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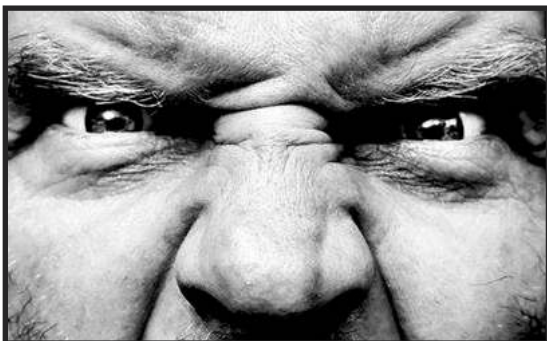
It's not just about cute fluffy bunnies...



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All correspondence should be sent to
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EDITORIAL 179



I recently read a social media post written by a machine builder, in which they expressed their disbelief at the state of the machines that tattooists were sending back to them for servicing. It wasn't that the machines were badly damaged or broken; it was the lack of hygiene. In fact he described them as "highly contaminated." He said it was apparent that these must be the machines of young, self-taught tattooers who were uneducated regarding tattoo hygiene – but then again, perhaps this presumption was just an excuse for an old timer to complain about the wave of young, new tattooists coming onto the scene... Nevertheless, his observations were troubling.

It may seem obvious to say, but all tattoo machines must be cleaned and covered before and after use; and it's terrifying to think that this most basic action is being overlooked. I mean, if you were in a restaurant, would you expect the crockery and cutlery to be given just a quick rinse rather than being properly washed? Of course not! And in the case of tattooing, it's not just a matter of cleanliness; it's about the potential of spreading bloodborne pathogens.

In these days of readily available equipment, online tutorials and underground, "DIY" tattooing, we are seeing more self-taught artists and less demand for apprenticeships. For the impatient, it's a quick way into the industry but there's a whole heap of information that is being lost in the urgency to get set up and get going. Traditional apprenticeships were strict, but they were thorough. Before even picking up a machine, apprentices were made to clean floors, scrub tubes and take out the trash. This not only proved the 'student' was eager to learn; it also taught them the most important and basic hygiene skills.

Recently, we've seen local councils clamping down on tattooing and piercing, introducing hygiene ratings and encouraging the public to report on unlicensed artists tattooing in unsavoury locations. Meanwhile, Europe and America are actively pushing for tattoo schools and certification. Several years ago I would have joined the masses in protest; after all, what do those in authority know about tattooing? However, the more I think about it, the more I wonder if perhaps this kind of intervention should actually be welcomed. It's one thing when there's simply too many people picking up machines; but when the health and safety of others comes into it, everything changes.

Clearly the tattoo community needs to do something to influence whatever decisions are made by those in authority. But so often when people talk about "doing something", that "something" never seems to materialise. Everyone is passionate in their views, but nobody can actually agree what should be done. I don't have the answers, but I do know that the Government have too much to think about at the moment and won't step in until something terrible happens. Unfortunately, if and when that time comes, all the input we could have had will be coming far too late.

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NEWS & REVIEWS



Send your news, studio announcements, books or products for review, and items of general curiosity and intrigue for the tattoo cognoscenti to: **NEWS, TOTAL TATTOO MAGAZINE, 96 Glendenning Road, Norwich NR1 1YN** (totaltattoo@totaltattoo.co.uk)

TATTOOING WITH WOLVES

According to local press reports, the City of Wolverhampton Council is considering changes to its registration fees for tattooists and tattoo studios. Overall, it seems that fees could dramatically increase, with a new separate fee being introduced for 'temporary practitioners' – which could of course impact on tattoo conventions and other events such as music festivals where visiting tattooists ply their trade. A spokesperson for the Council explained that a revision of the fee structure was necessary in order to fully cover the costs of carrying out inspections, processing applications and providing the required level of service. Keep an eye on www.wolverhampton.gov.uk for official announcements.



RELOCATION OF THE SITH

Sith Tattoo has relocated to new premises. Annie Bull's studio can now be found at 1 Dereham Road, Norwich, NR2 4HX (tel 01603 627316) – a landmark building formerly occupied by the Cane Furniture Centre. The move has meant the studio can expand, and everyone can enjoy much more space. Annie is convinced the building is haunted, but she's sure it's a friendly ghost!



MAKING HEADWAY

Make sure you set aside Saturday 31st August for a trip to Brighton – because Alex Binnie's renowned studio 1770 is holding a charity flash day and art auction, with all proceeds being donated to art group HEADSCAPES at Headway East Sussex. Headway is a nationwide charity supporting people who have suffered a brain injury (usually by accidents, strokes or tragically assaults). A brain injury can happen to anyone in seconds and completely changes their, and their family's, lives. The art group has been running for two years now, and the idea is to make it entirely self-funded. Alex will be auctioning the last ever copy of this classic print (right). It was made around 15 years ago and is very rare, being from an edition of only 10. The happy new owner will also receive an original piece of art made by the art group. More information can be found on instagram:

@abinniepaperandskin

@1770tattoo

@headscape101

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www.1770tattoo.com



TATTOOED PEOPLE AGAINST CANCER

In Wismar, northern Germany, there's a very active fundraising group called Tätowierte gegen Krebs e.V. (Tattooed People Against Cancer). They recently organised a spectacular charity event in Mecklenburg where 29 local tattoo artists worked solidly for two days and donated the resulting proceeds to help children and adults with cancer. It was the sixth time this event had been held and an astonishing total of more than 40,000 Euros was raised! Lots of companies and businesses in the region support Tätowierte gegen

Krebs e.V., including WSI, who produce high quality diecast scale models of trucks and specialist vehicles. As part of their German Supertrucks range they have released a model of an awesome showtruck that has been airbrushed with a unique design paying tribute to the charity and for each model sold, 4 Euros will be donated. Check out www.tätowiertegegenkrebs.de and www.wsi-collectors.com/en/news/mts-maik-terpe

FINNISH TATTOO MUSEUM

Janne Penttinen, owner of Savo Terror Tattoo Studio, has got together with longstanding collector and tattoo history enthusiast William Robinson to open a brand new tattoo museum. It's in the town of Varkaus, which is located in amongst the beautiful lakes and forests of eastern Finland. The museum displays interesting artefacts and rare material from all around the world (including several hundred tattoo machines). Its home is in an old wooden house, and its display cases are made from re-purposed timber window frames! Entry is free and it's open every day of the week. Tattoo Museo, Savontie 117, Varkaus, Finland. Tel +358 40 8483371.



ON THE BUSES

German intercity coach company FlixBus (which operates across Europe and also in the US) recently found itself caught up in a social media storm because of a tattoo reportedly worn by one of its employees. According to various news stories, a passenger posted a photo of one of their drivers who had a very visible Nazi tattoo on his arm. It was FlixBus's alleged initial response that caused the furor, because it seemed to be so completely misjudged, appearing to condone the tattoo in the context of diversity and non-discrimination within the company. But once FlixBus had fully investigated the situation, we understand the driver was dismissed.



ED HARDY: DEEPER THAN SKIN - WIN AN EXHIBITION CATALOGUE!

This issue of Total Tattoo Magazine features a UK exclusive review of the Ed Hardy: Deeper Than Skin exhibition that is currently on show at the De Young Museum in San Francisco, California. It's a fantastically curated show that explores Ed Hardy's impact on the tattoo world - from his early childhood obsession to his involvement in the fashion industry - and it includes much of his original art, plus some of the art works that have inspired him. A substantial catalogue accompanies the exhibition and the de Young Museum have kindly given us a copy for one lucky reader to win.



Entering the competition is really simple: just send an email to comps@totaltattoo.co.uk with ED HARDY as the subject line and the answer to the question below...

Which museum is showing the Ed Hardy: Deeper Than Skin exhibition?

- A. De Young**
- B. De Old**
- C. De Lightful**



Please make sure to include your name and address in your email. Answers must reach us by September 1st and usual terms and conditions apply (see page 12).

HE CAME, HE SAW, HE COCKED UP?

People always have plenty to say about celebrity tattoos they disapprove of, or tattoos that cause offence, and social media is the place where it all kicks off. Love Island's Chris Taylor is very much in the firing line right now for his chest tattoo of a woman wearing a Native American headdress. It seems he's unwittingly become part of the growing debate on cultural appropriation and political correctness in tattoo imagery. Many posts have described Chris's tattoo as "tasteless" or "racist", and the word "outrage" has appeared in numerous press reports. Heart.co.uk sought the opinion of the Native American Rights Fund (www.narf.org, a major nonprofit organisation in the US that provides legal assistance to Indian tribes and individuals and is a respected consultant to policy makers). It published a statement from them saying, "These images show a lack of understanding about the history of Native people, and that we are still alive today – we are not mascots, we are people." In the statement, NARF described such representations of Native Americans as "rooted in an extensive history of abuse, discrimination, and conquest" and "affirming negative stereotypes". What's your opinion? Where do you stand on cultural appropriation? And do tattoos have to be 'politically correct'? Let us know.



Simon 'Nefarious' Pollock

R.I.P.

It was with great sadness that we received the news that our dear friend Simon Nefarious Pollock had passed away on July 2nd. Simon was well known to the tattoo world and was often seen working at various shows all over Europe. His ability to pinstripe was second to none. He was witty, intelligent and always great company, and his dry sense of humour was infectious. He touched so many lives and he will be very sadly missed. Our thoughts go out to his family. – Perry

We have lost our dear brother Simon Nefarious Pollock. It's a huge loss to us all, a devastating shock. He had so very many friends and colleagues who will feel the same. Simon had an aneurysm on Friday and, despite receiving the very best care possible, he passed away yesterday with his family around him. He was a brilliant artist, father, husband, son, brother, skater, joker and so much more. Our hearts are breaking.

Love you bro. Travel well xxx – Katie Pollock

I've just learnt that Simon Nefarious Pollock has passed away. Pretty much everyone in the VW and Hot Rod scene knows his work and that he was truly one of the good guys. We met over twenty years ago when I started Club Concept (New Beetle Club) and he was instrumental in the website's smooth running. My sympathies go out to his family, who like myself must be struggling to understand any of this. Sad news indeed. RIP 'Nef' – Paul Riley



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COMPETITIONS:

All winners will be picked at random (or on

merit if applicable) after the closing date. Entries received after the closing date will not be considered. The Editor's decision is final. Only one entry per person please, and remember to include your name and address. Winners of convention tickets will be responsible for their own transport and accommodation unless stated otherwise. Total Tattoo is not responsible for items lost or damaged in transit (though of course we will try to help if we can).

CAN'T GET ENOUGH INK?

