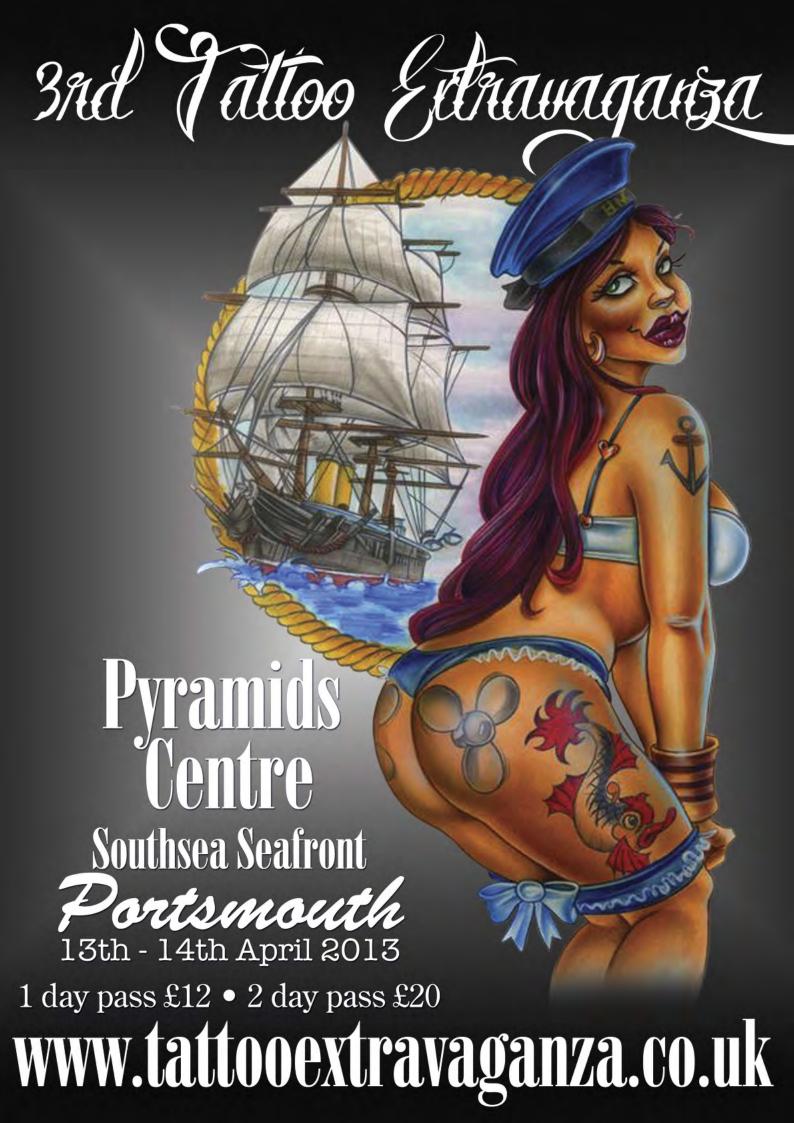


MIN

- A UNIQUE ORIGINAL PAINTING BY DAN GOLD
- A TATTOO WORTH £400 FROM THE CREW AT MODERN BODY ART
- TICKETS & HOTEL FOR THE BRIGHTON TATTOO CONVENTION
 TICKETS FOR TATTOO SUNDAY IN BRUGES 100 UP FOR GRABS
- COATS & CUSHIONS FROM TOXICO CLOTHING

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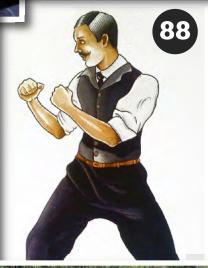
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Total Tattoo magazine No. 100 February 2013
Published monthly by KMT Publishing Ltd. All rights reserved.
Printed in England on re-cycled paper by Buxton Press
Distributed by Warners Group Publications Plc

SUBMITTING PHOTOS

We love to see the tattoos you do and the tattoos you wear. The images must be high resolution (at least 300 dpi) and sized at least 100mm by 150mm. You can send your photos on a disc to

Gallery, Total Tattoo, PO Box 10038, Sudbury, Suffolk, C010 7WL, UK

The disc must be labelled with the artist & studio name.

Or you can email your photos to

gallery@totaltattoo.co.uk

Don't forget to include the artist & studio name in the email.

Please don't send photos to any of our other email addresses. Bear in mind that we receive hundreds of photos

addresses. Bear in mind that we receive hundreds of photos each week and not all them will make it into the magazine.

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HEDITORIAL.

ell, we've reached our century! I can hardly believe that Total Tattoo is 100 issues old. My business partner Perry and I launched the magazine back in 2004 – a mere eight years ago but a lot has happened during that time and the world is a very different place now. For example, the Internet was around, of course, but it was nowhere near the ubiquitous global force that it is today. There was no Facebook back in 2004, no Twitter and, in terms of popularity and common usage, Myspace has come and gone during this magazine's lifetime!

The tattoo world has metamorphosed since 2004 too. Styles and trends have appeared and disappeared, grown and been re-invented. Realism was just starting to take hold of people's imaginations back then, but genres like the bold imagery of neo-traditionalism or the abstract creativity of 'trash polka' were not even twinkles in a tattooist's eye. By contrast, the classical beauty of Japanese tattoos and the precision of black and grey portraiture were and, still are, hugely popular.

It's strange to think that anyone turning 18 right now, and thus legally able to get their first tattoo, was a mere 10 years old when the first issue of Total Tattoo hit the shelves! I love the fact that a whole generation of tattoo fans has grown up with our magazine by their side. I hope we have helped them make wise choices when it comes to choosing the art that adorns their body.

When Total Tattoo launched in October 2004, there were also no tattoo TV shows. The first of the 'reality' shows, Miami Ink, didn't premiere until July 2005. A slew of other 'Ink' shows followed, of course, and – like them or loathe them – they have undeniably had an enormous impact on the way the general public view tattoos and those who wear them.

Tattoo conventions have developed and matured over the last eight years, in a way that perhaps none of us could have predicted. The seminal London Tattoo Convention started in 2005 but the path towards a fresh wave of big, international conventions had been laid by events like the ground-breaking Mantra Tattoo Convention, held for several years in Cheltenham. Now there are more conventions than ever, in every corner of the UK (and around the world, of course) and on

virtually every weekend of the year. This, along with the huge numbers of new studios opening each month, is testament to the current immense popularity of tattoos.

And what of tattoo magazines themselves? How have they fared over the past few years? We like to think that Total Tattoo set new standards. We began the magazine with the belief that 21st century tattoo enthusiasts deserved a high quality publication - both in terms of the photos and articles, and the paper stock upon which it's printed. We also laid out some principles that we felt were important, and we have stuck to them: keep the content 'family friendly' so that kids could enjoy it, as well as adults, and hopefully become the next generation of tattoo fans; and we pledged not to carry tattoo supply adverts. We felt then - and we feel it just as strongly now - that tattooing equipment should not be on sale to the general public. Professional artists know where to get their machines and inks so there is absolutely no need for a magazine like Total Tattoo to carry adverts for supplies.

Interestingly, other tattoo magazines have come and gone over the last few years, but the good ship Total Tattoo sails on! We believe that sticking to our core beliefs, but also keeping the magazine fresh and forward-looking, have been the keys to our success.

We would not be where we are without our incredible team of staff, contributors, advertisers and readers, of course. So many people have been part of the Total Tattoo story that it would be impossible to mention them all by name. But if you have ever worked for us, contributed to the magazine, advertised within its pages, helped us out on our stall at a convention, sent in your tattoo photos, bought merchandise or, of course, bought a copy of the magazine, you are a vital part of that story. Thank you for your support over the last 100 issues. Here's to the next century!

Until next month

Sally
Editor-in-Chief
editor@totaltattoo.co.uk
www.totaltattoo.co.uk
www.facebook.com/totaltattoomagazine

The radical of one century is the conservative of the next

Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)







BOOK REVIEW The Zombook

Compiled by Allan Graves Publisher: Graffito Price £29.99

Total Tattoo Rating ★★★★

The appropriately named Allan Graves has had a lifelong love affair with the living dead, sketching hundreds of undead flesheaters over the years and tattooing them on to the skin of his many customers. So I suppose it's not really surprising that he is the mastermind behind what can only be described as the ultimate zombie book. Mr. Graves has brought together a multitude of

amazing artists, all with their own unique twisted vision, who share his passion for these brain-dead carnivores. As you turn the pages you never quite know how that vision is going to present itself next. The variety of images and the various media used to create them are a real treat to behold. The bottom line is: if you feel zombies are your thing and you don't feel moved to get a copy of this book, then you probably don't like these iconic corpses as much as you think...





THE ZOMBOOK Two copies up for grabs!

We have two copies of The Zombook to give away! To be in with a chance of winning one, simply email your name and address to comps@totaltattoo.co.uk

The closing date is Friday 1st February. The first three entries picked at random after that date will each win a copy of this fab book.





























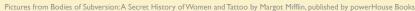
It's hard to believe that only twelve months ago I was riding high on the wave of excitement and pride at the opening of the Amsterdam Tattoo Museum. So many great things have happened there in the last year and so much positivity has surrounded the project but, distressingly, it has run into financial problems. Henk Schiffmacher, the founder and curator of the Museum, has posted a short video explaining the reasons for this and how you can help support the museum. If we really want this resource to grow and establish itself then action needs to be taken. To watch the clip check out Linkys on page 10.







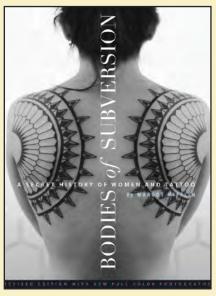
lattoo news and reviews for your delectation and delight. If it goes on in the tatto Send us your news items, books or products for review and items of genera News Flash, Total Tattoo Magazine, PO Box 10038, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 7 Review Rating:s **** must have **** should have *** could have ** might have *





BOOK REVIEW Bodies of Subversion: A Secret History of **Women and Tattoo** By Margot Mifflin **Publisher: powerHouse Books**

This is the third, updated, edition of Margot Mifflin's hugely influential book on women and tattooing. When it was first published in 1997, it documented an important but largely unacknowledged aspect of tattooing's history and development. Total Tattoo's Editor-in-Chief, Sally Feldt - herself a woman who has helped change the face of tattooing - recalls her first encounter with this landmark book: "It was exciting and groundbreaking, and it was the first serious publication to acknowledge women in tattooing." Fifteen years ago when the first edition went on sale, I very much doubt that Margot could have foreseen the changes that would come about within tattooing and the pivotal role women would play in those changes. That is something she has been able to incorporate into this new edition, as well as adding to, and clarifying, existing historical material. The book contains over one hundred new photos and is certainly as relevant today as on the the day it was first published. Significantly, it is still the only book that chronicles the history of both tattooed women and women tattooists.





Pete Banks 1948-2012



Sadly Pete Banks passed away on 6th October, at only 64 years of age, after a two year struggle with illness. Tracey and I were lucky enough to know Pete and Sally ('The Wench', as Pete called her), and their two daughters Michelle and Claire, for 27 years.

We were extremely close and regarded each other not just as friends but also as family. We shall miss Pete dearly. Another old timer and larger-than-life character gone, but never forgotten.

Terry and Tracey Dino

MR CARTOON COMP

We'd been looking forward to getting our hands on this impressive looking timepiece. And now that we have, we simply don't want to let go of it! But we must. The winner of the limited edition Diesel watch designed by Los Angeles tattoo legend Mister Cartoon is....





NEWSFILASI

SHOP TALK

Opened a new studio? Got a guest artist? Do you have a job vacancy? This is the place to spread the word! E-mail editor@totaltattoo.co.uk putting 'Shop Talk' as the subject. Please note we do not print 'Jobs wanted' adverts. Items may be edited for clarity and length.

Tattooer wanted: for Atattooed Tattoo Studio, Bray, Ireland. Must be experienced and have an excellent work ethic with no drama or ego. Contact Atattooed Ireland on Facebook with a link to your profile.

Tattoo artist wanted: Inwood Ink Tattoo Studio in Harlow, Essex is looking for an imaginative and talented artist to become part of our team. Must be reliable and have previous shop experience. To apply please contact Thaira on 07872 496538 or email us at info@inwoodink.co.uk

LOWRIDER HITS LONDON

The legendary Californian studio Lowrider Tattoo is heading across the the pond and popping up in London quite literally. Jun Cha, Jose Lopez, Noah Minuskin and Miguel Ochoa are going to be in the big smoke from January 16th to 30th, working out of a pop-up studio at an as yet undisclosed location. It's looking like Jun Cha is all booked up but the others are still taking appointments. For more info go to the Lowrider website **www.lowridertattoostudios.com** and hit "Worldwide" and click the link "This is England".









The lucky winners who get to ride off into the sunset with Sons of Anarchy (Season Four) box sets are: Izzy Wallman, Graham Preston and Karl Davies. Congratulations – and don't eat them all at once.

LINKYS

Here is this month's selection of web links, containing a wide range of tattoo snippets for you to enjoy. If you know of a good Linky that you think our readers would like to see, drop us a line to editor@totaltattoo.co.uk putting Linkys as your subject.

One Minute Documentary: The Tattooer featuring Buzzy Jenkins

http://vimeo.com/54741421





An amazing way to record history through tattooing http://vimeo.com/41013416





An anthem to Sailor Jerry

http://www.youtube.com/embed/SoSQwV0orzU





What's happened at the Amsterdam Tattoo Museum? Henk Schiffmacher explains:

http://vimeo.com/54329488





The Marx Brothers' classic song 'Lydia the Tattooed Lady' http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80-_roT07Po







win! win! win

To celebrate our 100th issue, we have gathered together an astounding array of prizes including

- A tattoo from Modern Body Art
- An original Dan Gold painting
- **Tickets & hotel room for the Brighton Tattoo Convention**
- Clothes from Toxico
- **Tickets for Tattoo Sunday in Bruges**



WIN A TATTOO FROM MODERN BODY ART

They say a good tattoo isn't cheap but it can be free – if you win our fantastic competition, that is! Our lovely friends at Modern Body Art in Birmingham, one of the most prestigious studios in the world, have agreed to give tattoo time worth a whopping £400 to one lucky person. The winner of the competition can choose to be tattooed by any of the amazing artists at the studio, including Jo Harrison, Matt Hunt and Rachel Baldwin (although they will have to join their chosen tattooist's waiting list!) Check out all the artists' work at

www.modernbodyart.co.uk

To be in with a chance of winning this prize, all you have to do is draw the tattoo you would like. Let your imagination run wild and sketch to impress! Creativity is more important than artistic skill, as your tattooist will re-draw the design to make it suitable to tattoo. Send your finished original artwork to MBA Comp, Total Tattoo, PO Box 10038, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 7WL, UK. Don't forget to include your name, address and your chosen artist if you have a preference. Please note, we can't return any artwork. The closing date is Friday March 1st. The winning design will be chosen by the tattooists at Modern Body Art. The winner will be responsible for their own transport to Birmingham. No cash alternative is offered. The winner may, of course, pay for more tattooing time if the prize money doesn't cover the whole of their tattoo design.



