend time with my kids, I cherish every second I get to do that, but I gotta work. It's a job, but as my father always told me, 'You'd be doing this even if you weren't getting paid', which is very true—I'm really lucky." 🤘

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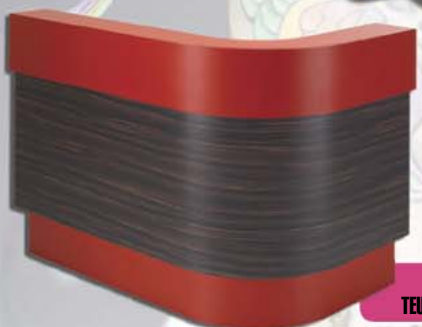


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25



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26



KAT WILSON

27



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28



RICHARD GUY

29



STEVE JARVIS

30



OTTO D'AMBRA

31



MARK NUTLEY

32



MINKA SICKLINGER

33



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34



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36



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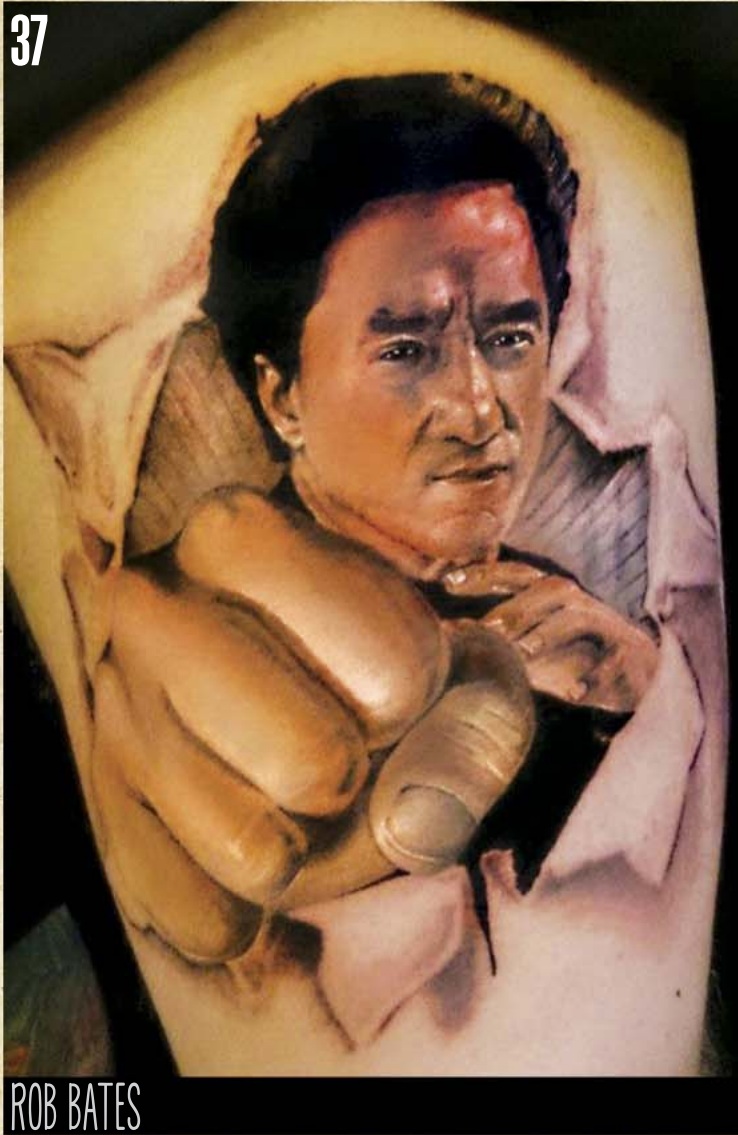
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# DEAD MAN'S COVE

A hometown levelled to the ground made Australian Judd Ripley take to the seven seas. The long journey that, eventually, was going to take him to a tattoo studio in Copenhagen had only just begun...



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Judd Ripley was born into a family with miner parents. His upbringing was spent in various small towns in the Australian outback, more or less wherever there was work, but sometimes it was more than just the people leaving a dying mine community. “The village I spent most time in was levelled to the ground when the uranium mine it was built on had produced its last radioactive ore,” he says. “Otherwise we stayed as long as the mines were profitable and there was money to be earned.” A typical upbringing for an Australian his age, according to Ripley.

“Young men in the ‘80s, who weren’t academics, often chose to do traditional apprenticeships within the mining industry or at sea, for instance. Like anyone else, I yearned for a life of travel and adventure, to see all the corners of the world. And without a hometown to return to, I started to explore the mysterious Orient before I ended up on the American and European continents.”

Ripley chose the sea, but it wasn’t actually the life on the ocean



that made him start tattooing—it was a different stereotypical tattoo target group that got him initiated in the profession.

“I know it’s a cliché, but I mixed with people who literally hung out on the wrong side of the tracks. It was in a shady, dodgy little harbour town on the Australian east coast, where the tattoo artists were involved in pit bull fighting, prostitution and drugs. Although I didn’t really realise this, that’s how caught up in tattooing I was.

Simon Lundh Judd Ripley





**I STOPPED OFF IN DENMARK AND IT ENDED WITH ME TATTOOING IN A SMALL STUDIO WITH A VERY TALENTED GIRL WHO ALSO HAPPENED TO BE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL I'D EVER SEEN**

Long before I went through a proper training, I got pointers from a smart and generous guy in the business. I actually built my first tattoo machine from different crap lying around and used a single AA battery to run it. I only did one tattoo with it, on myself, and I still have it. It's actually not too bad. I've seen worse done today by so called professionals."

Time passed, and in 2000, the Australian turned up in Denmark on what turned out to be a very significant pit stop on his way to Norway.

"I stopped off in Denmark and it ended with me tattooing in a small studio with a very talented girl who also happened to be the most beautiful girl I'd ever seen. I came back to Denmark many times in the years after that and when I proposed to her and promised to buy her a pony, she finally agreed to marry me. I kept my promise about the pony too."

Now he works full-time with his wife, Marija, at The Sailor's Grave in Copenhagen.

"She annoys the crap out of me," he says with a smirk. "But I'm the luckiest guy in the world. I go to work with my best friend and get 🍷"





to hang out with her every day. If she's away for a couple of hours, I really miss her. She's the funniest and most talented person I know, a real professional within the tattoo industry with old school values and attitude, but also with a big heart. I'm hopelessly in love with her, so I guess it's ok."

And to prove exactly how much, he's even learned Danish now.

"It was pretty hard. I come from a country where people only speak one language and I wasn't very young when I got here, so it hasn't been easy. The hardest part was to find a school where the classes fitted my working hours—which didn't really exist—so I've mostly been picking up what I hear around me and on TV. The hardest part has been to distinguish separate words, but once I put some effort into it, I realised it wasn't as hard as I'd thought. I still speak English in the shop, but it might change."

A glimpse through Judd Ripley's portfolio gives a quick overview of what is created by the needle, ink and artistic mind of this Australian. It's more or less exclusively Japanese and old school we're talking about. The love for Japanese art has been around for a long time and was enforced during his time at sea.

"What an adventure it was to be

in Japan. Seriously, that country is like no other country in the world. I've revisited it many times and it never ceases to amaze me with its rich cultural heritage and wonderful people. I fell in love with the Japanese art and craftsmanship and have since been a huge fan of wooden prints and how it has influenced the Japanese tattoo style we all know today. I was fascinated by Japan long before I went there, but after having worked with real Japanese tattoos, I felt I had the guts to really explore the art on a serious level."

Although not to its fullest extent perhaps: "Many years ago I decided



## I FELL IN LOVE WITH THE JAPANESE ART AND CRAFTSMANSHIP AND HAVE SINCE BEEN A HUGE FAN OF WOODEN PRINTS AND HOW IT HAS INFLUENCED THE JAPANESE TATTOO STYLE WE ALL KNOW TODAY

not to do traditional Japanese style, but only borrow the imagery that I love, and use it where it fits and is tasteful. To be a true Japanese tattooist involves a lot more than just drawing a dragon or doing a back piece. It's a philosophy."

Talking about back pieces, Ripley's done more than a few.

