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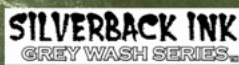
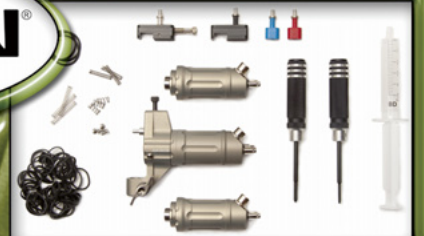


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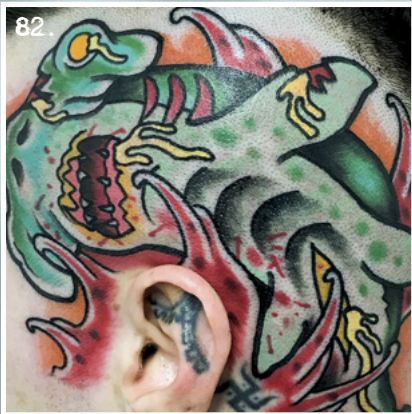
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# WELCOME to 166

I have a job with many different roles. Sometimes I am asked to comment on tattoo topics within the realms of the mainstream media, outside our own tattoo bubble. To be honest, this is something I don't enjoy. I have never felt that the tattoo world particularly needed a spokesperson.

I find the national press to be predominantly fairly negative towards the tattoo community. Things tend to get twisted in an effort to make them far more sensational than they often are. I was recently asked to do a radio interview about the gun image that England football striker Raheem Sterling has had tattooed on his lower right leg. At the time, the country appeared to be up in arms about it (pun intended). 'Gun Tat Fury', 'Tat's Gun Too Far!' shrieked the headlines. 'How can a person in the public eye be so irresponsible?' 'He's promoting gun crime!' It would appear that TV presenter Piers Morgan was one of the most outspoken critics, despite Raheem's own public defense of his decision to get the tattoo and his moving explanation of the deeper meaning behind his choice of imagery.

I diligently went away to do my research and made sure I had all my arguments in place before I shared my thoughts on the situation. The next morning at 7am the phone rang for my moment in airwave history. A quick welcome and one or two questions later it was all over. Cut short by an important weather report!

The fact that I was even asked to pass comment was a testament to how slow the news was on that day. My personal opinion is that Raheem has the right to choose whatever he likes to be tattooed on himself. This is still a 'free' country and the day we start to dictate what a person in the public eye is allowed to get tattooed on their body will be a very sad day indeed. We must all individually decide what is appropriate for our lifestyles and professional roles, and we must all take responsibility for ourselves. Just because Raheem's career is within the public domain, it doesn't mean his choices need to be agreed by committee. Of course he himself will have to live with those choices, and put up with the opinions expressed by others, but that's the same for all of us. The day you start to worry too much about what other people think is the day you stop thinking for yourself.



**Perry**  
Editorial Team  
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"There are two good things in life - freedom of thought and freedom of action.

*W. Somerset Maugham*

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# NEWS AND REVIEWS

Tattoo news and reviews for your delectation and delight. If it goes on in the tattoo world, it goes in here. Send us your news items, books or products for review and items of general curiosity and intrigue for the tattoo cognoscenti.

News, Total Tattoo Magazine, 111 Furze Road, Norwich NR7 0AU

## SOCK IT TO 'EM

Tattooist Richard Lazenby has a passion for socks. Bright colours... cool designs... he knows how good they make you feel. He also believes that the socks you wear reflect your personality (does this mean our very own Perry is a holy person?) Richard has recently launched a new venture aiming to bring quality and comfort to sock fans everywhere. TRUE GRIT ENGLAND socks are hand-stitched and made to last. Happy customers use them for outdoor running, climbing, walking, biking and just generally looking awesome. Richard put a lot of effort into finding a suitable UK-based manufacturer and eventually discovered the perfect long-established family firm with all the right knowledge and experience; he's genuinely proud of the fact that he didn't opt for a manufacturer outside the UK simply to make his socks cheaper. As the owner of Crooked Claw Tattoo in Sheffield and True 'Til Death Tattoo in Accrington, Richard is known for his clean, bright, solid traditional tattoo designs so it's no surprise that he designed the True Grit logo too. Check out

[truegritengland.bigcartel.com](http://truegritengland.bigcartel.com), the True Grit facebook page and Richard's Instagram [@truegritengland](https://www.instagram.com/truegritengland) for more details.



### STUDIO MANAGER WANTED

The Church tattoo studio in Redditch are now looking for a new studio manager. They will be contacting everyone who previously applied for the post, but if you haven't already sent in your cv they would like to hear from you. Studio experience is preferable, and you must be a hard-working, organised, computer-literate person with no drink or drug issues. You need to have a full driving licence. Email [thechurchtattoo@hotmail.com](mailto:thechurchtattoo@hotmail.com) as soon as possible.

## STOLEN TATTOO MACHINES



After a recent break-in, Studio 51/50 in Dunfermline are appealing for the return of stolen tattoo equipment. One of their main concerns is the damage that could be done if their machines get used unsafely by those who don't know (or don't care) about professional, hygienic tattooing. Studio owners Marc and Laura had invested their life savings in the business – plus a lot of time, effort and love. The premises were wrecked by the thieves, who flung ink across the walls and stole a laptop and a Fender Stratocaster guitar. Heartbreakingly, they also destroyed a collection of artwork that had been built up over many years.



# 10 SUBSCRIPTIONS TO YOUR FAVOURITE TATTOO MAGAZINE TO BE WON!

At last summer seems to have finally arrived! Time to show off those tattoos and celebrate the beginning of the toasty season. (don't forget your sun cream!) Now it's here and because it puts everyone in such a good mood, we've decided to give away 10 subscriptions of your favourite tattoo magazine to you our lovely readers.

That's 12 issues delivered direct to your front door every month for free!

There is no catch and it is dead simple to enter all you have to do is email the magazine telling us who you would most like to see interviewed in the magazine, the first 10 drawn out of the hat / bucket will win. There are no cash alternatives for any of the prizes. Usual terms and conditions apply – see page 4/5.)

To be in with a chance of winning, simply send us your suggestions and we'll do the rest.

Email your suggestions to [comps@totaltattoo.co.uk](mailto:comps@totaltattoo.co.uk) with SUBSCRIPTION as the subject line to arrive no later than 10th August. The winners will be notified via email.



## TATTOO FRIENDLY JAPAN

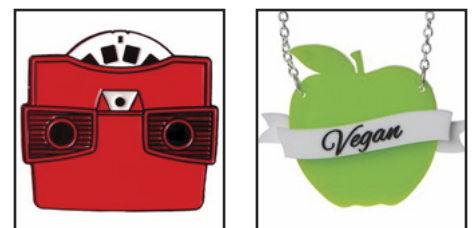
We've heard about a new website that could be a really handy resource for travellers to Japan. Most people are aware of the difficulties that can be faced by tattooed tourists, who are often refused entry to public baths, swimming pools or hot springs because of their ink. However, it seems that attitudes are beginning to change. With tourism on the increase and tattoos starting to be regarded simply as body art rather than signifying Yakuza membership, it's now becoming possible to find places that don't have an outright ban on bathers with tattoos. The crew at the new TATTOO FRIENDLY website carried out extensive research to identify the individual policies of bathing establishments all over Japan. They've created a very helpful directory for visitors, with listings that include not only each establishment's tattoo policy but also descriptions of the location and its facilities, plus photos and contact details. The website even has a brief guide explaining the difference between an 'onsen' (hot spring), a 'rotenburo' (open-air bath), a 'sentō' (communal bath) and other types of bathing facility, plus advice on all-important Japanese etiquette. Check out [www.tattoo-friendly.jp](http://www.tattoo-friendly.jp)



## SUGAR AND VICE



Canterbury based jewellery company Sugar & Vice and renowned local tattoo artist Amy Savage bonded over their shared plant-based lifestyles and love of animals, and decided to join creative forces for these charity pieces. Amy was responsible for the beautiful designs, while Sugar & Vice laser cut and hand finished the pendants. A £5 donation from the sale of each necklace goes to The Retreat Animal Rescue in Ashford. Check out [www.sugarandvicedesigns.com](http://www.sugarandvicedesigns.com)





## SOME DAY MY INK WILL COME



Fashionistas and Royal fans will obviously know this already: the latest trend in semi-permanent make-up is the 'Meghan Markle Freckle'. Fake freckles have of course been around for a long time but following the Royal Wedding, cosmetic tattooists the world over are reporting a surge in interest, with numerous clients wanting to emulate the Duchess of Sussex's look. If you're considering enhancing your complexion in this way, remember – as always – to use only a professional, reputable studio. Tattooed freckles may be tiny (and will fade in two or three years), but they need to be skilfully applied and carefully positioned if they're going to look convincing. And they carry exactly the same health risks as any other tattoo if safe and hygienic procedures are not followed.

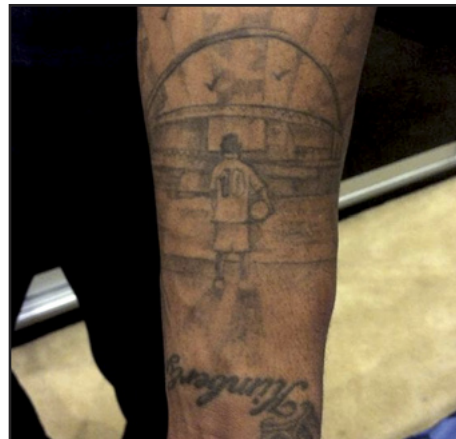


## WHOSE TATTOO IS IT ANYWAY?



As we go to print, England footballer Raheem Sterling's gun tattoo is all over the news. In many ways it's a bit of a non-story – a storm in a teacup whipped up by the tabloids and social media – but it's the kind of controversy that highlights the powerful messages tattoos can communicate, intentional or otherwise. According to press interviews, Raheem (whose father was murdered in a shooting incident when Raheem was just a boy) got the tattoo on his right leg to signify his vow never to touch a gun. And it has a double meaning for him, because he's also a right-footed striker. However, he's taken a lot of flak from those who are saying it's an inappropriate image for a public figure to wear, because they feel it glamorises guns. But surely it's only the wearer of a tattoo who can decide its true meaning?

Having said that, our news radar has picked up a story from New Zealand that is dividing opinions in a different way. A while back, life coach Sally Anderson made the decision to adorn her chin with Maori moko – which traditionally represents ancestry and personal history. Although not Maori herself, she is married to a Maori man and has been quoted as saying the ink represents her own life struggle and transformational work as a life



coach. But is it OK for a white person with no Maori heritage to receive moko? Some have accused her of appropriating this sacred tradition for personal gain (citing the promotional photo on her business website). Many people have commented on her lack of entitlement to wear such a design, arguing that Maori cultural heritage should be protected and that ta moko is an important aspect of the post-colonial reclaiming of Maori identity. Others, however, don't see a problem. There are lots of comments on social media describing it as a perfect example of the contemporary merging of cultures – "cultural appreciation" rather than "cultural appropriation."



## ARTISTS WANTED

Established studio Illustrated Primate are looking for experienced artists to join their busy shop. All styles will be considered, but please note that this is not an apprenticeship. If you are interested, please email [onlyonetrini@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:onlyonetrini@yahoo.co.uk) with links to your portfolio, or call 01787 828743 if you'd like any more information.



## # ME TOO



Tattooist Alex Bage of Fat Panda Tattoo in Bishop Auckland is spearheading a movement against sexual misconduct and abuse in the tattoo industry. His aim is to raise awareness of the sad fact that some tattooists still seem to feel that it's OK to take advantage of their customers, especially (but not exclusively) vulnerable young women. And of course for the rest of their lives these customers will be wearing the tattoo made by that very tattooist as a constant reminder of what happened to them. Having heard so many stories of sexual assault and harassment – and realising that it's more widespread than most people imagine – Alex decided he had to do something about it. He has started sharing some of the messages he has received on social media as a way of supporting and giving a voice to those who have had such demeaning or damaging experiences – and to show the bullies and those who perpetrate these acts that there are people who will stand up to them. Alex feels it's just so important for people who have had such negative or harmful experiences to know that their stories will be heard, especially if the tattoo they were getting was, in itself, supposed to signify a new, positive chapter in their life.

[www.instagram.com/p/BkK6sjdHEcT/?taken-by=alex\\_bage](https://www.instagram.com/p/BkK6sjdHEcT/?taken-by=alex_bage)

## I TAT-DO!

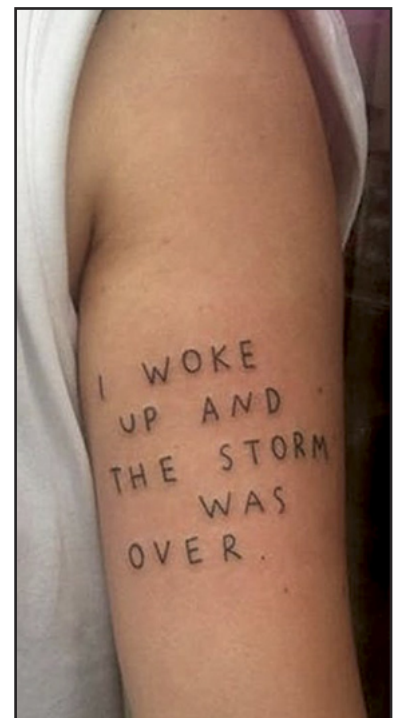
We've heard about a new trend in wedding favours that seems to be sweeping America: tattoos for your guests! A tattooist is brought into the reception, and relatives and friends of the happy couple are given a tiny tattoo – most commonly a romantic symbol such as a heart – so that they too can remember the day for ever. Some couples even provide a choice of custom designs for their guests, to reflect the theme of the occasion or their own unique personalities. For many wedding guests, this will of course be their first tattoo and it can often be a spur-of-the-moment decision as they get caught up in the emotion of the moment and want to show their love and support for the newlyweds.



## MY WORDS YOUR BODY



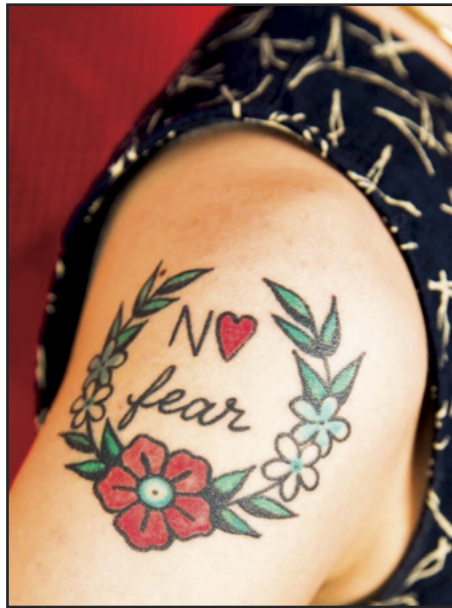
Monty von Richtofen from Munich, Germany, is studying for a BA(Hons) in Performance: Design & Practice at Central Saint Martins in London. Working under the name Maison Hefner, he's been tattooing complete strangers with random pieces of script without them knowing in advance what the wording will be. It's a unique art project and it's also an incredible testament to the trust people will place in each other. The project is called, appropriately, 'My Words Your Body.' Each encounter with a potential tattooee begins with an in-depth conversation during which Monty aims to assess their state of mind and decide on the wording, and the placement on the body, for the tattoo. He asks questions about the person's motivation for wanting to be part of the project, how they might feel if they don't like the tattoo, and how the (as yet undecided) wording of the tattoo might relate to their identity or life story. He stipulates that people mustn't use their phones during the tattooing process, as he feels it's important for them to be in the here-and-now. Crucially, they are unable to watch what he is doing and will not see the tattoo until it is finished. The project is clearly about power – and the ease with which it can be abused – but Monty emphasises that he himself has much more to gain by making a positive contribution to the life of the person who is so blindly trusting him with their body, and says he would not consider tattooing anything inappropriate, tasteless or offensive. He describes how people seem to get quite a kick from letting go and trusting their body to a safe-yet-dangerous experience – a bit like bungee jumping. Monty has a huge waiting list and says that, as far as he knows, nobody has yet been disappointed with their tattoo.





## STILL NOT ASKING FOR IT

On 10th June, more than fifty tattoo shops around the world participated in the Still Not Asking For It Flash Event. More than a quarter of a million dollars was raised for local and national organisations campaigning to put an end to sexual violence and offering support to those affected. It's an astounding total, and the organisers are sending out a huge message of thanks to all the shops, studios, tattooists and clients who took part – plus everyone who made a donation or helped in any way.  
[@stillnotaskingforit\\_flashevent](#)



Hello world! My partner, Jessica, & I are ECSTATIC to see the popularity & growth that SNAFI is experiencing! This event is something that has taken us years to develop to this point, and is something we not only hold dear to our hearts, but also invest a lot of time & energy into. We want to see SNAFI grow to it's full potential, but we also feel strongly about maintaining it's integrity & harmony. We have been in steady contact with the 50+ participants this year, in an effort to keep everyone coordinated. IF YOU ARE PLANNING ON HOSTING A SNAFI EVENT ON JUNE 10, AND HAVE NOT HAD CONTACT WITH US, PLEASE DO SO ASAP!

As of this year, we are keeping the events to one shop per city/area/district, with a couple special exceptions. We will be figuring out how to let the event grow even stronger next year.