THE BIG GOLDEN **GIVEAWAY**

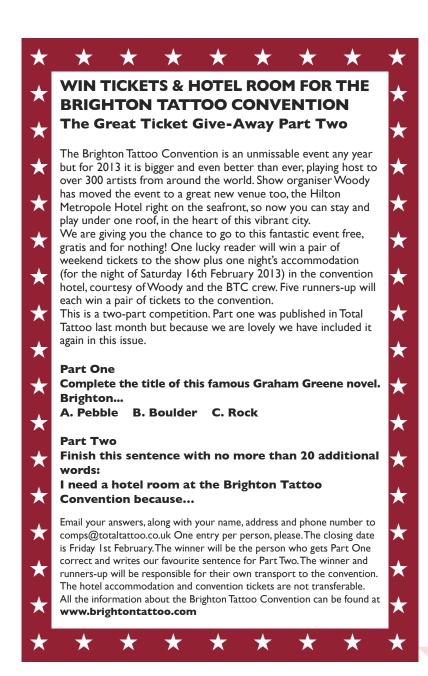
Is there no end to the man's generosity? Not only did he spend a morning with us baring his soul for our feature on page 14 but Dan Gold has also given us an original painting for one lucky reader. The prize picture is entitled 'Day of the Dead'. It was created with spray paint and acrylic on canvas and measures 50 x 40cm. If you wanted to pop down to Dan's studio to purchase said item (which you can't, as it's a one-off piece!) it would set you back 350 smackers. But if you'd like to win it, just answer this simple question:

What was the name of Dan Gold's original graffiti crew?

Email your answer, along with your name and address to comps@totaltattoo.co.uk putting 'Go for Gold' as the subject. The closing date is Friday 1st March. The first correct answer picked at random after that date will win the painting. See more of Mr Gold's art and tattoo work at

www.dangoldtattooclub.com





BELGIAN BONANZA



Tattoo Sunday is one of the small but perfectly formed gems of the European tattoo convention circuit. (You can read our report on this year's show in Total Tattoo issue 99.) This year the event will be held on 3rd November in the beautiful Belgian city of Bruges. Keep up with the latest news at

www.facebook.com/tattoosundaybrugge

We have 100 tickets to give away for Tattoo Sunday 2013, courtesy of the lovely organisers. To get your hands on one, email your name and address to comps@totaltattoo.co.uk. The closing date is Friday 1st March. We'll pick 100 names at random who will each win a ticket. Winners will be responsible for their own transport and accommodation at the convention.

STAY WARM & COOL AT THE SAME TIME

Summer is now a distant memory; the days are short, the nights are long and spring seems an eternity away. What could make a long, cold winter a more palatable prospect? How about one of these stylish winter warmers from those hip cats at Toxico?

We have two to give away: one guys' Redneck Club Coat (sizes Small to XXL) and one girls' Varsity Jacket (sizes Small to XL). Toxico have also given us two of their cool, tattoo-themed











UK CONVENTIONS

February 2 – 3 Scottish Body Art Show

The Ice Factory, Perth, Scotland Info: 07901 970611 bribsy@yahoo.co.uk

February 2 - 3 Cariad Ink

Esplanade Hotel, Llandudno, North Wales Info: 01492 860300 www.facebook.com/CariadInk

February 16 – 17 Brighton Tattoo Convention

The Hilton Metropole Hotel, Brighton, East Sussex

www.brightontattoo.com

March 2 - 3 Tattoo Tea Party

Event City, Manchester www.tattooteaparty.com

March 24 Peterlee Tattoo Arts Festival

Peterlee Leisure Centre, Peterlee, County Durham, SR8 IAF www.facebook/eddiehardiman eddiestattoostudio@yahoo.co.uk Info:Trudy at Eddie's Tattoo Studio,

0191 587 1787

March 30 - 31 The Scottish Tattoo Convention

Corn Exchange, Edinburgh, EH14 IRJ www.scottishtattooconvention.com

April 7 Ink & Iron Tattoo Convention

The Tower, Reservoir Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 9EE www.inkandiron.co.uk info@inkandiron.co.uk

April 13 - 14 North Lakes Tattoo Show

Shepherds Inn, Carlisle, Cumbria info@northlakestattooshow.com Tel: 01228 545156

April 13 – 14 Tattoo Extravaganza

The Pyramids Centre, The Seafront, Southsea, Hampshire www.tattooextravaganza.co.uk

May 3 - 5 Liverpool Tattoo Convention

Adelphi Hotel, Livepool www.tattooconvention.co.uk

June 1 – 2 Milton Keynes Tattoo Convention

Milton Keynes info@mktattooconvention.com www.mktattooconvention.com

June 1 - 2 2013 Northampton International Tattoo Convention

The Saints Rugby Ground, Weedon Road, Northampton www.northamptoninternationaltattooconvention.com

Info: Nigel or Sue 01604 949958 sunsandrosestattoo@hotmail.com

June 9 Reading Tattoo Show

Rivermead Leisure Centre, Reading, Berkshire www.readingtattooshow.co.uk

July 13 - 14 Custom Carnage

Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire www.customcarnageuk.com

July 20 – 21 Cardiff Tattoo & Toy Convention

Mercure Cardiff Holland House Hotel & Spa, 24 – 26 Newport Rd, Cardiff, CF24 0DD

Website to follow

August 2 – 4 Maiden City Tattoo Convention

Millennium Forum Conference Centre New Market Street, Derry City, Northern Ireland maidencityink@aol.com

Tel: Zac, 02871 363076

September 27 – 29 London Tattoo Convention

Tobacco Dock, Porters Walk, London, EIW 2SF

www.thelondontattooconvention.com

OVERSEAS CONVENTIONS

January II – I3 Surf 'n' Ink Tattoo Festival

The Radisson Resort Gold Coast, 1/2098 Gold Coast Highway, Miami, Queensland 4220, Australia

www.tattoosurfnink.com

February 14 – 17 Skin Deep Body Art Expo

The DeltaPlex Arena, Grand Rapids, MI, USA www.skindeepbodyartexpo.com

March 15 - 17 Lake Havasu Tattoo Show

Nautical Resort, Lake Havasu City, Arizona, USA

www.havasutattooshow.com

March 22 - 24 Mondial du Tatouage

Le 104, 5 Rue Curial, 75019 Paris, France www.mondialdutatouage.com

April 17 – 21 Annual NTA Convention

Rapid City, South Dakota, USA www.nationaltattooassociation.com

April 26 – 28 Nepal Tattoo Convention

Hotel Yak and Yeti, Durbar Marg, Kathmandu, Nepal www.nepaltattooconvention.com

June 4 – 5 Worldwide Tattoo Conference

Boston, MA, USA www.worldwidetattooconference.com info@worldwidetattooconference.com

June 8 – 9 Inkfest

Krakow, Poland www.tattoofest.pl www.facebook.com/tattoofest

June 21 – 23 Transilvania Tattoo Expo

Sibiu, Romania. www.tattooexpo.ro

August 30 – September I Lake Tahoe Tattoo Convention

Montbleu Casino, Resort Convention Centre, 55 U.S. 50, Stateline, NV 89449, USA www.laketahoetattooconvention.com www.tahoetattoo.com

Tattoo convention listings on this page are free. Send your details to Convention Calendar, Total Tattoo Magazine, PO Box 10038, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 7WL, UK or e-mail editor@totaltattoo.co.uk All details correct at time of going to press. E&OE.

To find out about our special offers for display adverts, email advertising@totaltattoo.co.uk















riginally from Denmark, Dan Gold came to the UK some twenty years ago. He has had the pleasure of tattooing in some of London's most prestigious studios, such as Evil from the Needle and Into You, as well as in San Francisco, Las Vegas and New York. In 2007, Dan was one of four tattooists invited to take part in the Discovery Channel's reality TV show London Ink. And now, this year, he has finally realised his dream of opening a combined art gallery and tattoo studio – Monsters of Art in West Hampstead, London.



So, Dan, what brought you to England?

Well, back in Denmark, I was a founding member of one of the most notorious graffiti gangs in Europe. We called ourselves Monsters of Art. We probably painted more trains than anyone else, and we were always getting into trouble and getting arrested. I was just 19 and I knew that if I wanted to make anything of myself I had to get away from that life. To cut a long story short, that's how I ended up coming to England.

And how did you get into tattooing?

When I came to England, I'd already started to tattoo. My interest in it began when I was a kid in Copenhagen. I used to tell my mum I wanted to look like the pictures we could see in the tattooists' windows when we were out shopping.



Later on, I got hold of a book on Russian prison tattoos and found a photo of an improvised tattoo machine in bits. I studied the picture and worked out how to build one of my own using a guitar string for a needle. I started off with plans to tattoo my whole arm in Celtic knotwork. But it hurt so fucking much I decided just to do a snake coiling round instead. But that was still far too painful, and there was blood squirting everywhere, so I thought fuck it... and just did a little sperm cell with two horns. After that experience I realised it was better to tattoo other people than tattoo yourself!

You have worked with a number of very well-known tattooists in some very famous studios. How have these artists influenced your own tattooing style?

These guys have taught me everything. Before I went to work at Evil from the Needle, I could certainly make a beautiful tattoo – but I couldn't really tattoo. I had taught myself, which meant I had learnt a lot of bad habits. It's stupid just to set up on your own. If you are serious about being a tattooist you have to be serious about the way you learn. It is much better to spend time finding a good apprenticeship. In the long run, it will save you at least five years of your career. That's what I





learned from people like Lal Hardy, Alex Binnie, Mike Davis and Bugs. I owe those people everything. Bugs showed me all the technical aspects. He taught me how to be disciplined and how to structure my work. He was doing massive Celtic tattoos, using the shape of the body as a canvas to express the





design, and this showed me just where you could take tattooing. Alex Binnie showed me that if you were brave and you believed in yourself, you could put on large bold designs that really spoke out. You could move tattooing away from badges on skin to being an artform that you wear. I think the only way is to keep pushing tattooing forward, expanding that creative bubble. That way the bubble will never burst.

How did you get involved with the London Ink TV series?

I got involved in the programme because Discovery Channel headhunted me. I think they wanted someone who would rattle things up a bit. They wanted someone to play the part of the bad boy, but then halfway through they had a quiet word and asked if I could tone it down a bit. I had to explain that it was not an act and that I was already toning it down! But, to be honest, off the set there was a lot of deeply personal stuff going on, and some of that obviously did spill over onto the screen. Sometimes it was difficult having to be all smiles and happy. People say it seemed scripted, but there was never any script—though of course some of the situations were created with the intention of stirring up a bit of conflict. I guess the reason it sometimes seemed scripted is because if I said something funny to Phil [Kyle], they would ask me to say it again and they would then film it from several different angles, and after two or three times of course it wasn't so funny any more. That's just the way filming is done! Apart from that, it was just like working in any normal tattoo studio. You would come into work and you would tattoo your clients. The only real difference was that the cameras were there, and every now and again someone would shout "Cut! Can you do that again?"

Where did the clients come from?

The show set up a website about a year before filming started, asking for potential clients and inviting them to submit a brief description of the tattoo they wanted. We made a shortlist of the ones we thought were the most interesting, then the editors screentested them and decided who would be best for the show.





Looking back, how do you feel about London Ink now?

I am extremely proud of it. It was honest, and it was me at that time. I have always thought that all the *Ink* programmes have been really good for the industry. Some people say that tattooing was better when it was more underground, but that's bullshit. I know, because I was there. You worked in shitty shops for shitty money tattooing shitty people. If people want to go back to that, fine. But I much prefer things now.

For me, London Ink was a game changer. It changed everything for me. Sure, they could have been kinder to me in the editing process. Some people say that they portrayed me quite badly, but then again sometimes I portray myself quite badly in real life. We all had a role to play and a lot of it was true. People forget that we had two jobs in that show: we were professional tattooists, and we also had to entertain the audience.









What's been the legacy of London Ink for you, both personally and professionally?

Doing that show was like moving up two levels in my life. I have always wanted my art to be famous. It is not about being a famous person — my real life is private — but being famous as an artist and tattooist. I am so connected to my art that I want the maximum number of people to see it. That's the whole point of creating it. It's the same with the graffiti. I don't understand painting a small wall in an underpass that maybe a hundred people will see. For me, it's all about doing a train that thousands of people will see, or hundreds of trains that millions of people will see!

As an artist, how do you see yourself? Are you a tattooist whose future lies more in the art world?

After twenty three years of tattooing, I can honestly say that I still look forward to every single day at work. I am still that excited about it. However, physically I am finding it harder to put in the hours; the aches and pains in my back are making it more and more challenging. I do twelve hour days – not because I have to, it's because I love the work – but I do foresee a time when I will no longer be tattooing. I still paint trains and I still paint walls. I paint artworks when I'm not tattooing or doing graffiti. I am totally in love with the artform and the art. Where I am now is where I want

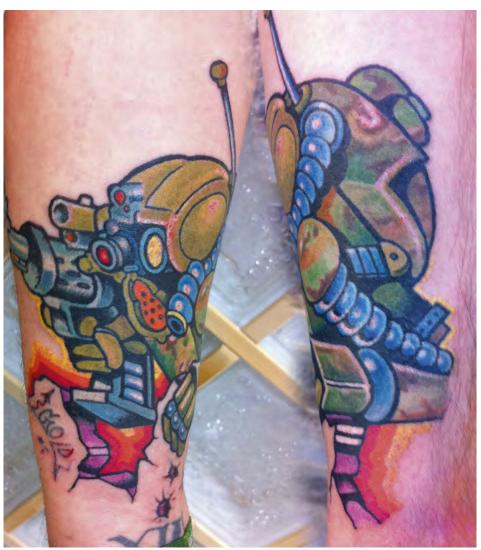




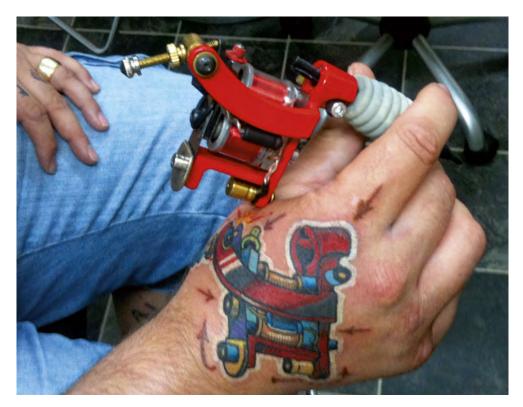
to be. I sit here in my studio and I am surrounded by beautiful art. This idea of a gallery/studio has been a plan of mine for many years, and to call it Monsters of Art after my old graffiti gang makes the whole thing complete. It's come full circle.