People often talk about being addicted to tattoos. But is it *really* an addiction in the truest sense? Take a look at journalist Aly Semigran's thought-provoking article on the Mic website, which includes expert views on the subject from Dr Mark Griffiths, psychologist and Professor of Behavioural Addiction at Nottingham Trent University, amongst others. Check out www.mic.com/p/are-tattoos-really-addictive-there-s-a-reason-you-keep-coming-back-for-more-18166085



A RUM DEAL

According to reports in mainstream newspapers and drinks industry publications, Louise Collins, the widow of legendary tattooist Norman 'Sailor Jerry' Collins, is suing William Grant & Sons, owners of the Sailor Jerry Spiced Rum brand, for what she claims is the unauthorised use of her late husband's name and persona. Furthermore, according to press interviews with her attorney, she says Sailor Jerry would never have approved of the way his image is being used because he himself was not a drinker. She has filed what has been described as a "multi-million pound lawsuit" in Hawaii (where she lives) and is quoted in The Scotsman newspaper as saying, "This was my husband, the father of my children, and no one ever even asked our family for permission to use him in this way." Scottish whisky giant William Grant & Sons, whose other products include Hendrick's Gin, bought the Sailor Jerry brand in 2008 and was keen to emphasise that



WILLIAM GRANT & SONS
INDEPENDENT FAMILY DISTILLERS SINCE 1887



it was acquired "in good faith", having exercised due diligence. (The brand itself first appeared in 1999.) Although the firm stated they were unable to comment further on the legal case at present, they added, "We have enormous respect for the family of Norman 'Sailor Jerry' Collins and have no desire to cause upset or anger." As we go to print, we understand that a meeting has been arranged in Hawaii between Louise Collins and her family and representatives of William Grant & Sons.



PLAYING SARDINES



Douarnenez in Brittany, north-western France, is promoting tourism by handing out free temporary tattoos featuring an image of a sardine specially designed by Léa Nahon (www.leanahon.com). The idea is for everyone to share a photo showing their sardine tattoo and contribute to the 'Douarnenez' marketing campaign (**Facebook Douarnenez, #douarntattoo**). Why sardines? Well the town originally became famous for its sardine fishing and canning industry, although it's probably more well known as a holiday destination now. If you're in the area, you can get your temporary tattoo from the town hall, the tourist office, the marina or the library.

COOL FOR CATS

Cats can now share in their pet human's passion for tattoos... if they can persuade them to buy one of these tattoo sleeves for them to wear. Californian artist and designer Airie McCready (@[simplysphynx](https://www.instagram.com/simplysphynx)) has developed the unique outfits – primarily with hairless Sphynx cats in mind – and is selling them via her Etsy store to a growing number of fans. Both vests and long-sleeved tops are available in various tattoo designs and the site features matching garments for humans too. www.etsy.com/uk/shop/SimplySphynx



GIVE IT A TRY

Ahead of the forthcoming Rugby World Cup in Japan (20th Sept to 2nd Nov), our news radar is picking up stories that seem to indicate a welcome shift in the host country's anti-tattoo stance. With almost half a million rugby fans expected to visit Japan for the tournament, we hear that local tourism bodies are encouraging establishments such as traditional hot springs to relax the rules and make their own decisions about whether or not to allow tattooed visitors (currently frowned upon due to the perceived links between tattoos and Yakuza gangsters). Some establishments are going to provide stick-on patches to cover small tattoos; others will offer special 'tattoo-friendly' opening times. Anyone planning to visit hot springs, swimming pools, saunas, etc, in Japan should still make sure they are aware of tattoo regulations and etiquette in order to avoid causing offence or encountering problems. Helpful guidance is available here: www.gov.uk/government/news/rugby-world-cup-2019



TATTOOS VS FOOD

Tattoos mean different things to different people – and sometimes they don't mean anything at all! – but here's a couple of fun stories that have caught our eye. Shana Laquisha Smith decided to get a tattoo of a succulent cone of doner kebab meat slowly turning on the rotisserie... Why? As a memento of the great time she had working at her local branch of German Doner Kebab (even though she admits kebabs would not be her number one takeaway of choice). And Lizzie Proctor has such a passion for Tesco's chicken wraps – in a meal deal combo with cheese 'n' onion crisps and a Lucozade – she's got one tattooed on her leg. She reckons she's eaten hundreds of them, so why not pay tribute to them in a tattoo? She even received a letter of appreciation from Tesco in recognition of her loyalty.





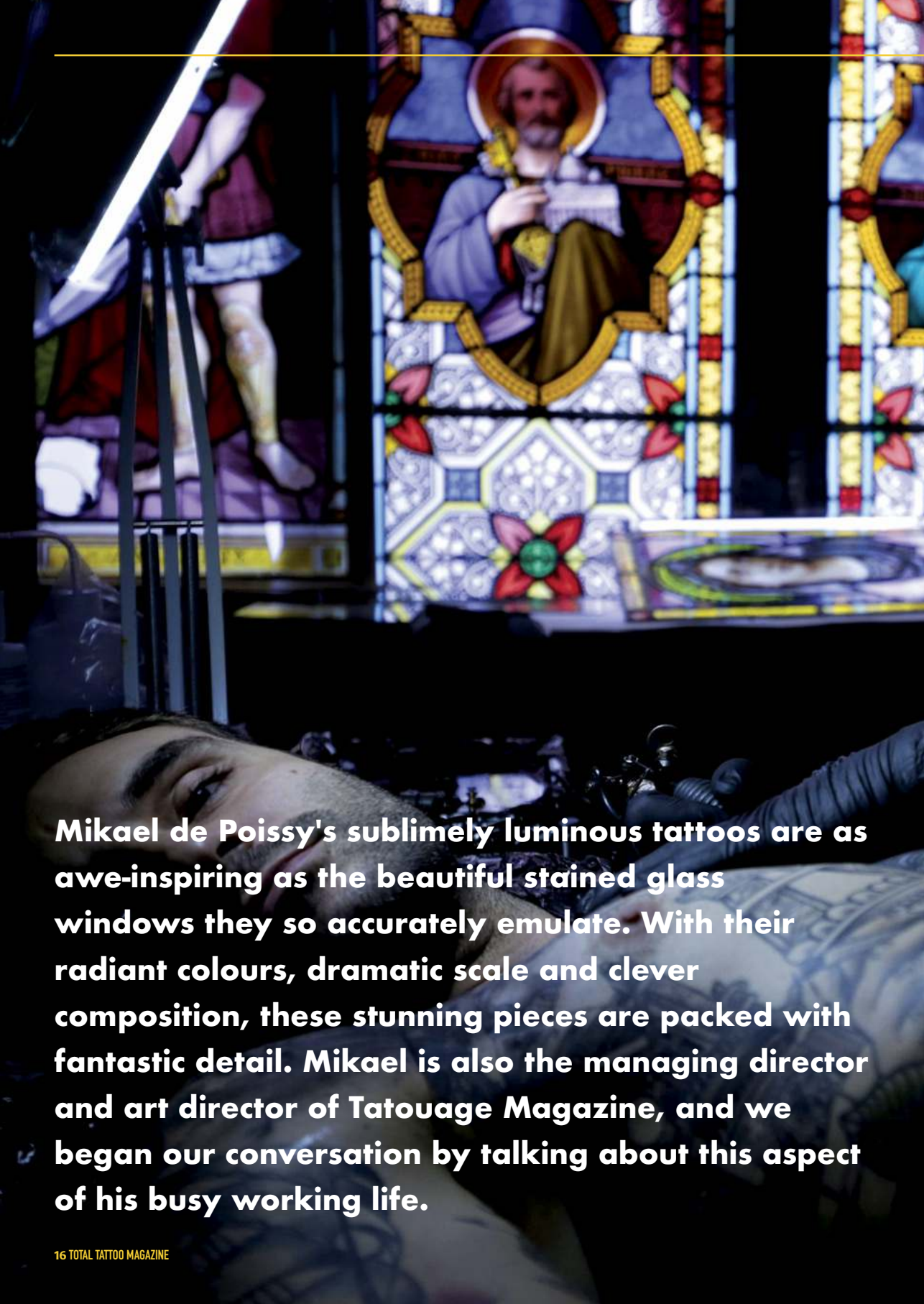
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Towcester - Northants

A photograph of a man lying in a hospital bed, looking towards the camera. He has a large, intricate tattoo on his right arm. In the background, there is a large, colorful stained glass window depicting a religious figure, possibly a saint or Jesus, with a halo and holding a book. The scene is dimly lit, with a bright light source visible on the left side of the frame.

Mikael de Poissy's sublimely luminous tattoos are as awe-inspiring as the beautiful stained glass windows they so accurately emulate. With their radiant colours, dramatic scale and clever composition, these stunning pieces are packed with fantastic detail. Mikael is also the managing director and art director of Tatouage Magazine, and we began our conversation by talking about this aspect of his busy working life.



**'I'VE DEDICATED MY LIFE
TO TATTOOING
AND I WILL NEVER
REGRET THAT'**

MIKAEL DE POISSY

Tell us about your role at **Tatouage Magazine**.

Tatouage was the first French tattoo magazine, and it's still the best known. Fifteen years ago I covered some conventions for them, and wrote a few articles, then three years ago the opportunity came along to buy the magazine from the publishing house. So, together with my friend and business partner Jérôme Pierrat, that's what we did. Jérôme had been the editor-in-chief of Tatouage since its inception 22 years ago and he remains in that role to this day. I became the managing director and also the art director. My role is to choose the featured artists and the general content. Nothing gets into the magazine unless it's been approved by me. Doing this job enriches me in many ways. It's so rewarding. I love the fact that it's forced me to open my mind, put aside my own personal tastes and devote my attention to tattoo styles I wouldn't have spent much time looking at before.

What first got you into tattooing?

The rock and punk scene of the 1980s. That was my community and, especially at the end of the 80s, tattooing was a big part of it. I just did what all my friends and peers did, and went to get my first tattoo. It was done by a guy called Marcel in Paris.

Did you study art in any formal way?

Not really. The tattooists of my generation didn't really have artistic pretensions! But things changed very quickly in the early 90s with a younger generation who had more access to art. Tattooists also started travelling abroad and exchanging knowledge with each other. This is why the quality of tattooing – across the world – has accelerated so rapidly. I did go to art school later on, to improve my drawing skills and develop my freehand abilities.





Tell us about how your tattooing has developed and how you've built up your clientele.

When I started tattooing I was a pure product of the 90s. I did anything anyone asked me to do – ten tattoos a day. But after 18 years in the business I'd developed my own personal style. The quality of my work was being recognised and my name was becoming more known. From then on, things were totally different. It wasn't just a case of customers choosing me; I could now choose them. My clients are often collectors of ink, or people who are as passionate about history as I am. I now have several 'filters' in place before they even make it into my studio. If prospective clients get through these, I know we'll be suited to each other. It's a huge luxury to have a clientele so similar

to oneself. It's one of the things that helps make every day in the studio a good day!

What do you look for in a customer?

First of all, their motivation for wanting the tattoo. I can learn a lot about a person from the way they communicate with me. I don't like people who know exactly what they want – people who are too certain about their requirements – because they are often the ones who keep making you change the tattoo! I need to have *carte blanche*. And I don't like situations that provoke anxiety or stress. On average, my pieces take 10 sessions; so if it's a client I don't get on with, that's 10 days of my life wasted! That's why I put those filters in place. To avoid that suffering.



Are you a religious person?

I think of myself as a spiritual person. I believe in karma, and in the concepts of good and evil. But that doesn't make me a religious person. I live my life in a way that is far removed from the precepts of the holy books! And I love sex and alcohol...