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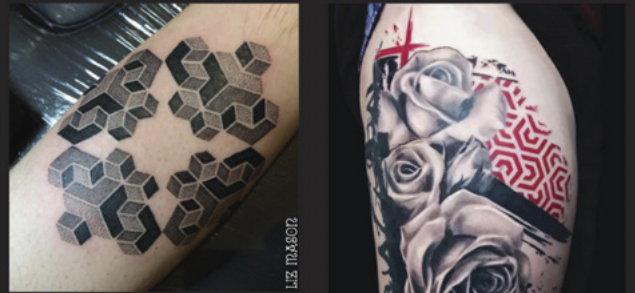
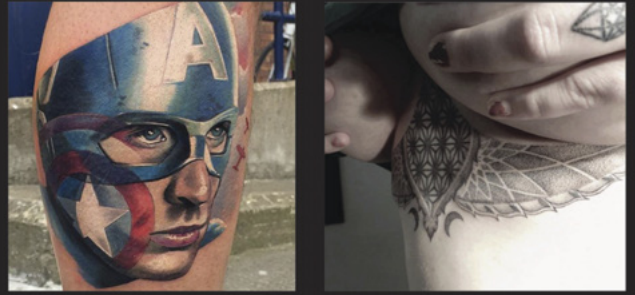


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# FIBS



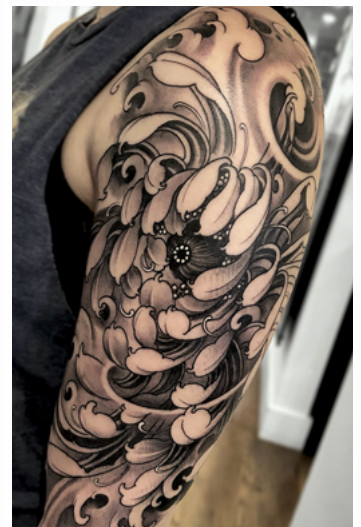
**F**rom black and grey roses to large-scale illustrative skulls, it's evident that Puerto Rican tattooist Fibs is an exceptional artist. He was doing wild style graffiti and murals in his early teens, and it wasn't long before he was drawn to the buzz of the tattoo machine. But that was a couple of decades ago. And now? He's continued to push himself, and his tattoos have a unique energy and style to them, influenced by the traditions of Japanese tattooing and his roots in street art.

For many tattooists, opening their own studio is a career pinnacle. It's what they're working towards. But Fibs is doing it the other way round. Having owned a studio in Puerto Rico for six years, he felt he needed to travel and see the world in order to take his tattooing to the next level. It was visiting the London convention – his first large international show – that inspired this decision.

"That convention changed my life," he says. "I took so much away from it. Seeing the work of all those other artists, suddenly I knew how I wanted my own work to progress;

how it should heal, how it should be constructed to bring in contrast. I knew exactly what I needed to do. I just needed to do it! From that point on, I started consciously making more connections with other tattooists, exchanging ideas, working conventions... I became totally hooked. And I decided to close my shop and dedicate my career to travelling and working privately."

"Tattooing is an individual game," Fibs continues, "and I felt that I needed to work solo. I needed my own space to think, focus and develop. Working with three other guys in the shop, everything was done as a group and I'm sorry, but as far as I'm concerned, you will never progress and reach your full potential as an artist that way. With tattooing, you're not in a band!"





"When I closed the shop, people told me it was a bold move and a brave thing to do - but I know that behind my back everyone was also saying I was crazy. To be a successful tattooist nowadays, you need to work your arse off. I was working all the time, promoting myself, pushing myself forward. But after a year of tattooing in my private studio, the work I was doing was the best I'd ever done. I was really happy. Then a couple of years ago we had a terrible hurricane in Puerto Rico. It caused a lot of devastation. That was when I decided it was time to move on."

"I was already guest spotting at Red Rocket Tattoo in New York City and Guru Tattoo in San Diego, so I decided to grow my clientele in each of those two places - one on the east coast of America and one on the west. I'm having a lot of fun, and of course I'm still enjoying the travelling. I'm really lucky to be working alongside Adam Hays [Red Rocket Tattoo] and Aaron Della Vedova [Guru Tattoo]."

"Guru is amazing. Just visiting that studio was a game changer. It's such an inspiring place to see. And working with Adam Hays at Red Rocket has been really good for me. We like a lot of the same artists and you can see their influence in both his work and mine, even though our styles are very different. He has so much ability and he's so happy to share his knowledge. I do feel it's important to know your history. Not just tattoo history, but also art history. And modern popular culture in particular. Graffiti and comic books have had such an influence on tattooing."



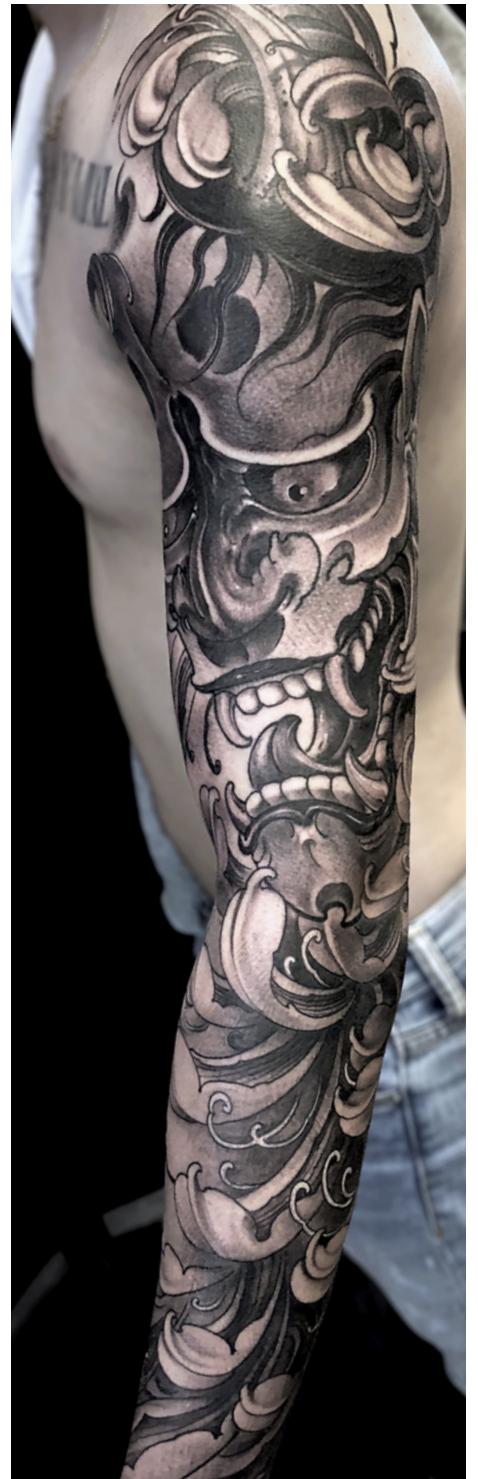


In common with a lot of tattooists today, Fibs was into graffiti before making the leap to tattooing. I asked him to tell me more. "I wasn't having much success earning money as a graffiti artist; you spend more than you earn. A lot of the people I admired at the time were also moving into tattooing, so it just made sense. This was back in 1999. The magazines were full of amazing technical black and grey realism. I started out doing everything – lettering, traditional, you name it – but I was really into the Japanese. It worked out really well. I could earn enough money with tattooing to buy my spray paints and for a while everything was good. But in the end I had to let the graffiti go because it was taking up too much of my time and I figured I needed to focus on the tattooing to step it up."

I ask Fibs about the similarities between the two art forms. "You can take composition, colour schemes and the natural flow of things from graffiti – those things are similar to tattooing – but when it comes to Japanese, there are lots of rules. Dragons, for instance. Before you can do them in your own style, you must first learn to draw them the way they've been drawn for centuries. It's only when you really know how to draw a traditional dragon that you can change it and do it your way. I guess that's true of both graffiti and tattooing. With both art forms you have to start small and master the basics before you can experiment and go mad!"







Fibs is an experienced, well-rounded artist who has perfected his technical ability over many years. This has given him the creative freedom to develop his own unique style of Japanese, and to make his work stand out with its strong stylistic construction. "I've learnt a lot of tricks to help me achieve the kind of end results that I visualise in my mind," he tells me. "I feel lucky to have these skills, and to be able to make my clients' ideas a reality. This has made it easy for me to build a strong client base. Now, I can be very particular about what I want to do. But even though people may think, 'Oh that Fibs, he only does Japanese', if an interesting black and grey project comes through the door and excites me, then I'll do it."





"I do feel it's important to establish a specific look and style, and it's my years of experience in tattooing that keep me committed to my chosen path. These days, it's trendy to have your own style early in your career. Some artists have only been tattooing for a couple of years and they already have a niche - which is nice, but you can't cover all the bases if you haven't worked in a walk-in shop perfecting all the various techniques. That's what you need for a long career. You're kind of missing out, really. But maybe this is the way the new world of tattooing is going to be? Those of us who have been tattooing for a long time have a respect for the craft. We know how to tune and set up a coil machine; we know that needles were made by hand. And that's really good, because all that stuff makes you appreciate the modern cartridges, rotary machines and inks."



Many artists remain loyal to the coil, but I notice that Fibs has moved over to a rotary with tube and needle set-up. I ask him why. "Firstly, they're lighter, and easier on the hand, especially when you're tattooing for five, six or seven hours at a time. But I found the healing is better too, and for the client it hurts less, so they can sit for longer. I see pieces that I did a while back that still look really fresh. I'm looking forward to seeing them in ten years. With modern inks, the colours stay and tend not to spread too much. Things have definitely improved for the tattooist in that respect. I don't tend to have a lot of different machines set up for different aspects of the tattoo. I like to keep things simple. I use the same machine and the same





needle. Occasionally I will try some new piece of equipment, but I need to see how it heals to decide if it's really good. I've used the same machines, needle groupings and colour palette for three years now."

I ask Fibs what he considers to be his best attribute as a tattooist, and he answers without hesitation. "Imagination. The ability to visualise the finished piece. I developed that way back, when I was doing graffiti. If you have the ability to draw what you see in your mind, it gives you a real advantage. Actually I was never that great at drawing, but I've practised a lot! And if I ever need to draw something I haven't done before, I go through loads of reference pictures and do loads of preparatory drawings." Fibs does a lot of his own reference photography, and he approaches it in much the same way as when doing a drawing. "The processes are similar," he explains, "because you have to look carefully at all the angles and the shadows, and think about tattooing the final image."

I ask Fibs what part social media plays in his everyday working life. "I follow a lot of artists who do similar work to me, and we inspire and support each other. It's amazing," he says. "Even though we're in different countries, we can all stay connected like a big family. I also enjoy finding out about the equipment other tattooists are using, and what they think about new products. And of course it works for customers too. They're able to search out specific artists or a specific style, and that's important. A tattoo is a piece of art and getting tattooed is like buying art. But it's more than that, because you have to wear it and so everyone can see what you've chosen. You need to be sure it's the right image for you because it's going to be there for a long time."







"As a tattoo artist, I am constantly striving to be the best that I can be. It's a really great time to be working in this profession. Equipment, resources, technology... everything is as good as it can get right now!"

**Fibs:**

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**THE BIG  
NORTH  
TATTOO  
SHOW  
2018**









**H**ere at Total Tattoo Magazine, we were proud and honoured to host our very own convention again this year: the Big North Tattoo Show in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. For us, it was an incredibly enjoyable, exhausting, inspiring and humbling experience. From the bottom of our hearts, we hope that every single artist and visitor enjoyed being there as much as we did. It's obviously impossible for us to write an unbiased review of our own show, so we'll just try to bring you a flavour of what it was like and let the pictures do most of the talking!

Almost three hundred world class tattooists were working the show. It was these artists, along with their clients of course, who really made the magic happen – together with all the visitors who came through the doors to watch them! Visitor numbers were slightly down on last year (due in part to the United home game at St James' Park on the Saturday) but this wasn't altogether a bad thing because it gave everybody more room to move. Last year the event had been absolutely rammed.

It was a real privilege to welcome so many fine tattooists to the show. Nobody could deny that it was an awesome artist line-up, representing all the good things that are going on right now in the UK and internationally. (Take a look at [www.bignorthtattooshow.com/tattoo-artists](http://www.bignorthtattooshow.com/tattoo-artists) for the full list of who was there.) Artists came from all over the world. There was Sicko Black from Russia, Maria Eriksson from Sweden, Chirag Jhala from India, Fabrice Koch from Germany, Noon from France and Horimyo Bunshinshi from Japan... to give just a few examples. And then of course there were all the UK names. It was great to have the support and presence of so many tattooists based in the North East – and next year, in response to feedback, we're going to try to accommodate even more talent from the vibrant local scene.

The atmosphere was, quite literally, buzzing with excitement. You could say it was electric... except for one particular spot where that adjective didn't really apply: the special raised platform that had been installed for the hand-tapping artists! This was a new addition for this year, and we were so pleased that the likes of Brent McCown, Hori Myo, Te Rangitu Netana and Horiyoshi V were able to grace the show with their presence. Watching them work was an opportunity not to be missed.



1. aaron clapham, wolf & arrows
2. jessie foakes, goodship 13
3. brent mccown
4. just jessie, goodship 13
5. yarson, yarson tattoo
6. guido schmitz (germany)
7. chris meighan, santa Kruz Kustom club
8. arran burton, fudoshin tattoo
9. joe carpenter
10. marco galdo
11. horiyoshi v



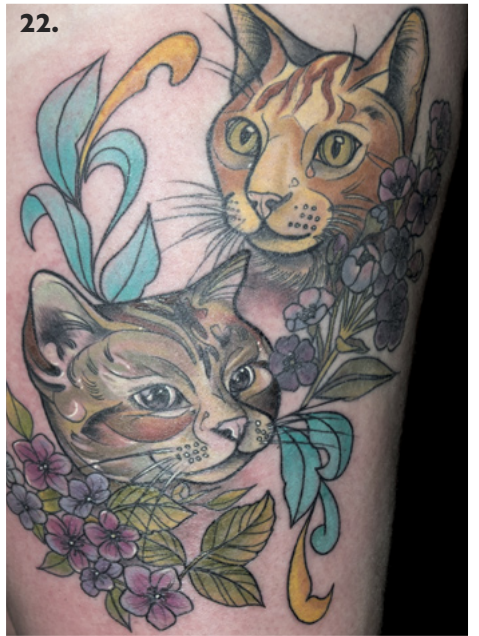


Ryan the Scientist, Calle Corson and JJ were our guest judges for the tattoo competitions. These took place on the main stage, with the proceedings displayed on a huge screen so that the assembled crowd could admire every detail of the tattoos on show. As you can imagine, it was extremely difficult to pick the winners; the standard of work across the whole convention was really high.

The main stage was also where much of the weekend's entertainment took place, including the high-octane Pyrohex fire show, and Justin & The Argonauts, a four-piece band consisting of violin, accordion, guitar and tuba who play an eclectic klezmer-infused mix of contemporary classics (read their interview in Total Tattoo Issue 162). Smaller scale cabaret and sideshow-style acts, some of them with audience participation, took place on the foyer stage just outside the main hall, which also played host to Badness, the Madness tribute band. We tried to balance things so that there was a minimum of noisy disruption in the tattooing area at the same time as a weekend's worth of top class audience entertainment on offer to the visiting public.

- 12. mr hyde
- 13. hannah weston, five keys
- 14. gary burns
- 15. wes vaughn, insider tattoo
- 16. pedro mendonca, grey area tattoo
- 17. amy edwards, dark horse collective
- 18. liam jackson, studio 3 l
- 19. chavez, borderline tattoo collective
- 20. paul lavey, art la vey
- 21. martin couley, couleys tattoo
- 22. nush turner, black market tattoo
- 23. 100 skateboards exhibition
- 24. dane grannon, creative vandals





The large foyer area was also where all the merchandise stalls could be found, selling clothing, jewellery, art, and so on. This year we added exhibitions as well: customised skateboards courtesy of Yogi XIII (the tattoo and guerrilla artists' project) and woodblock prints by Lacey Law (whose beautiful work featured in Total Tattoo Issue 157). We also brought in thirty two retro arcade games, which kept families and kids occupied (free of charge!) throughout the weekend and also caught the attention of a few tattooists...