We are beginning to see tattoo art cross over into the mainstream art markets, and slowly it is beginning to be recognised as a legitimate artform. Of course there will be those within the tattoo world who will object to any kind of change, and I'm definitely not trying to say this is how it has to be for anyone else. There are still plenty of clients to keep everyone busy. If you want to be a tattooist who does

skulls and daggers and Indian heads, that's fine; if you want your shop to look like a studio from the 70s or 80s, that's fine; but I just have a different vision for my future.







You seem to embrace every opportunity as it appears, and you are constantly hungry for the next big thing. Do you see a time when things might slow down?

I think you are right in saying that I grab every opportunity. I am very enthusiastic about where I am now and I am enthusiastic about the future.

I am in talks at the moment about a proposal for a television programme on tattoo history, which is something I am very passionate about. There are some great people who have made their mark, carried this artform forward and really helped it grow. People like Lal Hardy, George Bone, Bernie Luther, Jonathan Shaw. I have always wanted to be one of those people. I did it with graffiti and I want to do it with tattooing. I want to do it with this art gallery too!

Collectors are beginning to buy my paintings, the right galleries are becoming interested and I am beginning to get some big commissions. I am a bit shocked at how well my work is being received. Until now, I never realised how the last twenty three years have actually been a build-up to this point in time. Every studio that I have had has been different and Monsters of Art is the amalgamation of all that I have learned.

I think I'm a lot calmer than I was in the past, but I still have my wild moments. I used to feel quite guilty about stuff, and I would just drop out and leave, or destroy everything around me. But I feel I'm past that stage of my life. Keep it small, keep it personal and keep the artwork growing: that's the plan for the future.



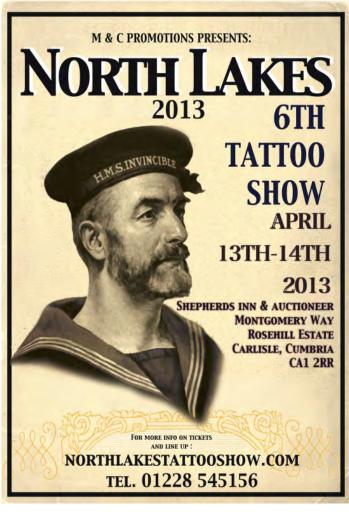
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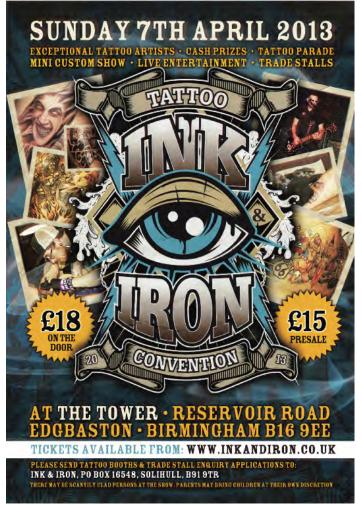
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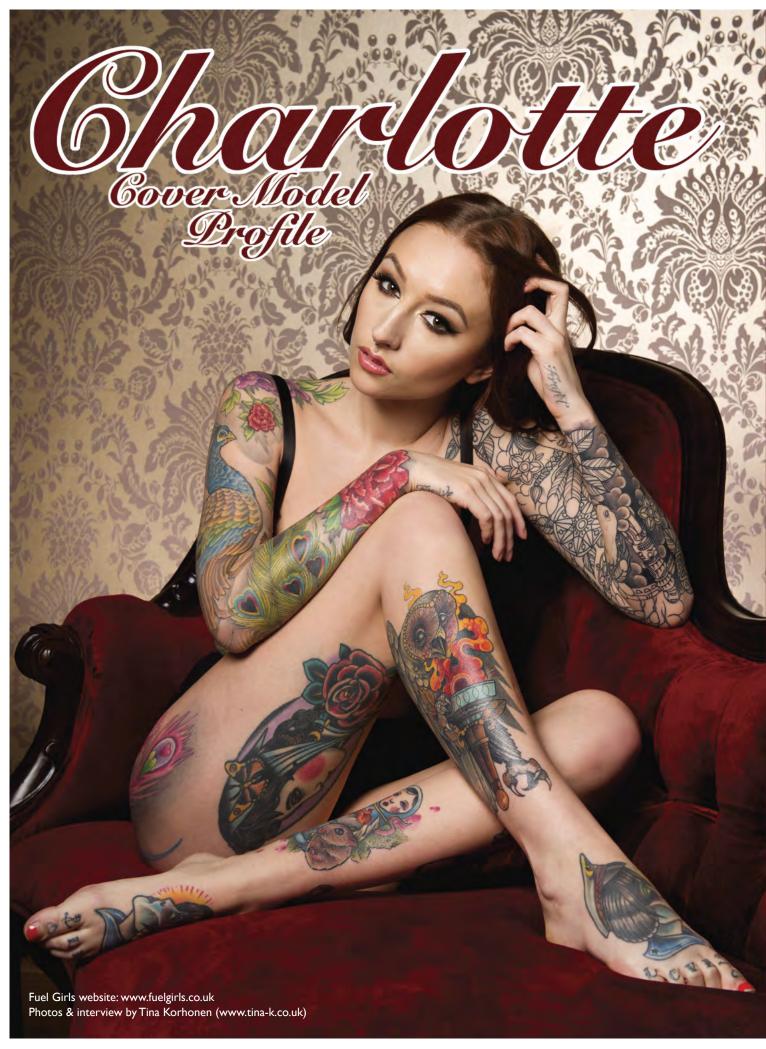












Charlotte, can you tell us a bit about yourself?

I am 22 and originally a Somerset gal – born and raised in Bath – but I was a little bit too weird for village life so I moved to London about three years ago. I'm currently studying fashion make-up and I'm also a performer with the Fuel Girls.

That must be fun...

Yes, they are an awesome bunch of talented chicks. We travel the world performing fire breathing, aerial stunts and just generally causing mayhem! I've been lucky enough to visit some amazing places such as the US, China and Taiwan. We do anything from tattoo conventions and rock festivals to arena stunt shows like Masters of Dirt and Geneva Supercross.

You must have a pretty exciting life with the Fuel Girls. Do you have any stories to share?

Well, back in 2009 when I had just joined them, we took a trip to Verbier, Switzerland to film for a TV show we were doing at the time 'The Fuel Girls for Playboy TV'. We decided to go snowboarding and film it. I'd never snowboarded before and I sucked. We were nearly at the end of the second day's filming when we decided to do one more run... well, that was a mistake! I fell backwards onto my arms and broke both wrists. They put me in two full arm casts and gave me liquid morphine. As you can imagine life was very interesting for the next eight weeks!

Do your fans comment on your tattoos?

Yes, they do but I'm terrible at replying. I must get better at it. I get people asking who did certain pieces and then wanting a close-up picture so they can get one too. That bugs me... it's flattering, but I put a lot of time into coming up with unique ideas so I don't really want them copied.

Do you ever need to cover your tattoos for work? I guess they aren't an issue when you're performing.

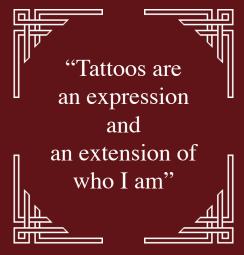
I love having tattoos and they really enhance my outfits when I'm working with the Fuel Girls. I guess they create more of a spectacle. But sometimes, if I feel like being left alone, I cover up because people ask a lot of questions, and sometimes even grab me in the street – not cool! I've had a few jobs where I've had to cover them up initially to allow my managers to warm to the idea, which can be annoying on a hot day.

Where does your passion for tattoos come from?

It was actually an old friend of mine when I was I 6. He was already then very heavily tattooed. I used to go up to Birmingham and watch him getting work done by Jo Harrison, which really got me interested. I was really lucky, because through this early introduction to tattoos, I learnt what good and bad quality tattoos were. So I don't think I have any embarrassing early tattoos, as one of the first people I booked in with when I turned I8 was Jo.

What was your first tattoo?

It was on my toes. I wanted something that I would easily be able to hide if I didn't enjoy having it there. Paul at Mantra Tattoo gave me a cute 'LOVE LIFE' on my little toes and two little anchors on my big toes. They still look good and I still really love them!



And what did you get done next?

Not long after that I booked in with Jo who started my phoenix side piece at the Brighton Tattoo Convention. I really didn't enjoy having my whole side lined in front of everyone. I learnt the hard way from that one.

That tattoo took about a year, and after that I got my ladies done on the backs of my legs by Steve Byrne. They represent the rich and the poor and they are done in the traditional style that Steve does so well. Then Jo started my peacock sleeve. Peacocks have very positive associations in certain cultures, which I really love.

I've had other small pieces done in-between on my feet, legs and palms. One of my most recent pieces is an owl (I'm a bit obsessed with birds!) by an old friend of mine Sneaky Mitch, which is really amazing.

I'm now working on my new sleeve with Xam at the Family Business. We're doing a Native American theme and it's already looking awesome.

What do your tattoos mean to you?

Tattoos are an expression and an extension of who I am. I've always been a bit 'OTT', trying to express myself in the most extreme ways possible. I'm quite an artistic person and as soon as I started getting tattoos, the ideas wouldn't stop. I love having people's artwork on me; it's quite a personal thing when you become close with your artists. I love researching different artists. I love finding stuff I connect with. I don't believe that every tattoo should hold a personal meaning though. I know they have been used that way historically, but times have changed and I just love creating new and exciting artwork with like-minded people.

Do you have a favourite tattoo?

One of the only tattoos that holds a specific meaning for me is the lucky cat on my leg, done by Matt Hunt. When I was a child I had a kitten called Daisy. When I was I5 she died and I was so sad. As a memorial, I got a little daisy put in the coin my lucky cat tattoo is holding.

What does your family think about your tattoos?

They are OK with them. Neither of my parents have any tattoos so it's a little alien to them but they've just accepted it now. I think at first they thought they could persuade me to have only small ones, but, when I got my first sleeve, they gave up. My dad actually said to me the other day 'I see lots of people with tattoos now, Charlotte. I think they are more accepted these days.'

What's next for you, tattoo-wise?

I'm going to finish my sleeve with Xam and then leave it for a while I think. I'm becoming a bit of a pussy these days and the pain is getting to me. The more I get, the less tolerant I become but I'm pretty sure I'm not done yet! There are always new ideas at the back of my mind.

And what does the future hold for the Fuel Girls?

We have a lot of cool shows coming up. The one I'm really looking forward to is the Masters of Dirt world tour. It's basically one big party with a bunch of crazy FMX (freestyle motocross) riders!

What's your top tattoo tip?

Do your research and wait as long as you need to for the right artist.

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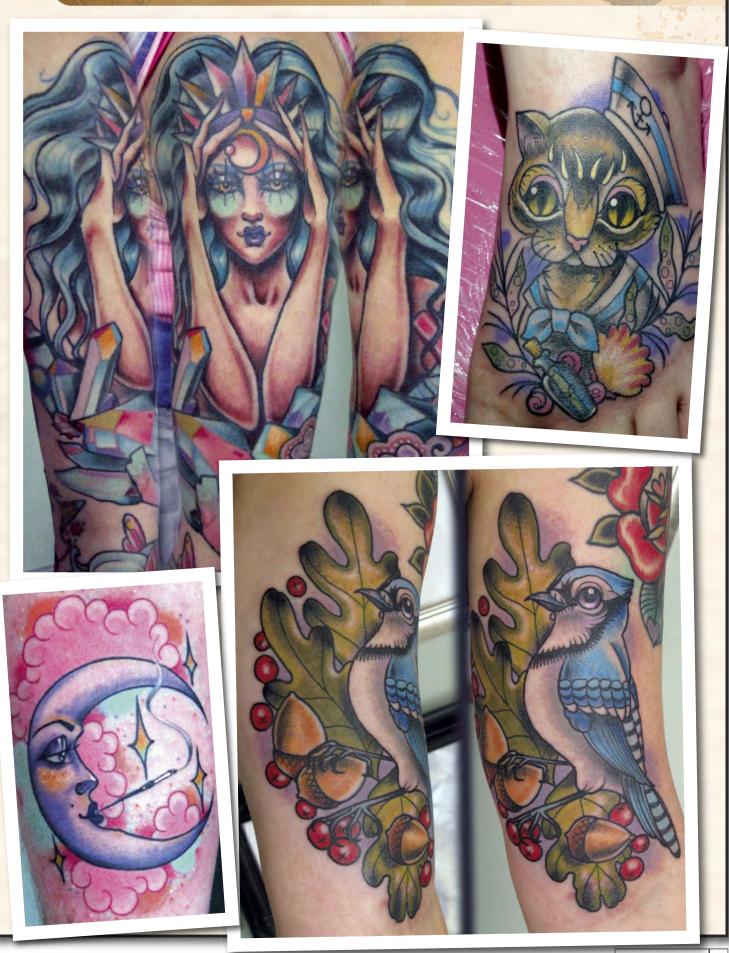






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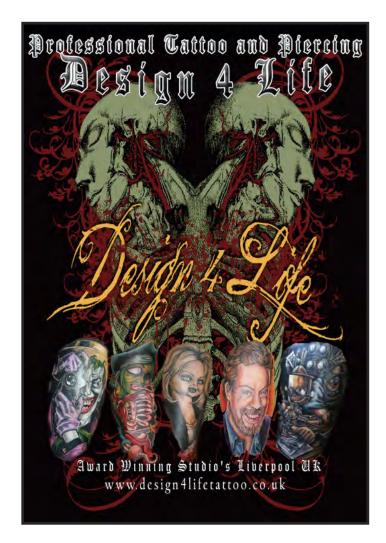




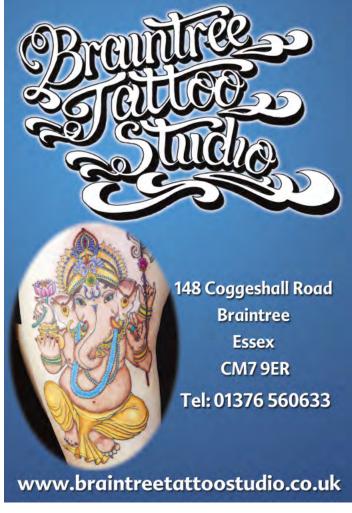






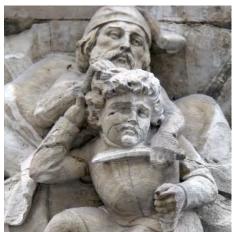






- I. femke with the hotrod show
- 2. by memento tattoo (korea)
- 3. kid kros (croatia)





Report & photos by Travellin' Mick

tattoo conventior

russels, the 'capital of Europe', is perfectly located for a successful international event and tattoo fans from all over the continent gathered there for the third Brussels Tattoo Convention. Visitors to the show were treated to a first class line-up of artists as well as a packed programme of entertainment.