Religion has an amazing ability to both unite and divide people.

Yes, and unfortunately there are those who will take any opportunity to spit out their hatred on the internet. People with anti-religious views do sometimes comment on my tattoos, and they often do it in a particularly vicious and vindictive way, but that kind of thing doesn't affect me. And what makes it all the more stupid is that some of those people wear tattoos of Japanese deities on their own bodies!





You have been to Jerusalem and met with the Razzouk family, who are continuing a centuries-long tradition of Christian pilgrimage tattooing. Do you feel they have an important place within contemporary tattooing?

Yes, definitely. They are the guardians and inheritors of a rich tradition. They are preserving and perpetuating an art that is heavily laden with important symbolism. Tattoo history is something that is very close to my heart. I have been amassing my collection for more than 25 years and my ambition is to open a museum dedicated to the history of tattooing in France. I always feel it's a shame that more tattoo artists aren't interested in the history of their profession. There are only a few collectors in the world, and we know each other pretty well. Maybe things will change with the new generation. But somehow I doubt it.

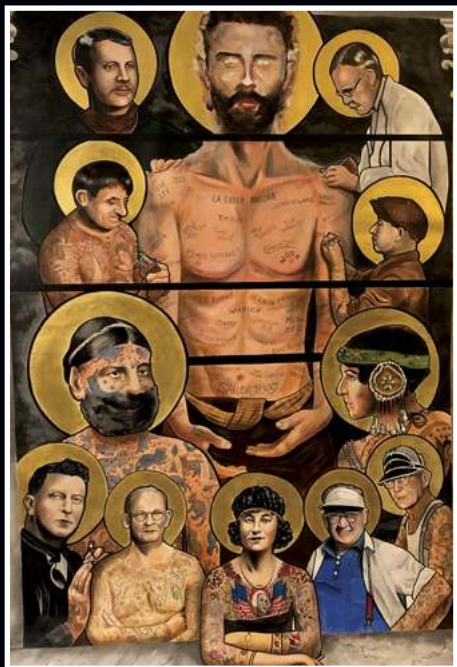
If you could travel back in time, where would you go and who would you meet?

I would go to my favourite historical period, when France was ruled by the Capetians [in the Middle Ages] and I would go in search of the itinerant tattooists of the time, about whom we know so little. I would also like to go and meet all those Japanese masters Burchett tells us about in his book.

Where do you source the reference material for your tattoos?

Working in the style that I do, and living here in France, it's actually not very difficult at all to find reference material and inspiration. We have many ancient churches and 60% of the world heritage of stained glass, so I don't have to go very far to find it! Of course I use the internet a lot too.





Tell us about your machines.

I'm very attached to my coils – I collect them, and I can never get enough of them! – but, after so many years of tattooing, I've started to develop tendonitis so I'm now using rotaries too.

Are you sponsored?

I have just one sponsor – for my needles. I only agreed to that because I liked the guy as a person. The only way I would ever agree to ink sponsorship is if a manufacturer launched a special stained glass range bearing my name! I have to confess I've never been at all influenced by other artists' choice of equipment or sponsorship.

Is it good that the tattoo industry is now big business, or should it still be the art of pirates?

That's the problem! There are no more pirates! Or very few. If I was 16 today, I wouldn't be starting out as a tattoo artist. The tattooists of my generation were lone wolves, jealously guarding their knowledge. And tattooing was a way of life, not a fashionable lifestyle. But does that bother me? No.

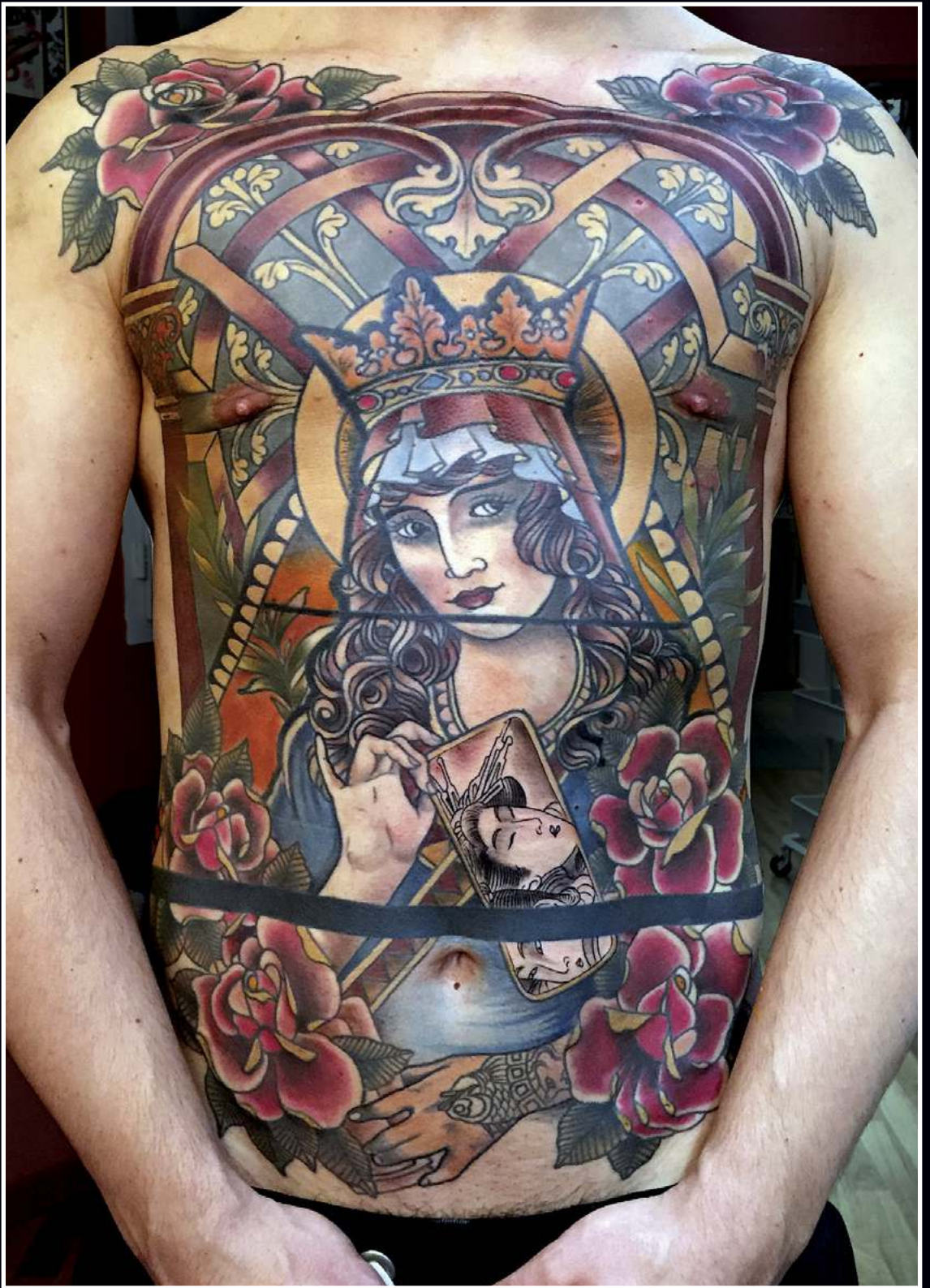




With tattooing now at such a high level, can it continue to grow and develop in the future?

I was asked that same question 15 years ago. And we will still be asking the same question in 15 years' time. Tattooing will never stop evolving artistically or improving technically. It seems as though every five years or so there's some kind of revolution. As tattooists, we simply have to try to adapt and ride that moving train.







Do you feel under pressure with your work? Is it hard to achieve a healthy work-life balance?

I have a year's waiting list, which seems about right to me. I don't want to take on any more work than that, and I make sure I leave myself enough free time. Having said that, I'm not the kind of person who could spend a couple of weeks just lying on a towel on the beach... That would be impossible for me. I get up thinking about tattoos, I go to bed thinking about tattoos and I dream tattoos! My tattoo projects, my collecting, and my work with *Tatouage Magazine* take up most of my time, and this means I don't do as much painting and drawing as I would like to do. As for my family life, I'm a confirmed bachelor, and during the week I have my 10 year-old son with me. He's my number one priority. He's everything to me.



Would you like your son to become a tattoo artist?

Being 'son of' can sometimes be a real disadvantage... and no, I'm not necessarily expecting him to follow me into tattooing. Whatever he does, I just want him to love his job as much as I love mine. He will build his own life.

What's a typical day for you?

In the morning I take care of my son, then once he's gone to school I'll get to work. Usually I'll be refining the details of my drawing for the afternoon, or I'll be doing research. The afternoon is when I'm with my client, tattooing. When I get back home in the evening I go jogging (with Bon Scott or Queens of the Stone Age on my headphones) then I'll look after my son until he goes to bed - which is when I start work on *Tatouage Magazine*, or get into answering my emails, usually until two or three in the morning...

Can you imagine yourself doing any other job?

No! I have too much passion for tattooing. I've dedicated my life to it, and that's a choice I will never regret.

How do people book in with you?

It's very simple. Write to me via social media, by email, or by mail. Explain your proposed project in detail. And if it fits my style and there's a good feeling between us, I'll set up an appointment - et voila!

Mikael de Poissy
www.tattoo.fr



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UK TATTOO FEST MILTON KEYNES

There's a brand new tattoo convention on the UK calendar. June 15th and 16th saw Tattoo Fest take place in Milton Keynes.

There have been several tattoo conventions in this town before; indeed the last one I went to was in this exact same hall! At the time, the Marshall Arena had just been completed and dust from the building work played havoc with the fresh tattoos. But I could see this venue's potential and I always felt there was



Kimmie Gayle,
Wet Paint Collective



Cookie,
Ink Spot





room for a good, well-supported convention here in Milton Keynes, which is after all slap bang in the middle of the country. Being attached to the MK Dons football ground ensures the venue is very well signposted, and the town itself has great motorway and transport links.

Tattooist and Studio 59 owner Geofferson Longley decided it was about time Milton Keynes had a decent tattoo show too. So he set about inviting some of his large network of friends and acquaintances to spend a warm and sunny weekend in one of the UK's most ambitious urban experiments... and over 200 tattooists turned up to ply their trade.

The tattooing took place in amongst magicians, poster sellers, toy traders and charity box rattlers. The hall was laid out around a central stage area, which throughout the day played host to a variety of entertainment. Acts included an amazingly loud rock band – something that is slowly becoming a thing of the past at tattoo conventions nowadays, and which always presents show organisers with a bit of a dilemma. The artists hate the noise of an amplified band, yet the general public often expect it.



Ben Labrum, Ben Labrum Tattoo





Craig Biggs, Art Biggs



The tattoo competitions took place on the main stage too and were well supported, ensuring a long and steady line of entrants all hoping to walk away clutching one of the many trophies on offer. There were certainly some very worthy winners.