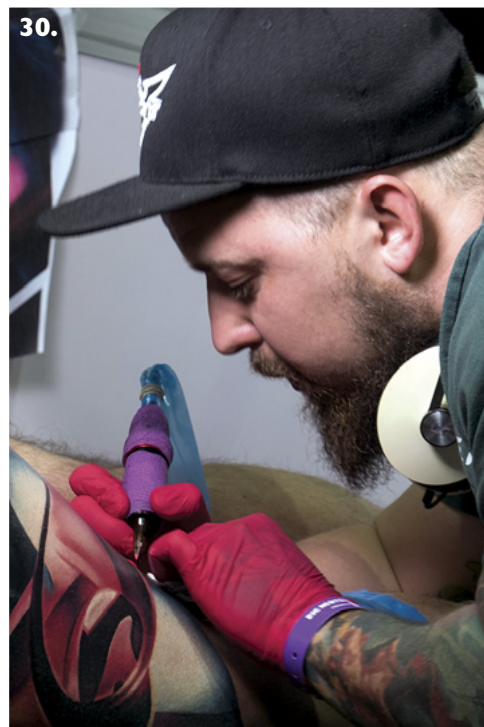
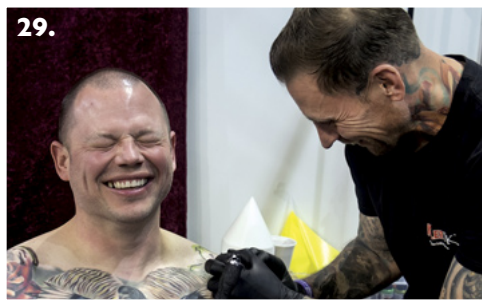
The Metro Radio Arena is a huge multi-purpose venue. It usually plays host to concerts and stage shows (and with a bit of imagination you could almost hear their ghostly presence in the air...) so the Big North Show was something rather different, but the facilities were well-suited to the needs of a tattoo convention. Everything was on one level. The tattooists' booths were on the main central floor area of the arena, and the surrounding raked audience seating was cleverly disguised by vast black gauze drapes





hanging down from the ceiling. This audience seating also gave everyone plenty of opportunity to sit and relax if they wanted to take a break from the proceedings. Behind the scenes there was an artists' green room (with a vital supply of refreshments) and a handy multi-purpose 'back office' where tattooists could make stencils and help themselves from the free 'ink bank' kindly donated by our sponsor World Famous Ink. Perhaps understandably in the current climate, the venue's security policies were very strict and we would like to offer our apologies to those who were inconvenienced by the "no backpacks" rule and other constraints.

All of us at Total Tattoo would like to say a massive thank you to the artists, the traders, the visitors, the venue staff and everyone who supported the Big North Tattoo Show or helped to make it happen. See you there next year!



25. jordan croke, second skin  
 26 & 27. ryan smith, kamil tattoo  
 28. alex rattray, empire ink  
 29. mark bester, marked for life  
 30. gorsky  
 31. flash by emil  
 32. Huge digital screen  
 33 & 34. gorsky tattoo  
 35. sam barber, north of winter  
 36. gorsky tattoo  
 37. martin couley, couleys tattoos  
 38. sam barber, north of winter





33.



34.



35.



36.



37.



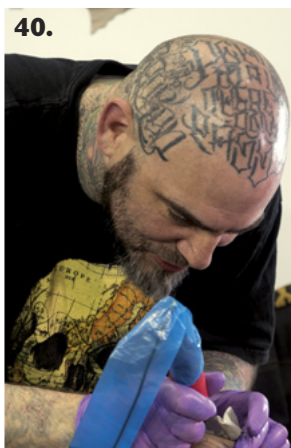
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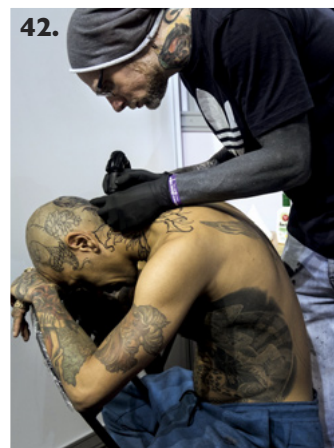
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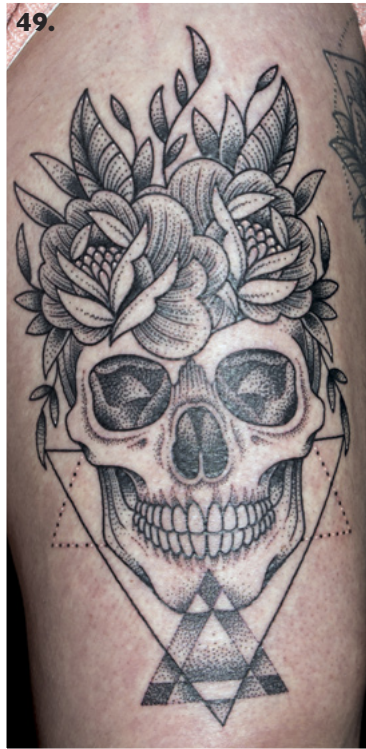
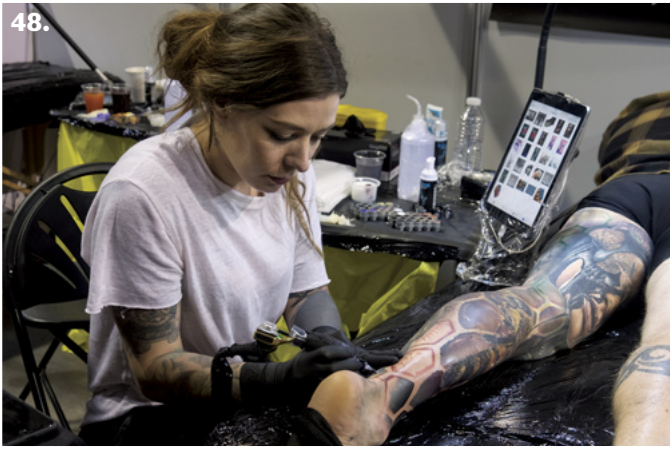
46.



47.

- 39. custom trophies
- 40. matt difa,
- jolie rouge
- 41. noon (france)
- 42. inky joe, five keys
- 43. inaki,
- siha tattoo (spain)
- 44. little andy,
- the church
- 45. liam jackson,
- studio 31
- 46. josh fisher,
- five keys
- 47. edgar ivanov,
- old london road
- 48. sam barber,
- north of winter
- 49. stacey green,
- triple six tattoo





50. mowgli, through my third eye & rich harris, dark horse collective  
 51. daniel bacz, inkdependent tattoo  
 52. justin and the argonauts  
 53. jordan oterski, north of winter  
 54. pedro mendonca, grey area custom  
 55. mosh, la famille tattoo club (spain)  
 56. te rangitu netana  
 57. rich harris, dark horse collective



# Hand Poked

Interview and book review by Emma Whittaker  
Pictures by Perry

# NO ELECTRIC STICK 'N' POKE TATTOO CULTURE



It's best for everyone's safety not to let Sarah Lu near any machinery. She doesn't drive, she has a fear of kitchen appliances, she can't ride a moped or a motorbike and she really doesn't like any kind of cog, gear, chain or coil. So of course she tattoos machine-free – under the very appropriate name of Needle & Chopstick.

Sarah Lu is very well travelled. She's an adventurer, and she's done many a guest spot around the world. It's this global perspective that's pushed her to be the best she can be. Born in a refugee centre in Lincolnshire to conservative Vietnamese parents, she is breaking new ground as a hand poke / stick and poke / needle and chopstick tattooist. You may say there's nothing new about hand poking, and no ground to break, but I beg to differ. Sarah Lu creates extraordinarily detailed large-scale tattoos – half body or full sleeve designs – that really do stand out in this increasingly crowded field. Her style is different too. She has good clear lines and her imagery is much more diverse and miles away from the small prison-style fashion tattoos that seem currently to be plaguing social media. This is hand-poke tattooing for the 21st century.





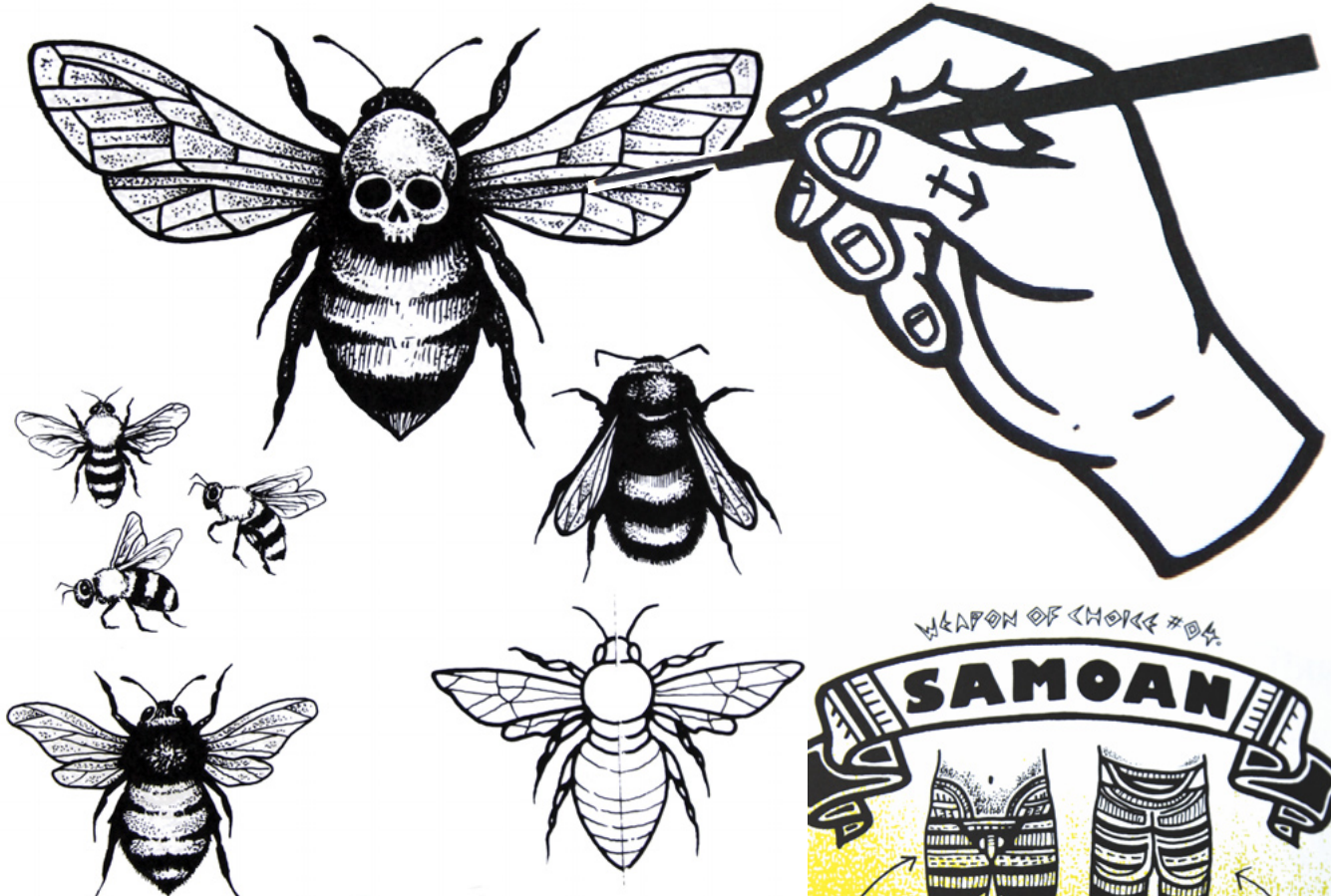


Carpet Bombing Culture have recently published 'Hand Poked / No Electricity', Sarah Lu's love letter to stick and poke tattoo culture. This beautifully produced volume is a work of art in itself. It's an inspiring resource for hand poke practitioners and a fascinating dip into history. But more of the book later.

Sarah Lu started tattooing out of curiosity more than anything else. She loved to draw from a young age - in particular birds, animals and the somewhat macabre - and at the age of fourteen was told she wouldn't make it as artist because she steadfastly refused to draw conventional still life fruit and veg, preferring instead to create her dark and weird illustrations. Her family were keen for her to pursue a more academic route, but despite all this opposition Sarah Lu opted for a career in graphic design and advertising. She was successful in her work, but five years ago she saw a different opportunity for love and happiness and decided to grab it. Having already picked up a needle and chopstick, she snagged a job as a tattooist so she could hang out with the man of her dreams! Without a formal apprenticeship, and coming into tattooing after fifteen years in another industry, she feared that nobody would take her seriously. But she had the guts and determination to dive in at the deep end and swim with the sharks.







Hand poking is totally different from machine working in terms of both feel and speed, but Sarah Lu's designs aren't made specifically for non-electric tattooing. They are just made to tattoo. Her influences come from the natural world, the weird, wonderful and dark, often mixing and merging animals and adding various heads, feet and tails. Skulls feature heavily too. Her anatomically precise creations are the product of a keen eye and a vivid imagination, combined with her love of artists such as Hieronymus Bosch, Escher and David Shrigley, and she finds obvious enjoyment in inventing humorous hybrids and curious 'in between' states.

WEAPON OF CHOICE #04

# SAMOAN

Hand tattooing is renowned for the pain and suffering endured by young men receiving the 'pe' - The markings of a rite of passage adulthood, which covered the body from the knee, covering nearly all the skin, including the penis and the anus.

Those young men unable to complete the month long process would have to carry the shame for the rest of their lives.

85

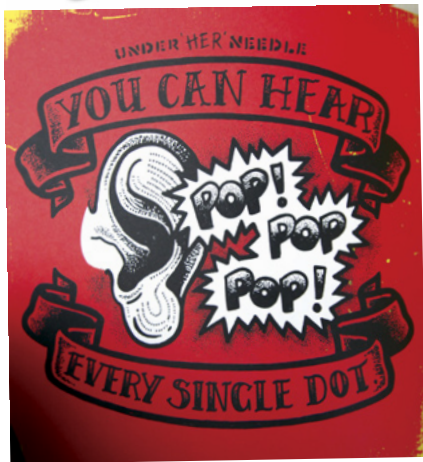


**Compass**  
The compass tattoo was worn by sailors and adorned on their ships to ensure that they would return home safely. In brutally rough and unforgiving seas, the ships and the men onboard would disappear without a trace. This symbol of navigation, served as a beacon of hope that they would be guided out of the treacherous waters alive.



Whatever she tattoos with her hench index finger (forget the six-pack, the serious gains are to be made in digits!) Sarah Lu's technical skills are very much in evidence. On her website she describes herself as "armed with just a needle and a chopstick and no electricity" - and that's exactly how she works. With its gentle ticking sound, this type of tattooing has been likened to

knitting; it's generally not as brutal as machine work, although that does of course depend on the practitioner. The healing process is a lot easier because hand poked designs are, by and large, more delicate than those applied by machine. Much less pressure is needed to get the ink into that sweet spot where it won't fall out, blow out or hurt too much, and where it will stay for all eternity.

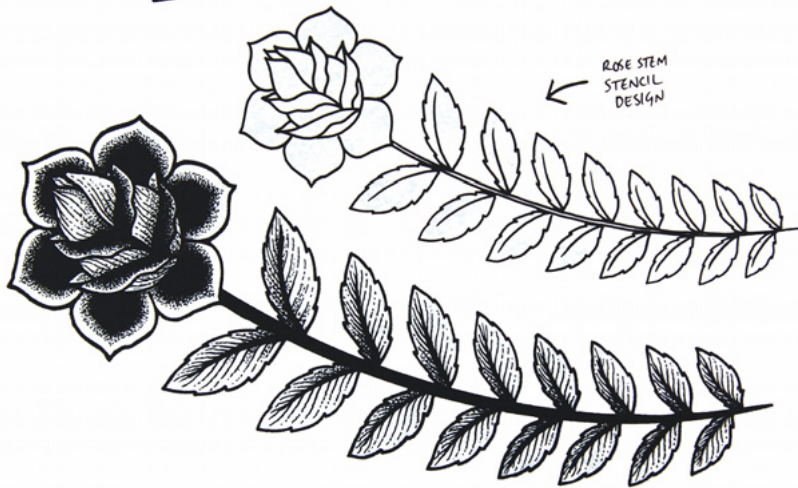


So, back to the tome. Sarah Lu was approached by Carpet Bombing Culture (who also publish books by Banksy and punk photographer Derek Ridgers, among others) and she produced the book together with her glamorous assistant Andy Hobbs (who, amongst other things, is a tireless campaigner for the homeless). 'Hand Poked / No Electricity' is filled with Sarah Lu's illustrations and tattoo designs, plus snappy pieces of history and pure fun. It took eighteen months to create, and the whole thing flows beautifully. You can tell that each and every one of its two hundred pages has been carefully thought out. This is a book for tattoo fans, art lovers, and anyone looking for inspiration or thinking about where a hand poked design might fit into their own tattoo collection. It's a joy to pick up time and time again and, weirdly, I like the smell of it too!





# ROSE STEM



Sarah Lu tattoos at Blue Dragon in Brighton. You might also bump into her looking at the dead animals in the Booth Museum of Natural History, another of her regular haunts. 'Hand Poked / No Electricity' was launched at a charity event earlier this year (to raise funds and promote awareness of local homelessness) and is available through all the usual retailers. You can also obtain signed copies from Blue Dragon. Sarah Lu tells me that in her "Harry Potter downstairs cupboard" she has a box full of random pieces of paper and notepads scrawled with miscellaneous jottings and drawings – the multitude of out-takes and yet-to-be-explored ideas that she hopes will be the makings of another book.



**Hand Poked / No Electricity**  
 By Sarah Lu  
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[carpetbombingculture.co.uk](http://carpetbombingculture.co.uk)

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# Yvonne Heartmann

**T**his month's cover model is rock and roll lover and neo-traditional tattooist Yvonne Heartmann, who is making waves in her hometown of Warsaw, Poland. Despite her obvious natural talent, Yvonne's path into tattooing was not an easy one. Having been rejected from the Academy of Fine Arts, she looked further into her passion for tattooing and whether she could teach herself. Thanks to the support of her friends, who volunteered as guinea pigs, she began to teach herself, before finally securing a formal studio apprenticeship. From there, she has gone on to win awards at conventions and build her strong, illustrative style of tattooing.