The convention is held in the Tours & Taxis complex on the outskirts of the old city. This used to be a rather depressing industrial area with neglected old buildings but it has recently been renovated and filled with funky shops and smart restaurants. There are two event halls as well, one of which houses the tattoo convention. There is plenty of space, ample parking and a slightly post-apocalyptic atmosphere. The convention was busy and thousands of visitors poured through the wide aisles between more than 200 booths.

There was a display of lowrider, hotrod and vintage cars of the highest quality, which was worth the relatively modest entrance fee of 15 Euros alone. On top of that there were performances by the Fuel Girls, as well as a hugely enjoyable burlesque show and plenty of bands of various musical styles. An unexpected draw were several cool barber shops, where guys and girls could get their hair done.

One great feature of the Brussels convention is the ability of the organisers to attract some of the best representatives of every conceivable style of tattooing. It seems that they really have a knack of finding the latest trends too. The one movement that seems to be overshadowing almost everything else at the moment is the rising tide of 'neo-traditional' tattoos. This modern incarnation of the western traditional tattoo is hot as hell all over Europe and seems to be hitting the spot in tattoo society: from steam punk machinery to Victorian pendulum clocks, from moustachioed gentlemen in uniform to Charleston ladies in fur coats and ostrich feather stoles, the tattoos are often cleverly surreal and full of a weird sense of humour. Many of the designs are outlined like a proper old school tattoo with fat lines. The crucial difference is that they aren't simply filled with flat colours, but with fine shadings in muted tones, often sporting outstanding realistic elements to bring in a third dimension. This style probably originated in Berlin, where Lars-Uwe (Loose Lips) from Loxodrom and Adriaan Machete have been doing these tattoos for years and have now involuntarily started an avalanche.

Those tattoo pioneers weren't present in Brussels but many of their friends, protégés and disciples were: Belgian Alex Wuillot (La Main Bleue) was one of the early adopters of neotraditional, while sensational German newcomer Daniel Gensch has been tattooing for less than two years. Pedro Soos showed that Portugal isn't far behind the trends, Bartosz Panas and Pawel Jankowzki demonstrated the same for Poland. Even Miroslav from German studio Tattoo Tomas was – after nearly 20 years in the business – not averse to trying something new for a change. All-rounder Miroslav brought along not only his colleague Wolfi but also a crew of fellow Croats. Amongst them Kid Kros certainly stood out. He tattooed several fine neo-trads at the convention.





Rising star and moustache-aficionado Crispy Lennox came over from England, as did Emily Wood from Black Heart Tattoo, who showed her outstanding talent by winning a welldeserved Best of Day trophy.

Once again there was a strong Greek presence in Brussels. Next to the muchtravelled George Mavridis, of course, the most eye-catching pieces came from the hands of realistic expert Lonis, all-rounder Alex Gotzas from Dirty Roses and Thomas Gramm from the Nico Tattoo Crew.

But Brussels is not just the playground of younger artists; the organisers pay due respect to the older pioneers of the trade too. French maestro Tin-Tin was there, working opposite his old friend and colleague Henk Schiffmacher (aka Hanky Panky) from the Netherlands. Another artist from the Netherlands who has been around for a long time but is much less in the public eye is Darko. He creates mainly large-format Asian tattoos, which are highly coveted by connoisseurs of the genre. In Brussels, this amiable and rather quiet artist presented a breathtaking bodysuit making use of various images of Hindu gods and deities, which he had decorated with innovative realistic elements to create a true masterpiece.

Aside from the neo-traditional trend, realism is still the big story in tattooing and it's finding its way into almost everyone's work. In Brussels you could see Remis from Ireland doing a 3D variation of a Japanese design, Miguel Bohigues tattooing naturalistic LAstyle, while Khan from South Korea tried his hand at colour portraiture. But whether it is chicano, trash polka, Oriental, oil paint style, water colour or biomechanic, without solid drawing skills and at least a basic knowledge of fine art, no tattoo artist will be truly successful these days. The world class tattooists at the Brussels Tattoo Convention demonstrated this point perfectly.



































- 15. by darko, oneness studio (holland)
 16. by crispy lennox, black garden tattoo
 17. phil kyle, magnum opus
 18. by leonidas, lonis tattoo, (greece)
 19. by bam, kult tattoo (poland)
 20. by marie kraus, our future (czech republic)









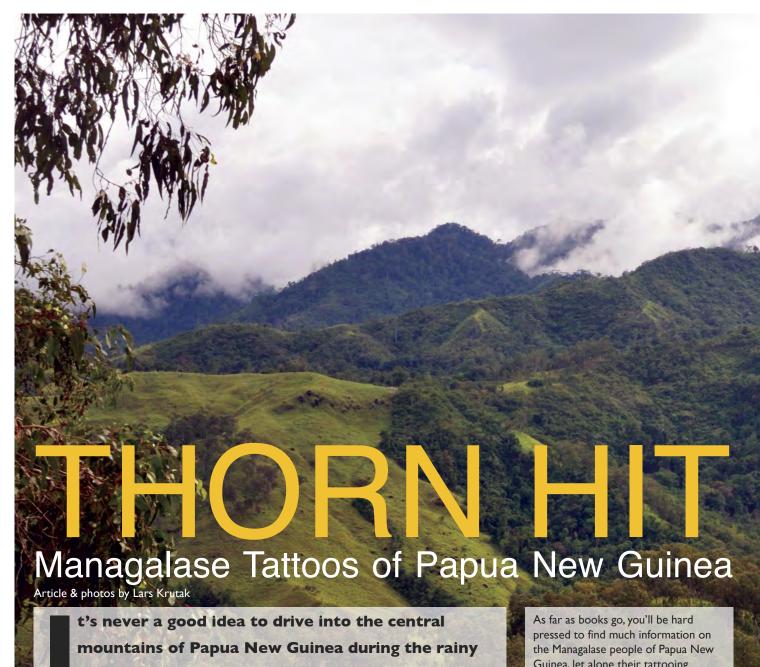


- 21. by seth wood, on the road 22. by pietro romano, on the road 23. by miss arianna, skinwear tattoo (italy) 24. by emily wood, black heart tattoo 25. by tiho, el magico (croatia)









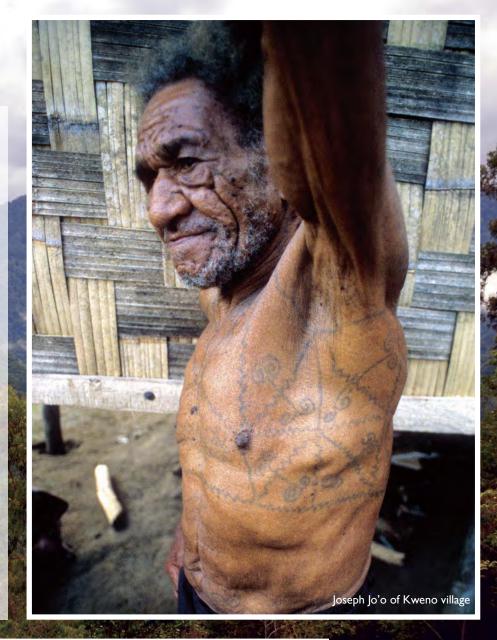
t's never a good idea to drive into the central mountains of Papua New Guinea during the rainy season. Landslides and bandits are constant worries and even though Toyota Landcruisers can plough through just about anything – including gun-toting thugs – bridges get washed out in flash floods and dirt roads become instant mud pits that just about sink anything that comes into contact with them. But sometimes, when you're hunting for some of the rarest tribal tattoos on earth, all of the usual rules fly out of the window – especially when you know there are less than twenty remaining Managalase men who still wear the ancient marks of their ancestors. So it's really a roll of the dice, but sometimes the gamble pays off and your reward is something that you'll never forget.

As far as books go, you'll be hard pressed to find much information on the Managalase people of Papua New Guinea, let alone their tattooing practices. This is probably due to the relative inaccessibility of their mountainous homeland, which is located on a plateau enclosed on all sides by the rugged, rain-soaked terrain that forms the Hydrographer Range of Oro Province. Of course there's also the region's all-too-recent custom of cannibalism to put off potential explorers.

There's some confusion over the proper name of the tribe itself. The word 'Managalase' translates as 'people difficult to understand' and was imposed long ago by coastal Motuan peoples who traded with them from time to time. The name stuck and today this term continues to be used by the government and the Managalase's neighbours. But the tribe call themselves 'Ese', meaning 'The People'

One of the most striking features of the Managalase is their tattooing. Here, unlike most other parts of Papua New Guinea, tattooing is largely male-focussed and associated with complex rite of passage ceremonies that have not been conducted since the 1950s. Missionaries and government authorities compelled the Managalase to abandon these puberty rituals for various reasons and now the last vestiges of this painful art form are worn on the bodies of men in their eighties and nineties.

Managalase tattooing is called kuije kanan or 'thorn hit' because of the tool used to pierce the skin with natural pigment. The single bush thorn instrument was bound at a right angle to the end of a short stick, about eight inches long, which was handtapped by male artists who, like wood carvers and warriors, were highly respected men in their communities. Before a tattoo was applied, the design was stencilled onto the skin with a sticky black tattoo pigment obtained by heating the gum of the local sakira tree. As the tree resin burned, a bamboo leaf was placed over the smouldering mass to catch the smoke on its underside. The leaf was then scraped and the resulting soot was mixed with water and placed in a betel nut palm frond which had been moulded into a kind of rectangular dish.











Periodically, the tattooist dipped his thorn tool into the liquid pigment as he worked his client's skin. After numerous taps, the thorn often became dull and another would take its place. As the blood began to flow, a sponge of chewed-up sugarcane pulp or wet tapa (bark) cloth was wiped across the skin to keep it visible. Then, after the first layer of pigment had been applied, the tattooist rubbed still more sooty colour into the bloody wounds and the process was then repeated another five or six times until several layers of ink permeated the welted skin. Finally, a leaf of stinging nettle was vigorously rubbed over the incisions to complete the tattooing process.

Managalase boys were ceremonially prepared for their painful initiation many years before they were actually tattooed. At about the age of ten or eleven, they were removed from their homes to live in the village men's house: an act that separated them from their mothers and sisters. For one or more years, the young lived here and were taught hunting, war, and agricultural 'magic', while at the same time they were forbidden from eating meat or having sexual relations with women. During this period, male relatives began making arrangements for the boys' marriages which would occur only after they had been tattooed.

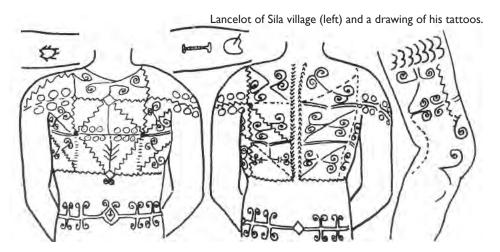
Once a young boy had mastered the knowledge of how to become a Managalase man, he was then allowed to participate in the tattooing ritual with six to twelve other boys; but first he had to undergo a lengthy period of seclusion to prepare his body for the transformation that was to take place. If the boy lived in a village which was hosting a tattoo ceremony, the seclusion period would last three months. If he had to travel to another village, the seclusion lasted six months. Before entering the seclusion hut (marakara) the boys were compelled to have their ears and septum pierced. This act was a 'promise' that they would complete their initiations and not give into fear. Their ears were pierced with a wallaby bone. For the nose, an elder would pinch a glowing ember between his thumb and finger then apply heat to the cartilage of the septum. Once heated, a cassowary beak was thrust through the nasal cartilage and a ginger shoot inserted into the cavity to keep it open.

The thatched seclusion hut, which was constructed on the outskirts of the village and surrounded by a fence, was a round-roofed structure with a very low ceiling. Inside the womb-like building, sleeping benches lined the outer walls and a fire pit extended down its centre. Apart from a small feeding door (juha), a closely-guarded entrance and toilet area in the rear, there were no openings in the hut and it was very dark. Within the central pit, a smouldering fire was kept burning at all times, creating a very hot, dank and smoky enclosure.

The initiates were never allowed to bathe and they always spoke in hushed tones. Elders said that if girls heard their voices, their tattooing would be more painful. During the seclusion period, female relatives prepared vast quantities of food to fatten up the initiates. However, the women were then forbidden to touch the food they cooked and it was placed at the feeding door by male elders. When the initiates ate their meals, they were always careful to remove the skins of the prepared foods and to eat only the insides.







When a boy wished to use the toilet pit, he had to ask permission from the elder who guarded the toilet door. This man would utter a few magic words then the initiate was allowed to enter the chamber, but only for a short period of time. If a boy did not seek permission and the magical words were not spoken, it was believed that his skin would sag like an old man's and it would be unsuitable for tattooing.

From a symbolic standpoint, the tattoo ritual of the Managalase is interesting because of its relationship to 'male rebirth'. Having been separated from their womenfolk, adolescent males were placed in womb-like huts, nurtured (fattened up) by men in a moist and hot environment while gestating for several months in a dark and confined space. Tattooed elders told me they became "big and fat" and that their skin was "light, pale and supple, like

that of a newborn" once they exited the hut. Of course, I was also told that their relatively new, white skin made their tattoos appear to be bold and dark, something which young women found to be particularly attractive.

This cultural pattern, where men attempt to take the power of childbirth away from women, is also found in other Papuan societies, especially in the Sepik River region. There, the loss of blood that flows from male scarification practices is supposed to cleanse them of any traces of feminine blood that remains in their bodies from childbirth. Among the Managalase, I believe that the blood that flows from tattoo initiates also performs the same function.