Charlie Tomlinson, The Scarlett Rose Tattoo Studio



Abbie, Artoria Tattoo



Amber Bailey, Pictures of You

Milton Keynes could be described as a collection of out-of-town shopping centres joined by a network of roundabouts connected by leafy green dual carriageways, and the Marshall Arena shares its site with a giant Asda superstore, the local Hilton hotel and several food outlets. An area of the enormous free car park was set aside for an exhibit of souped-up hot hatches, a hog roast, bespoke coffee stall and a BMX display team.



Josh McShane, Basement 13



Cora Dicks, Lewis Point





This was one of those shows that truly caters to the whole family. A reasonable entrance fee and a location benefiting from the large footfall of the Asda superstore meant it attracted a steady and constant flow of people through its doors. With all tattoo styles represented and nearly all the artists working solidly throughout the weekend, it would appear that Geofferson has achieved his goal. Tattoo Fest made a great impact. With a few tweaks to the layout and some refinement in the entertainment, it looks like a show that is set to stay.





Vesso, Vesso Art



Anastasia, Revelation



Lissy Cunningham, Rising Phoenix



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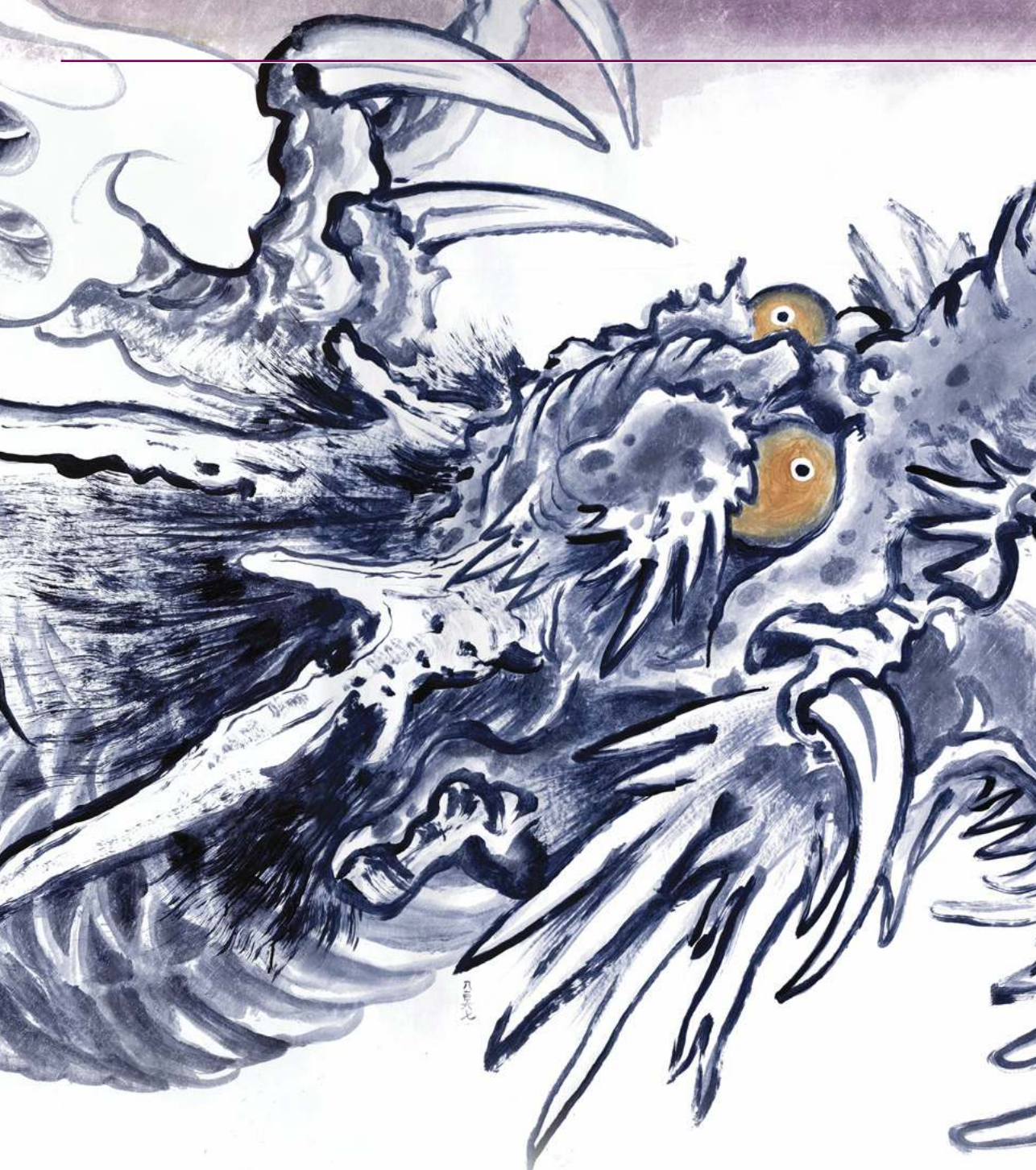
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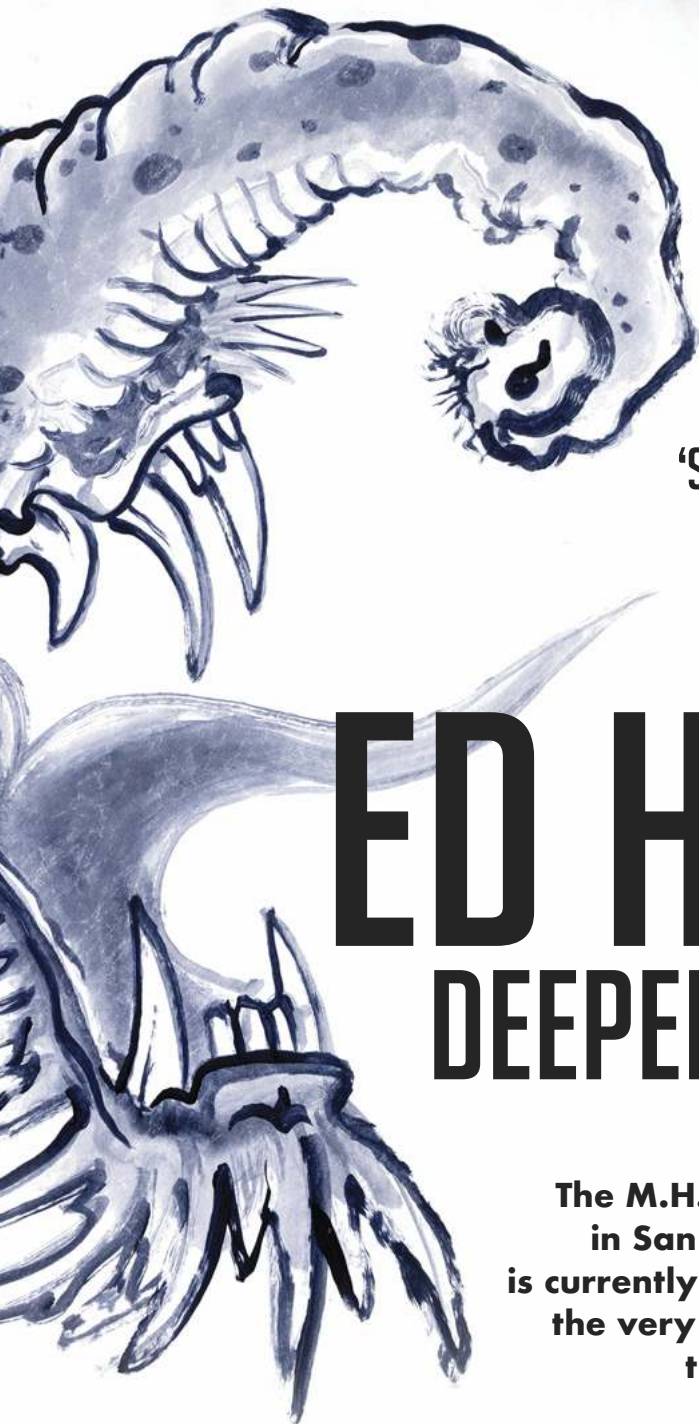
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**'PAINTING 2000 DRAGONS CHANGED ME IN A
FUNDAMENTAL WAY, OPENING POSSIBILITIES I DIDN'T
KNOW I COULD EXPLORE.'** - ED HARDY



**'SKIN IS ATTACHED TO A PERSON,
A SENSIBILITY, A PERSONALITY,
A HISTORY, AN ATTITUDE.'**

- ED HARDY

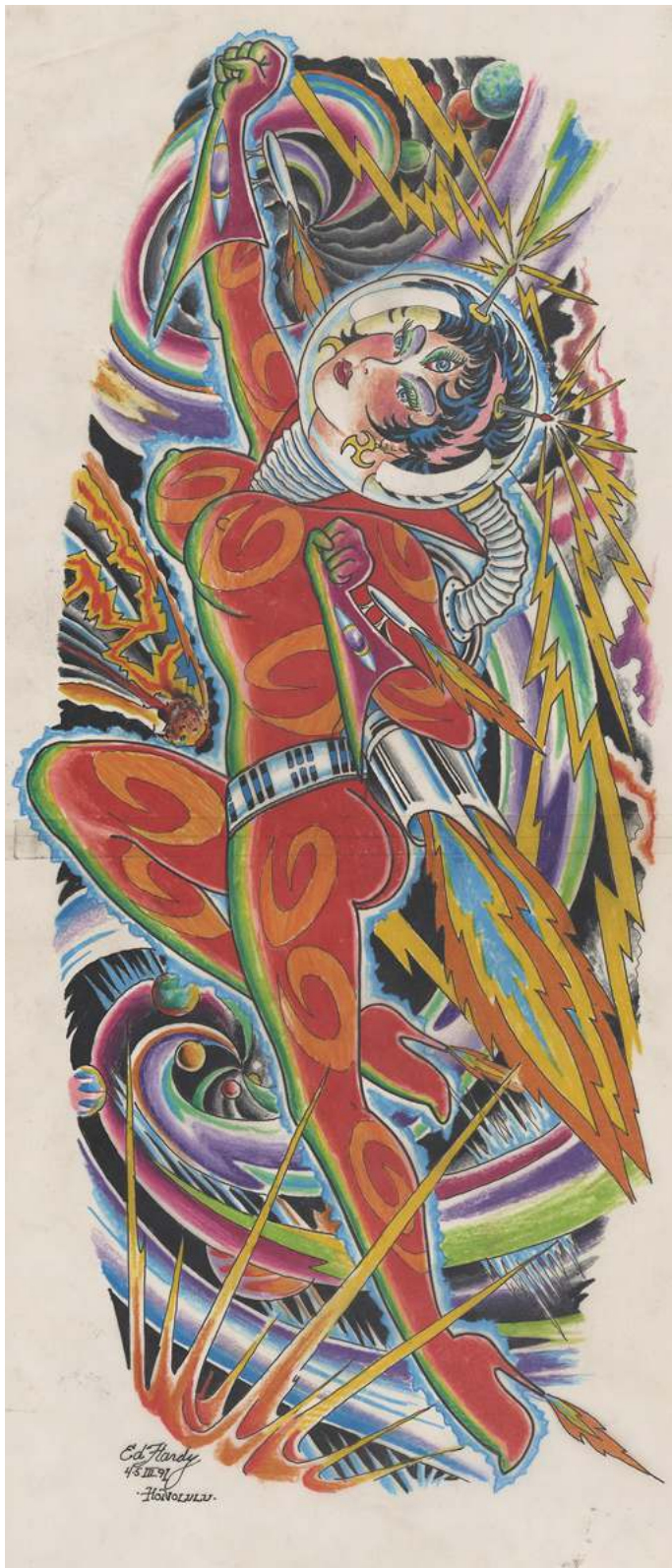
ED HARDY

DEEPER THAN SKIN

**The M.H. de Young Memorial Museum
in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park
is currently showing a unique exhibition:
the very first retrospective celebrating
the life and work of Ed Hardy,
artist and tattoo legend.**

Ed Hardy's name is of course very familiar to tattoo fans. Many people will be aware of the key role he has played in bringing tattooing into the mainstream by establishing conventions, exhibitions and magazines and thus elevating the craft into an art form. However, it may be a surprise to discover his passion for fine art.