**You've just had some modelling photos done with Kamila Burzymowska. How did this come about?**

I met Kamila at a tattoo convention. We got talking and she asked if she could photograph me. I was delighted to be asked because I really like Kamila's photographs and I'd wanted to model for her for a while before we met. We spoke about the ideas for the photos before working on them and the rest is history! What I really loved about it is that I now have some awesome photos and some cool memories from the shoots.

**How long have you been tattooing?**

I've been tattooing for about 8 years.

**What was the tattoo scene like in Poland when you started, and how has it evolved?**

I think even up to a few years ago, the scene was more underground than it is now. The people who got tattooed tended to be part of sub-cultures (like alternative music, for example) or artists, and those who were tattooed were seen as 'freaks'.



YVONNE HEARTMANN



It's totally different now. Not only are there more tattoo tv shows, but there are commercials with tattoos in them! Tattoos are very popular in Poland right now. People want to get tattooed and they can get tattooed (without being labelled). There are many more tattoo shops because of the demand and because it's also much easier to become a tattoo artist. There's always a need for tattooists with outstanding styles.

**Where are you based?**

I live in Warsaw, which is where I've lived for most of my life and where I'm happy staying for the time being. I've just started working at Caffeine Studio, which is in the centre of the city. It's owned by Bartosz Panas and there are ten other artists, all doing different styles.



**You've been guesting in lots of different shops. What is it about travelling and guest spots that appeal to you?**

What I like most about travelling is that I am able to meet other artists and see how they work in different studio environments. Even if it's only for a short period, it's very inspiring and refreshing and usually a lot of fun.

**Your work is neo-traditional. Have you always been interested in this style?**

Yes, I've always been drawn to this style of work. Before I started tattooing I was a keen artist and was already drawing in a similar way. I think I always knew what I really liked and the direction I wanted it to go.







**What imagery do you think best suits your style of tattooing?**

I think my work reflects my interests: traditional mythology, horror and also heavy metal! I like to design characters or animals as allegories with some physical attributes that help to communicate the idea.











**You seem to use a lot of warm tones in your work. Is this because you prefer them, or is this down to the client?**

It is because I know my tattoos will look great for longer. On pale skin, cold tones (blues, light greys, etc) make the skin look greyish over time. As human skin is warm toned, I believe that reds, yellows, browns and olive tones fit best and look good in the long term.

**What machines do you use?**

Currently I'm using Spektra and Inkjecta machines. But I still have my Micky Sharpz liner, which I'll never get rid of! Although I'm mainly using rotaries, I will switch between them and coils from time to time, because it's good to change things around and work with other equipment.

**How about inks?**

To be honest, there are so many amazing colours of inks out there that I want to try and that I also like to use that I couldn't choose just one brand of ink. I like colours that are a little 'dirty' and not too vivid.





**What do you love most about your job?**

I love that I can combine my hobbies and passions in my own art and that I have a clientele who like it so much that they want my work tattooed on them forever. It's a brilliant, creative job which helps me to live the way I want.

**Do you do any other forms of art?**

I love sewing and I make lot of clothes for myself. I don't have a lot of time for it though, there's not enough time in the day!

**Tell us about "Tattooifest. 25 Polish Female Tattoo Artists". How did you come to be involved?**

The book features 25 Polish female tattooists, each with a different, distinct style, and each accompanied by a unique photoshoot. It came about when Dominika, the art director of the project, wrote to me about the idea and asked if I'd like to take part, which I absolutely did! Jacek Kloskowski was the photographer and all I can say is that he's a champ and the session was really fun! The book is produced with the guys from Tattooifest and it's available from [www.tfbclothing.com](http://www.tfbclothing.com)



**What's your biggest achievement to date?**

I think as I get older I realise that I'm closer to living my life the way I have always wanted. I've changed a lot and in some ways I haven't changed at all. And that I'm still living.

**Yvonne Heartmann**  
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# GALLERY

Please send gallery submissions to 111 Furze Road, Norwich, Norfolk. NR7 0AU.  
Email pictures to [gallery@totaltattoo.co.uk](mailto:gallery@totaltattoo.co.uk) images need to be 300 resolution



adam osbourne,  
the tattoo lounge



jonathan toogood, northgate tattoo



lee mitchell, private studio



pete, hellbound heart





arran willet, kingship tattoo



mark ford, jolie rouge



jaysin burgess, northside tattooz



jo gilbert, skin kandi



chris sutton, flaming art tattoo



zac scheinbaum, kings avenue tattoo (usa)



leo blackbirds



wes vaugn, insider tattoo





whitfield, nr studios



inky joe, five keys



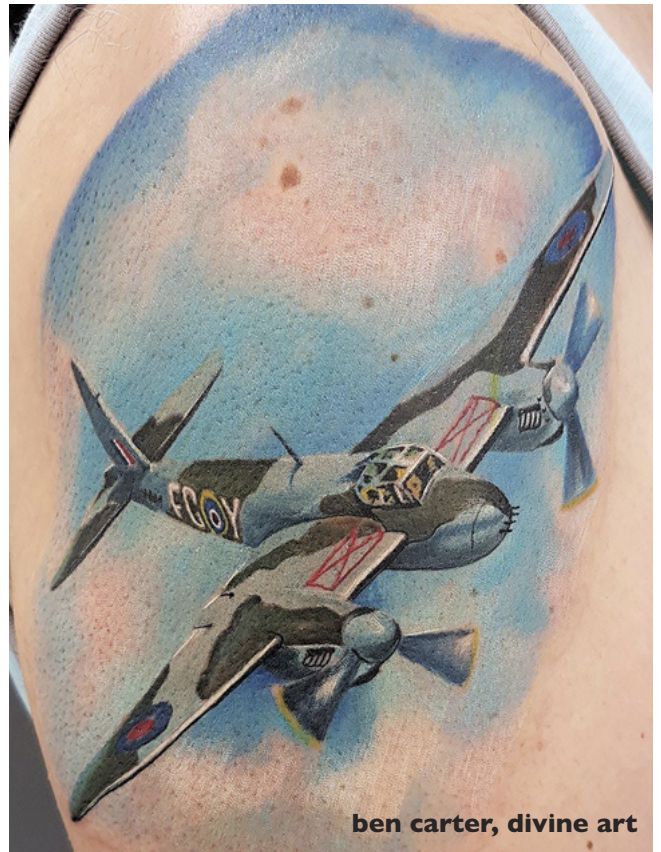
laura, electric artz tattoo



ash, poison ink



richard diminski, blood sweat and pain

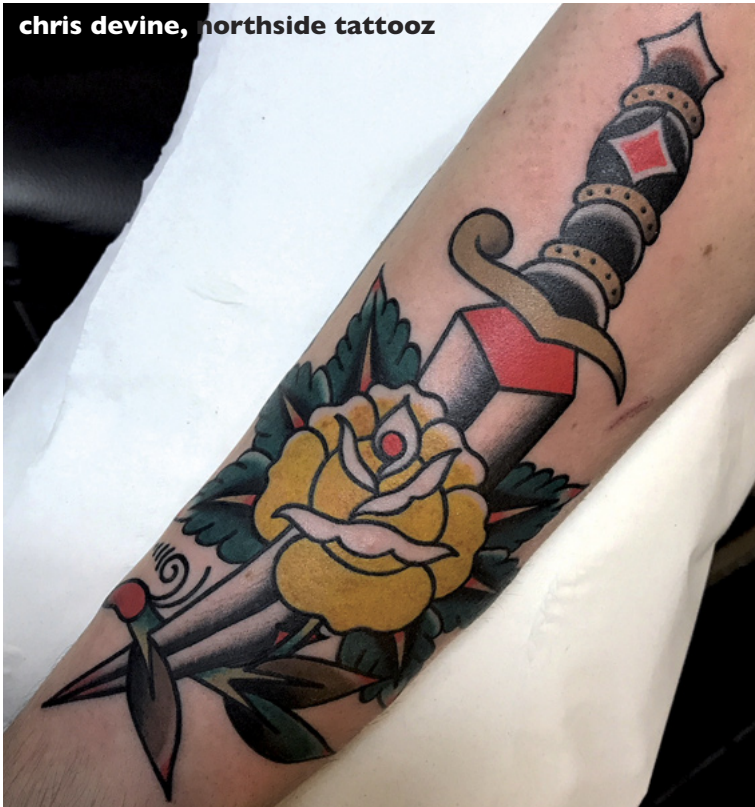


ben carter, divine art

hash, northside tattooz



chris devine, northside tattooz







augis (lithuania)



simon, yarson tattoo



hollie may, the old smithy



theresa vallet,  
black dragon tattoo

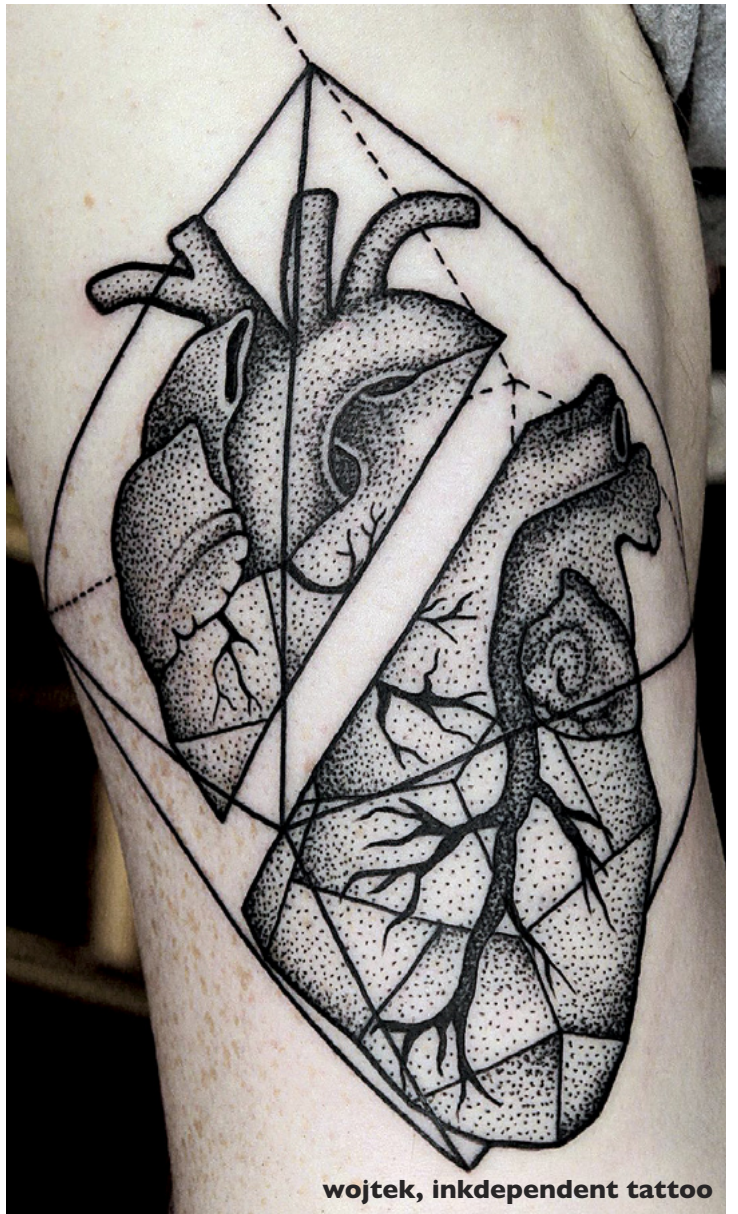


vetoe, black label art co (usa)





phatt german. irie ites



wojtek, inkdependent tattoo



emils salmins, rigas tinte



pedro mendonca, grey area custom tattoos





leo d t,  
wolf and arrows



andrew tomaszuk,  
3 f tattoo (poland)



kel tait, on the road



lauren coley,  
nala tattoo



delboi, electric artz tattoos



allan graves, haunted tattoos

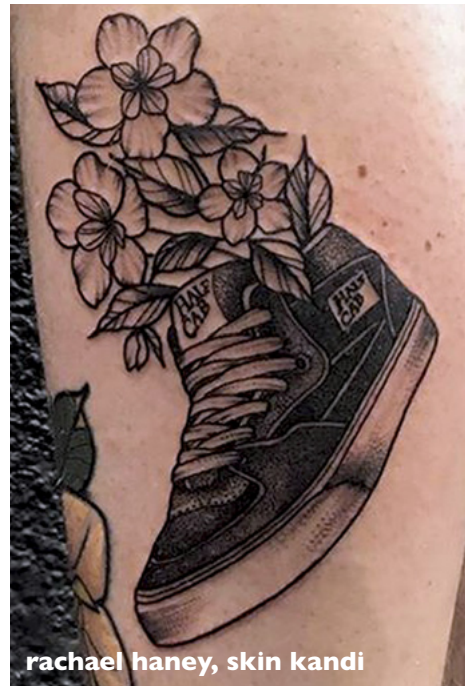




**gorsky, ushuaia**



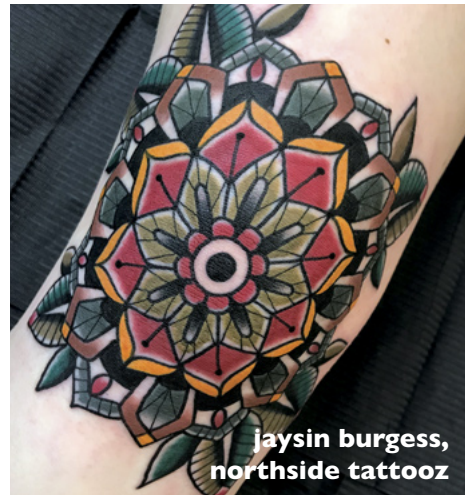
**kirsten pettit**



**rachael haney, skin kandi**



**kara chambers,  
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# HOPE FOR THE WITCH-CHILDREN OF AFRICA





**In parts of Africa where traditional beliefs are still widespread, children can be accused of witchcraft – often with dire consequences. Danish charity campaigner Anja Ringgren Lovèn has made it her mission to reach out to these 'witch children', combat the superstitions that put their lives at risk, and provide a safe home and an education for them in her Land of Hope children's centre. But Anja's tattoos and fair skin mean she's often regarded as a 'witch' herself...**

Anja grew up knowing how important it is to look after others. Her mother worked in a care home, and she made a point of teaching her daughter all about caring for people in need. She also instilled in Anja a sense of the wider world and its troubles. "She told me there were people in Africa dying of hunger," Anja recalls, "and that had a great impact on me. I knew from an early age that I wanted to go there to help."





When Anja was 23, her mother died of cancer. “It was hard for me to cope with that loss, and I was searching for something to give meaning to my life. I finally found it when I decided to go to Africa. I sold everything I owned so that I could be free to travel without having to worry about any material possessions. Malawi and Tanzania were my first destinations, to help with the famine situation. I knew I’d found my calling. And that’s when I set up my not-for-profit humanitarian organisation, DINNødthjælp.”

Ten years ago Anja saw a shocking documentary about Nigeria’s ‘witch children’. She explains the background to me. “In traditional African belief systems, which are still widespread, everything is attributable to supernatural causes. So whether it’s a death in the family, illness, miscarriage or a bad harvest, a scapegoat has to be found – and very often this is a child. And when a child is accused of being a ‘witch’ in this way, an exorcism is required. This is normally performed by a local priest and can be very expensive, and if the child’s parents are unable to pay, then the whole village will put them under pressure to abandon, or even kill, the child in order to rid the village of the ‘evil’ presence.” Galvanised into action by what she’d learnt about this abhorrent practice, Anja decided that Nigeria was where she needed to be. She wanted to rescue these children and take them into her care.

“In Nigeria I met David, a local lawyer. He was already risking his own life every day to save these ‘witch children,’” Anja tells me.

“Together, we have built a strong team around us (consisting mainly of fellow Nigerians, who can more easily develop relationships of trust with local communities) and to date we have carried out more than three hundred rescue missions.” Anja and her team don’t usually receive a hostile reception in the villages they



visit, but they take armed bodyguards with them just in case they are met with aggression. Harming or abandoning a child is against the law in Nigeria, and if villagers feel they have something to hide things could easily turn nasty.

Anja tells me that – understandably – it’s far from easy to convince people there’s no such thing as an evil ‘witch child’. These beliefs are deeply rooted in their culture. “And you have to remember that the priests themselves grew up with these beliefs,” she continues. “At the same time, they stand to gain financially from the existing system because they make a considerable amount of money from every exorcism they perform, so they are very much part of the problem. Some of the priests claim to be able to do other kinds of magic too, so that they can make even more money.”

“Whenever we rescue a kid, we always do it in co-operation with the local police, so that each case goes on record,” Anja explains. However, she emphasises that she doesn’t want to point the finger. Rather, her intention is to discover the reasons behind the atrocities and find a way to reduce the numbers of children being hurt. “After all,



superstition is not just an African speciality! Think about the persecution of 'witches' that went on in medieval Europe... It's education that makes the difference. In societies where all the kids go to school, these things don't happen. And a lack of education is often the result of poverty. We have to start by educating these rural communities to make them a safe place for the children. That's not something that can be achieved in a day, but we are working closely with the villagers and we are certainly seeing changes over the years." The team leave their phone number in every village so that people can call them if a child is in danger.