"I'm most comfortable doing big 🍷"



**MOST OF ALL, IF YOU REALLY LOVE THE TATTOO YOU'RE DOING, IT WILL BE THE BEST TATTOO YOU'VE EVER DONE, AND I REALLY LOVE DOING BIG BACK PIECES**

tattoos. In the beginning they were the most frightening ones, but now I prefer them to the small ones. We do walk-ins in the studio as well as custom tattoos, so while the others are working their asses off in the studio, drawing up different designs for customers and finishing the job in a couple of hours, I only need to do one drawing and spend the next four, five sessions tattooing. It's just laziness, I guess," he says with a laugh. "Most of all, if you really love the tattoo you're doing, it will be the best tattoo you've ever done, and I really love doing big back pieces."

Contrary to other back pieces, however, his aren't very detailed.

"It's because of the visual impression it makes. I like how it looks, but it's different depending on what style I do. A Japanese back piece also gives a fantastic visual impression, with the combination of details, layers and imagery, but they also take over 50 hours to finish, while my old school backs take about 15 hours in total. They can be finished in four sessions, which makes them popular among tattoo collectors who want to spend as little time and money as possible on their back. I love both styles and am equally interested in doing them both."

If you're passing, stop by for a few hours—there's gold in these hills.





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TEMPLE OF

## LOVE

Joey Pang is a female tattoo artist and proprietress of one of the region's premier tattoo shops, Temple. Her work is elegant, exercising Chinese aesthetic sensibilities, and her formal training in calligraphy helps create works that perfectly conform to the body, whilst utilising negative space in way that is refreshing and unique

**T**attoo Temple itself is a tranquil oasis, in the middle of the bustle of the CBD—the minute you walk through the door, the hospitable and attentive staff make sure that you feel comfortable, and Joey herself is quite the conversationalist, making a visit to the shop a pleasant experience.

Fighting the image of Hong Kong tattooing as being swamped by nefarious Kowloon gangster types, she is headstrong and professional, and her vision for the potential for tattoos to contribute to Hong Kong's creative fabric landed her a #1 place on the 135 people to watch hotlist in 2009 on CNN Travel. We headed out to Hong Kong to find out more...

#### CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE PROCESS OF GETTING A TATTOO BY YOU?

Clients come in and tell me the idea; then they leave the deposit and go into the queue. So, I do it by the dates of their booking and so usually the wait for my clients is one to two years until I start to work on their projects. If they are not in Hong Kong we will do Skype calls, and they will confirm the design before they come in.

#### DO YOU HAVE WALK-INS?

No, we don't do them, so that is why we are stable, we don't just sit there and wait.

#### HOW DID YOU START?

I loved drawing since I was a kid, ever since I remember having memories, so when I grew up, I already tried to look for jobs that related to drawing. I found tattooing in New Zealand actually, around nine or ten years ago, because I saw the Maori tattoos—they have a really positive cultural background. It is different to the Hong Kong gangsters, they have beautiful patterns and people respect that, and it was during this time that I changed my mind; I realised that tattoos can be really artistic, and I wanted to do it as a different medium for drawing. I wanted to use it for art.

#### HOW DID YOU ACTUALLY START?

I started to look for a way to learn and at the time, I couldn't stay in New Zealand, so I had to leave. I started to search for places around Hong Kong and then I found that going to Thailand is the easiest way to start learning.

So, I came back and started the tattoo journey, and I was

basically travelling for two years to learn, as there is no such thing as a tattoo school. I travelled around to different countries to learn from different artists, basically.

I was moving a lot, as I got some connections from the tattoo convention, and then I just followed people with different networks, from Thailand to France, Germany to Switzerland in Europe, then China.



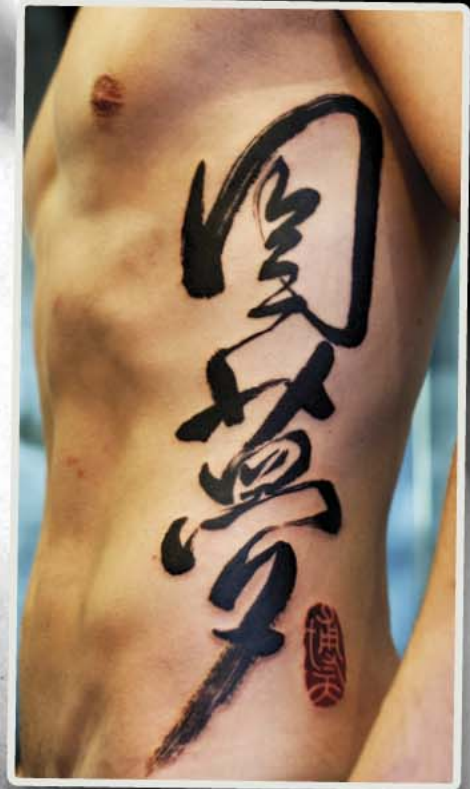
**I FOUND TATTOOING IN NEW ZEALAND ACTUALLY, AROUND NINE OR TEN YEARS AGO BECAUSE I SAW THE MAORI TATTOOS—THEY HAVE A REALLY POSITIVE CULTURAL BACKGROUND**

**WAS THERE ANY ONE ARTIST THAT WAS PARTICULARLY INFLUENTIAL ON YOU?**

I think Filip Leu—he is quite shocking when you are a new girl in this industry and see a really great artist like that! It was really amazing work. Also, in Switzerland there was another artist who inspired me with Chinese character tattoos—they said that a lot of people like them, but they don't get the right ones. Since then, I have this feeling that I am on a mission as a Chinese person to show people what is real Chinese calligraphy.



神州山水湖光山天岳玉碑  
暮立湖身是跃快游湖拳  
祖祥育高秋柱志海江红



I started to learn calligraphy at the same time, so that became one of my specialties.

**HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE?**

It is more like Chinese style. This is also what I want to develop since the Europe trip, as it is something that you don't see as a tattoo style yet. The Chinese style is very balanced between the subject and the space, it is not just covering the body, it is looking at how to make the tattoo more like part of the body.

**FOR JAPANESE TATTOOING THE STANDARD REFERENCE IS WOODBLOCK PRINTS, WHERE DO YOU REFERENCE FROM?**

Right now, a lot of Chinese traditional paintings, I have a lot of references outside of tattoos as that is how you make a difference. A lot of traditional art as that is what I am developing. With the traditional Chinese paintings, you have different types, such as the ink style, which is kind of abstract, and then there are detailed styles, which have serious lines that are tidy and clean, as well as shadings and colours which are similar to tattoo drawings. I am developing these two styles mixed together. 🌸

**HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THAT SENSE OF BALANCE BETWEEN THE SUBJECT AND THE SPACE**

With Japanese tattoos, they are filled throughout the whole body like a body suit, but the Chinese style is the opposite. The whole design can be half drawing with a lot of space around it—it is not necessary to fill in every inch of the space. The soft parts; the brush parts gives the work a hand-drawn feeling.

**WHEN DID YOU START WORKING IN HONG KONG?**

Around seven years ago, I came back and I tried to start to find a studio to work with, and at that time the Hong Kong hygiene was really bad, you didn't need a license for that, and you still don't now. The reason I went to Europe is to learn the hygiene standard as I didn't get that from Thailand, and I wanted to bring the

highest standard to Hong Kong, because when you love this work, you want to be serious. I had to buy all this (hygiene) stuff anyways, so I thought I should start up my own studio and sell my idea for custom designs and start this concept of hygiene in Hong Kong.

**SEVEN YEARS AGO, WAS IT POPULAR?**

It was getting there because *Miami Ink* was already popular, people understand more and every year, you see more people with visible tattoos.

**SAILORS WANTED OLD SCHOOL AND WHEN THEY STOPPED COMING TO HONG KONG AFTER 1997, THERE WERE NO MORE SAILORS HERE, AND ALL THE TATTOOERS LOST ALL THEIR BUSINESS**



**CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE HISTORY OF TATTOOING IN HONG KONG?**

Hong Kong tattooing started from the sailors, from Pinky to Jimmy Ho. There was one guy who took a trip to Hong Kong from Shanghai and he also made his own tattoo machines and started up Rose Tattoo (shop). He taught his son, Jimmy Ho, who is still working. During that time, they were flash tattoos, so they were using a flash book with different designs and people would choose from there. Tattooists weren't artists and they didn't draw—they just changed the designs or tattoo patterns.