In the 1950s, an influential schoolteacher persuaded the young Hardy to go and see contemporary art in Los Angeles galleries. Then in the 1960s he went on to study printmaking at the San Francisco Art Institute and discovered artists such as Albrecht Dürer, Giorgio Morandi and Rembrandt. Hardy was interested in their compositional techniques as well as their 'outsider' status. Some of these masters are displayed in the exhibition, side by side with Hardy's earlier prints, and one can see a direct influence and approach. In 2017 Hardy gifted the Fine Arts Museums with a career-spanning portfolio of 152 prints, many of which are also included in *Deeper than Skin*.



'IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ED HARDY WAS SO OBSESSED WITH TATTOOING THAT HE PRACTICED ON HIS GANG OF PALS WITH COLOURED PENCIL AND EYELINER AT HIS PLAY TATTOO PARLOUR. THEIR REPERTOIRE, RIFE WITH EAGLES, ANCHORS, AND ARROW-PIERCED HEARTS WITH "MOM" WRITTEN WITHIN THEM, INCLUDED THE EVER-POPULAR JAPANESE DRAGON TATTOO.'

- SHERRY FOWLER, *DRAWING EMBODIED: ED HARDY'S EAST ASIAN ART CONNECTIONS*



The exhibition starts with Hardy's childhood tattoo obsession, which was first sparked by the ink he saw on the arms of a World War II veteran. Even at the tender age of ten he was drawing flash and pretending to tattoo his friends with watercolour pencils and eyeliner. He was even taking the bus out the coast to hang out at Bert Grimm's famous shop. Early drawings from Hardy's personal collection are included in the exhibition, and they give a fascinating insight into the life in tattooing that was to come.

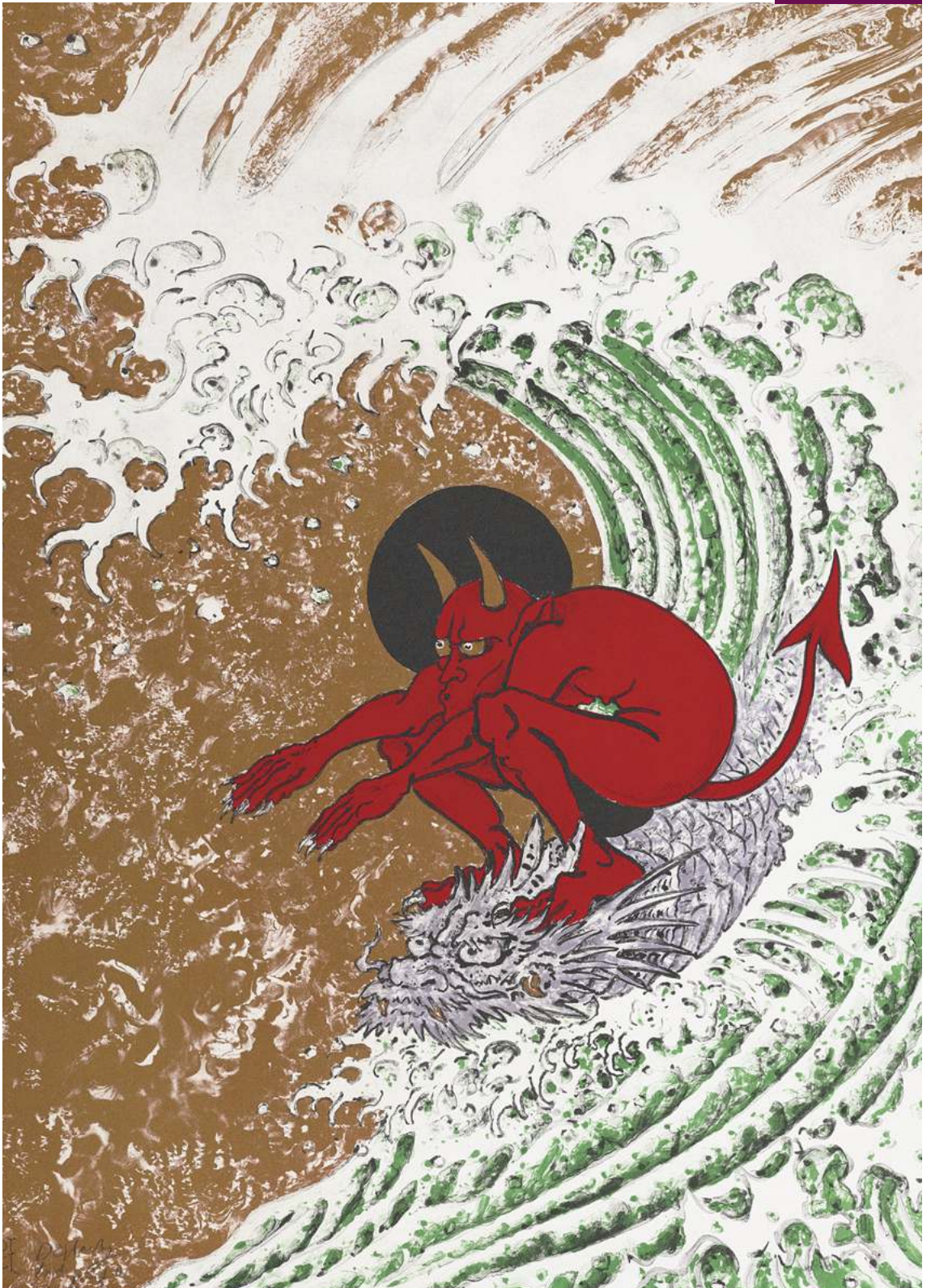
'Deeper than Skin' features paintings, drawings, prints and 3D artworks by Hardy, as well as photographs and video footage, interactive flash, and painted boogie boards... and visitors can even have tattoos projected on to themselves. Arguably the most impressive piece is Hardy's '2000 Dragons', an immense, 500ft long painted scroll. The idea was first conceived in 1976, but the project wasn't executed for another 24 years – to mark the Millennium as well as the Chinese Year of the Dragon.

The sheer volume of information and imagery on display in this exhibition is testament to the thorough research and meticulous planning that has gone into it. For those who are unable to attend in person, there is a detailed catalogue with informative essays – a necessary purchase if you are a fan of Ed Hardy and tattoo history! And if you are able to attend in person... get there before August 25th and your tattoo could entitle you to a substantial discount off the



entry price (FREE admission if you have a bodysuit, 50% off for a full sleeve, and \$5 off for any other tattoo). Check the de Young website for details.

Ed Hardy: Deeper than Skin is organised by Karin Breuer, curator in charge of the Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Arts at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. "While Ed Hardy is widely known as an iconic tattoo artist," she said, "we're excited that visitors will see another side of him and become more familiar with works from his own artistic practice. Since retiring from active tattooing in 2008, he's created a significant body





of art in a range of styles and imagery, each piece incorporating elements of conventional tattooing with traditional fine art."

The exhibition runs until October 6th.

<https://deyoung.famsf.org/exhibitions/ed-hardy>

'THE IDEAL PERSON TO OPEN UP THE TATTOO WORLD TO THE REST OF SOCIETY, HE MIXED HIS CHILDHOOD FASCINATION WITH THE CRAFT AND HIS SCHOLAR'S INSTINCT IN THE SUBJECT WITH HIS TRAINING IN MULTIPLE MEDIUMS AND ART HISTORY AT THE SAN FRANCISCO ART INSTITUTE (SFAI) TO LEAD THE TATTOO WORLD OUT OF THE UNDERGROUND INTO THE LIGHT OF DAY.'

JOEL SELVIN, ED HARDY AND THE TATTOO RENAISSANCE



JOEL SELVIN AND ED HARDY



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JENKO

Our cover artist Chris 'Jenko' Jenkinson has been silently working away on some of the cleanest, boldest tattoos you'll ever see – the kind of thing that makes other traditional artists go weak at the knees. He's also got a great sense of humour and a very down-to-earth view of what it means to be a tattooist.

How long have you been tattooing? Where do you work?

I'm 37, and I've been tattooing for just over seven years now. I'm based at Ultimate Skin in Leeds (although I did my apprenticeship elsewhere).

So, compared to a lot of other tattooists, you got into tattooing relatively late.

Yeah, very late. I wish I'd got into it much earlier, but I had too many responsibilities – kids, mortgage, all that sort of stuff. I didn't want to quit my regular paid job in case the tattooing didn't work out. I did my apprenticeship whilst working a triple-shift factory job, and I continued to do that for my first three years at Ultimate Skin. So I would work from 6am to 2pm, get home for 2.30pm, have a quick shower and change my clothes, then be in the shop for 3pm and tattoo until 8pm! And when I did nights at the factory, it was a similar kind of thing.





**'RE-DRAWING WONKY
OLD FLASH IS ALL ABOUT
CLEANING IT UP BUT
KEEPING ITS BALLS'**

How did you first get interested in tattoos?

It was just through bands really, when I was a kid. Luckily, I didn't get all the tattoos I wanted to get when I was sixteen! I was actually in a band myself, and we were doing quite well, but we all kind of sacked that off. Our guitarist Mark Lonsdale went on to do a tattoo apprenticeship under Butch at Ultimate Skin. He was the one who originally said to me, "Go for it, it's fucking ace!" I got an apprenticeship at Red Tattoo, before they moved. I knew one of the co-owners, and I was always asking her if I could

come and work with her. We'd be out somewhere and I'd say to her, "Go on, let me be your apprentice..." and she was always trying to dissuade me, saying, "Nah, all tattooists are c*nts, including me!" But one day, out of the blue, she asked me and of course I said yes. I had to re-learn to draw though, in a tattoo style. When I was a kid I used to draw portraits of Kurt Cobain and shit like that, but once I was in the band I focused more the music, and I let my drawing slip. It was only when the band finished that I switched back on to art.





Learning to draw in a different way must have been quite a challenge.

It's not until you completely immerse yourself in the research and look at tattoos day in day out that you can really reflect on your work and say, "Yeah, those roses I drew were dog shit, because they don't look anything like they should!" You draw roses and that sort of stuff how you *think* they look, but they actually don't look anything like what you're drawing!