Rescued 'witch children' find a safe new home in the Land of Hope children's centre that Anja and David have built. But the charity's rescue missions are not always successful. Sometimes the team arrives too late and a child has already been murdered. "I have seen some horrible things," says Anja. She tries not to let it bring her down, though. "David and our son are my support. And the whole team, of course. And so much of my inspiration comes from the kids themselves. They've been



through so much, yet they still wake up each day with a big smile. They're so full of joy and happiness. That's what gives me my power and strength."

Anja loves to see the transformation in each child. "It's an incredible journey, from the day of their rescue, to the day when maybe they're top of the class at school... That's the kind of miracle that happens when we feed our dreams in the way we normally feed our fears. When I see how David and our team help a child to become a strong and self-confident person, that's just beautiful."







Surrounded by her Nigerian friends and colleagues, Anja is conspicuous with her fair skin. But there's another aspect of her appearance that makes her stand out – her tattoos. Because of Nigeria's football culture, her ink doesn't cause much of a stir in the city (in fact Anja says she sometimes gets compliments), but tattooed skin is an unusual sight in rural areas. And when you're dealing with witchcraft, something like that can make quite a difference. "In many villages, people are very suspicious of my tattoos," she tells me, "and some even think I'm a mermaid." But not a cute Disney-type mermaid. An African mermaid is a dangerous creature who can walk on land and bewitch, or even kill, men. "So my tattoos actually give me a measure of protection in that sense," explains Anja. "And of course I've been told on more than one occasion that I'm a witch myself." A slightly surreal twist is added by the fact that a number of Anja's tattoos are themed around 'The Wizard of Oz'...

Anja's tattoo passion has been inspired in part by Angelina Jolie (who is of course also involved in charity projects). "I love her tattoos," Anja tells me. "I got my first one in 1999 in Israel. It was a Chinese good luck

symbol. I've also been very influenced by tattoo artist Kat von D. When I like something, I get it tattooed. I don't need time to think it over. I just get it done. For instance, my mother was a big Elvis fan, so I got an Elvis tattoo. I also have a portrait of my mother, as well as Marilyn Monroe, some Buddhist imagery and tribal designs, a lion, various quotes... and of course my Wizard of Oz themed leg. It's chaos! There's no overall concept. Some tattoos I got just because I was in the mood, some for aesthetic reasons, and some because they have a real meaning for me. Because I've been collecting them for so many years, I also have tattoos that I don't really like any more – the tribal designs for example. I guess that's inevitable. Tastes change. But life's too short for regrets!"

I have to ask Anja how she protects her tattoos from the African sun. "To be honest, I don't do anything," she admits. "I don't really think about myself as being 'a tattooed person'. My tattoos are just part of me. Although of course I do know the colours will fade." Obviously Anja's priorities have shifted over the years, and tattoos are now way down her agenda. "My last tattoo was years ago. I always wanted to get my leg finished, but I

stopped in the middle because there was so much work to do here in Africa. I think I will definitely get more tattoos eventually, but right now it's just not as important to me as it was."

For the rescued children, Anja's tattoos are quite an attraction. "They love them!" she tells me. "They like to look at them and touch them, or sit around me and talk about them. They tell me that the letters HOPE on my fingers stand for 'Help One Person Everyday.' I show them videos of tattooing on YouTube and they think it's great fun. The kids who have been here for a while tell the new ones how a tattoo is made, but many of them are still surprised that the ink doesn't wash off!"

You can find out more about Anja's work via her website [www.dinnoedhjaelp.dk](http://www.dinnoedhjaelp.dk) or **facebook DINNød hjælp.**





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# PORTSMOUTH TATTOO FEST

**It's a few years since I've been to a tattoo show at The Pyramids Centre on Portsmouth's seafront. To be fair, nothing much has changed with the building. But the same cannot be said of the convention.**

It felt good to be back, and the show had a really friendly, familiar, family vibe. There's been a tattoo convention here for many years, but 2018 saw the beginning of a brand new chapter, because previously partnered-up Gary Roberts was going it alone for the first time. So it was with renewed vigour and enthusiasm that we came to celebrate all things inky at the brand new 'Portsmouth Tattoo Fest'

The weather on the Sunday was amazing, with temperatures pushing 25 degrees. Sometimes this can actually work against a show, keeping people on the beach, but it was good to see such a good turn-out coming to enjoy all the delights that this south coast gem had to offer.

Around 75 tattooists were on hand to supply the ink, many of them from the local area. This show has a wonderful welcoming and inclusive atmosphere. Unfortunately I was only able to attend on the Sunday, so I spent a lot of the time catching up with people. Everyone I spoke to – artists and visitors alike – commented on how good the show was and how much they were enjoying being there.

Every artist I spoke to told me how busy they'd been; there were no complaints of sitting around not making money. And some fine pieces were done. Personal favourites for me were a beautifully clean bearded lady by Steve Hunter along with a wonderfully subtle black and grey half sleeve from Patryk Mazur. Many of the 'old' crowd were there to show their support and it was good to see John Treharne still putting out top work after nearly fifty years in the business.

Judging took place in one of the side rooms, with Tony B (Tilbury Tattoo), Ian Trudgill (Original Bodyworks) and VJ from VJ's Indian Ink on the adjudicating panel. The competitions were very well supported, as was everything else the show promoted. And 3.30pm on the Sunday was rock legend time, with covers band Hot & Sticky featuring tattooist Fred from Needle and Fred. A Steel Panther-type band complete with spandex and sweatbands, they certainly added some further cheer to the already enjoyable proceedings.

There are a lot of shows about these days; in fact there are three in Portsmouth alone. I'm not sure a town of this size can support that many, but I do feel confident that this one will survive. With a solid, dependable, honest crew at the helm it seems this convention is riding a fresh wave, and with the amount of local support and love being shown to the organisers, along with a promising number of attendees through the door, I can't see it running aground anytime soon. It's good to see support being shown to those who really do deserve it.



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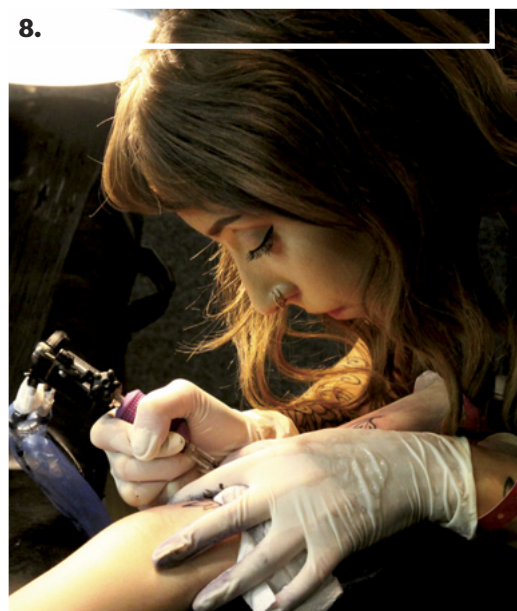
1. **ceri williams, ceri williams tattoo**
2. **john treharne, skin creation**
3. **fred, needle and fred**
4. **hot and sticky**
5. **ryan lucas, obsessions tattoo studio**
6. **kirk, blood eagle**
7. **aaron willett, kings ship**
8. **busy day for every artist**



6.



7.



8.





9. steve hunter, blood eagle  
 10. alex von harten, blood eagle  
 11. megan, indelible ink  
 12. conner, poison ink  
 13. patryk mazur, surrealistic sanctuary  
 14. mason, poison ink  
 15. aaron willet, kings ship tattoo  
 16. valerie vargas, modern electric tattoo





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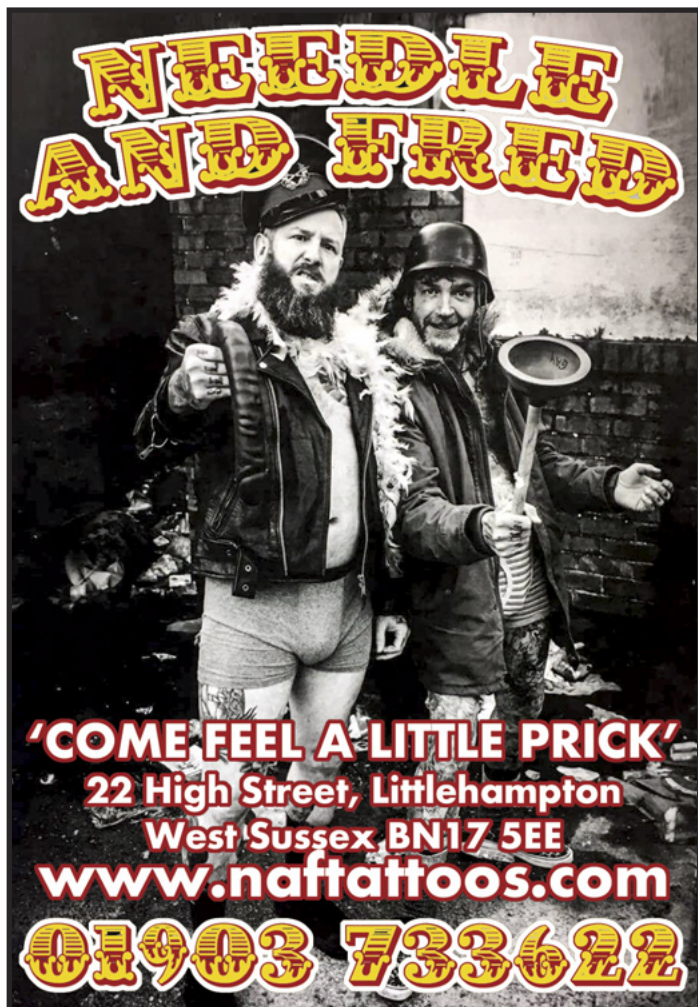
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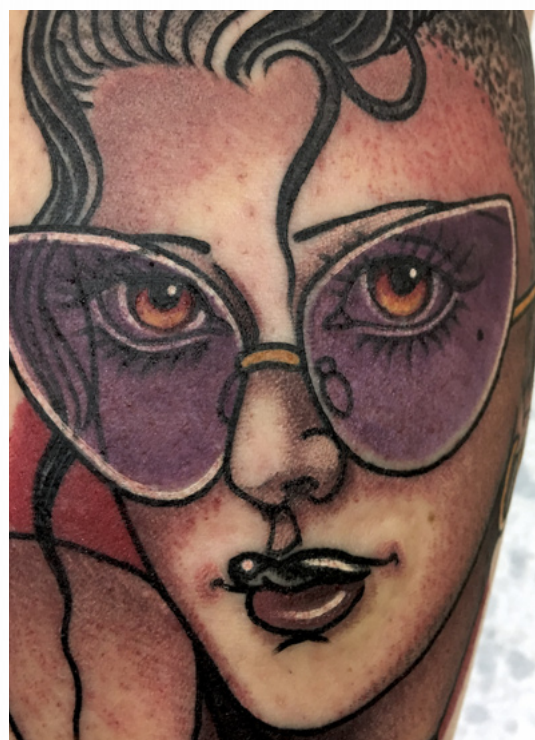


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In conversation with  
Total Tattoo and  
Harriet Heath  
Pictures courtesy  
of Lizzie Renaud

# Lizzie Renaud



**C**anadian artist Lizzie Renaud is a champion of queer, modern tattooing. She has been tattooing for sixteen years, owns Speakeasy Tattoo in Toronto, runs a luxury nail art business, and is also the only distributor for Workhorse Irons in Canada. On top of that, she is an outspoken advocate for marginalised communities and people who have experienced abuse or oppression. She became embroiled in a national controversy when she offered to cover up tattoos of lyrics by the Canadian band Hedley, following allegations of sexual misconduct by band members. The bold lines and unique designs of Lizzie's tattoos are a fierce celebration of individuality – very much like this conversation.

**TT: Let's begin at the beginning, and see where we go from there! Tell us how your tattooing career started.**

**Lizzie:** I was 19, studying at the Ontario College of Art, and I got a job working on the counter of a tattoo shop. It was actually one of the first tattoo shops in Toronto. I wasn't really thinking about becoming a tattooist though. I went to work there because I was interested in body mods and I wanted to get more involved in that community. It was the height of it, when people had custom jewellery and were making suspension stuff. At the time, I didn't see tattooing as something I could do – partly because I painted. Somehow in my head the two didn't connect.







**TT: But you went on to do a tattoo apprenticeship?**

**Lizzie:** Yes. But even when I got my apprenticeship, I didn't think of it as a job I would keep. I thought of it as something I would dip my toes into, that paid well. My apprenticeship was a group one, and I got fired six months in! And then I kinda taught myself, with a little help from other tattooers in the city. Back then, it was all about learning things like making needles... In fact I made needles for about the first seven years of my tattooing career. Even when I opened Speakeasy, I put a needle-making station in the shop.

**TT: How does it feel to have had Speakeasy for so long?**

**Lizzie:** I can't believe it. It's wild! It's gone really quickly. We've just found out that we'll be losing the space in five years, but that's fine though.







**TT: How do you balance being a shop owner and a tattooist?**

**Lizzie:** I have a good balance, but that's because I've hired in shop managers. And I only tattoo three days a week. I'm a firm believer in doing all the jobs – even the small ones, and even things like cleaning the toilets. You don't want people to think you've walked away from it. You want people to know you're invested in it. It's the same with my tattooing. You have to treat every job as a job. I get this weird thing when I do guest spots. A worried-looking counter person always comes up to me to check whether I do infinity symbols and other small tattoos. Many guest artists don't, but I do.

**TT: Are there any tattoos you refuse to do?**

**Lizzie:** One thing I talk to people about a lot is Polynesian. Stereotypically, the dudes who want to get Polynesian are hard-headed jocks, so it's often a difficult conversation to have. Somebody suggested to us that we keep a list in the shop of appropriated designs and hate symbols that we could show to customers who come in asking for that kind of thing. That would solve potential problems before the consultation, and would mean we didn't need to have those awkward conversations. Nowadays, I'm very conscious that I don't want to make money from a culture that's been oppressed. Actually, it's the same with making portraits of people of colour. I'm not sure if I'm completely comfortable, as a white person, making money off their image.





**TT: Tell us why you started travelling.**

**Lizzie:** That came about mainly because Canada is so small. I mean, it's a big country, but it FEELS small. I think that I started to experience a 'Canadian insecurity' – the feeling that nobody really knew who our biggest names were. I didn't want to be isolated. I felt that I could only achieve relevance by being around relevant people in relevant places and shops. Also, Toronto shops had been run the same way for a very long time. All-day walk-ins were looked down upon. When I started guesting in American shops, and doing walk-ins all the time, I thought, 'Wow, this is a cool thing. This is a great feeling.' When I opened Speakeasy, we were the only shop that would take walk-ins every day and we didn't get a lot of love from the other shops. Now, most shops in Toronto do it that way!

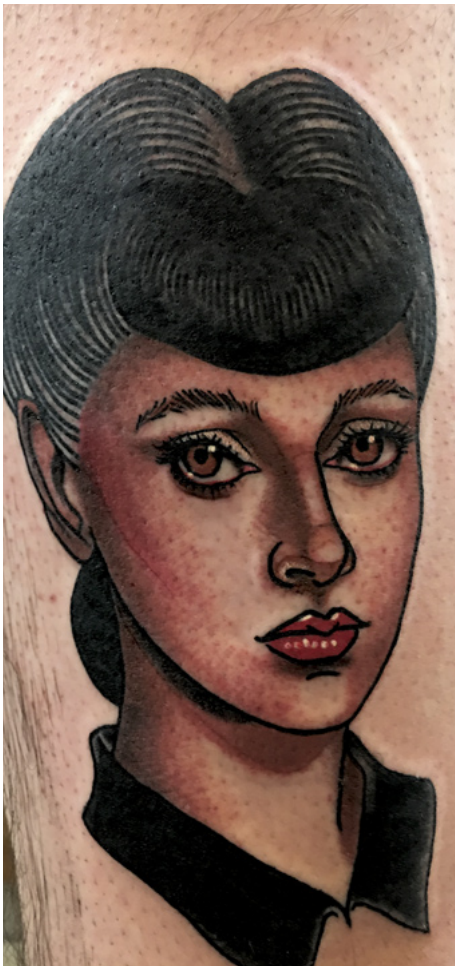
**TT: And do you still travel?**

**Lizzie:** Yes. But a weird thing happened. Because I'd sought relevance elsewhere, it's like I'd lost my entitlement to recognition in my own community. Whenever I guested at a shop in Canada, people thought I was an apprentice or a helper. I don't want to sound too egotistical, but it was only when I came to the UK or Europe that people knew who I was. I had to bring the two things together. I've started doing Canadian conventions now. You have to spend time in your own community.

**Harriet:** Guesting worldwide definitely brings you a certain prestige, but it's no good if people in your hometown don't know who you are, because they're the people who will become your regular clients.







**TT: Tell us about the development and progression of your work.**

**Lizzie:** My work has certainly gotten better technically, across the board. And when I look at the lady heads I've done, there's an evolution in those for sure. It's things like the characteristics of the face or little tricks that I've picked up along the way.