**WAS IT LIKE AMERICANA?**

Yes it was old school, the same thing. Sailors wanted old school and when they stopped coming to Hong Kong after 1997, there were no more sailors here, and all the tattooers lost all their business. They started to do it for local people, but the (clientele) were just gangsters with no money, but they want big scary tattoos, so they decided, "OK, just do the outline," and that became the special 'Hong Kong style', which is just outlines with no colour. The Japanese yakuza are more serious though and they have full, beautiful tattoos!

**THEY HAVE TO BE SERIOUS, MORE MATURE PEOPLE WHO KNOW WHAT THEY WANT, AND ARE REALLY DEDICATED ENOUGH TO PLAN FOR IT. THAT IS THE KIND OF CLIENTELE WE HAVE HERE**

**DO YOU GO TO THE BEACH IN HONG KONG? DO PEOPLE STARE AT YOU?**

Yeah of course, but I would stare at people if they had tattoos. They are just interested in looking at them—I am used to it.

**WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE THE OVERALL CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUR SHOP, TEMPLE?**

We care about clients so much, and the feelings once they walk into the studio, and the environment. The difference is, usually when you walk into a tattoo studio, you are scared, because the people look aggressive and they have to be cool. Here, we have to be friendly because I want them to be open to us to tell us what they want, and then we can start to communicate and work this out together. If they are afraid, there is nothing you can do, so I like to make this homely feeling for people to come in. They can relax, and I have no rock music nor noisy music because that would make them more nervous. For me, when I go into different spaces to learn, those artists scared me a lot. They are all tattooed, pierced and look scary to you and that is what I wanted to change when I had my own studio.

**HOW ABOUT THE OTHER ARTISTS,**



**ARE THEY YOUR APPRENTICES?**

Yeah, they are trained from zero here. I tried to have other artists before, but because our style is very different and artists are used to being free, and they like to do their own things, it is hard to adjust their behavior if they are already artists. We really care about things like the artists need to be on time for the session, to have no one late for anything, and they have to be polite and friendly. And of course they need to care about cleaning and hygiene. I would prefer training from zero.

**GENERALLY IN HONG KONG WHAT**

**KIND OF STYLE IS SEEN A LOT?**

I would say a lot of Japanese style, it is common for people to get sleeves. I have seen a lot of them. Compared to old school, I think Japanese is a huge influence, as it is more artistic and everything is linked in one piece.

**DO YOU HAVE A PATTERN IN THE KIND OF CLIENTELE THAT COME?**

The people who come here are mostly professional and business people as a lot of people travel around, so they have to be on a business trip and their work takes them travelling 🍷



**FILIP LEU IS QUITE SHOCKING WHEN YOU ARE A NEW GIRL IN THIS INDUSTRY AND SEE A REALLY GREAT ARTIST LIKE THAT**

around. Also, they have to be able to afford it. They have to be serious, more mature people who know what they want, and are really dedicated enough to plan for it. That is the kind of clientele we have here.

**SO THE SCENE IS GROWING?**

It is still growing, we can tell from our artists income, every year is our waiting list gets longer and longer.

**IS THERE A SCENE IN HONG KONG THOUGH?**

No, that is the big problem because we don't have the big media talk about tattoos in Hong Kong, so it is still very underground, it is not a mainstream culture. People have no idea what tattoos are in general. They don't have any positive concept about tattoos nor education, nor knowledge yet. There is no tattoo convention in Hong Kong yet, it has never happened. I believe that we will make a big noise in Hong Kong, if there is a chance to do it.

**HOW DO PEOPLE FIND OUT ABOUT TATTOOING THEN?**

Mostly internet and word of mouth. Internet is the main as when you want to get a tattoo, you have to research and that is the first step. You need to compare two people and find the style you like, and that is the one thing that no one can take away from you, if they like your style, they will come to you, no matter where you are.

**ASIDE FROM CALLIGRAPHY, WHAT ARE SOME REALLY STANDARD MOTIFS YOU WORK WITH?**

Here, it is a lot of tigers, dragons, koi fish, a lot of these kinds of things. These traditional things are long lasting tattoo choices, they are not like stars or tribal patterns. There are no trends in tattooing as nothing can last forever, but the traditional has always had the historical background that will last.

**DO YOU HAVE ANY HUMAN CHARACTERS THAT ARE POPULAR?**

It is quite interesting that here it is samurai and geisha,

and then things like portraits, or their wives and babies.

**DO YOU DO MANY RELIGIOUS TATTOOS?**

Yes, like Jesus and Mary, also Buddhist motifs, but they are quite even, not one more than others. Usually they care about the meanings, and what they believe in, so someone who gets a Jesus is Christian.

**CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR DESIGN WORK?**

I don't have time for other projects, but from time to time we have different design projects from companies, like I did furniture and I painted them, during the last month of my pregnancy, that is crazy! They have one hand-painted couch that isn't for sale, but they have other products and they used that same design and printed it out. We also did a champagne bucket, and they are still selling it. I really enjoy it, whenever I have a chance to promote tattoo art, I would be happy to do it. 🐼



Gilded Cage  
TATTOO STUDIO

# Whats New?

*We are delighted to introduce a brand new french tattoo artist,  
starting with us from August.*

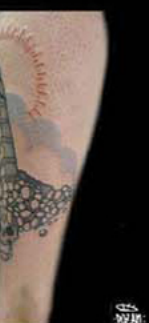
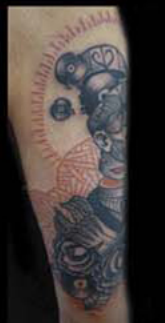
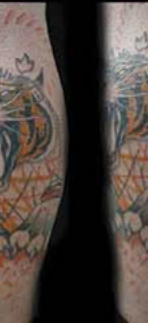
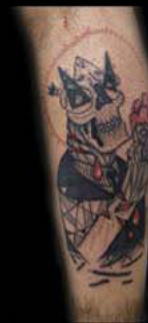
## Pozan



Gilded Cage  
TATTOO STUDIO

*He has an Arts Degree by the University of Tournai (Belgium) and a Master Degree in  
Drawing by the University of Valencia, Spain.*

*Pozan's has a strong graphical style. His designs incorporate sketch and  
illustration, with a balanced composition which is always original and personalized.*



*We have also made renovations to the tattoo studio, making it bigger and more luxurious than before. We have resident artists, James Robinson, Hannah Keuls, Pavo, and Will Thomson. We are also delighted to have Sven from Scratchers Paradise (Berlin) and Hannah Calavera from Electric Lady, doing guest spots at the studio. If you are interested in a consultation or an appointment please contact the shop.*



Hannah Keuls



Pavo



Will



James



Sven



Hannah Calavera



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loves body jewellery



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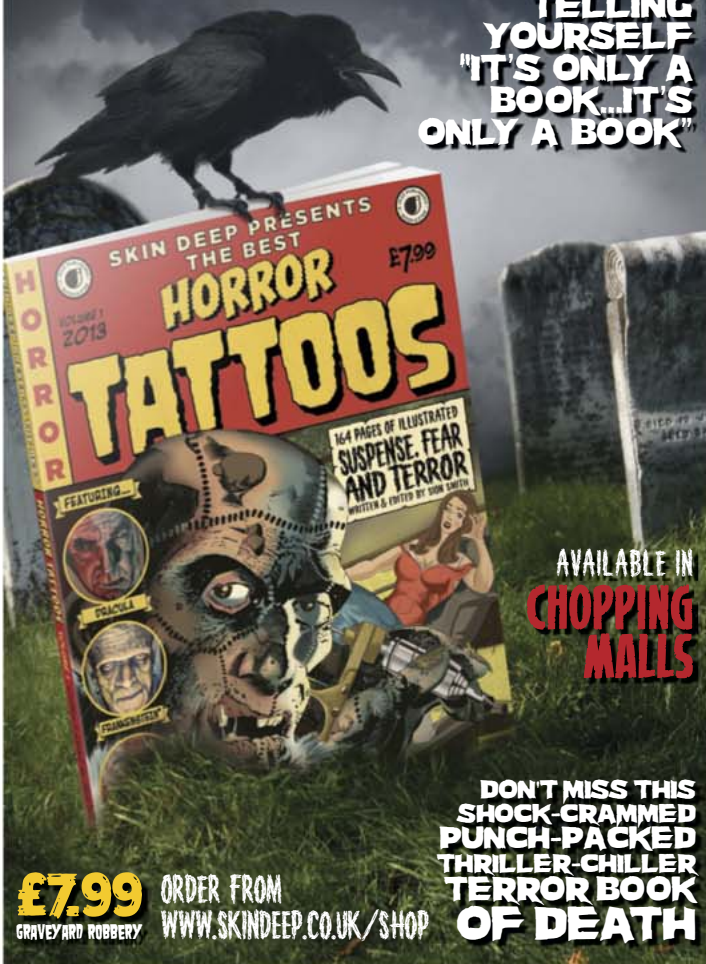