As the end of the seclusion period neared, male villagers built structures for the 'coming out' parties of the initiates. Because the young men in seclusion came from different villages, visitors from across the Managalase plateau would soon arrive to celebrate their accomplishments. Five or six local tattooists, who were often related to some of the initiates, also gathered at this time and constructed a lean-to bush hut (kwejiara) where the actual tattooing would take place.

Once all of the preparations were ready, five or six boys were escorted out of the seclusion hut to the kwejiara. Before they were allowed to get tattooed, an elder would inspect their skin. Those boys with the most tender skin were hand-tapped first. The tattooist was assisted by three or four men who kept a firm grip on the boy to be marked. The tattooist steadily plied his thorn tool over the body until one section was completed. Then, the boy was allowed to rest unless he wanted to continue. Some elders told me that a skilful artist could tattoo the entire surface of a boy's skin in two or three days. However one tattooed elder with a full body suit boasted that he withstood the pain and received all of his marks in a single sitting!

During the tattooing, male elders sang war songs which were also performed at feasts or after killing an enemy and preparing them for cooking and eventual eating. Tattoo motifs included the flying fox, circular motifs representing a bamboo musical instrument (hikodi), the spiral forms of a local fern (yuki), and additional zig-zagging designs derived from patterns seen in tree bark. The chest, waist, back, legs and shoulders were all tattooed. Each boy knew that if he did not get his tattoos he would not be allowed to marry, and he would receive no social support in communal feasts or in warfare. So the initiates endured the excruciating pain and moved one step closer to becoming a Managalase man.



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At the end of the operation the newly marked men made mirrors out of bowls of water so they could admire their tattoos. Then they returned to the *marakara* for another month and reclined on their beds near the long fire pit. A jungle leaf called *susara* was placed over the embers of the fire and then pressed to the wounds to promote healing. Then the tattoos were cleansed with mountain spring water and the entire process was repeated until the men were ready to leave the smoky confines of the *marakara*.

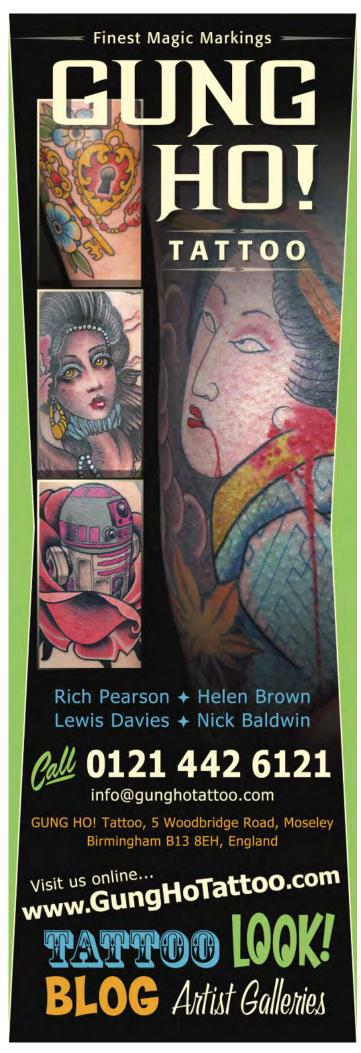
Today Managalase elders lament that the tattooing customs of their forefathers will disappear in the next generation. Although there is interest in resurrecting the tradition, there are no living tattoo masters and only memories of those men once skilled enough to tattoo human flesh. Men in their fifties expressed to me that they felt they had missed out on a very important cultural tradition that was intimately related to Managalase concepts of manhood and identity. Other men said that the demise of tattooing customs has led to social problems in the Managalase community. With the breakdown of traditional marriage rules and the arranged marriages once associated with the former practice of tattooing, many children are now born out of wedlock and some men neglect their parental duties altogether, leaving some children fatherless. And as households increase in size so too does environmental stress on the land, and sometimes there is not enough food to sustain the population. One man said: "There is a lot of disgrace and it is shameful for us. Many children have no respect for their elders and our traditional customs. We don't want to stay on this earth and see these things happen. Tattooing would stop these things and it would also help us with our population problems and strengthen our bonds with neighbouring villages."



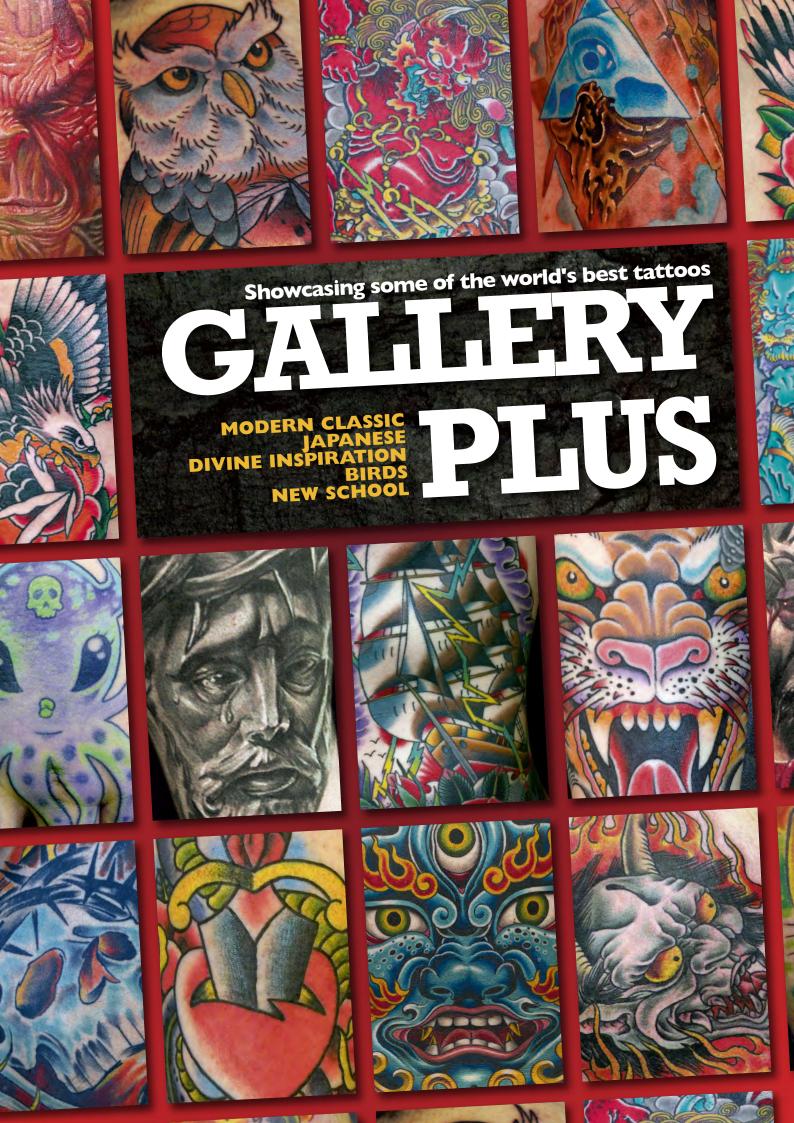












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nick haldwin, gung ho! tattoo

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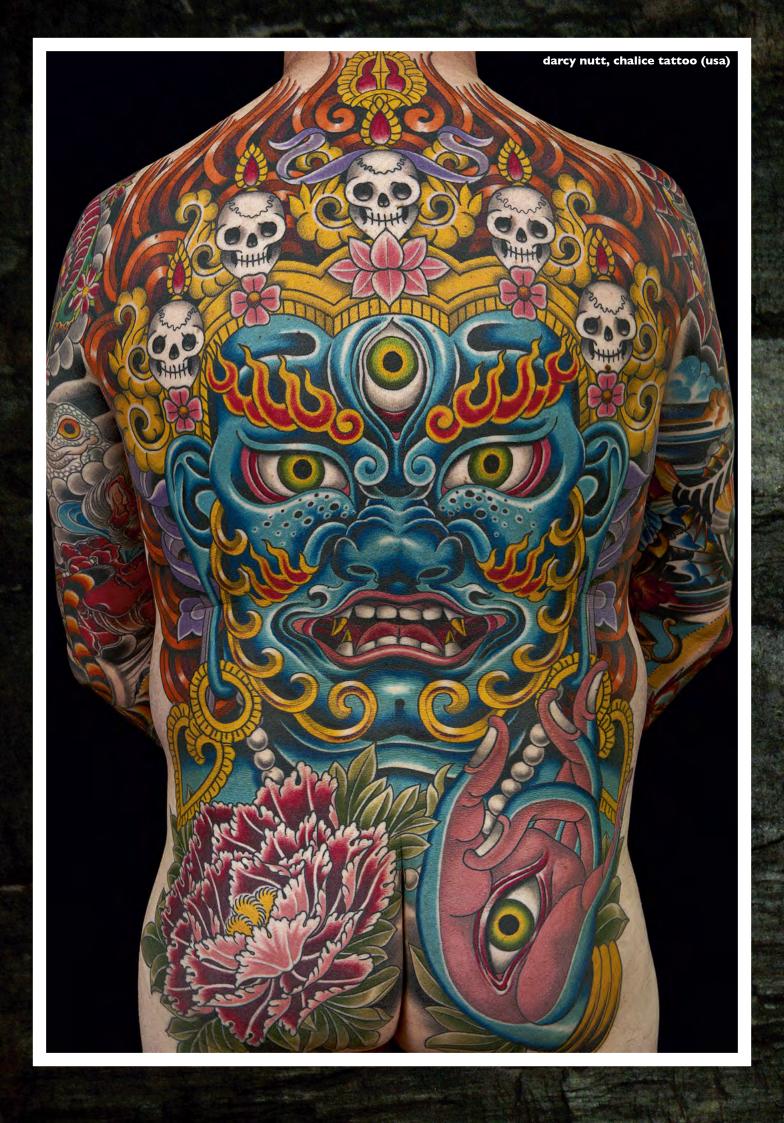




















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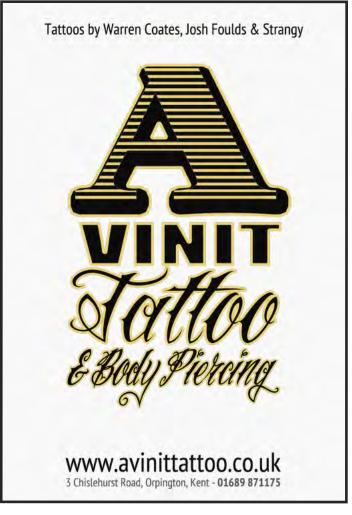


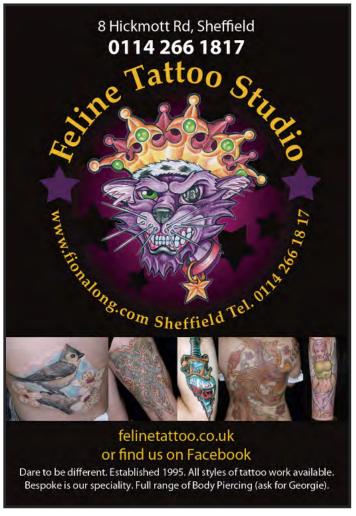


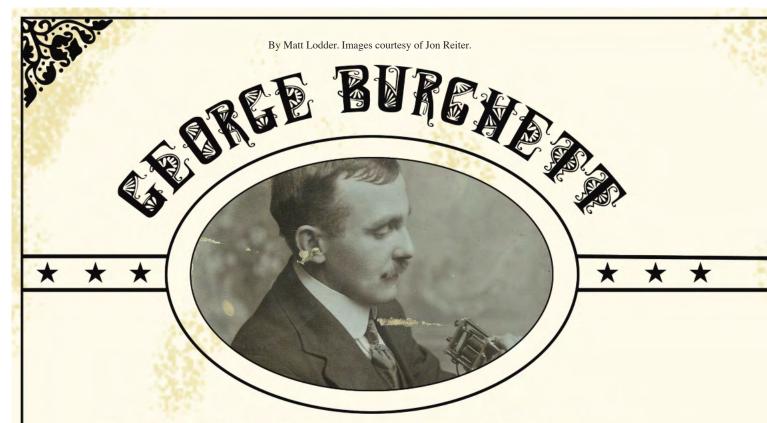




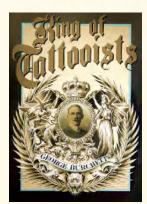








The Man, the Myth, the Legend



"I have never been tattooed", wrote E.G Ashton, the book reviewer for London's *Bulletin* tabloid in April 1958. "Up to now, I have had no sense of under-privilege or desperation in not having a private art gallery tucked under the weskit. But now – well, I'm just wondering if I've been terribly out of things all these years."

The book about tattooing that Ashton was reviewing had recently been published as a cheap cloth-bound hardback by London's Oldbourne Press,

and it's perhaps amusing that its impact was such that it had led this man to regret *not* having a tattoo, when the reverse is said to be so much more common. Leafing through its age-browned pages some sixty years later, it's still hard not to be struck by how exciting the world it describes must have been.

For readers already in love with tattooing, the book is revelatory enough. Imagine how romantic and how strange its stories of voyages and vampish women; of royals and ruffians and of showmen and swastikas must have been to those who had never stepped across the threshold of a tattoo shop! How shocking the heavily tattooed faces must have looked; how beguiling the tattooed ladies, permanently marked from head to toe with dragons, flowers and butterflies.

Described in the review as "cheerful and enthusiastic", over the course of the last half-century this humble publication has gone on to be, without doubt, the most influential book in the still very thin historical literature on tattooing at the turn of the 20th century. Though

reprinted in paperback in 1960, it is now increasingly hard to get hold of, and copies will set you back more than a hundred pounds on internet auction sites or at rare book dealers. The book is *Memoirs of a Tattooist*, "compiled from the notes, diaries and letters" of self-styled 'King of the Tattooists', Professor George

Most of the tales about the tattoo habits of British society for the hundred years between 1860 and 1960 seem to originate either directly in its pages, or in scholarly or amateur histories ultimately largely reliant on its authoritative, first-person account. It is the key work which reveals to the public the 'insider secrets' of a notoriously closed world; and a rare glimpse, told in his own words, into the life of a man who was not only a working tattooer throughout the first half of the twentieth century, but one of the greatest tattooers of his generation.

Interestingly, however, it's not a memoir at all. Instead, this purported first-person account is actually a confection – a series of anecdotes, half-truths and tall tales hastily assembled from newspaper articles after Burchett's death by a journeyman writer-for-hire by the name of Edward Spiro (Spiro, 'editing' the book under the pseudonym Peter Leighton, even cheekily thanks Edward Spiro in his foreword!)