**Harriet:** For me, it's my own personal style, and the make-up that I wear, that has most influenced the way I do my girl heads. It's even affected how I shade the tattoo. I think male tattooers often do women's heads with large, clunky features because they don't have the same knowledge as a woman who has looked at her own face in the mirror all her life.

**Lizzie:** I have a lot of male tattooers come to me asking for tips on lady heads. I always suggest they check out Vivienne Pinay's make-up tutorials, because she specifically breaks down how she does a face in the same way that a tattooist would look at it. I actually got to meet her once and I was like, 'Girl, do you know how many tattooers use your tutorials?' I was really glad that I was able to thank her in person.

**TT: Do you prefer tattooing lady heads or portraits?**

**Lizzie:** I prefer tattooing lady heads. If I'm doing a celebrity portrait and I really admire the person, then I get almost starstruck! I'm like, 'Oh my God, my moment has come. I can't fuck it up!' I tattooed an Anna Nicole Smith portrait a while back, and I'd built it up so much in my head I almost couldn't do it. But it's really fun when people want portraits and lady heads combined. Recently I did a Princess Leia, but the client wanted a lady head with her characteristics, as opposed to a portrait likeness. Those kinds of tattoos take on their own personalities. I've done some gender-swap ones too, which have been great – wanting a male character done as a lady head, for example. It makes me realise that lady heads are just vessels and can be anything you want them to be. My clients and I often come up with back stories – about who they are and what they would do. I feel like I know a lot of them in my head, even though I don't know them for real!







**TT: Do you ever get creative blocks, or feel a pressure to keep putting new elements into your work?**

**Lizzie:** Yeah, I do. Especially when I see someone else doing what I've done and not giving me any love for it. But people also come in and ask for things that I don't really want to do so much anymore...

**Harriet:** I find it so limiting when customers specify every detail they want in a girl head – or ask for one that's already been done. If I did it six months ago, there's been six months of progression since then! And they're not letting me put that into the tattoo because they're so focused on the one I did before. The customer who got that original tattoo got it because they gave me free rein. People don't always think about that.

**Lizzie:** I feel very lucky because my most common customer request is, 'Lady head. Whatever you want.' My usual response is, 'Are you sure?!' Then I'll talk to them about things they like – fashions for example. If I can get just one of those details, then I can work from that!



**TT: Until recently, people didn't want to stray too far from the traditional designs and there were only a few variations on the lady head tattoo.**

**Harriet:** Yes, it's great to see modern influences on traditional flash.

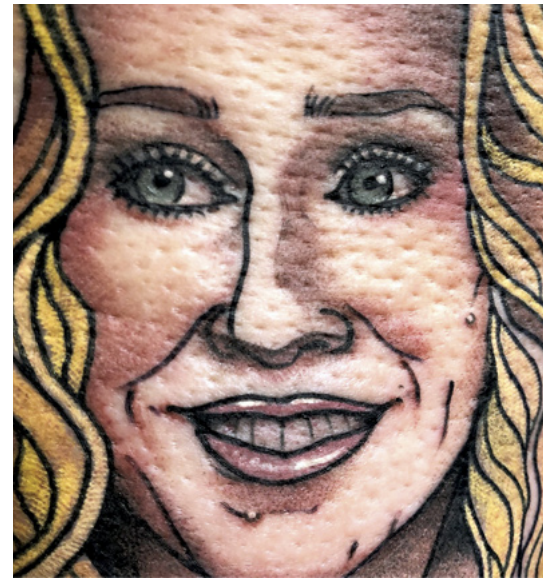
**Lizzie:** And I think that's queerness coming into tattooing as well. We can do what we want. There are no rules any more about how people, or their bodies, should look.

**Harriet:** I see a huge fashion influence in your work.

**Lizzie:** I consume fashion all the time. It's partly why I like to put glasses on girl heads. I read somewhere that the reason couture labels make glasses is because they're the only thing us common folk can afford! It's our one chance to own something by Chanel for example. But even accessories are unachievable financially for a lot of people. So I've brought it down another step by putting them into my tattoos and making them accessible that way.







**TT: Almost as though people are 'entitled' to that access...?**

**Lizzie:** Yes, in a way. Actually, I think the whole question of 'entitlement' is something we need to start looking at in tattooing. I believe there are situations where people really ARE entitled to have a tattoo – for example a tattoo that will help fix a body dysmorphic issue or affirm an identity or gender. I feel like we're entering this weird queer zone of tattooing because people NEED it.

**Harriet:** Free cover-ups for Nazi or racist symbols, for instance. And covering up the Brand New tattoos for me, and the Hedley tattoos for you...

**Lizzie:** Yes, and I got a national backlash from that! Even though I'm not the person who first thought of the idea. But for some reason, my offer triggered so much hate. I had reporters asking me if they could interview my clients, and my clients declining because they didn't want the same thing happening to them. As soon as I got any praise, I would get tweets and social media comments that tried to bring me down again.

**Harriet:** I had a completely different experience. Not a single person gave me any negativity when I offered to cover up the Brand New tattoos. People had their opinions, but on the whole I got nothing but praise for what I was doing.

**Lizzie:** Now, whenever I do a celebrity portrait tattoo, I always ask if the client is really sure about it. I tell them, 'People will let you down. You need to be prepared for that.'

**TT: That's good advice.**

**Lizzie:** I have a client who has four Woody Allen portraits. That's a weird way to exist in the world now – because even if you don't like your tattoos, somebody is going to assume that you do. Or someone might see your tattoos who was themselves a victim. When I did the Hedley cover-ups, I was conscious of this fact and I tried to thank every one of the girls, because I felt they were getting their tattoos covered up for other people as well as for themselves. It was creating a safer space for everyone, which is why these sorts of cover-ups should be free, or done at a reduced price.

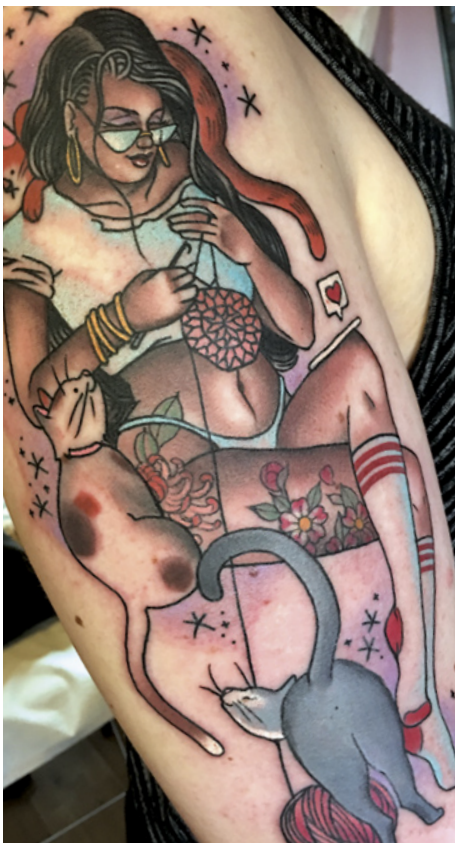






**Harriet:** With the Brand New stuff, I knew lots of people couldn't afford to get their tattoos covered up, so I did a 'pay what you can afford' flash day, with the money going to charity, and reduced rates at other times.

**Lizzie:** Tattooing owes this to people. I think tattooing has been too hard and mean and shitty for too long. It's created too many negative stereotypes and it owes it to its community to be better. The sad thing is that, as I see it, it tends to be just the queer people, women, and people of colour who are taking the initiative at the moment. I've had to accept that by speaking out publicly, some people aren't gonna like it...



**Harriet:** But you have to think about how many people will be grateful that you DO speak out publicly. I was afraid, for a very long time, about being overly political, especially around tattooing. I thought that if I said something unwelcome, I'd be shunned and I wouldn't be allowed to work conventions, guest spots, etc. But then I realised that I didn't want favours. I wanted to work with people who respected me for my views and for who I am. I don't want to sit there, afraid to speak out, wondering what my customers are thinking. The more vocal I've been, the more my clients have stuck by me.

**Lizzie:** It's in the idea of body autonomy – the freedom from any external control or influence over the self – that my interest in tattooing really lies. The same for body modification. Those court cases... Whatever a person's state of mental health, they should be able to say, 'I want this done. This body is my vessel.' without some larger authority saying, 'No you can't.'

**TT: There can be a real power in getting a tattoo...**

**Lizzie:** Yes, I remember a customer of mine, who had really low self-esteem, telling me how she had to get tattoos to make up for what society made her feel she lacked – that if she got tattoos, people wouldn't notice what the rest of her looked like.

**Harriet:** I can relate to that. I've had a lot of turmoil with those kinds of issues in the past, and I still struggle sometimes now. When people stare at me, I think to myself, 'They're staring at my tattoos and not me.' It's a kind of barrier. If I didn't have the tattoos and people were staring at me, how would I feel? It's nice to have that buffer.

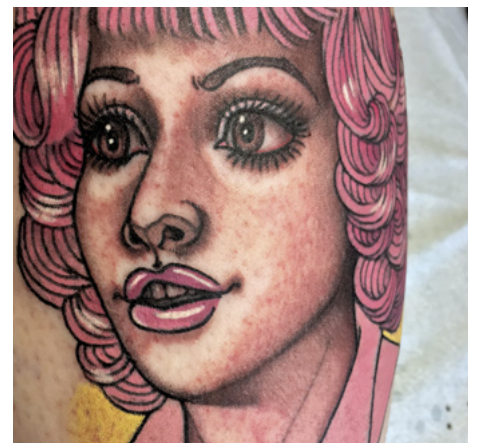
**TT: What is 'queer tattooing'?**

**Lizzie:** I think queer tattooing is all about autonomy and mark-making. Traditional tattooing has shut out and discriminated against the queer community for so long. I feel like queer tattooing does everything that traditional tattooing does not! It's fearless in all the ways that traditional tattooing is scared.

**TT: Tell us about your future plans and ambitions.**

**Lizzie:** I've been working with tattooer Tamara Santibanez on a 'client's bill of rights' to be displayed in tattoo shops. Another idea I have is for a system whereby there would be a neutral person in every tattoo shop for clients to talk to if anything happens to them in the shop; someone who is unbiased and could hold shop staff accountable for their alleged behaviour. Looking further into the future, the one thing I'd love to do is create a critical mass of queer people in tattooing, and for groups of female tattooists and people of colour to take over conventions by being hyper-organised and booking huge, 30-person booths (with big names, so that convention organisers couldn't say no!) I'd love to see us redress the balance, and make white men feel uncomfortable for a change...

**Lizzie Renaud**  
**Speakeasy Tattoo**  
**299 Harbord St, Toronto**  
**ON M6G 1G7**  
**Canada**  
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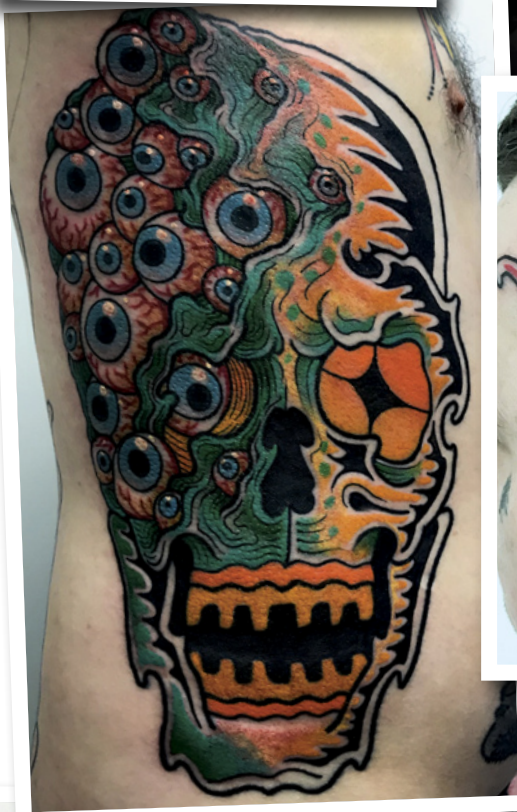
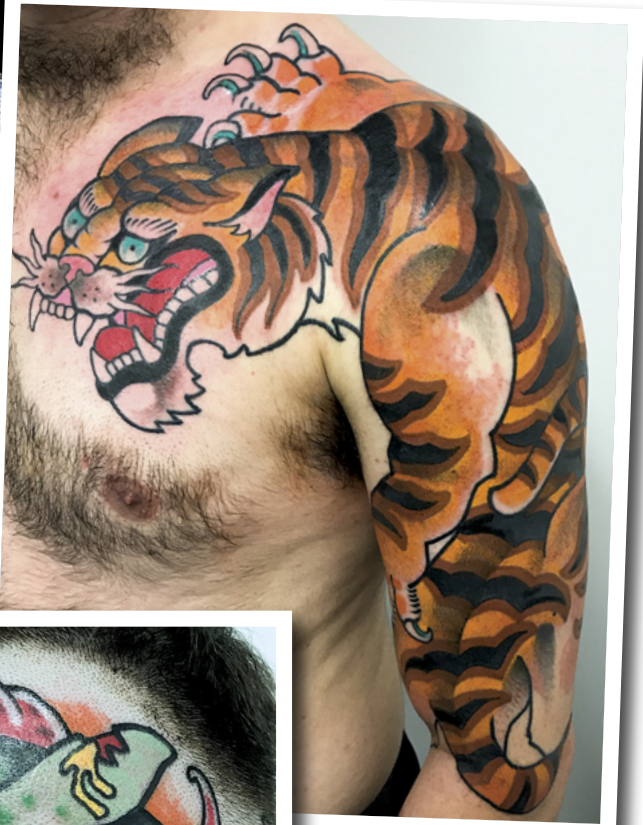
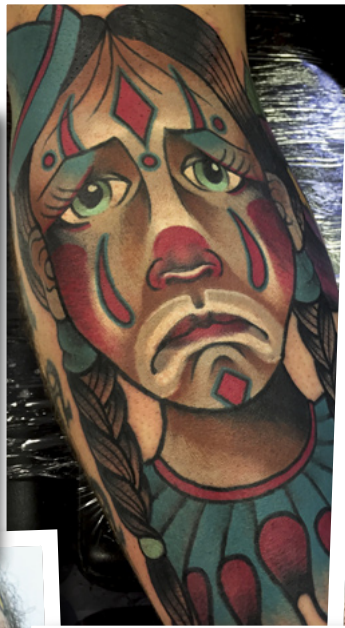
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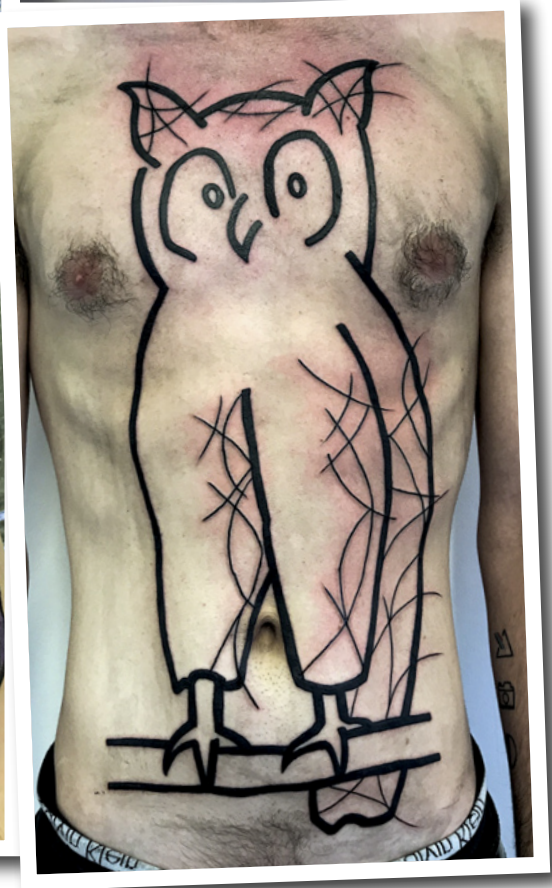
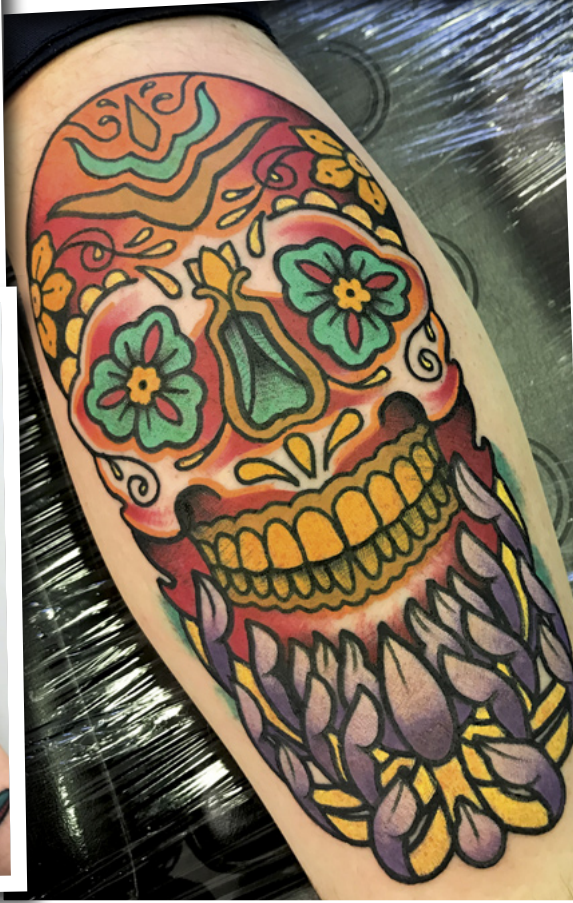
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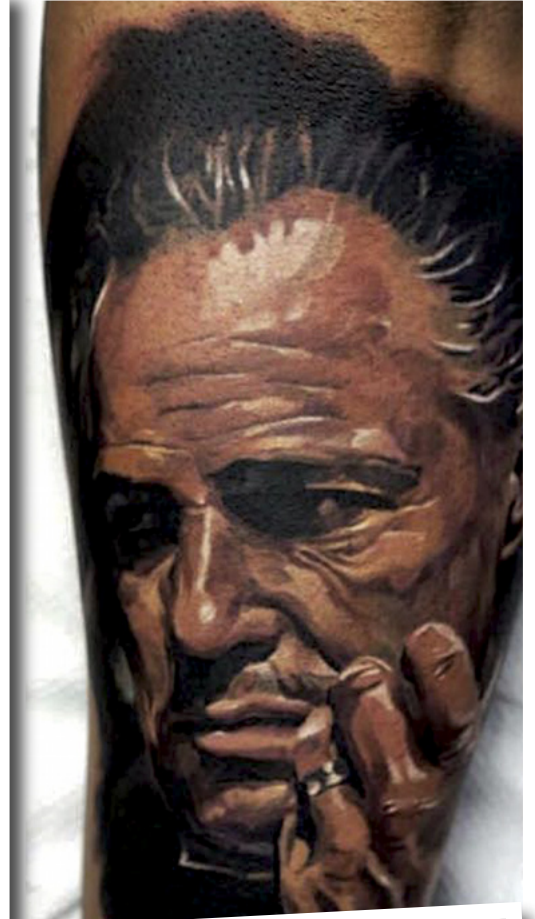
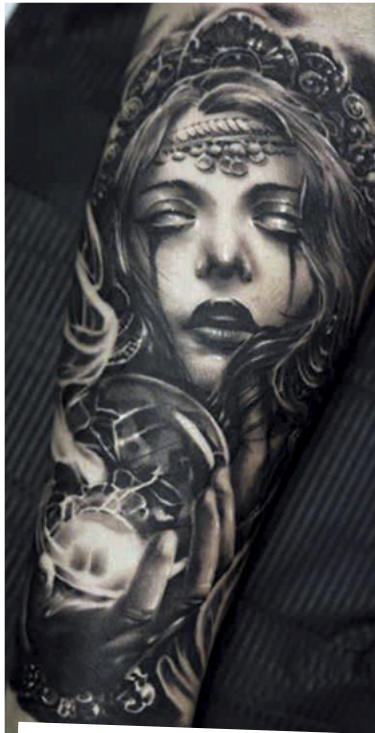