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## Tattoo & Toy Convention

# CARDIFF

It's not every day you walk into a show and are greeted by various members of the Imperial Guard, Judge Dredd and a four-foot high R2-D2

James Marks Vincent Griève Photography



But that was exactly how I was greeted on my arrival at the Mercure Hotel—the venue for the 1st Cardiff Tattoo & Toy Convention. The brainchild of that much-loved Welsh guy (that would be Chris Jones of Physical Graffiti), the weekend was a tattoo geek fest—and considering the two go almost hand-in-hand, what a good idea it was too.

Star Wars, Marvel and DC (to name a few), were the name of the game, offering a massive range of collectables and much out-and-out toy goodness to anyone who had brought along their piggy bank and a hammer. Try as I might to resist, even I succumbed to the invisible force manipulating my mind to open my wallet—yes, the power of the toy vendor is strong... maybe too strong.

**AWARDED ARTISTS (SATURDAY)**  
**BEST LARGE COLOUR**  
 MARK BESTER (WILDLIFE SLEEVE)

**BEST SMALL COLOUR**  
 MAX PNIEWSKI (LEGOLISM)

**BEST PORTRAIT**  
 ODDBOY (COMMISSIONER GORDON)

**BEST TRADITIONAL**  
 NICK BALDWIN (YORKSHIRE MAN)

**BEST OF DAY**  
 CECIL PORTER (ROCKY)

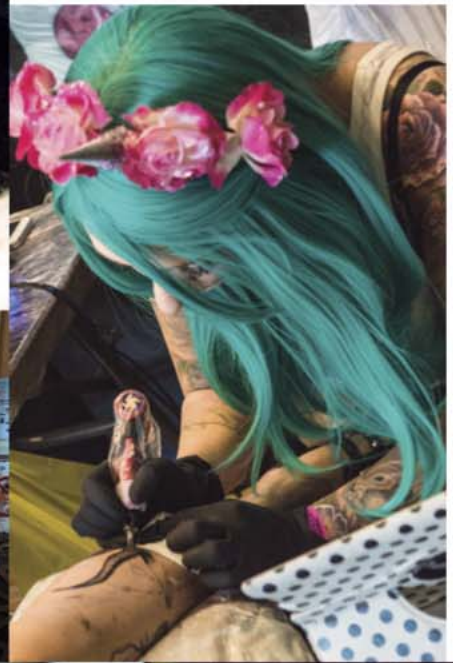
STAR WARS, MARVEL AND DC, WERE THE NAME OF THE GAME, OFFERING A MASSIVE RANGE OF COLLECTABLES AND AS MUCH OUT-AND-OUT TOY GOODNESS

Alongside all of this fun, we also had the pleasure of watching Mac 'Dr. Evil' McCarthy work his scalpel magic and mesmerise with his body modification craft—lobe repair with a light sabre was pretty impressive—with people travelling from all over the country just to make sure they got their procedures done by one of the best. This also runs very true for the tattoo artists (yes, they were there too and I'm getting to them. Star Wars always comes first) and I would have climbed mountains for the opportunity to get coloured in by some of the

talent available (I did get a sneaky bit done, but don't tell the boss).

### SO DID MY WEEKEND BECOME ANYMORE SURREAL?

You're damn right it did, because while engaging in my usual catch-up with people, I found myself constantly bumping into Captain Jack Sparrow, Judge Dredd, and even fully kitted out Stormtroopers. 'Pretty amazing' I hear you say. Well I only wish some of you could've been there to see it; we aren't just talking your mate's 30th fancy dress birthday kinda stuff, but more like, 'Shit I'm about 🤩'





to get frozen in carbonite' quality. All of the costumes were top draw and at times, I could have even sworn that Johnny Depp himself had popped along in character.

This show was a playground for grown up boys and girls with the sense of nostalgia putting me firmly back on the living room floor, using my mum's Tupperware as castles and attempting to save the world from Skeletor and his crew. Those were the good old days! Saying that, at least being grown up means you don't have to pester your mum for a few pounds to buy something nice, you can just simply put your hand in your pocket and be spontaneously reckless with your hard-earned cash... and boy we were reckless!

#### HOLY STIGMA BATMAN, I'M SURE YOU SAID THERE WERE TATTOOISTS HERE SOMEWHERE?

With all this crazy splendour at my feet it was hard at first to remember that this was also at a tattoo convention, like I said, Star Wars always comes first. That was until I poked my head into nearly every booth and was reminded of the outstanding level of every tattoo artists attending. Being Chris Jones sure has its advantages, and when you have talent such as Cecil Porter, Bez, and Matt Difa on your speed dial, well, things tend to turn out just right.

A fantastic mix of talent covering all genres graced three floors of this lovely venue, and with every turn of a corner you were knocked back a step or two by beautiful work. Now it's been a while since I have had chance to really kick back and enjoy a convention (instead of running around at one) and sometimes I forget to take the time to stop and process what is exactly being achieved in modern day tattooing.

I've always been very lucky with the amount of day-to-day exposure to quality work I get to see, yet just taking a second to soak it all up over the weekend had me once again asking questions such as, "how is that possible?" and "why can't that be me

sitting there?" Also nice to see a majority of UK talent represented alongside some international big hitters, once again showing that our homegrown tattooists can stand toe-to-toe with the biggest and brightest out there.

As you would expect, there wasn't a single slot available, and if one did pop up it was a brutal death match to take the space. All weapons were made of foam. The atmosphere was chilled and there was no kryptonite in sight, all you need for tattooists to perform perfectly and deliver breathtaking results.

The skills being thrown about nowadays is frightening, and with the constant development of machines and inks, some pieces of work almost looked alive. At one point I was sure Cecil Porter's Rocky portrait was gonna smack me in the mouth. As far as I can tell from what I saw, things are only going to get better and better!

On a different note, I must

send out a nod of respect to a client of Jak Connolly of Ink Studios who laid on his side for a full two days cupping his balls and being constantly hit (with a coil, not a fist) to the point that even I got fed up for him! See kids, with enough time and dedication, you can possess perfect pieces of body art too, even if you have to do it semi-naked.

#### MORE STAR WARS PLEASE!

Now I've never really been one to get envious of certain groups or individuals, but if I'm being honest, for the first time ever, I've never wanted to be more a part of a gang than the Official (yes, Official) Star Wars Licensed Tattooists Crew! Yes. Blink, rub your eyes, and read that a second time if it didn't process the first.

Marc Draven has put together an elite Star Wars mad bunch of talent, including Josh Bodwell, Matt Difa, Charissa Gregson, and Chris Jones himself (sorry to the 🙄)

IT'S NICE TO SEE A MAJORITY OF UK TALENT REPRESENTED ALONGSIDE SOME INTERNATIONAL BIG HITTERS, ONCE AGAIN SHOWING THAT OUR HOMEGROWN TATTOOISTS CAN STAND TOE-TO-TOE WITH THE BIGGEST AND BRIGHTEST OUT THERE





guys I've missed), with the mission being to tattoo everything Jedi, Sith and bounty hunter around (I hear New Skool is popular on Tatooine at the moment...). And with rotary in one hand and light sabre in the other, the real effort these guys made got the excited show visitors even more pumped. It was this dedication to the theme that made the show work. Nothing was half-arsed or half done. The tattoo part was assured by fantastic artists, while the toy part was covered in every angle. It was nice to be at a show that does exactly what it says on the tin.