When you look at traditional flash, it seems like a lot of the old school artists couldn't draw very well, or perhaps chose not to?

Very true. That Bert Grimm tiger that everyone knows, it doesn't actually look anything like a tiger! And some of those Bowery designs look *fucked*. But that old flash, which is a bit naïve and wonky, still looks very cool. You won't get better lady heads than Cap Coleman! And then of course there's George Burchett and Sailor Jerry - those were the first traditional tattoos I saw - and the Bowery guys. I love looking at all the different designs and the deliberate 'mistakes' the tattooists put in to use as a test to see if others were copying them.

Do you put little 'mistakes' in?

Sometimes, yeah! But nobody's copying in that way any more though. It's all the same flash.





I guess you need to feel very confident when you're re-drawing the old flash.

You do need a certain level of confidence, yes, but it's mainly just the understanding and the research that you need. It's important to have as much reference as possible. It's all about cleaning it up but keeping its... balls, I guess. If you clean it up too much, it's gonna look weak. With traditional tattoos begin so popular now, people can be very specific about what they want. Three years ago, they might have asked for "a tiger". Now, they want "a Bert Grimm tiger". I think it's down to hashtags and social media. In a way it's good that people know about the old designs and their origins - rather than thinking their tattoo is a watered down version of something, or being annoyed that it's not 'custom' enough. If they've seen the original, they know what to expect, and you are then able to do your own thing with it.



'I DON'T DO ENOUGH EAGLES. I'D LOVE TO DO MORE EAGLES.'





Do you see tattooing as a 'service industry'?

Ultimately, you need to give the customer what they want. The tattoo is on their body, not mine. I see a lot of tattooers getting pissy because their customers have asked them to make changes to designs, but it's not going on *their* skin! However, if the customer's got an idea of something that just won't work, you also have a responsibility to explain why it may not be possible to do it. It's far better to say, "That's gonna look shit" than have them thinking, "Fucking 'ell!" afterwards! I find you do have to advise people a lot - apart from the flash customers of course, who just point and say, "I want that one..."



What are the most popular designs? And do you ever tire of doing them?

I've been doing a lot of snakes, daggers, hands and girl heads recently and I love it! I don't think I'll ever get bored of them; if that was all I did for the rest of my career, I'd be happy. But I don't do enough eagles. I'd love to do more eagles. Or dragons. Not many people get dragons.

What do you like most about your work?

I love lining. That's my favourite part of the tattoo. But I also enjoy using my colours. I've spent a lot of time looking for the particular palette I use. And what I do use isn't always straight out of the bottle. I mix colours to get the one I want. I know this sounds arsey, but if you use ink straight from the bottle, someone else will be doing exactly the same as you. These ink mixes are one of the things that make my tattoos stand out.

Do you use an iPad?

I've just recently got an iPad and I hate it. I'm rage-quitting it every day! I can see the appeal - it saves you re-drawing and tracing - but it all takes so long. I find it's actually really difficult to get a clean, black line. You have to zoom right in and my hand isn't as steady as it is with pen and paper, so I'll be slipping everywhere and my hand will start deleting stuff. If it hadn't cost me so much money, I'd have put my fist through it by now!





If the studio was on fire and you had to save one bit of equipment, what would it be?

Oh God! Probably my first machine, which was a Sunskin shader. I got given it by the guy who taught me how to tattoo. I never use it now, it's just too heavy. I still line with coils, but I shade with rotaries. It's a lot quicker and easier. I have a Shagbuilt d20. The artist who did my hands lined with one, and I was really impressed. But I didn't get on with it as a liner myself. I prefer it set up as a shader.

If you could go back in time to experience tattoo history, where would you go?

I'd have to go to Coleman's shop, because that's the shop isn't it? I'd also love to see all the old sailors queuing round the corner at Sailor Jerry's. I bet that was cool.



How is Leeds for tattooing?

It's massive. There are so many good shops – and so many good traditional tattooers. I feel very humbled when somebody comes to Ultimate Skin and wants something from me. There really are so many amazing tattooers in this town, I always wonder why they come to me! I just want to keep working. I'm so lucky to be at Ultimate Skin. The scene is so saturated now, and you're constantly seeing people advertising their spaces and cancellations – which we all get from time to time – but I usually have a week or two booked up, which is all I could ask for really.

What does tattooing mean to you? Do you think it's changed you as a person?

Oh God, do I have to answer that? I don't know... I don't think it has changed me really. It's just a job after all. But I can't say I don't care about it, because if that was the case I wouldn't be doing it, and I wouldn't be entering pieces into competitions. I mean, winning at the Leeds Expo was definitely one of my proudest moments. But at the same time, I couldn't say exactly why I felt so proud. At the end of the day, it was just a tattoo. I'm not usually bothered about competitions. I see people who want the fame, the followers, the 'books closed', etc, and obviously if you're that busy then good for you. I go to the shop and clock in at 10am, then at 6pm I'm clocking out and going home, and that's how I've always seen it. Personally, I don't like the idea of 'fame'. Some guys at conventions come just to enter the competitions. They take it all very seriously. But I go to conventions to work and hang out with my mates! Everyone I tattoo at the Leeds Expo is a regular of mine, and we all get on really well.





Ultimate Skin is a really strong studio.

Yeah, everybody in that studio has kept me going. Each person who I work with helps me mentally in a different way. Like Ash... I can't not mention Ashbury! We get on really well because we're cut from the same cloth; we were both born and brought up in small Yorkshire towns, and we've both grafted and worked the shit jobs. Anything he does is ace. He's always wanting to do his trippy flash stuff, but he's good at everything else too, even if it's something he doesn't enjoy doing. And then you've got Katie wiping our arses, day in day out. I'd be screwed if it wasn't for her. She'll be like, "You're doing so-and-so tomorrow and I've emailed you the reference already." We're all very lucky to have that. I've been in that situation of managing bookings and I find it a nightmare!





Do you think doing other jobs before coming into tattooing has made you value it even more?

Yes, definitely. I don't turn away anything that walks through the door; it's my job to do it. When I first started, I wasn't interested in doing one particular style. I just wanted to tattoo. And I still get the same enjoyment out of doing a kanji or a bit of writing as I do from a dagger or rose. At the end of the day, a job's a job. I'd rather tattoo infinity symbols all day and be able to put clothes on my kids' backs than say, "It's not a dagger or a rose, so I'm not doing it." What's the point of that? You're a tattooer - do a tattoo!

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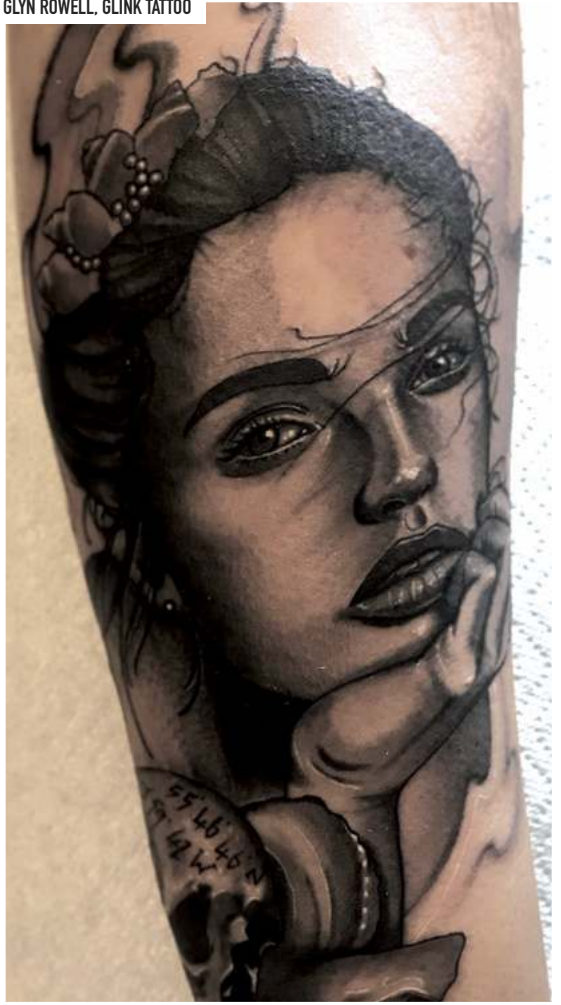
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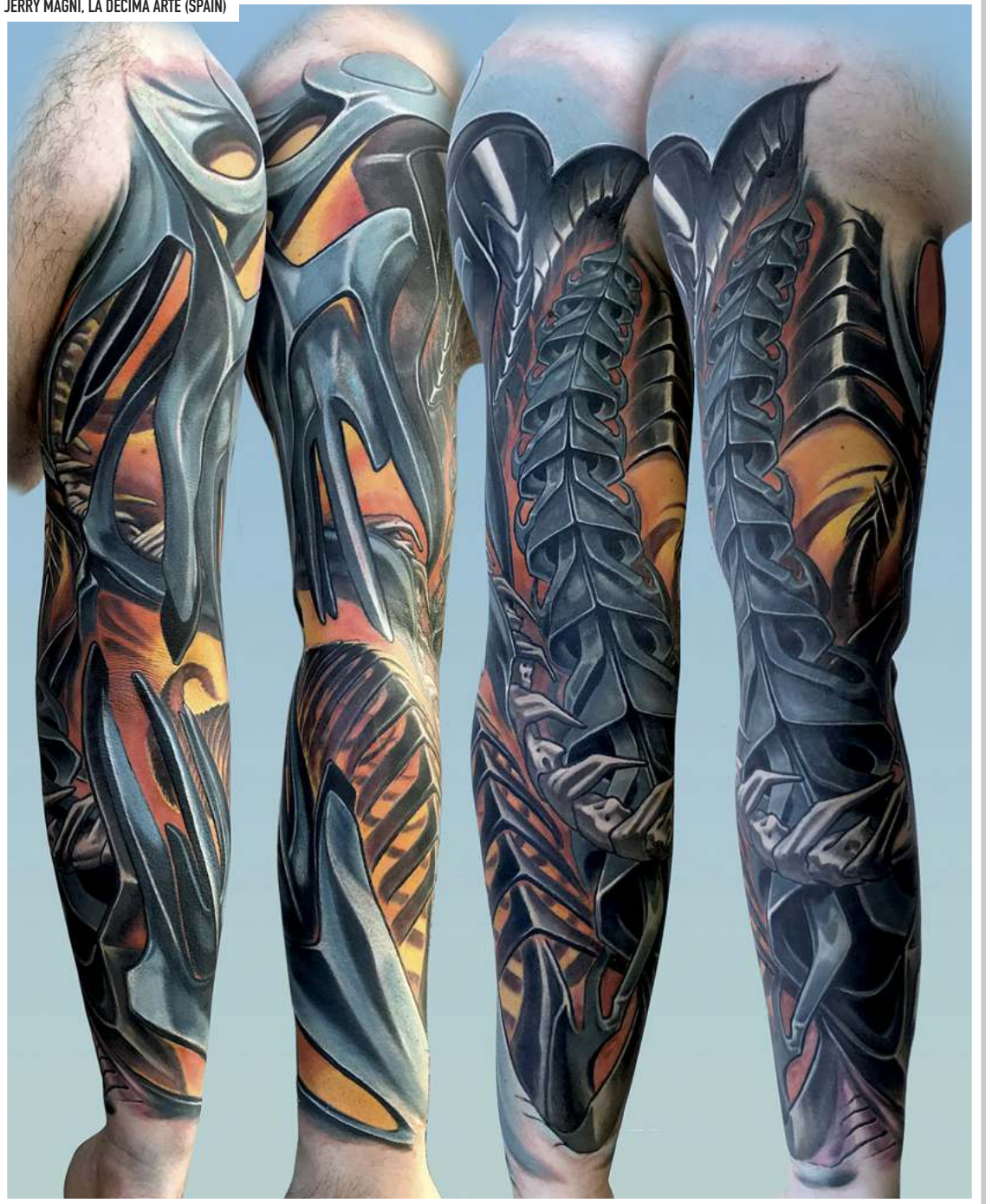