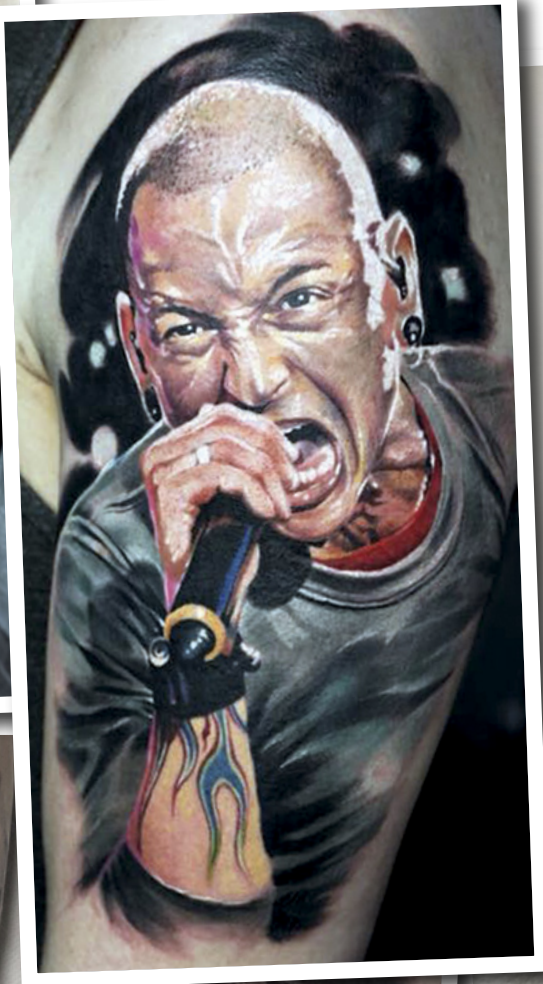
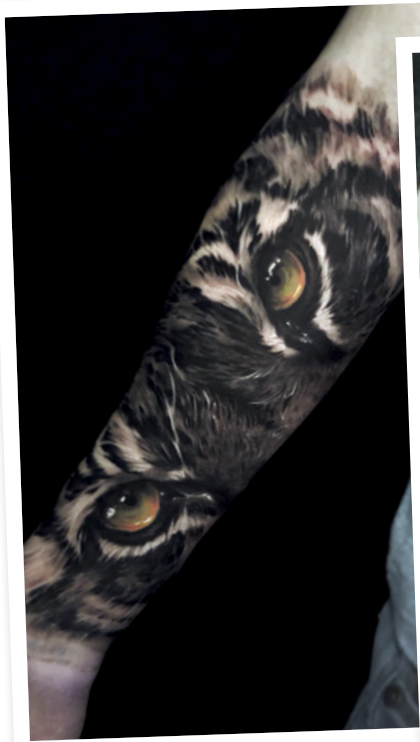




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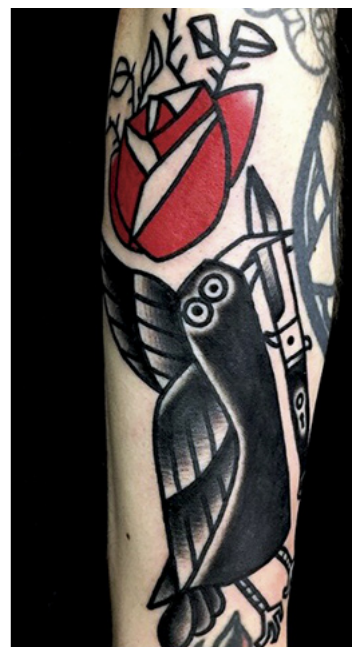
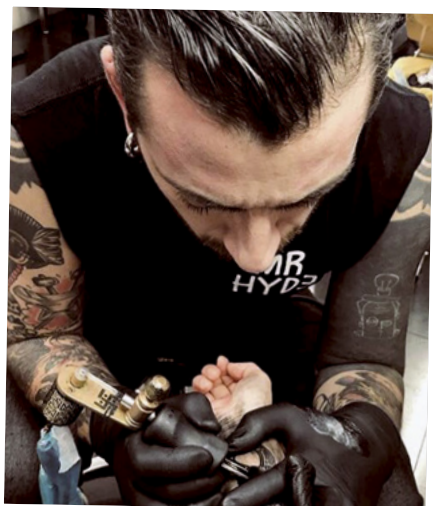




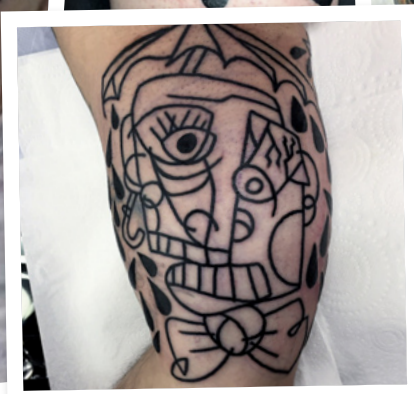
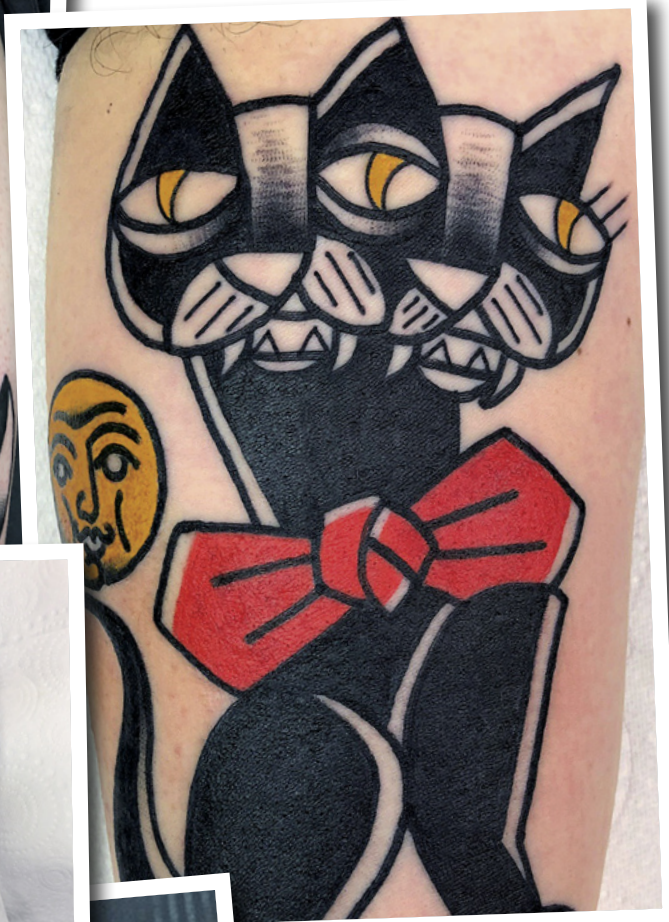
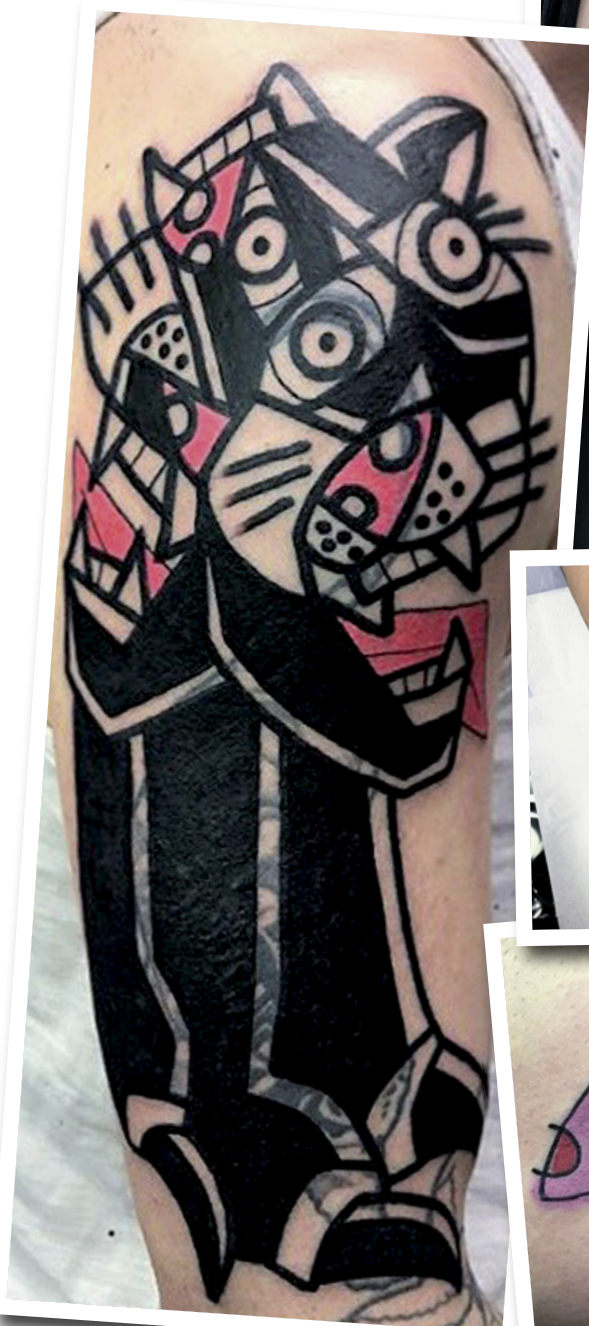




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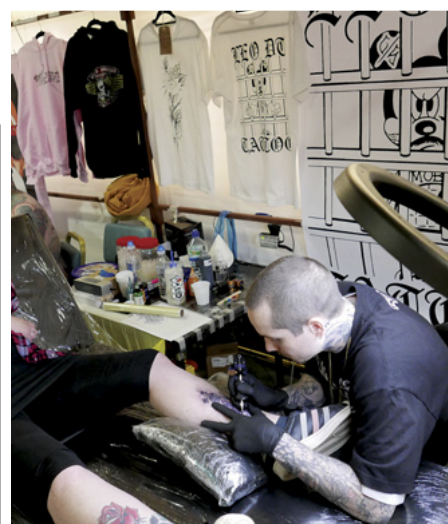
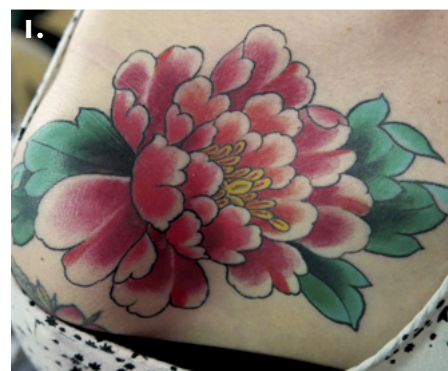
# NORTHLAKES TATTOO SHOW

**I handed over my money to the supermarket cashier to pay for my sandwich. She looked at my tattoos and said, smiling, "You'll be going to the tattoo convention then?" "Oh yes," I replied. "Are you going?" "Yeah, if I have time after work," she told me. "I go every year. A lot of my friends do..." And that sums up the friendly atmosphere and sense of continuity at this unique convention.**

Now in its eleventh year, the North Lakes show has established itself as an event not just for the tattoo scene but for the local community too, and it continues to draw in the public in sizeable numbers. Organisers Colin and Mike (of Mike's Tattooz, Carlisle) and their crew do their best to ensure that both attendees and artists have a great weekend. As a result, they've created a convention that feels so familiar and comfortable it's like going home for a friend's wedding. Travelling there is exciting, you're anticipating the fun of seeing everyone, and the weekend itself consists of non-stop socialising and catching up – and all of that whilst checking out some great tattooing and maybe even treating yourself to some new ink.

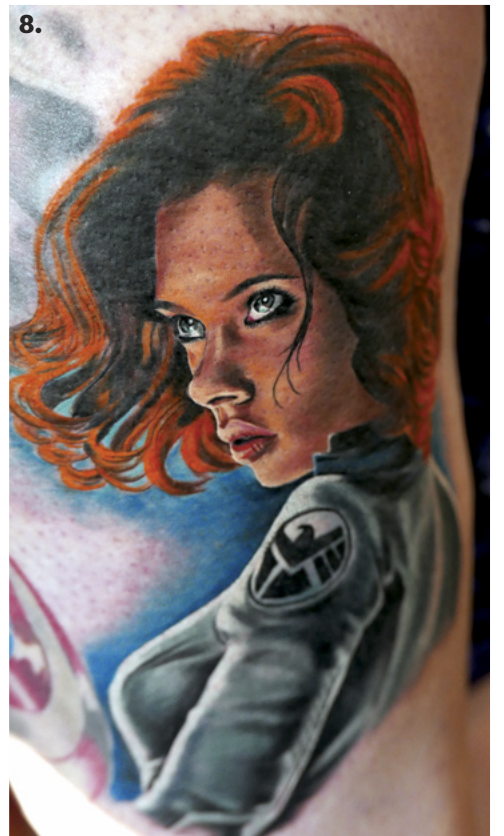
The venue, Shepherds Inn, is a pub on the outskirts of Carlisle. Many of the attendees have been going to the show ever since its debut, and as a result are well known to the organisers and the artists. But that's not to say that newcomers aren't given a warm welcome! It's the sort of convention where if you went and didn't know anyone, you'd have made friends by the end of it. And for people in nearby towns and cities who had heard about the show's reputation for quality, the weekend was a great opportunity to check out the fantastic artist list.

With tattoo conventions happening almost every weekend (and some even clashing), the UK scene has seen artists becoming more selective of which shows they choose to work. This has definitely affected several conventions on the circuit, but I'm really pleased to say it hasn't had any effect at all on the line-up at the North Lakes show. Even after eleven years, the artist list remains as strong as ever. But for anybody wanting to work the show... be prepared to wait, as once artists have secured a booth, they are very reluctant to give it up!