**SO WHAT'S NEXT FOR OUR HEROES?**

Well I'm guessing that their full-time tattooing profession keeps them occupied, but I'm sure there's one or two that make space for a spot of crime fighting. Either way I'm sure they will assemble together in 2014 to storm the great City of Cardiff once again, with cash in hand, ready to keep the toy collectable economy afloat!

The Cardiff Tattoo & Toy Con really is a paradise for the

**AWARDED ARTISTS (SUNDAY)**  
**BEST BLACK WORK/TRIBAL**  
 FIL, BROAD STREET TATTOOS (NELSON MANDALA)

**BEST LARGE BLACK & GREY**  
 NIPPER (HORROR BACK PIECE)

**BEST NEW SKOOL**  
 JOHN ANDERTON (EARTHWORM JIM)

**BEST SMALL BLACK & GREY**  
 JAK CONNOLLY (HAND TATTOO)

**BEST OF DAY**  
 CECIL PORTER (MOGWAI)

**BEST OF CONVENTION**  
 CECIL PORTER (ROCKY)

THE CARDIFF CON REALLY IS A PARADISE FOR THE MODERN GEEK AND ONE OF THE FEW PLACES GROWN ADULTS CAN PICK UP A TOY OR TWO WITHOUT ANY GLARING EYES OF JUDGEMENT

modern geek and one of the few places grown adults can pick up a toy or two without any glaring eyes of judgement; so even if it's not your thing, head over anyway and I guarantee you will be converted (or mind tricked) into becoming a lifelong fan.

Chris will be announcing next year's line up very soon, so please make sure you grab the artists you want and get that all-important slot booked.

As for me, I'm outta here. Gotta go show Superman what hard as steel really means... POW! 🦹

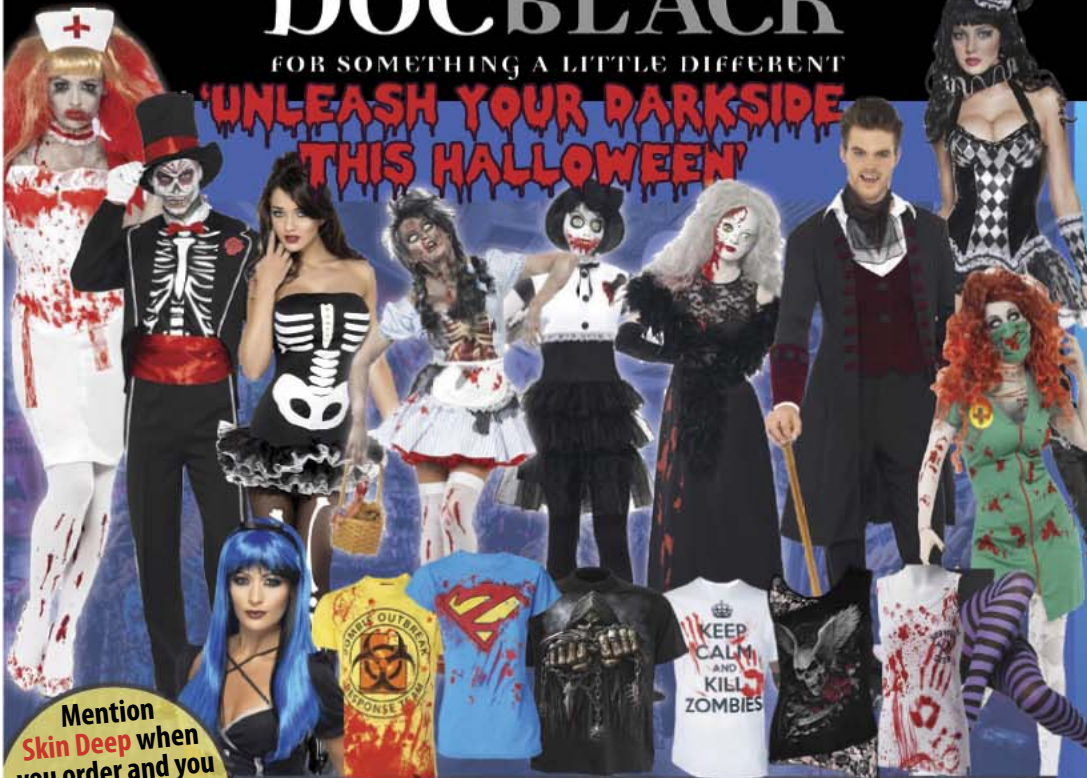


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# THE TAO OF TATTOOING

As tattooing evolves and renews, many aspects change, not least the studio set-up and experience. Compared to even five years ago, there are very few spit and sawdust shops; the new sleek looking, aesthetically pleasing studio has become the way forward



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The same can be said about tattooists and their approach to their clients. These days, tattooists can't just grunt and groan and slap a stencil on, while the usual fare of death metal is pumping out of the stereo. There is more to just laying down ink, and the modern client knows this. One such artist, who has taken the tattoo experience and tweaked it, is Michael Norris of hubtattoo in Austin, Texas. A keen follower of Lao-Tsu's *Tao te Ching*, Michael has taken these principles and incorporated them into his style and experience of tattooing... or as he likes to call it, the Tao of Tattooing.

hubtattoo has a clean, serene facade. It's an open, elegant and welcoming environment; no intimidating faces, no thumping music. There are plants, comfortable places to sit and talk, large-scale works of art (mostly Michael's) and thoughtful design elements throughout. The music, if it's on, is decidedly chill. This zen feel is integral to the hubtattoo experience.

"I've created a studio space for my clients which is very quiet, relaxing and warm. Using colours, textures, lighting and design elements that all lend a hand in making people feel relaxed, safe, welcomed and unintimidated, unrushed, unpressured, and unintrusive. I welcome them into my studio, am friendly with them, and genuinely interested in them

Trent Aitken-Smith Michael Norris



and their reasons for visiting. Every step of the process in my space is designed to put the client at ease, nurture their trust and coax out the fullest realisation of what they'd like out of the tattoo. This has created a circumstance that brings out the very best in me and the very best sort of clientele.

"I was just building my business the way I felt I should, just trying to grow as an artist and stay busy. Different people want and need different things, not everybody likes this vibe. For some people, it's too calm, too artsy. It's just not

for them. Some people want that rock 'n' roll tattoo shop vibe."

It is obvious that Michael puts a lot of thought into everything; from the chilled atmosphere to the warm welcome, his client's happiness being his main priority. And he has had a lot of studio visiting time to draw on. Michael spent a few of his 18 years tattooing on the road selling flash, before he opened hubtattoo, and during this time he visited around 3,000 shops.

"Most of them were designed around defence, protecting the tattooers from undesirable clients,



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**EVERY STEP OF THE PROCESS IN MY SPACE IS DESIGNED TO PUT THE CLIENT AT EASE, NURTURE THEIR TRUST AND COAX OUT THE FULLEST REALISATION OF WHAT THEY'D LIKE OUT OF THE TATTOO**

guarding against the public. Walls, counter-tops, velvet ropes and all manner of devices and behaviours that seek to fence the tattooer into a safe power position, to protect against the perceived undesirable elements of the public. But I have found that by removing these devices and behaviours, and by existing at the studio to welcome and serve the public, that my studio has attracted the very finest sort of clientele. And it is through this dedicated service to, and appreciation of, the clientele that I have become so overwhelmed with work, that I am able to now choose the projects that I am best suited to... and most interested in."

And it seems that Michael has hit a vein with his studio, as his client list has steadily grown since he opened. Though he only opens his calendar for booking twice a year, Michael is now finding that he can only accept one or two new clients each season, as many of his clients turn into regulars, returning for more and larger pieces. If this 🍀



is not a sign of an artist working a little magic, I am not sure what is!

"I know that I am not the best tattooer around, in fact, I'd say I'm far from it... but it seems my clients feel I am the best, and for that I am grateful. I know that when I tattoo someone, it is not me doing them a favour; instead they are doing me a favour. It is a privilege for me to be able to work with them and I treat them accordingly. And it seems they, universally, appreciate the fact that I understand this.

"I'm not out to say anyone is doing anything wrong, or that in any way that I am doing anything better, but there is something very exciting happening in my studio and within the tattooed

clients? An initial session with Michael sees the design come to life, on the client. Needles are left in wrappers for the time being, the focus being on building the design to flatter the client's body.