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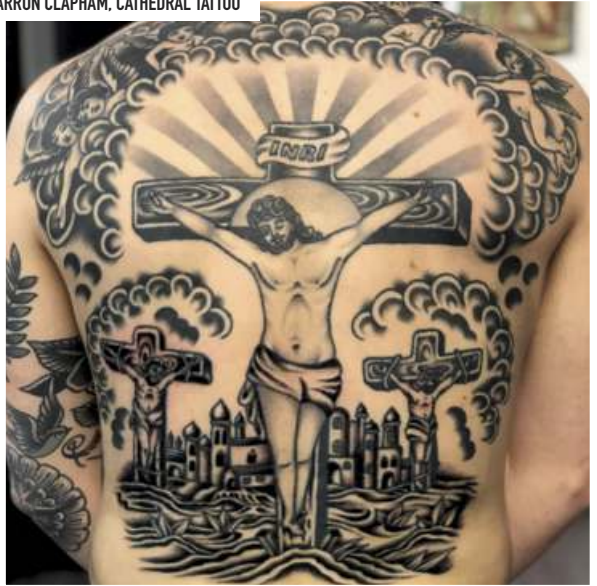
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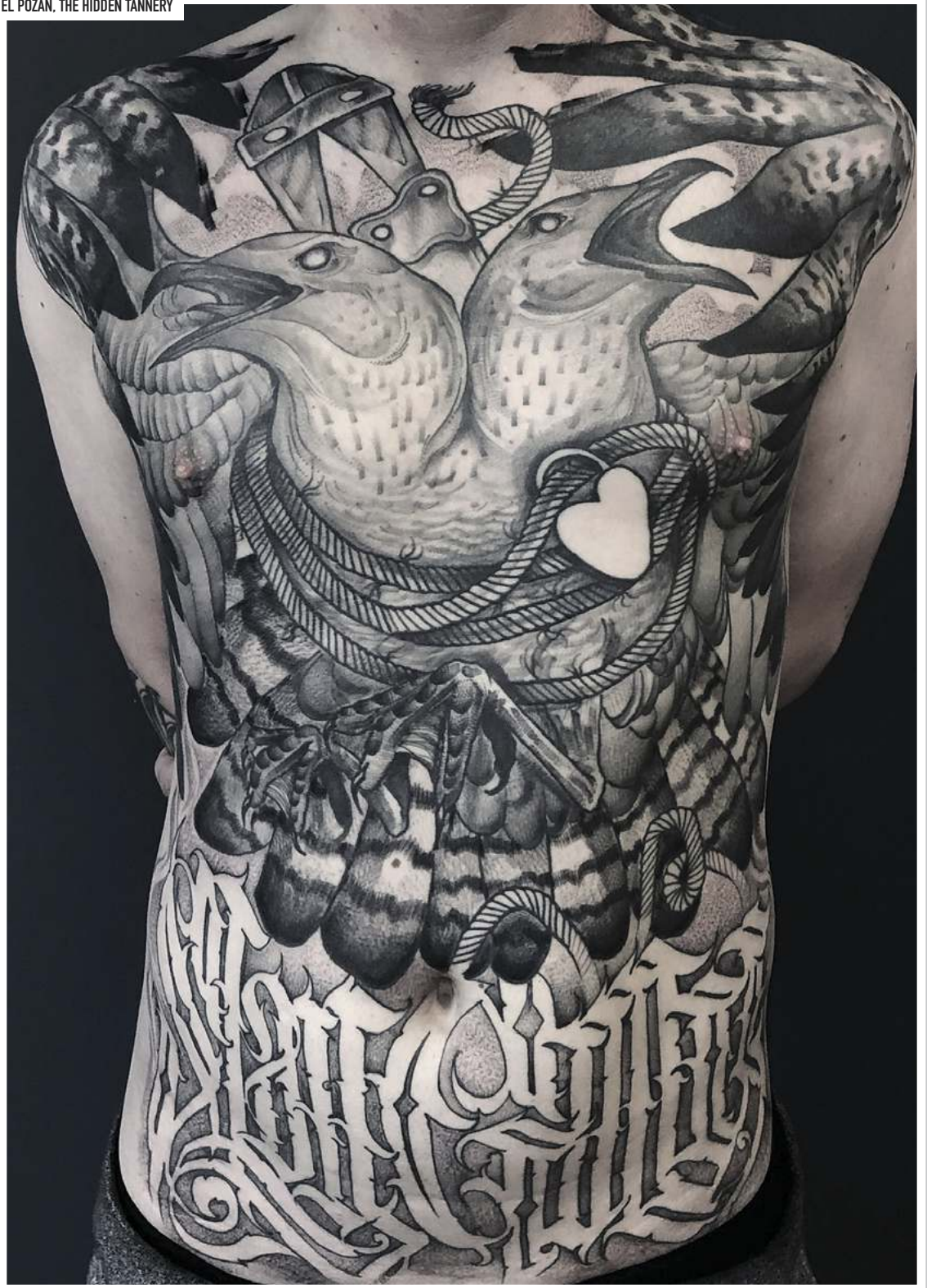
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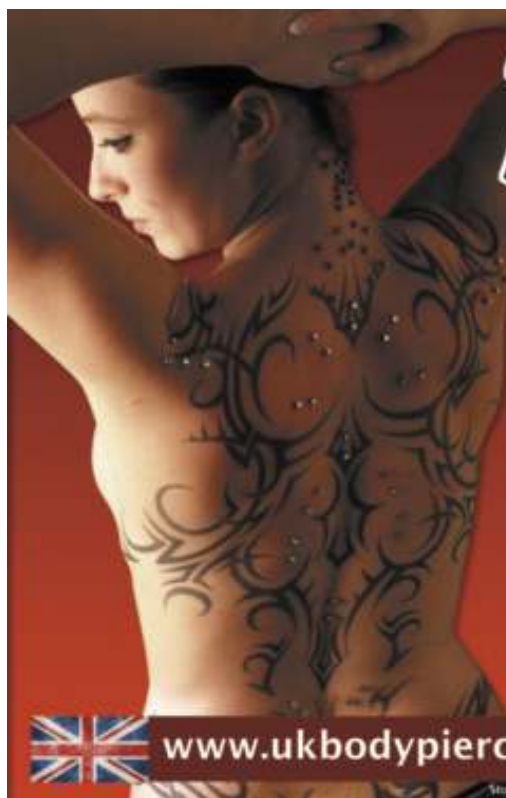


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TEENAGER OR AN ADULT
- BECAUSE THIS IS NOT
MEASURED BY AGE
ALONE'.**

Words and pictures by Fade FX

THE MENTAWAI OF WEST SUMATRA

Geometric dotwork artist Fade FX has a passion for travel, a fascination for tattoo history and anthropology, and a deep interest in documenting the traditional techniques of tribal tattooing that are in danger of being lost and forgotten. In 2017 she travelled to Borneo to make 'The Point of No Return', a film about Iban hand-tapping. Recently, she went to meet the Mentawai of West Sumatra, known for their sharpened teeth and unique tattoos. We invited her to tell us about her trip.

My 'way in' to visit the islands of the Mentawai was delivering a crowd-funded solar lighting system organised by my fellow adventurer Stef Senn (of the Strasbourg Tattoo Convention). As I flew from London to Doha, from Doha to Kuala Lumpur, then on to Padang in West Sumatra, I mentally prepared myself for two weeks in the rainforest without any phone signal, internet, electricity or gas to cook by... My guide and translator was to be a Mentawai tribesman named Esmat. He'd completed a thesis on Mentawai Tattoo History while studying in Jakarta, so he was a mine of

information and proved to be the perfect companion for this trip. I was travelling in a region without tourist infrastructure, where bandits and pirates are known to operate, on the way to meet a tribe with whom I could barely communicate. And as our journey progressed I became acutely aware the locals weren't used to seeing heavily tattooed white women!

It was a seven-hour voyage (accompanied by dolphins) to Siberut, the largest of the Mentawai islands. On our arrival at the port we were picked up by a van with rope-tied seats and taken





to the house of Esmat's friend in a nearby village. There was a small jetty in their garden – perfect for bathing and fishing – and I dived into the sea to wash away the many miles already behind me. But the journey wasn't over yet. At 5am the next morning I was woken by my alarm clock and we set off on the next stage, a six-hour trip upstream in a 'Pompom' boat, with crocodiles in the water around us and jungle pigs wallowing in the thick mud.

We drew the boat up onto the bank and I stepped out into knee-deep stagnant swamp. It was almost impossible to balance, tiptoeing along fallen tree trunks. We trudged uphill through the jungle for what seemed like miles before arriving in a clearing with a communal 'Uma' longhouse. It was around 300 ft long and 100 ft wide, the entrance steps leading up to a porch looking out over a stunning jungle panorama.

At first I thought no one was home. Then a frail elderly gentleman, dressed in traditional red loincloth and lighting a large roll-up with a wooden taper, stepped out of the shadows from the back of the building. He was tattooed from his jaw to his ankles. This was my first meeting with a Mentawai Shaman, or 'Sikerei'. Esmat explained our presence and we made our introductions. The Shaman's wife was all warm smiles, proudly displaying her chest tattoos and breasts and gesturing to me to do the same. I found this was very much the way with Mentawai women, and my reveal obviously went down fairly well as she invited me to stay and become a member of the family, which surely translates as the best hospitality on Earth!



Although the community do have petrol lighting, any fuel has to be purchased from Indonesian sources – something to be avoided, if at all possible, for both political and environmental reasons. I was told how, as recently as the 1980s, hundreds of Sikerei were rounded up and taken to the mainland where they were publicly undressed and beaten. Many were imprisoned for their beliefs and for their tattoos. They were then forced into so-called 'modernisation' programmes in purpose-built settlements. In the years that followed, vast swathes of Siberut were taken from the indigenous Mentawai tribes (deeply spiritual people, who believe that all things in nature carry a spiritual essence) and sold on as industrial plantation forest. This is why the kind of solar kits we were bringing with us are clearly the way forward.