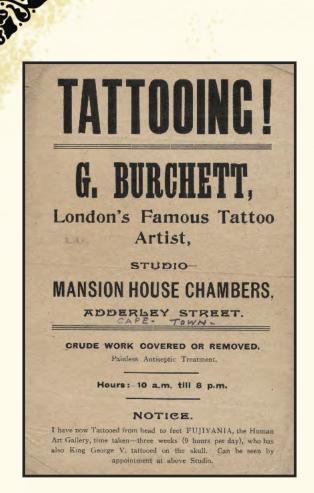


This revelation is at the heart of Jon Reiter's meticulously-researched new book, *King of Tattooists – the Life and Work of George Burchett*. Jon is a tattoo artist based at Solid State Tattoo in Milwaukee and has already earned plaudits for his two-volume work *These Old Blue Arms*, a historical biography on the influential tattoo artist Amund Dietzel, published back in 2010. After completing that project, and on the lookout for the next one, Jon approached Lyle Tuttle – a legend of the tattoo world in his own right and custodian of one of the finest collections of historical tattoo material on the planet – to ask about doing a book on Burchett.

George Burchett was born in Brighton, East Sussex in about 1872, and his seaman's record shows that by the age of 18 he was already tattooed on both forearms. He had begun to tattoo fellow sailors aboard ship, and was tattooed in Japan during a spell in port at Yokohama. Deserting his ship in Jaffa, he eked out a living by tattooing Western travellers to Jerusalem and, on returning to England in 1896 (still on the run from the Royal Navy), slowly established himself as one of London's premier tattoo artists.

By the outbreak of World War I, Burchett had made such a name for himself as tattooer to the armed forces that his shop was always full to bursting. By the 1930s, he had amassed himself a client list which included Alfonso XIII, the exiled King of Spain. In World War II, he inscribed regimental badges on soldiers from across the Allied armies (as well as their girlfriends) and, by the time of his sudden death in 1953, he was notable enough to have appeared on a cigarette trading card and on the still-new medium of television.





When Burchett's son Leslie retired from tattooing in 1974, he had entrusted his father's archive to Lyle Tuttle, who cares for the collection of flash, photographs, machines and other materials in San Francisco to this day. *Memoirs* features a number of photographs of Burchett, his clients and his studio, and his flash had been reproduced in books occasionally even whilst he was alive – Barbara Jones' 1951 survey of British folk art, *Unsophisticated Arts*, includes two sheets of it, as well as a painting of George at work cautioning those who would visit lesser tattooists that "a fine figure can almost be destroyed by unskilful arrangement of line or emphasis". However the full glory of Burchett's art had never been reproduced in one place before Jon Reiter's book was published this year.

"Burchett did some of the finest flash I had seen, and unlike so many other important tattooers, his work survived", Jon told me. That flash is indeed remarkable, and Jon's book glows with dozens of exemplary pieces: stunning late Victorian Oriental dragons, fish, storks and snakes; delicate portraits; coquettish pin-ups; bold military insignia; ferocious tigers; and timelessly iconic tattoo motifs such as pierced hearts and banners. It's clear from even a cursory perusal of his work that Burchett was a talented visual artist, particularly when reproducing the Oriental imagery that had been the height of sophistication during his boyhood and of which he was a keen collector, as shown by photos of his studio. There is sheer drama in his rendition of a

hawk clutching at a vicious, hissing snake and something wistful and proud in his poised, patriotic portrait of a Union Jack-waving young woman. There's also something resolutely and fundamentally English about his visual style. Compared to the work of American tattooers of a similar era, which has much heavier line-work and much flatter compositions, Burchett's work feels more fluid and less cock-sure.

In putting together his book, Reiter had originally set out, as he puts it, to profile Burchett's artwork and very simply summarise what was already available in Memoirs of a Tattooist. But what began as a straightforward project to publish this incredible visual material for the first time quickly led down an archival rabbit hole - pulling at the threads of supposed fact in this work, which had been taken almost as gospel since it appeared in print, unravelled its authority almost immediately. To pick a trivial but indicative example: one particular myth from the book, oft-repeated in newspaper articles to this day and prevalent on the Internet, is that Burchett served aboard the famous HMS Victory - something which is impossible, given that Victory was decommissioned in 1812, several decades before George was even born. (George was briefly stationed on Victory, but by the time of his service it was a docked accounting base!)

"After finding a few factual inconsistencies in *Memoirs*, it was then vital to check out every facet of his life", Jon says. "And in some cases we found it important to leave certain things out, which didn't add up and couldn't be proven. I feel that it is of the utmost importance to get these histories straight, and not to rely on what we might think is true."

Following a surprising lead to some long-neglected boxes in a Canadian library, Jon was able discern that *Memoirs* had been assembled rather than transcribed, a fact that helped him finally make sense of the similarities he had been finding between sections of the

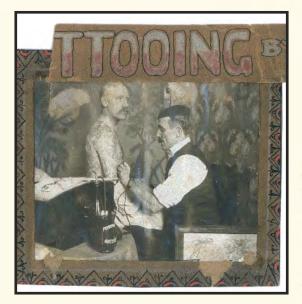




book and the reported words of George in contemporary newspaper articles. In many cases, Spiro had simply copied these journalistic accounts directly into the book. Jon explains: "As we know – and this was also the case with the Dietzel research – much of the misinformation available on tattooers can be traced back to these news sources. We were lucky enough to have the research materials for the Memoirs surface, and that was where the real work began. Amazingly, over a 50 year period, nearly 200 articles were written involving Burchett, many of which were sensationalised and written haphazardly. We relied heavily on the various national and military archives when possible. Then, as Leighton did when he wrote Memoirs, we began sifting the information and piecing together George's life, making a point *not* to fill in the blanks, as tempting as it may have been."

Now that it's clear that Burchett is at least two layers of interpretation away from the text which purports to be his own account, the book's first person tone is awfully mendacious. Spiro had gone to extraordinary lengths to make this hasty confection read as if old George had laboured over its production, and it is hard to read the book's opening chapters now the truth has been uncovered. "I am a tattooist", thunders the opening sentence. "It is no longer George Burchett, tattooist, but George Burchett, author... Perhaps because I like the sound of my own voice as much as the next man, and because I honestly wanted to tell people the story of the





old art at which I have spent my life, until they called me 'The King of Tattooists' in every country in the world."

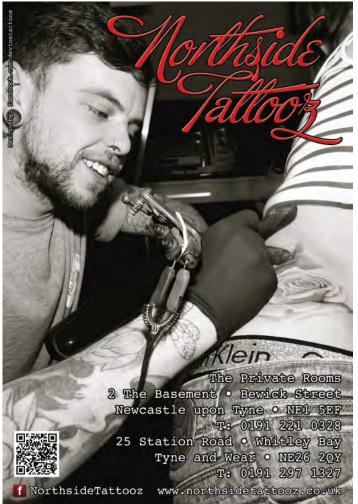
The sheer *chutzpah* of not only putting words into your subject's mouth, but also lacing them with passionate claims for authenticity, honesty and truth has doubtless muddied the waters of the early histories of British tattooing in such a way that it's hard to divide fact from fiction. "I've gathered that George was respectable and hard working", Jon explains, "but it was sometimes tough to decipher where Burchett's words stopped and where the newspaper's took over. And then later, where the newspaper's stopped and Peter Leighton's took over".

In pulling apart the collage, and essentially re-booting Burchett's history though, Jon Reiter has achieved something important: unlike the book which he purportedly wrote, Burchett is very much alive in the pages of Reiter's account. By showing us Burchett's artwork, and by laying out his story alongside the artefacts of his life, it becomes clear exactly what a raw talent he had. "It seems to be the general consensus that Burchett was one of the good guys," concludes Jon. "Someone to look up to. I really do believe the title 'King of Tattooists' is fitting, but not necessarily because he was a better tattooer than others at that time. Rather that, like most kings, Burchett was charismatic, engaging and trusted. He was loyal to the trade and to people, and selfless when it came to his wartime contributions and his reconstructive and cosmetic tattooing. He was a prominent figure, due largely to his willingness to place himself at the mercy of the news media over and over. Over those 50 years, his coverage in the newspapers nearly rivalled that of a real king. I'm not sure when he actually found time to tattoo! And in return, society embraced him as a sort of ambassador to the tattoo world."



ENTED AT THE LIVERPOOL TATTOO CONVEN











Interview by James Photos by Eva Mpatshi

ew tattoo styles are few and far between in the modern era of tattooing. Over the last few years, of course, realism has wowed us but in terms of a movement or the breaking of new visual ground, the development of one style in particular, known as 'trash polka', has changed people's conception of what a tattoo can be.

There will always be artists who respect tradition and work within it, but there are also those who wish to break free from its confines. Eva Mpatshi from Belgium is one such artist. Though she did a fairly traditional apprenticeship, she soon found that there were limits which she craved to go beyond. "I thought I had finally found a creative outlet in tattooing but I began to see this was not really true. I was limited by established rules. I apprenticed with a traditional artist who was also stuck in that pattern, but he never chose to walk through a different door. I knew there were other possibilities but I didn't know how to reach them."

It didn't take long though for Eva to discover tattoo work that she at last felt connected to and inspired by. "I saw work done by Boucherie Moderne and that was a real eye opener. It was genius; they could put one line on the skin and it was a complete tattoo. More importantly it looked good. I knew I had found something and tried to find other artists who worked like this. Then, at the London Tattoo Convention, I stumbled across the Buena Vista Tattoo Club and their 'trash polka' style. I realised the talent that was out there and it became my new goal to reach that level."

By this time Eva was looking for a studio and a teacher to take her to that next level. She was aware of a few artists who she felt really understood how to fit tattoos to the body and had approached them. Although she received encouragement from the likes of Daniel DiMattia of Calypso Tattoo and Vincent

Hocquet of Beautiful Freak Tattoo, they felt she wasn't quite ready to work with them, but she never lost sight of her goal.

Eva got a job in another studio where she gained useful experience but it wasn't the sort of environment in which she wanted to work: "It was a bit of a factory; the bosses just booked in your appointments. I just had to do whatever the clients wanted and that was kind of depressing. Then two years later I got an email from Vincent Hocquet. He said he had been following my work for the last four years. He thought I was doing well and would I like to come and work with him at Beautiful Freak. I was ecstatic!"

This was to be a pivotal point in Eva's journey. She had finally found a studio and a teacher who could help her explore her own creativity through tattooing. "Vincent began to teach me to push the boundaries of size; to ask 'If something was a lot bigger, would it be better?' At first I would try this with just stencils. He could see that I loved to sketch so he said 'OK, if that's what you love to do why not try to tattoo the sketches; try different colours; try anything. If it feels like you have reached a boundary, you have to push through it, and try again and again and again to find the freedom you want.' Now I feel that I've found it, but of course there are times when it is still difficult."

As Eva has travelled further and further down this road she has found it increasingly difficult to work in traditional ways. "Sometimes a client may want some traditional elements but





I find those hard to incorporate in my work. Occasionally I will refuse to do the tattoo. It's better to go to a traditional tattoo artist if that's the style of tattoo you really want. Of course, as an artist you have to find the balance between what you want and what the client wants, which is probably the hardest thing. You can see it in your head but that does not mean you can always explain it to your client." However this isn't so much of a problem anymore because collectors







now know how Eva works and come to her for what she can do for them. But in the beginning it wasn't so easy as not everybody is ready to make that leap of faith. "Try telling somebody you are going to add lots of splatters and sketchy lines to the design without scaring them... I scared myself at times!"

I was fascinated to hear more about how Eva works with her customers: "It all starts with talking, for as long as is needed, so we can get to know each other. It's important for me to feel what they want. Some clients come up with words or emotions they want to put into the tattoo. They always have a bit of an idea what they want but never too much. That gives me more freedom to create something special for them. Sometimes they bring photos or music that they like. It's hard to explain how the process works but as we talk, images just pop up in my head. We might look on the internet for photos, not because they want those exact elements but because it might have the atmosphere they want. I start sketching, combining the elements to see if they work, and then I draw on to the skin to see how the composition works. I then complete the design at home. The first time the client sees the final piece is at their first tattoo appointment. That first sitting is always a full day. That way if the feeling isn't there, or some element needs to be changed, there's time to work on the design."













There are no rules as to how this style of tattooing is applied to the body and how it can travel across it, whether it is minimal or extensive. The possibilities are therefore endless, which suits Eva perfectly. "From the moment I realised this, I've loved it. I try to convince my clients to embrace this but not everybody is open to it. Again with the freehand sketches on the skin I can show them what it would be like if we just extend this line across to another part of the body. Sometimes that's all it takes, other times people are just not ready for it.

"Some collectors who come to me don't have a lot of space left and they have work by some incredible artists. For them to come to me for a small piece is great. It's fun to be part of that collaboration, especially when they let me work my designs in with their other pieces. If they won't let me do that I'd have to ask why they want a piece from me when they won't allow me to do my thing."

Over the last couple of years working with Vincent, Eva's work has progressed and developed in leaps and bounds. This is due in part to her sensitivity to the world around her and the fact that she sees inspiration everywhere: a simple spilled drink can create a splash that begs to be used in one of her designs, for example.





She is constantly experimenting with different techniques in her paintings too, creating unique effects which then throw up the technical challenge of how to recreate them on skin. In many ways this process pushes tattooing into the face of the fine art world like no other. Eva explains: "It is so important for me to design a unique piece for each client which is why I spend so much time talking with them. You see a lot of artists copying other people's tattoos, but I like to think if they





were to try that with one of my pieces it wouldn't work. My clients put a lot of feeling into their tattoos and that cannot be reproduced. For them it's more than just an image on the skin. Most of the work is put on freehand to fit that person's body exactly. If you took the same piece and tried to put it somewhere else it wouldn't fit."

So far tattooing has offered up many challenges for Eva but she has overcome each one with relish and, in the process, moved forward. Her desire to create bespoke pieces of art for her clients has brought her success, which has come as a surprise to this modest young artist. "The recognition I get for my work is a privilege for me because I don't expect it. It's always a nice surprise when my waiting list builds up and I have to tell somebody that they must wait a long time for an appointment. Luckily they always say 'That's OK. I have time.' "In a world so fixated on immediate

gratification, it's nice to know some people still believe there are things that are worth waiting for.