"The first session, gives you an hour or two with just the marker on your skin to acclimate, sit and chat, give me feedback and guide the design. It's time to just listen to music, relax and get a feel for being here before ever getting stuck with needles. Also, drawing the design directly on the person's body allows ideas to evolve and you're not committed to any particular piece until you see it mapped out on your skin. I'm actively involved in the process with you, focused on you and talking with you. So it's

**FOR SOME PEOPLE, IT'S TOO CALM, TOO ARTSY. IT'S JUST NOT FOR THEM. SOME PEOPLE WANT THAT ROCK 'N' ROLL TATTOO SHOP VIBE**



community that gather there. I do know why it's happening and I'd love to share my perspective and just say, 'This is what I'm doing and the public really supports it.' because it turns out, there's a lot more to being a successful tattooer than just making nice tattoos."

So what exactly, besides a seemingly awesome place to hang out, does Michael offer his

a more of a personalised product. You get to tell me if it's the right size, the right area, what works and what doesn't. It's your time to find the design that's right for you.

"I understand that if you come to me to get a tattoo that you're letting me into your space, to put my hands on you and to change the way that you look forever. That takes a lot of trust



**TAO TE CHING PT. 1**

The Tao Te Ching, written by Lao-Tsu, is a classic Chinese text. According to tradition, it was written around the 6th century BC by the sage Laozi (or Lao Tzu, 'Old Master'). Lao Tzu was a record-keeper at the Zhou Dynasty court, by whose name the text is known in China. The text's true authorship and date of composition, or compilation, are still debated although the oldest known text dates back to the late 4th century BC. The text has a long and complex textual history. On one hand, there are transmitted versions and commentaries that date back two millennia, yet on the other, there are ancient bamboo, silk and paper manuscripts that archaeologists discovered in the last century.

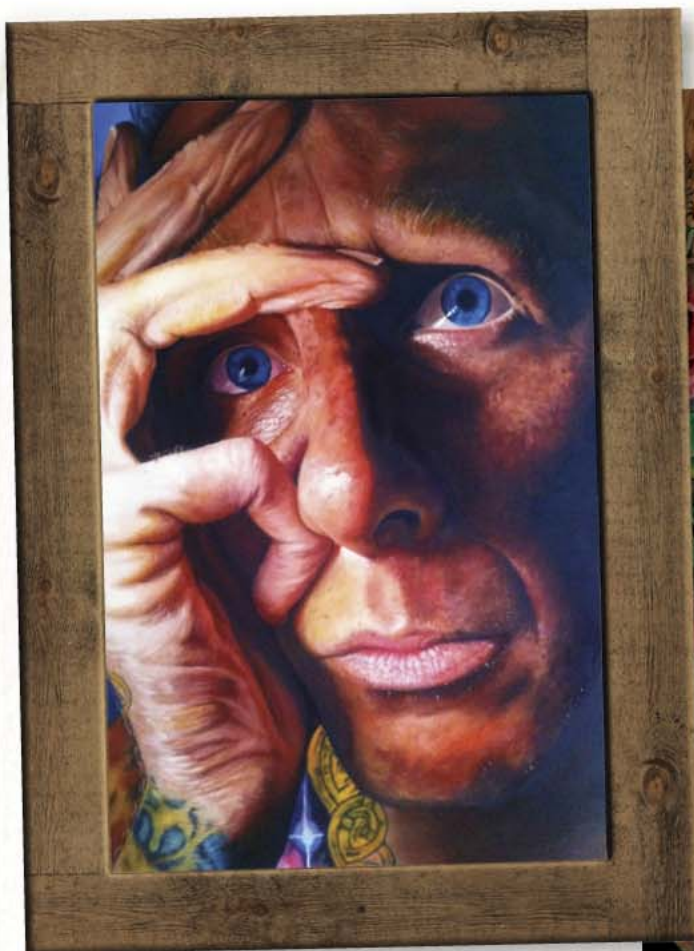
and for me is humbling. It's a privileged position for me to be in and I don't take it for granted. If I go home at night feeling like I've been there for somebody and behaved appropriately and worked hard and taken good care of someone, those days I feel a sense of accomplishment, like I did something that really mattered. If I'm feeling off, irritable

or distracted, even if I do a great tattoo, I don't feel good about that when I go home. You know what I mean? It's about the people. Where else am I ever going to be able to get this broad spectrum, cross-section of society, where I get to have these meaningful, intimate, private relationships with so many different sorts of people?"

Michael's clients tend to want

big tattoos that are well planned out and that their artist is excited and passionate about... and they want to know they'll be treated well. They understand they're going to wear Michael's work for life, so they don't mind if it takes six months or a year to get it started.

"It's pretty amazing because by the time I get someone on my calendar, I already know that I'm 🍀"



**TAO TE CHING  
PT. 2**

The Tao Te Ching text is fundamental to both philosophical and religious Taoism and has strongly influenced other schools, such as Confucianism and Chinese Buddhism, which when first introduced into China was largely interpreted through the use of Taoist words and concepts. Many Chinese artists including poets, painters, calligraphers and even gardeners have used the Tao Te Ching as a source of inspiration. Its influence has also spread widely outside East Asia and is amongst the most translated works in world literature.

dealing with someone who's very dedicated and, for one reason or another, has chosen me to do the work for them. Most of my clients give me a basic idea, then ask me to do what I feel would suit them best.

"I think I'm doing well because I'm just doing what I'm supposed to be doing. I'm just trying to be my best by any general standard of professionalism: I show up on time, sober, well groomed and well dressed. I'm ethical. I work hard. And I remember not to bite the hand that feeds me. It's funny that as a tattooer you can reject all the standard measures of professionalism and still make a living, but striving to uphold them at the highest standard, I find myself overwhelmed with demand. It seems to me that this is the way of getting the clientele that every tattooer dreams of.

"I learn so much about myself and about society doing this. The human interaction is the primary reason that I enjoy this work. I'm just trying to hone my tattooing skills enough to justify continuing to do it." And justify, Michael seems to be doing.

As for what comes next... well, the horizon is not that far off when

**IT TURNS OUT THERE'S A LOT MORE TO BEING A SUCCESSFUL TATTOOER THAN JUST MAKING NICE TATTOOS**

you work as hard as Michael does. Spending more time painting for local art shows is on the cards, possibly a European working tour, and hopefully, to fill hubtattoo with like-minded tattoo artists.

"Don't get me wrong, I really enjoy working alone, but being around other tattooers is good for


your development as an artist. I love tattooing and I like the idea of tattooing being tended well and performed by people who care. Also, I like the idea that if the public gets treated right, they're going to embrace tattooing more and we'll all be busier. You know, what's good for the public is good for tattooers." 🐼

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22 June 2013

# INK FOR HEROES

The weekend of June 22 saw Ink for Heroes return for another amazing convention at the York Racecourse. While the weather was a bit hit and miss this year, the artists involved certainly weren't



Trent Aitken-Smith Chard Remains Photography

www.inkforheroes.co.uk  
chardremainsphotographical@gmail.com

A quick walk around on Saturday was enough to show that the organisers got the mix right once again. Add to it the brilliant bands, children's club and charity auction, it was a banging convention from start to finish. Saturday saw me spending most of the day in the chair, getting some ink from Rob Bates (Ink Surgery Tattoo, Sheffield), which was quite a cool way of watching a convention go about its business. We were slap bang in the middle of one of the main halls, and with plenty of space for people to walk by, it was perfect for a bit of convention watching... until I started getting a little twitchy under the needle. But my low needle pain threshold is not why we are here!

This year I decided to bring the whole family along; my two boys aged four and five and my

PRE-SALES TICKETS HAD BEEN HIGHER THAN IN 2012. THESE SALES, ALONG WITH THE CHARITY AUCTION HELPED RAISE OVER £28,000 FOR HELP FOR HEROES AND YORKSHIRE AMBULANCE SERVICES

daughter, aged ten. So while I was getting my ink on with Rob, my wife, Faye, trooped the kids around the convention to see what was on offer. It seems there was plenty to do as every time they returned to our booth, they had something new to show. Their favourites had to be the transfer tattoos, though when they got them, they couldn't understand what all the fuss was about—transfer tattoos don't have the same impact as needle ones.