1. olivia chell, insider
2. endre, tattoeend
3. sean crane, alans tattoo
4. zara dickson, blue lass tattoo
5. robert tufeanu, chameleon tattoos
6. sile sanda,
7. shen chenyun, yueyu tattoo (china)
8. gillian badger, nirvana tattoo









**9. robert tufeanu, chameleon tattoo**  
**10. cori henderson, triple six**  
**11. shen chenyun, yueyu tattoo (china)**  
**12. juliet preston, inkarma**  
**13. chris jenko, ultimate skin**  
**14. billy sleight, follow your dreams**  
**15. gavin lyons, high bridge tattoo**  
**16. amy savage, the warren**  
**17. ashley luka, brass heart tattoo studio**  
**18. gary wiedenhof, full circle**  
**19. stephen speirs, devil town tattoo**



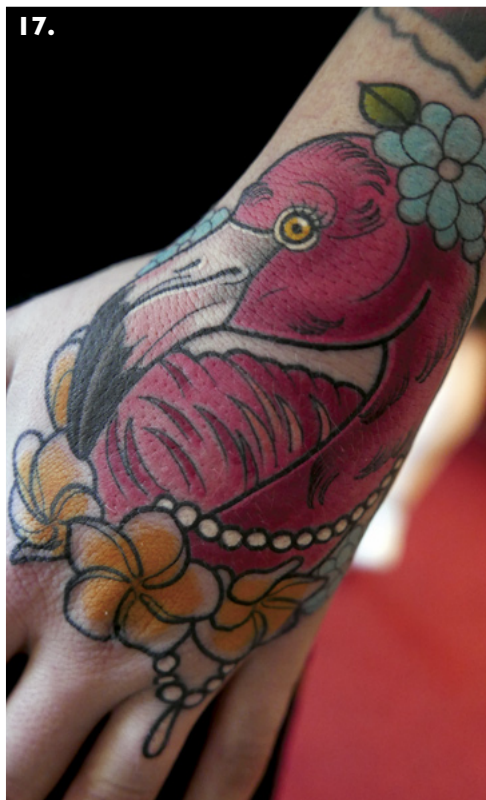


There was a good mix of styles present at the convention. Whilst some artists had bigger pieces that were ongoing projects, or clients booked in advance, most of the tattooists were happy to sit and take walk-ups. What's great about this show is that artists don't feel the pressure to work non-stop; the atmosphere and friendliness means you can't help but relax into the weekend and see what turns up. Having said that, there was a constant buzz of machines as tattoo after tattoo was executed and wrapped up.

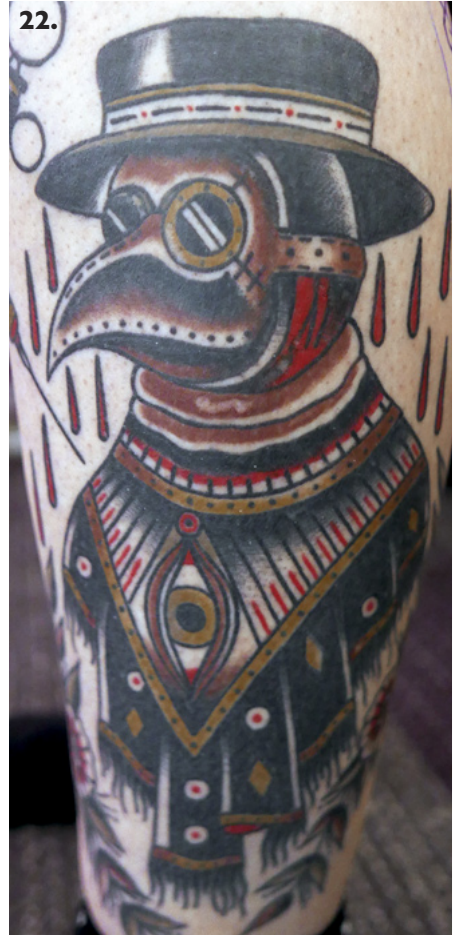
As always, the standard of work was extremely high. During the competitions we were fortunate to see most of the pieces from the weekend come together to be judged including stunning work by Olivia Chell, Gary Wiedenhof and Endre Szabo. It's always a shame that there is a lack of representation of traditional tattooing when it comes to the competitions, as there were smaller pieces that were executed to perfection done throughout the weekend by artists such as Rose Whittaker, David Barry and Brad Edwards.

The reputation of this convention has even reached the Far East, as this year the North Lakes show welcomed Shen Chenyun from Shanghai Yueyu Tattoo in China as a special guest.

The North Lakes Tattoo Show has a unique atmosphere – something that I think many shows nowadays are lacking. I don't know exactly why, but it seems that the artists are more relaxed here than at other shows. It could be the intimate setting, or the familiarity of the surroundings, or perhaps it's the feeling that you've been welcomed into a real tattoo family that does it.







20. gillian badger, nirvana tattoo  
 21. gavin lyons, high bridge tattoo  
 22. jenko, ultimate skin  
 23. olivia chell, insider tattoo  
 24. olivia chell, insider tattoo  
 25. trophies



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Lewis King, Receptionist, Jim Dillon, Jake X, Rachel Halsey



Jim Dillon



Lewis King



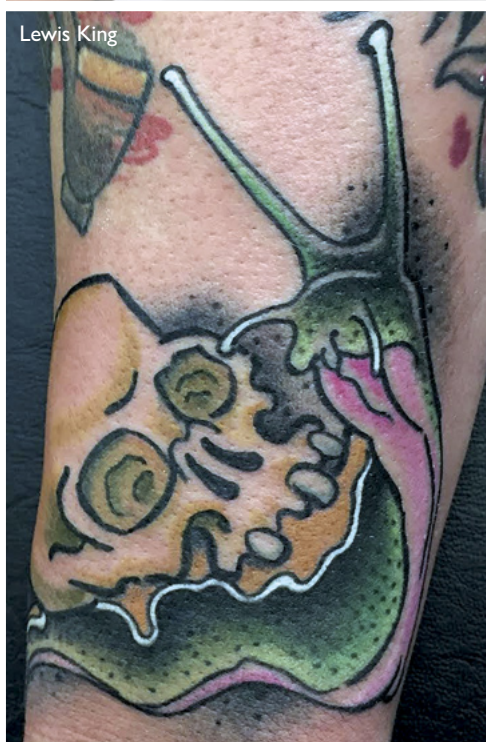
Rachel Halsey



Rachel Halsey



Jake X



Lewis King



Jim Dillon



Rachel Halsey





Jake X



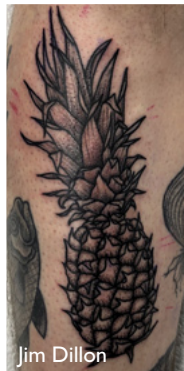
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Instagram: @deathsdoortattoo

### The Church Tattoo

11 Church Road  
Redditch B97 4AB  
Tel no: 01527 759852  
thechurchtattoo@hotmail.com  
Instagram: @thechurchtattoo

### Higgins and Co

69 Terminus Road, Above  
Coffee Republic,  
Eastbourne BN21 3NJ  
Tel no: 01323 301973  
higginsandco71@gmail.com  
www.higginsandcotattoo.co.uk

### Scribbly Head @Electric Buddha

32-36 Plains of Waterloo,  
Ramsgate CT11 8HX  
Tel no: 01843 855041  
scribbly\_head@hotmail.com  
Instagram: @scribbly\_head

### Rising Phoenix Tattoo

6 High Street,  
Leighton Buzzard. LU7 1EA  
Tel no: 01525217121  
studio@risingphoenixtattoo.co.uk  
www.risingphoenixtattoo.co.uk

### Valhalla Tattoo

215 High Street, Bromley,  
Kent. BR1 1NY  
Tel no: 02083139470  
info@valhallatattoo.co.uk  
www.facebook.com/valhallatattoo215

## SOUTH WEST

### Crow Quill

63 Bedford Pl,  
Southampton SO15 2DS  
Tel no: 023 8034 0058  
instagram: @thecrowquill  
www.thecrowquill.co.uk

### Needle and Fred Tattoo

22 High St,  
Littlehampton BN17 5EE  
Tel no: 01903 733622  
needleandfred@live.co.uk  
Instagram: @inkfred

### North Gate Tattoo

13 Northgate St,  
Bath BA1 5AS  
info@northgatetattoo.com  
www.northgatetattoo.com

### Purple Rose Tattoo

56 Staple Hill Road, Fishponds,  
Bristol, BS16 5BS  
Tel no: 01173 300123  
purplerosetattoo@hotmail.co.uk  
www.purplerosetattoo.co.uk

## WALES

### Dexterity Ink

Unit 9 Indoor Peoples Market  
LL13 8 Wrexham  
Tel no: 01978 447100  
www.facebook.com/DexterityInk  
TattooStudio09

### Physical Graffiti

124 City Road, Cardiff.  
CF24 3DQ  
Tel no: 02920481428  
pgct@hotmail.co.uk  
Instagram: @physicalgraffititattoos

### Stronghold Tattoo

2nd floor Hugh St Chambers  
Cardiff, CF10 1BD  
Tel no: 07943 981671  
www.strongholdtattoo.com

## WEST MIDLANDS

### Cosmic Monsters Incorporated

Mitre House, the courtyard  
27 The Strand, Bromsgrove  
B61 8ab  
Tel no: 07863135814  
cmitattoo@gmail.com  
www.cmi-tattoo.com

### Dark Horse Collective

33 Boldmere Rd,  
Sutton Coldfield B73 5UY  
Tel no: 0121 4061635  
www.darkhorsecollective.com

### Nala Tattoo & Piercing Studio

81 Bolebridge Street  
B79 7PD Tamworth  
Tel no: 01827 68353  
contact@nalastudio.co.uk  
www.nalastudio.co.uk

## NORTH WEST

### All Style Tattoos

28 Crellin Street  
Barrow in Furness  
LA14 1DU  
Tel no: 01229 838946  
Email: allstyletattoos@gmail.com  
www.facebook.com/allstyletattoosbarrow

### Aurora Tattoo

Sultan of Lancaster, Brock St,  
The Old Church, Lancaster  
LA1 1UU  
auroratattoo@hotmail.co.uk  
www.auroratattooostudio.co.uk

### Bold As Brass Tattoo

Charleston House, 12 Rumford Pl,  
Liverpool L3 9DG  
Tel no: 0151 227 1814  
boldasbrasstattoo@gmail.com  
www.boldasbrasstattoo.com

### Inkden Tattoo & Piercing Studio

50 B Coronation Street, Blackpool FY1 4PD  
Tel: 07957021702  
inkden.tattoo@gmail.com  
www.inkdentattoo.co.uk

### Marked for life

45 High Street, (Winpenny house)  
Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 1SB  
Tel no: 01642 641235  
tattooofml@gmail.com  
www.marked-for-life.com

### Sacred Art Tattoo

497 Barlow Moor Road, Chorlton,  
Manchester. M21 8AG  
Tel: 01618811530  
tattoo@sacredarttattoo.co.uk  
www.sacredarttattoo.co.uk

### Skin Kandi Tattoo Studio

50a Westfield Street, St Helens  
Merseyside WA10 1QF  
Tel no: 01744734699  
skinkandi@hotmail.co.uk  
www.skinkandi.co.uk

### True 'til Death

13 Whalley Road  
BB5 1AD Accrington  
Tel no: 01254 433760  
Email: via Facebook – True 'Til  
Death Tattoo  
www.accringtontattoo.com

## IRELAND

### Yakuza Tattoo

41 Michael Street  
Waterford, Ireland  
Tel no: +353 51 852 621  
Email: soydantattoo@gmail.com  
www.facebook.com/  
YakuzaTattooStudio



# CONVENTION CALENDAR

## UK CONVENTIONS

**23rd - 24th June**

**York International  
Tattoo Convention**

Earswick Club, Huntington Road  
York.YO329PX

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

**7th-8th July**

**Powys Charity Tattoo Convention**

Community Centre, Mount Lane  
Llanidloes, Powys SY18 6EZ

[www.facebook.com/Powys-charity-tattoo-convention-283437561802173](http://www.facebook.com/Powys-charity-tattoo-convention-283437561802173)

**7th-8th July**

**Leeds Tattoo Expo**

First Direct Arena, Arena Way,  
Leeds LS2 8BY,

[leedstattooexpo.com](http://leedstattooexpo.com)

**14th-15th July**

**Southampton Tattoo Festival**

The Ageas Bowl, West End, Southampton.

[www.facebook.com/southamptontattooofestival](http://www.facebook.com/southamptontattooofestival)

**27th-28th July**

**Titanic Tattoo Convention**

1 Queens Road, Titanic Quarter,  
Belfast BT3 9EP

**24th-29th July**

**Cardiff International**

Tattoo Convention

Mercure Cardiff Holland House

24-26 Newport Rd, 28 Cardiff CF24 0DD

**10th-12th August**

**Portsmouth Tattoo Extravaganza**

Gaiety Bar, Portsmouth, Southsea, UK

[www.facebook.com/Tattooextravaganza-portsmouth](http://www.facebook.com/Tattooextravaganza-portsmouth)

**17th - 19th August**

**Tatcon Blackpool**

Norbeck Castle Hotel, Promenade,  
Blackpool.

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

**31st August - 2nd September**

**Kustom Kulture Blast Off**

Lincolnshire Show Ground

Lincoln LN2 2NA

[www.kustomkultureblastoff.com](http://www.kustomkultureblastoff.com)

**1st - 2nd September**

**Oxford Tattoo Convention**

The Oxford Academy, Sandy Lane West,  
Littlemore, Oxford

[www.facebook.com/oxfordtattooconvention](http://www.facebook.com/oxfordtattooconvention)

**2nd September**

**Staffordshire Tattoo Gathering**

Kings Hall, Kingsway, Stoke-on-Trent,  
Staffordshire, ST4 1HH

[www.instagram.com/staffordshiretattoogathering](http://www.instagram.com/staffordshiretattoogathering)

**28th-30th September**

**The International London Tattoo  
Convention**

Tobacco Dock, 50 Porters Walk

London E1W 2SF

[www.thelondontattooconvention.com](http://www.thelondontattooconvention.com)

**29th-30th September**

**Buckley Ink Tattoo Convention**

The Tivoli, Andover Road, Cheltenham,

**19th-21st October**

**Midlands Tattoo Industry Show**

Athena Leicester, Athena, Queen Street

LE1 1QD Leicester

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

**27th-28th October**

**Cambridge International Tattoo  
Convention**

Guildhall Place, 1-6 Corn Exchange St,  
Cambridge, CB2 3QF

[www.facebook.com/cambridgetattoocon](http://www.facebook.com/cambridgetattoocon)

**27th-28th October**

**Halloween Tattoo Bash**

Wolverhampton Racecourse

Gorsebrook Rd

Wolverhampton WV6 0PE

<http://www.halloweentattoobash.co.uk>

**11th - 12th November**

**East Coast Tattoo Expo**

Highfield Grange Holiday Park

London Road

Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO16 9QY,

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

## OVERSEAS CONVENTIONS

**3rd-5th August**

**Berlin Tattoo Convention**

Arena Berlin, Germany

[info@tattoo-convention.de](mailto:info@tattoo-convention.de)

[www.tattoo-convention.de](http://www.tattoo-convention.de)

**24th - 26th August**

**Shanghai Tattoo Extreme & Body  
Art Expo**

Shanghai International Fashion Center,

Yangpu, Shanghai, China

[www.tattooextremeexpo.com](http://www.tattooextremeexpo.com)

**3rd-5th August**

**Pagoda City Tattoo Fest**

Crowne Plaza Hotel Reading

1741 Papermill Yard,

Wyomissing, PA 19610, USA

[www.pagodacitytattoofest.com](http://www.pagodacitytattoofest.com)

**14th- 26th August**

**Maiden City Tattoo Convention**

Everglades Hotel

Prehen Rd,

Derry BT47 2NS

[www.maidencityink.com](http://www.maidencityink.com)

**24th-26th August**

**Winnipeg Tattoo Convention**

Red River Exhibition Park, Portage Ave,

Winnipeg, MB, Canada

[www.winnipegatattooconvention.com](http://www.winnipegatattooconvention.com)

**14th- 15th September**

**Kaiserstadt Tattoo Expo**

Tivoli Eissporthalle Aachen

Hubert Wiener Straße 8

52070 Aachen, Germany

[www.kaiserstadt-tattoo-expo-aachen.com](http://www.kaiserstadt-tattoo-expo-aachen.com)

**14th - 16th September**

**Galway Tattoo Show**

Lough Atalia Rd, Galway, H91 CYN3

[www.galwaytattooshow.ie](http://www.galwaytattooshow.ie)

**5th-7th October**

**Florence Tattoo Convention**

Fortezza Da Basso, Florence, Italy

[www.florenceatattooconvention.com](http://www.florenceatattooconvention.com)

**6th-8th October**

**Monster Ink Tattoo Fest**

Evenementenhal Venray

De Voorde 30, 5807 EZ Venray,

The Netherlands

[www.monsterinktattoofest.com](http://www.monsterinktattoofest.com)

**8th-9th November**

**Brussels Tattoo Convention**

Tour & Taxis

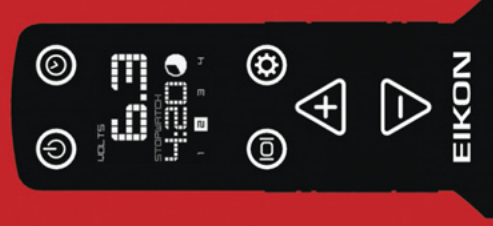
Avenue du Port 86,

1000 Brussels, Belgium

[www.brusselstattooconvention.be](http://www.brusselstattooconvention.be)



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