Eva's website www.mpatshi.be





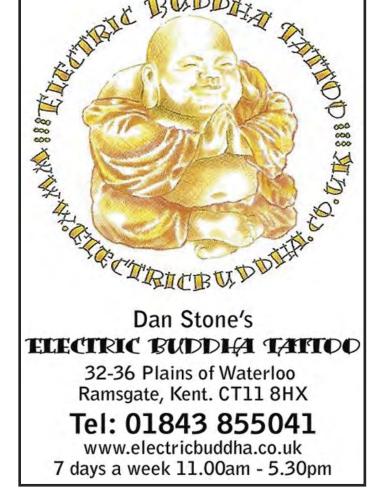






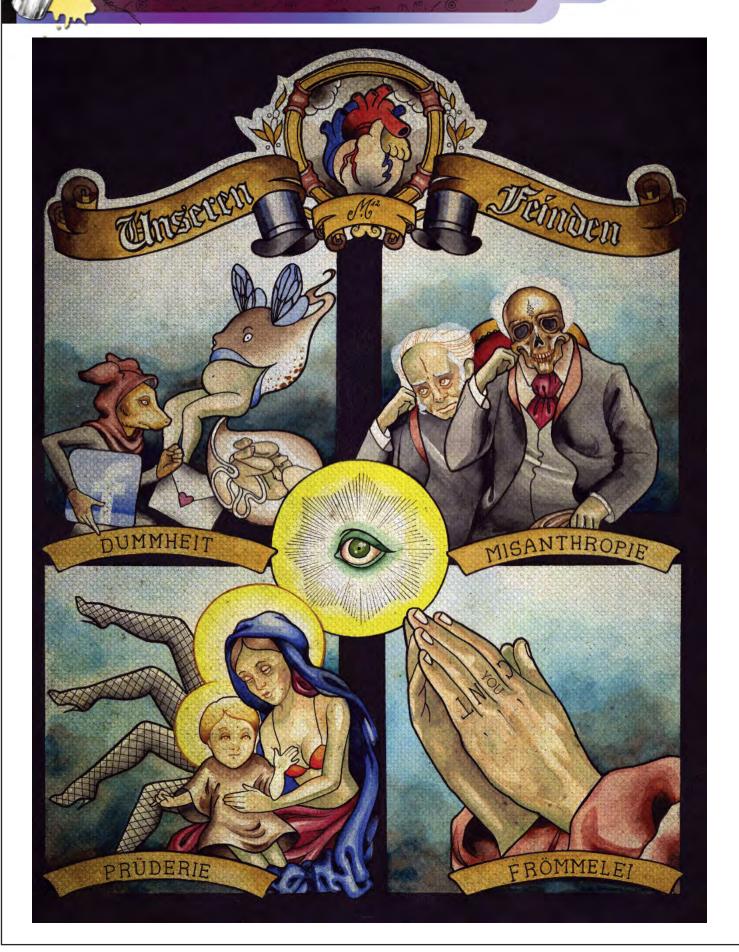








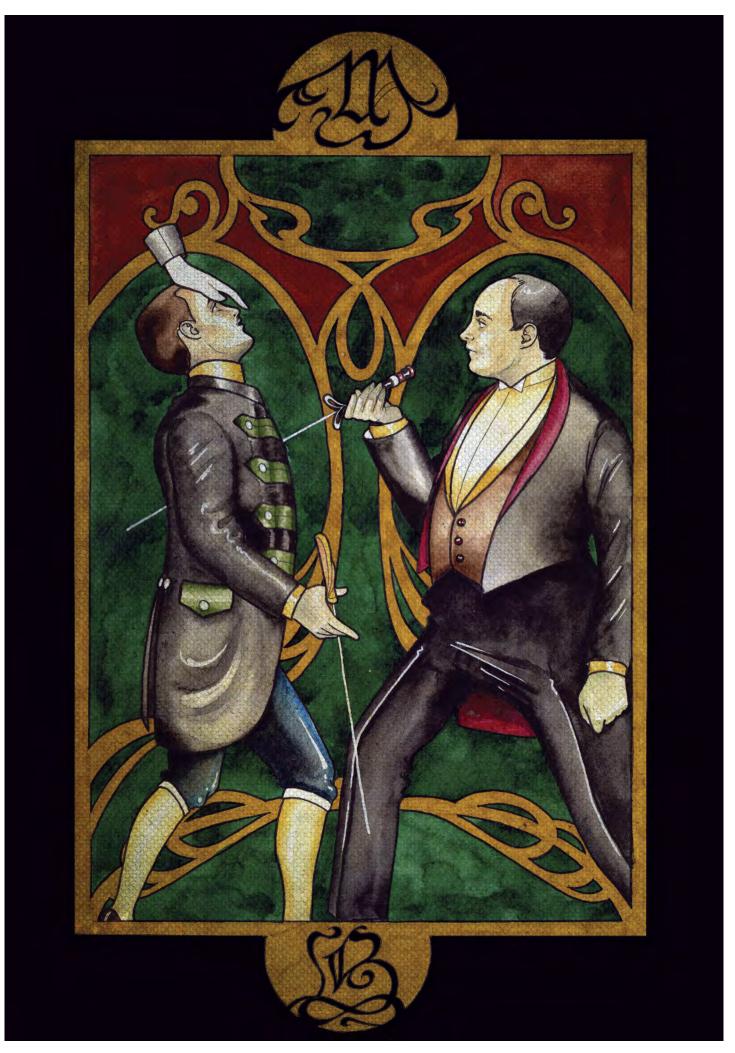
PRIVATE VIEW



Our showcase for paintings, drawings and design work by the most creative tattooists on the planet. This month Myra Brodsky, The Decay Parlour, Germany If you would like us to consider your work, please send examples to:

Private View, Total Tattoo Magazine, PO Box 10038, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 7WL, UK

















- l. tony by evo, wicked needles
- 2. zak by sneaky mitch, inspirations tattoo
- 3. sarah by kate johnson, black cat tattoo
- 4. mary gold, the compère

CALLOO CXIO

ow in its second year at the Highfields Holiday Park in Clacton, Essex, The East Coast Tattoo Expo seems to have settled comfortably into its new home. On a surprisingly sunny day in the middle of November over 70 talented tattooists came together to enjoy a weekend by the seaside. The organisers – and recently married couple – Sonya from Reds Tattoo and Glyn from Pirate Tattoo managed to book the entire entertainment complex for the whole weekend, complete with luxury static caravans on site, ensuring that nobody needed to travel far to get their fill of fun.

As you entered the L-shaped building, just off the bar area to the left was a long room housing half of the artists, set out in three long rows. The layout closely followed last year's plan, with frosted glass panels along the entirety of one wall ensuring a bright working environment. Back in the bar area there was a small corridor which housed a further ten tattoo booths, a jewellery stall and trade suppliers. From here you could go through the arcade area into the main entertainment hall which housed another large bar and seating area, along with 30 or so tattoo booths as well as the stage and dance floor – essential elements in a holiday park!

Many familiar faces turned up to support the show including Ray Hunt (Diablo Tattoo), the Cherry Blossom crew headed up by Glenn Symonds and Lee Curry, Emma from Lady Luck, along with Nigel from Suns and Roses, and Mike from Tsunami Tattoo. There were many new young guns including the fantastic Sam Bowyer from Silver Needles and Duane Robinson from his newly opened Illumin-Eye, along with Zak from Blaze Tattoo and Alan and Sim from Cosmic Tattoo who were all solidly booked throughout the whole weekend.

Every year this show has a theme and for 2012 it was The Oscars. Many people made the effort with dinner jackets and ball gowns. One hardy soul came as the Oscar statue itself, which was pretty brave for such a chilly weekend! The East Coast Expo is known for its entertainment and party atmosphere, although last year's Western-themed extravaganza with fireworks, dozens of bands, a bucking bronco and gunfight weekend proved a stretch too far so the entertainment was sensibly trimmed back this year. The focus was on quality over quantity. One fantastic band on the Saturday night — The Committed (a Commitments tribute band) — and Mary Gold, a transvestite compère, was all that was required to keep the crowd happy.







Tattooing was definitely the main event and over the weekend the fashion for realistic portraits was evident. A fine example was Sam Bowyer's portrait of show organiser Sonya on her partner Glyn's arm, along with Ronnie Goddard's female portrait in black and grey that won the coveted Best of Show Trophy. The trophies this year were individual enamel signs, which were both unique and original, and would look great gracing the walls of any studio.

The only downside to this show was the way the competitions were run on the Sunday afternoon. With no pre-registration, the plan was simply to form an orderly queue at 4pm for the judges to view the entries in private. The problem was the time it took; some people were literally standing in a queue for two and a half hours, while in the main room a stage area with plenty of seating around it lay empty. Lots of people were disappointed to miss out on the spectacle of the competition, which has now become part of the entertainment and helps to showcase the work done over the weekend. Whilst it is true that whatever method you use you cannot please all the people all the time, I do think this is an area where there's some room for improvement.

Having said that, this is a laid-back, fun show; numbers through the door were up on last year; and the standard of the work being created was great. There are a lot of facilities for the family, good food and plenty of parking, as well some top notch tattooing. If you have never been to the East Coast Tattoo Expo, I'd highly recommend it.





















- 5. mark by andy frost, blood sweat and pain
 6. paige by kev heath, rogues gallery
 7. al grid by alex, tattoo inc
 8. dan by sarah, lady luck

- jed by ronnie goddard, blood sweat and pain
 darren by dan, black sails
 ronnie goddard
 sam bowyer
 glen by pete oz, seven star
 by steve cutter, dexterity ink









Winners Japanese Fergus by Evo, Wicked Needles

Traditional Accomplice Tattoo

New School Dickie by Sim Abbott, Cosmic Tattoo

Large Black n Grey Rebekha by Sam Bowyer, Silver Needles 2

PortraitDanny by Jonny, Black Lotus

Small ColourDan by Steve Cutter, Dexterity Tattoo

Large Colour Peter by Ray Hunt, Diablo Tattoo

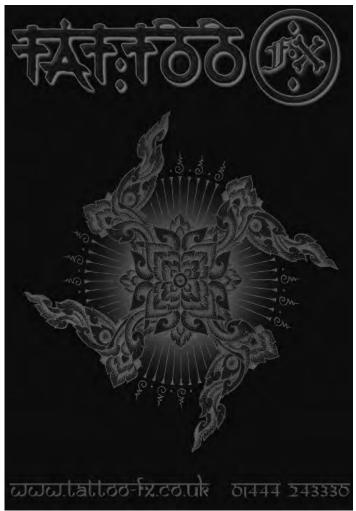
Small Black and Grey Will by Ben, Rogues Gallery

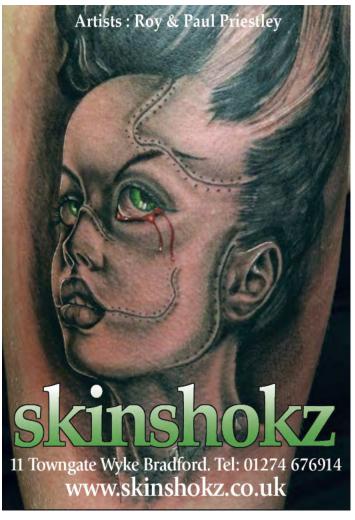
Best in Show Jed by Ronnie Goddard, Blood Sweat and Pain

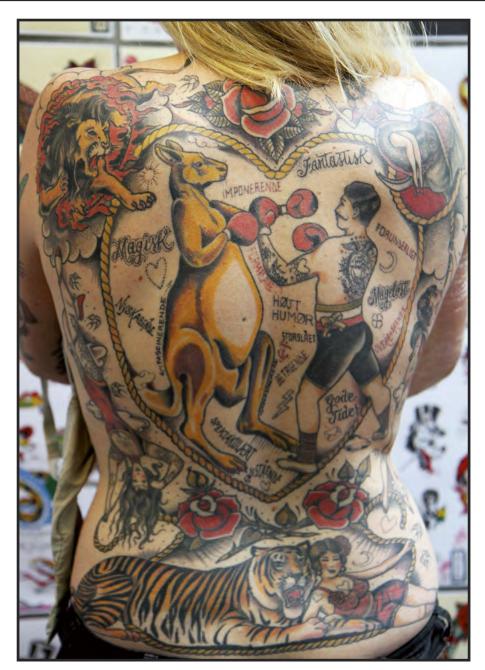


- 15. rachael by dan banas, bananas tattoo
- 16. paddy by kev, cut throat tattoo17. paul by ray hunt, diablo tattoo
- 18. tony by matt, diablo tattoo
- 19. fantastic enamel trophies







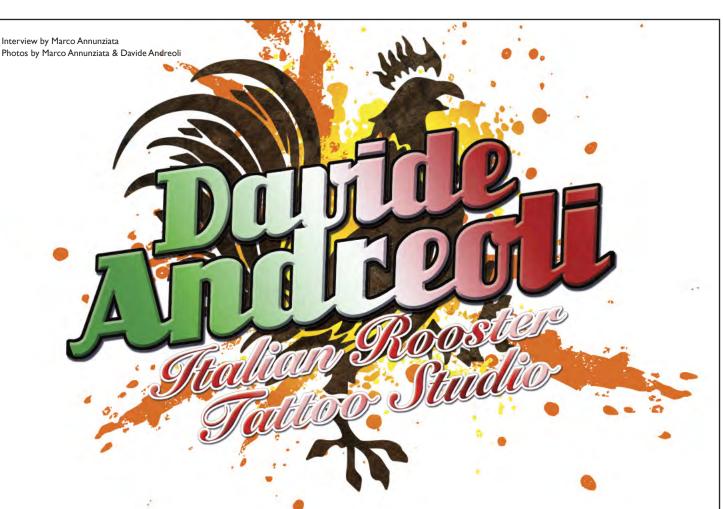
















avide Andreoli's work is steeped in the European tradition of finely crafted, bold tattoos that stand the test of time. He is immensely proud to be part of the Italian tattoo community and his studio Italian Rooster has become a guarantee of quality for tattoos which are 'Made in Italy'. We went to Rho, a city nearby Milan, to chat with him.

How did you start tattooing?

I was born and raised in a working class neighbourhood, not far from Milan. It was a place with a lot of problems and it wasn't easy to live there. Ever since I was a kid I was aware of tattoos; I remember the ones on people who used to hang out at the bar near my house. They were homemade tattoos, done with sewing needles and some ink; I don't even remember what the subjects were. So I always had tattooed people around me, but that's not the reason I started tattooing. My dream was to become a painter, just like my grandpa. I was determined to follow in his footsteps but when he passed away I felt totally lost, so I gave up with painting and started a graphic design course.