Also, just across from us, the multi-talented Jo Harrison was slinging ink and it was a pleasure watching Jo work in between chatting with people stopping

by. I have always admired Jo's work and she produced some great tattoos on both days.

There was non-stop traffic past us on the Saturday, which is a great indication that attendance was high this year. In fact, I had spoken to Pam (one of the organisers) previously and she had said that pre-sales tickets had been higher than in 2012. These sales, along with the Charity Auction—which had some amazing pieces of art work and other bits and pieces up for grabs—helped raise over £28,000 for Help for Heroes and Yorkshire Ambulance Services. Good work team! 🌟

**WINNERS LIST**

**BEST OF SATURDAY**  
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**LARGE COLOUR ORIENTAL BACK PIECE**  
DAN ROOKE OF ROOKSTAR, YORK

**SMALL BLACK & GREY**  
RICHARD GUY OF THE TATTOO LOUNGE, NORTHALLERTON

**MILITARY**  
JAMES MELLORS OF WILDSTYLE TATTOO

**BEST OF SUNDAY**  
EMILIO WINTER OF TRUE COLOUR TRINITY, YORK





THERE WERE A COUPLE WHO REALLY STOOD OUT FOR ME. JOHNY D. MATHEWS TAKE ON THE YORK MINSTER LOOKED LIKE HE HAD HIS WORK CUT OUT FOR HIM, BUT HE PULLED IT OFF AND TURNED OUT AN AMAZING TATTOO

After my tattoo was finished, I was free to roam the convention and it was a treat to see some old friends and new faces working. I was particularly impressed with the girl Derek Nelson was tattooing, who looked like she was going to tap out within the first five minutes but ended up lasting the day and walking away with a great sleeve. Another treat was Dylan Lisle, a Scottish fine art painter, joining Kelvin Slack at his booth, painting Kelvin while Kelvin tattooed. Dylan's skills are amazing and it was quite something watching him paint 'live'.

Sunday saw a slew of new activities; custom cars, more bands and more tattoos. Some formidable ink was laid down over the whole weekend, but there were a couple who really stood

out for me. Johnny D. Mathews take on the York Minster looked like he had his work cut out for him, but he pulled it off and turned out an amazing tattoo. Leo Rios was also working on a beautiful big piece, down the side of an equally beautiful lady, though I am not sure how much of the tattoo Derek actually remembers! Yes, I know she had really long legs Derek, but we're here for the tattoos!

A new face for me, and walking away with three awards on Sunday, was Richard Guy. His work was crisp and clean and I couldn't complain when he beat Rob's tattoo on me for Best Small Colour. "The convention had a great atmosphere and was filled with some talented artists, all for a great cause. It was great to see many local studios, as well as further afield, booming with talent. I managed to bag three awards and was really shocked and over the moon as there were some amazing pieces entered."

I could go on listing the talent that was at Ink for Heroes this year—like Dan Rook, Polish Dan, Jon Potter, Emilio Winter, Mick Tomo—but then this would just be a guest list and not a review.

Suffice to say, it rocked. And from the look on Pam's face, it all went to plan as well: "It was an honour to have the amazing Theresa Gordon Wade giving up her Sunday to support us and judge our competition. I was over the moon when she said she was coming to the event! A huge thank you to everyone; the artists, traders, bands, entertainers Steve Howlet, our resident DJ. A special thanks to Richard Newman and the Knights Custom and Classic Cars... and all the guys and girls working hard behind the scenes to make this an awesome event. And to all the artists who helped out with the cupcake tattoos when we got busy.

"Dates for next year are 21–22 June, at York Racecourse and it will be bigger and better, with more custom cars and custom bikes. We'll also be giving trophies to the best custom car and bike in 2014."

So that was another year gone for the Ink for Heroes team; another year ensuring that this convention is getting bigger and better by the year. And all that is left to ponder on is, why exactly did Alex Williamson's car get wrapped in police tape overnight? But that, is another story altogether. 🐼



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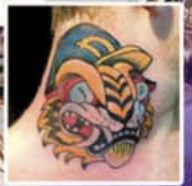
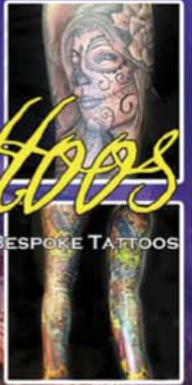
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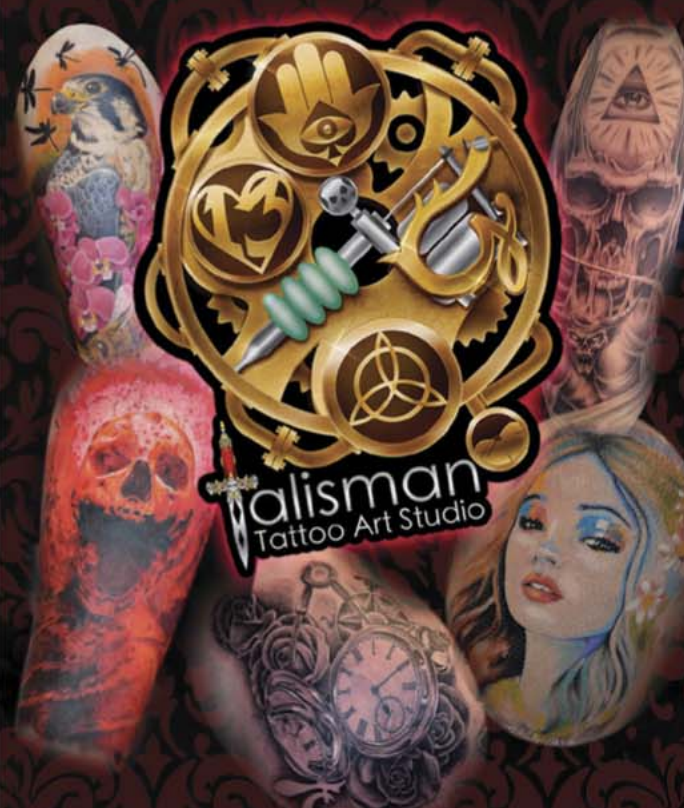
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# Reviews

THIS ISSUE, WE HAVE SOME ALTERNATIVES TO THE ALTERNATIVES—GATHER THESE THINGS AROUND YOU AND BECOME INSTANTLY CULTURED!



## THE WOLVERINE

### OUT NOW

Where have all the mutants gone?

Well, I don't really know, but *The Wolverine* has gone to modern-day Japan, summoned by an old acquaintance we see him meeting years ago in the film's prologue.

There in Japan, for the first time, and not the last, he loses his super powers, his big metal claws that is, that have hitherto pretty much made him invulnerable and invincible.

Hugh Jackman says he wanted to ditch all the old characters and go to a new place and tell an entirely different kind of story with a darker tone. He's done that for sure in *The Wolverine*. Job done!

Some will miss the X-Men movie characters, maybe, along with the American setting and the camper, jokier tone. But those who like their comic-book movies Christopher Nolan-serious are going to be in for a treat.

Now 44, Jackman spends most of the movie showing off his gym-fit physique: he's got no rubber suits to hide under and hasn't got any CGI to help him out, body-wise. I don't blame you at all, Hugh.

There's no doubt that Jackman's got a great way with the action—there's plenty of it by the way, and it's thrillingly staged—and that he can also have a great way with the witty dialogue and one-liners if only they've given him a bit more polished wit and funny one-liners to chew on. While Mark Bomback, Scott Frank and Christopher McQuarrie's offbeat



screenplay tries hard, it's not quite up to the task in hand. The same can't be said about Jackman, though. He's way up to the task in hand, and always in there for it, trying so hard you can't see him actually doing it. The effort never shows, the quality of a true artist. On this form, *The Wolverine 2* must be on the horizon a couple of years after this one.

## HEAVENLY BODIES

PAUL KOUDOUNARIS

PUBLISHED BY: THAMES HUDSON  
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Just when you think you've seen it all, somebody always comes out of the dark to prove how little you actually know. In *Heavenly Bodies*, Koudounaris practically thrusts his expertise in your face—and you'll be left feeling all the better for it.

Forgotten and cast out from their shrines, the jewelled skeletons that had revitalised the faith of Catholics during the Counter-Reformation are displayed in all their—frankly—bizarre finery for all to see here.

Koudounaris—a photographer and art historian—set himself a steep task of cataloguing this when he set out on his mission to uncover the stories of these relics and came to the (very real) conclusion that “they are the finest works of art ever conceived in human bone”.

The skeletons were discovered in the catacombs of the Romans in the late 16th century and were believed to be the remains of Christian martyrs—sent to Catholic churches and religious houses in German-

speaking Europe; the skeletons were carefully reassembled and richly adorned with jewels and costumes.

Over time this glorious tribute dimmed, and by the 19th century, they became nothing more than a sad reminder of an embarrassing past, and as faith wavered, they were stripped of honour, removed from their homes and abandoned.

Still with me so far? Good, because it gets better from here.

The story in itself is wonderful—superbly written by a man who knows his subject inside and out. But the photography? That's something else entirely. Grotesque and beautiful at the same time, you'll be hard pushed to find another book as captivating—in both text and imagery—as this. With more than 70 bodies logged in all their finery—it will certainly have you scratching your head over whether the future everybody worked so hard for was really worth it...

Mr Smith

## THE LONE RANGER

Having flogged his Cap'n Jack Sparrow character to within an inch of its life in *Pirates of the Caribbean*, Johnny Depp must have eyed up the role of Tonto, native American sidekick to Armie Hammer's *Lone Ranger*, as a nice little money spinner in what could, presumably, have become a franchise.

But oops, Johnny, boy did you take your eye off the ball, because despite the eye-watering \$250 million Disney poured into this project, it just never grows cinematic wings and takes flight.

The film suffers from a series of faults that, taken singly would not have sunk it, but lumped together in its vastly overstretched two-and-a-half-hour running time make it appear clunky and erratic. The main problem is the movie can't make up its mind if it's a comedy or a straight Western.

While the storyline revolves around brutal murder and bloody revenge, Depp in face paint and a dead bird stuck on his head plays it



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for laughs. This strange disjuncture is evident in other elements of the film; Helena Bonham-Carter as a tart with a heart and a pistol in her ivory false leg, while the baddie responsible for the loss of her limb (William Fichtner) has the unsavoury habit of cutting the hearts out of his victims. In fact, for a supposed family film (certificate 12A), *The Lone Ranger* is surprisingly blood-thirsty with a huge body count, especially during the massacre of an entire native American tribe.

You might wonder where this leaves the titular lead character. Well, poor old Armie Hammer is totally sidelined as the outlawed lawman by the shenanigans of Depp and a script that leaves him with very little to do except look good and solid-jawed while riding his trusty steed, Silver. In fact, during the action sequences it is Silver who steals the show. Even the spectacular last chase along the roofs of not one but two busily huffing and puffing steam trains, all choreographed to the *William Tell Overture*, leaves the *Lone Ranger* pretty lonely and playing second fiddle to Depp and the bad boys who get to steal the action thunder.

The film has bombed in the States and it is easy to see why; audiences want to be entertained and they like to know what kind of entertainment they are going to see. Fans of Depp in *Pirates* probably thought *The Lone Ranger* would be more of the rip-roaring same and not a movie that can't make up its mind if it wants to be serious and make serious statements or be a bust-a-gut, slapstick comedy.

And could somebody please explain the significance of the cannibal rabbits and why the hell they have a cameo in a Wild West movie?



**Ross Thompson**



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# An Eye is upon you

## THE MODERN PRIMITIVE

Way back, before I fell in love with tattoos, indeed, before I was old enough to have tattoos, the teenage me encountered a rather illuminating book.



Paula Hardy Kangelos

It was the kind of book that you hear about long before you actually see it, and when it finally fell into my hands, it was at once both intimately familiar and utterly shocking. That book was *Modern Primitives* - a revelatory document and critical exploration of the (then) largely underground worlds of late 1980s tattooing, piercing and body modification.

Gifted me with images, histories and philosophies far beyond my immature, suburban experience, it thrilled and repulsed me in equal measures, then encouraged me to question that response. It asked me to rethink what I thought I already knew, and it introduced me to ManWoman

FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, SWASTIKAS SMALL AND LARGE, CURVED AND ANGULAR, WHEELING CLOCKWISE AND ANTI CLOCKWISE, HAVE DELIVERED MESSAGES OF WELL BEING AND GOOD FORTUNE

and his extensive display of controversial swastika tattoos.

The word, swastika (originally the Sanskrit, 'svastika' believed to translate as 'well being' or 'to be well') is used to describe a four pointed 'crooked' cross symbol, found in almost almost every culture, on every continent.

There is no satisfactory explanation for the myriad of supposedly unrelated, yet strikingly similar hooked crosses of the world, but the swastikas ubiquity suggests a universal origin, such as the sun's rays or the four elements and if you open your eyes and look, you will see swastikas everywhere.

In Japan, the swastika is known as 'manji' (or 'whirlwind'). It

appears on the chest of Buddha, signifying universal harmony and it's used on Japanese maps, where tiny manji indicate the locations of shrines and temples.

In Hinduism, the swastika is one of many symbols associated with the supreme being Vishnu and the sun god Surya. Ganesha, the elephant headed deity is celebrated as the gatekeeper to the divine - he is often depicted in front of or sitting on a swastika, or with one in his hand. The doorways of Indian homes, shops and temples are decorated with swastikas in honour of Ganesha, who is four-armed himself. Hindus even use the word 'Swastika' as a girls name - Swastika Mukherjee is a notable Bengali actress, her name is believed to bestow her with prosperity.

The Native American swastika is known as 'the whirling log' and is the symbol of abundance and good fortune, healing and friendship. The Ancient Greeks called their version 'gammadion' and used it to decorate coins. Swastikas have adorned Roman mosaics, Ethiopian temples, the early synagogues of Galilee and the throne of the Dalai Lama. Swastika motifs frequently appear in the exquisitely complex geometric patterns of Islamic art and architecture - they've also been seen on Finnish airplanes, British boy scout badges and Navajo rugs. They've been tattooed on Tibetan monks, embroidered on altar cloths and stitched into Chinese children's clothes as a symbol of protection. In Britain, swastika adorned artefacts (or 'fylfots') were discovered in the Anglo Saxon burial sites at Sutton Hoo and Ilkley Moor in Yorkshire which is also home to a mysterious ancient rock carving known as 'The

Swastika Stone'. It has been shown on a Pokemon Card and there is even a Canadian town named Swastika.

For thousands of years, swastikas small and large, curved and angular, wheeling clockwise and anti clockwise, have delivered messages of well being and good fortune.

Then, sadly, in 1920 this cheerful little sign of fortune was stolen by a political party who recognised its universal energy and wanted it for themselves. The swastika entered its darkest period when the National Socialist German Workers Party murdered six million Jewish people and 5 million more black, gay, disabled and Romani people. Our happy crooked cross was tarnished by the Nazis heinous ideologies and actions.


At the end of WWII, the Allied forces imposed tight restrictions regarding the display of the swastika in Germany and the symbol was quietly discarded by the West.

20 years later, the Canadian artist ManWoman, experienced a series of vivid dreams urging him to save the 'gentle' swastika, to reclaim it for peace and wellbeing. This became his life long mission and for more than 40 years Manny studied, collected and protected the swastika, marking his body with around 200 of the symbols, an outward display of his inner commitment.

ManWoman's Modern Primitive interview brought new supporters to his quest, and later on, the internet brought even more. His passion, wisdom and quiet supplication in the face of negativity and prejudice enabled a whole generation of contemporary tattoo fans to follow his example and embrace the swastika for its ancient meanings.

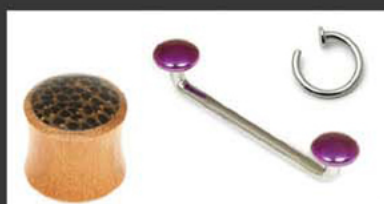
The swastika doesn't belong to the Nazis, and it doesn't belong to those that spout hate and prejudice today. It's yours, it's mine, it's in the wind, the earth and the water - it's the sunshine on your skin.

Be Well. for ManWoman

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THAT CERTAIN SOMETHING