A few years later, when I first saw a tattoo done with an electric machine, I was flabbergasted! And, even though I thought tattooing was an underground phenomenon, connected to crime and violence, and that it would be impossible for me to learn how to do it, I decided to try. I bought a machine and learned how to make needles and mix inks. I did a tattoo on myself and the result wasn't too bad, so I started tattooing other people in the neighbourhood. I was 17 and I've been tattooing ever since!

Who are your mentors and biggest influences?

I learned a lot just by watching my own tattoos being done by talented artists such as Gianmaurizio Fercioni and Dadi Carulli. Every time that I got a new tattoo, I stole some secrets! Through them, I also realised that being a tattoo artist could be considered a real job.

Do you think that drawing skills are essential to be a good tattooist?

A reputable tattoo artist needs to know how to draw to satisfy his customers. Years ago, there were only a few tattoo artists who had some drawing ability and created new styles but today people are extremely demanding and always asking for new ideas. All the flash and drawings that you see hanging on these walls - even the old, ugly ones - are a reminder for me and anyone else who works here that when we draw a tattoo, it will be going on someone's skin and not in an art exhibition.

For the same reason, I pay a lot of attention to colour in my work. Over the years, I have tried to minimise the colours I use and keep it simple; now my palette is composed exclusively of red, yellow, black and white. From these I can create my own hues and give my tattoos a real identity. When I am not tattooing, I enjoy doing oil painting, so I am constantly being creative.















How come you do so many tattoos of circus characters? I love everything that is related to the circus tradition because that's the first place where tattoos were displayed as an art form, during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. There were characters such as John Rutherford, Nora Hildebrandt and Betty Broadbent. Heavily tattooed people earned money for displaying their tattoos and circuses competed to have the most tattooed person. In those days tattoo artists used to make money while travelling with the circus!





















Where does the name Italian Rooster come from?

I like to be the only rooster in the henhouse! I also chose the name because when I started to go to conventions around the world I wanted everyone to know I'm Italian.

Who else works with you at the shop?

I used to work with three other artists, but last year I decided to work just with Maurizio Crudo who I've known over ten years. I'm not particularly interested in having apprentices in the shop; Maurizio used to be one though and now he can create a tattoo in the Italian Rooster style! We make a terrific team.

Have you ever thought about leaving Italy?

Never! I love being able to share the values of tattooing within my community and, of course, export the 'Italian style' when I travel abroad.

How important is travelling for a tattoo artist?

Travelling is extremely important to see how people work in other countries and learn new things. I like going to national and international conventions. It is a fantastic opportunity to see new places or go back to cities that I love. I like going to the London Convention because I can meet up with a lot of old friends and because the city has a lot to offer in terms of art shows, museums, concerts and so on.

Have you seen any changes in the tattoo industry that concern you?

One thing that bothers me is when young kids come to the shop and ask for tattoos on their hands or necks. Regardless of their reasons, I consider a tattoo in visible areas as some kind of reward, so I only do this if the customer is heavily tattooed. I found the courage to get my hands tattooed only a few years ago: I chose to get two galleons from two of the artists that I admire the most, Gianmaurizio Fercioni and Bill Loika, who represent the Italian and Dutch traditions respectively.

Tattoos are becoming more commonplace and that is both a good and a bad thing. The fact that you can see ink on soccer players, models, pop stars and actors is gradually helping closeminded people accept tattoos, which is good.

Milan is one of the fashion capitals of the world and those who live here are strongly influenced by aesthetics and design. I'm worried that too many people get tattooed without thinking deeply enough about it. I also think that currently there are too many 'skin painters' who do incredibly artistic pieces with a strong aesthetic value, but they are too far from what a tattoo should be. You've got to respect traditions!

Davide's website www.italianrooster.it

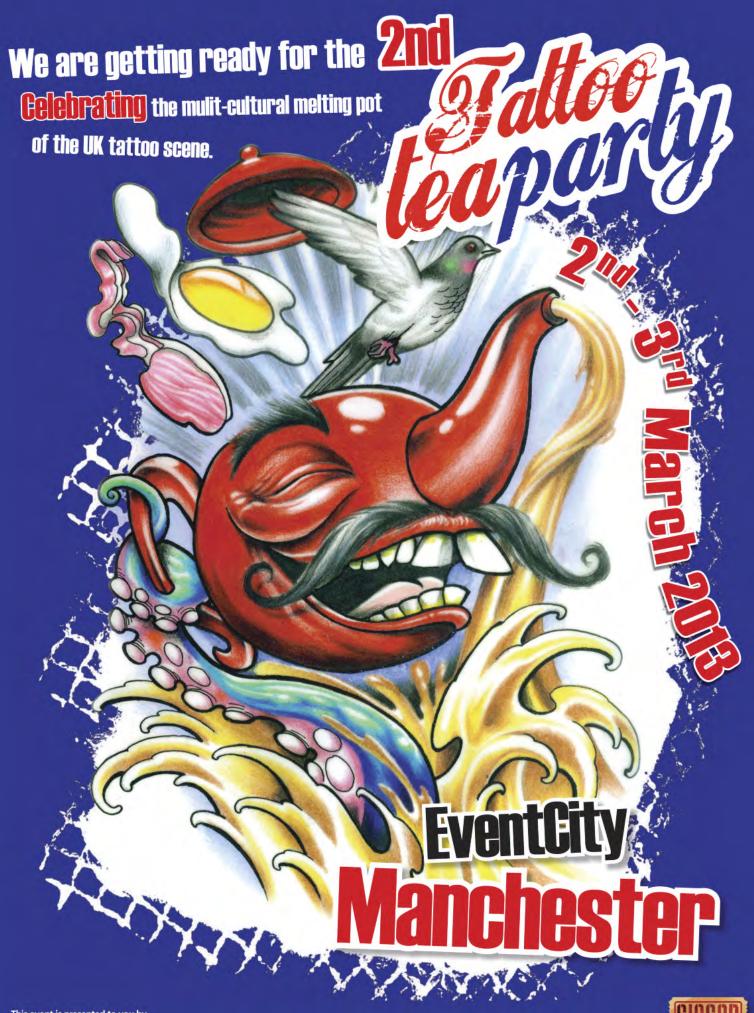
















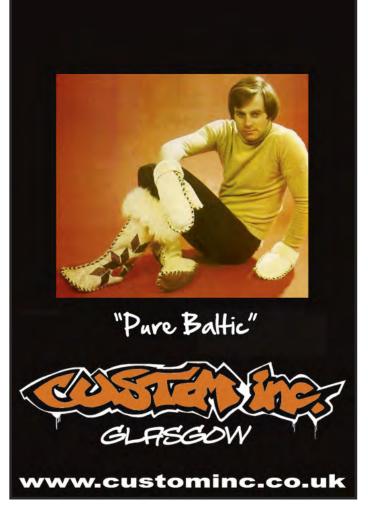










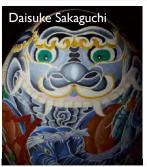


next month

in Total Tattoo issue 101 on sale Thursday 7th February









Interviews

- Robert Hernandez
 A 20 year retrospective
- Federico Ferroni Beautiful Japanese interpretations from Miami, USA
- Chris Lambert Traditional tattoos done right

Features

- Chris Cougar Speaks as he finds
- Daisuke Sakaguchi Transforming the mundane
- Private View Deno Tattoo
- **Mel Noir** Has something on her mind
- **Mugshot** John Fagan, from Lost Cause in the chair
- Cover Model Profile Miss Tonnii
- Gallery Plus More of what you love

Conventions

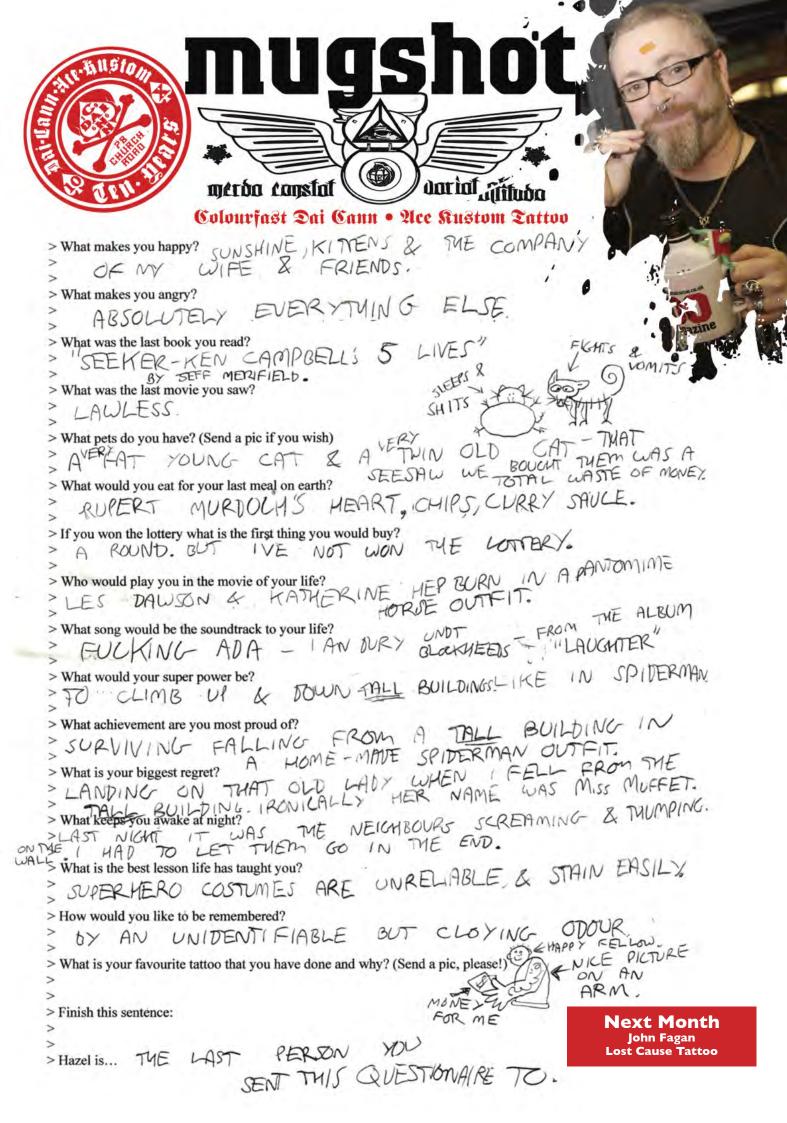
- Berlin Tattoo Convention
- New Zealand Tattoo Art Festival
- The Jurassic Coast Tattoo Convention

All details correct at time of going to press

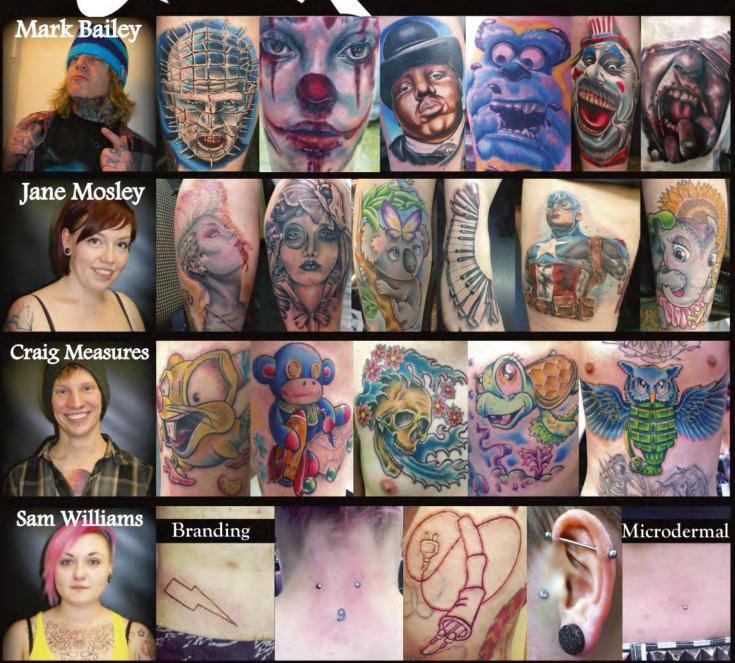
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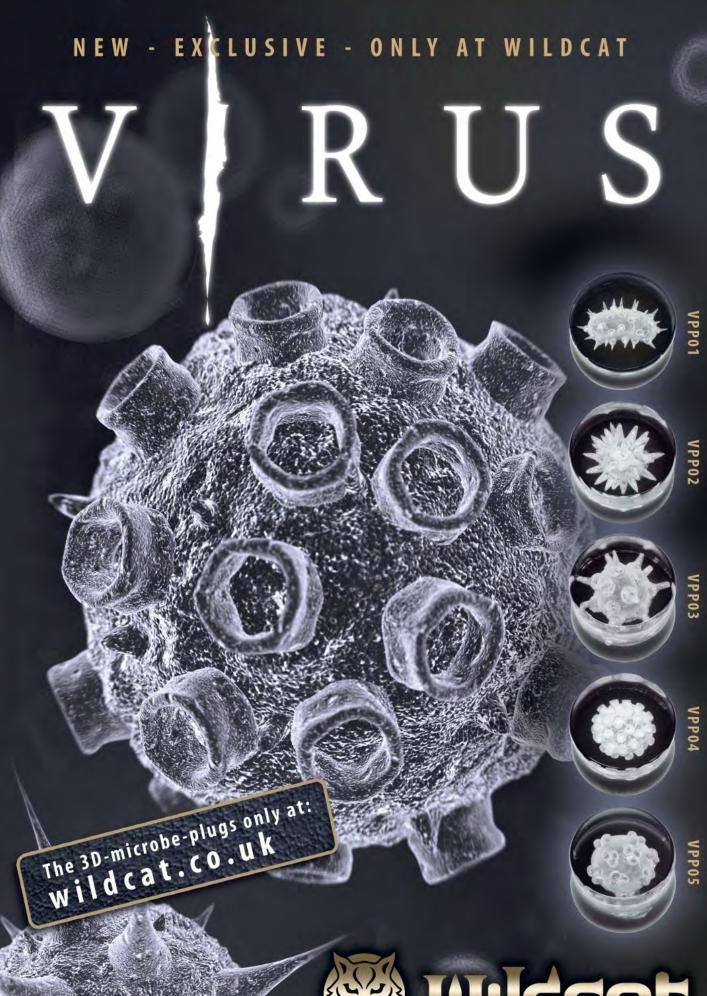
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