The next village beckoned, but the trek was to be no easier than before. We walked for miles between slippery trees, through swamp and thigh-high mud. We crossed the river, found a path, and the jungle suddenly disappeared, revealing a village with many cabins. As we walked by, we drew a small crowd of curious onlookers, all wanting to waylay us to compare tattoos. Another section of thicker jungle led to a wide stream, and beyond that stood a beautiful Uma, surrounded by flowers and trees.

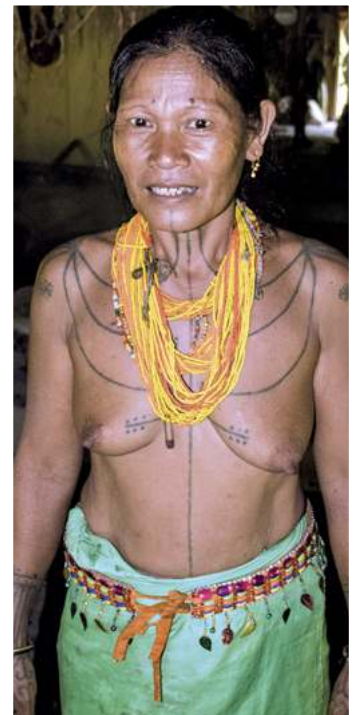
Here we were welcomed by a young Sikerei, Aman Telepon. Esmat told him about our plans to distribute the solar panels and with much gratitude he invited us to stay in the largest Uma. This would save us walking to each house in turn.





This Uma was quite spectacular, standing above a winding river surrounded by paths fading into the jungle. Inside, the skulls of monkeys, turtles, pigs and deer decorated with vines hung in rows above the fireplace. This building is used by the tribe for special three-day (and three-night) ceremonies – and the preparations for such an event were underway when we arrived. The women were making food for the ceremony and the men went into the jungle collecting flowers and leaves to adorn ritual garments. Later, they captured a wild pig for sacrifice. The adults wore traditional tattoos, and they were surrounded by clusters of happy kids of all ages, playing. We gave them presents of biscuits and coloured pens which created an extra hubbub of chatter and activity.

Before nightfall, there was a tense and excited atmosphere in anticipation of what was to come. A grandfather, Lao Lao, had painted his skin with orange spices and the many Sikerei began to dress in beaded headdresses topped with hibiscus flowers. Around the Uma hearth, the floorspace became a stage and the evening brought chanting, trance-dancing, drumming, and a blessing of the houses and lands. The ceremony had begun.



As a Westerner and guest, I appreciated that I was privileged to be experiencing something so extraordinary and so ancient – and still so very much alive. I'd come a very long way to see this side of the human spirit, to understand who these people are, and to learn how they live. And of course to see how tattooing is ingrained into their existence as distinct mark of their tribe.

I took the opportunity to question Esmat in depth so that I could record and fully comprehend the significance of tattooing for the Mentawai. I'm not sure anyone other than him has formally studied their tattoo art; it was as though my entire journey across oceans and through jungle swamps had led to this specific moment, sitting down with him to document his expert knowledge.

With help of a translation app I began asking my questions...

“What is the meaning of tattoos in Mentawai tribal culture?”

Esmat explained, “For the Mentawai, tattoos are eternal clothes and a way to know each other as individuals. They are a sign of identity and also a measure of our wisdom in the tribe. Unlike other things, they accompany us to death. Tattoos show our kinship, our line of love, and we also read in them a meaning, a message, telling us whether someone is a child, a teenager, or an adult – because this is not measured by age alone, but by intelligence, expertise and skill. So we know what responsibility they can be given.”



“At what stage in someone's life will they receive this tattoo?”

“If they're male, at the age of 14-16. Parents feed their children through hunting, through farming a sago plantation, through boat-building and fishing. If the child starts to be able to do these tasks themselves, then the parents continue the tattoo progression.”

“Who makes the tattoo and what process do they use?”

“The person who makes the tattoo is from the family's tribe or another Mentawai group. Not all Mentawai people can make tattoos. It's a special skill.”

“What are the tools and ink made of?”

“Like our ancestors, we use a needle made of hard thorns or sharpened bone and a wooden beater. The ink is a concoction of ash and sugarcane water stirred in a coconut shell.”

“What does the tattoo mean?”

“Mentawai tattoos have many meanings, according to the part of the body on which they are worn. But all the tattoo designs are interconnected so they become a whole unit like visible clothing. Here's what they signify...”



- First, men and women are tattooed on their fingers. This means they are reaching adulthood (because hands perform activities such as finding food).
- Second, men have tattoos on their thighs, from buttocks to knees. This means that the person can live as an independent adult. They can get married, own their house, own livestock or a sago plantation. At this time women are tattooed on their chest and back.
- Third, the men are tattooed on their chest and back. This means they can lead their family. They have greater life responsibility. These tattoos show that someone has begun to be wise. The person can resolve social issues between families and between other people's families.
- Fourth, the calves. This tattoo shows that the person has achieved wisdom, or is an Elder or Tribal Chief.”



“Do the current generation still practise this tattoo tradition, or is it now regarded more as something of historic interest?”

“For many generations it didn't continue, because of the dark times in the 1950s. In 1953-54 the Indonesian government tried to erase the culture of the Mentawai people. Likewise their tattoos. The government banned our religion and made us choose an official Indonesian religion. Now, people like me are recognising the value of Mentawai identity and campaigning for its preservation. Our culture is too strong to be lost!”

All around us the sounds of the ceremony rang out. Listening to Esmat telling me all about Mentawai culture, whilst physically immersed in it myself, had made my trip more than worthwhile. But it wasn't over yet. There was more to be done. I still had several solar packs destined for a neighbouring village.

So the next morning I woke at dawn, bathed in the stream and trekked out with Esmat and Stef. We were whisked in our Pompom boat down a fast-flowing river and out into more snake-decorated swamp, then up to an Uma on the brow of a hill. It was here we donated our final solar kits, to six Sikerei all over the age of 75.

For me, it's hugely important to acknowledge the wide heritage of tribal tattooing from forgotten parts the world. The Mentawai are a hidden people who were almost filtered out of existence by ethnic cleansing, religious persecution and governmental oppression. Their way of life still very much hangs in the balance as modern industries such as logging encroach on their land. But for now, they survive with a reaffirmed group identity and strong connections to their beliefs and to their environment – marking rites of passage as stories to be read on their own skin.

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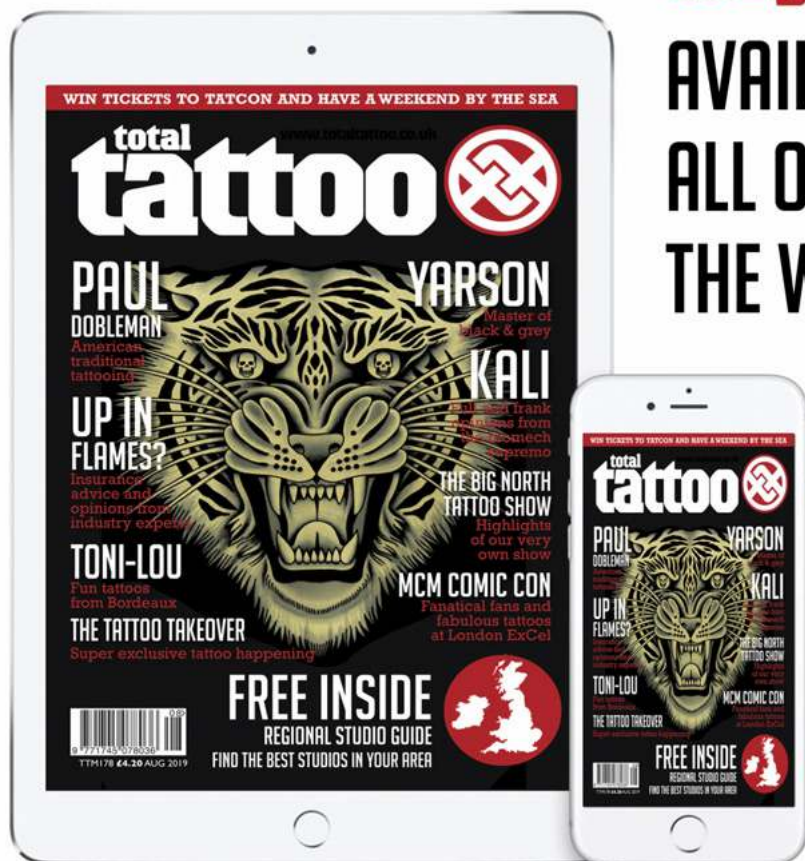
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LEEDS TATTOO EXPO 2019



Norbert Mirk, Thundercat Tattoo

Leeds is a hot location for getting tattooed. Like most busy cities, there are the well-known, must-visit studios as well as other shops popping up all around. It seems the young, student-heavy population wants to get tattooed and this is reflected in the attendance and popularity of the Leeds Tattoo Expo, which is now in its sixth year.





Inky Joe, Five Keys Tattoo



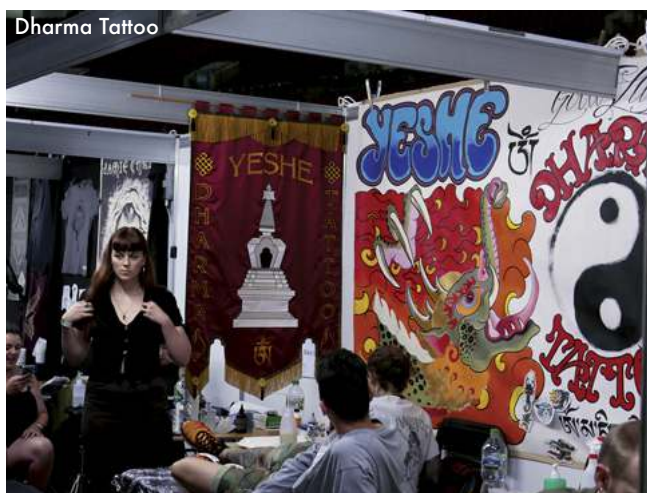
Angahard Chappelle



Adrian Montana,
Smiley Dog Tattoo (Ireland)

Some arena-based conventions have recently been snubbed by tattoo artists, with people feeling that they're too big, or that they lose the atmosphere. The Leeds Expo was previously held at the Royal Armouries, but the First Direct Arena has played host to the show for the last three years. Although it may appear large and foreboding from the front, with heavy security for entering and exiting, inside it is immediately lighter and more welcoming.

Over the weekend, visitors were treated to the usual display of burlesque-style performances, which have become a bit of a 'Marmite' topic in the convention debate (in that tattooists and the public either love them or hate them). My personal favourite act from this convention is Dr Sketchy's Anti Art School, a life drawing event where participants sketch a range of subjects such as cabaret acts, bearded boxers and furry monsters. Even though it's not the first time it's been at the Expo, it's consistently fun, inclusive and completely different. And then there were the Viking re-enactments – as far as I know, a real first for a UK tattoo convention. Leeds Libraries and The West Yorkshire Archive Service even brought along some amazing documents for reference hunters and history enthusiasts to (metaphorically) drool over. And in the space outside the venue, visitors could try their hand at axe-throwing...



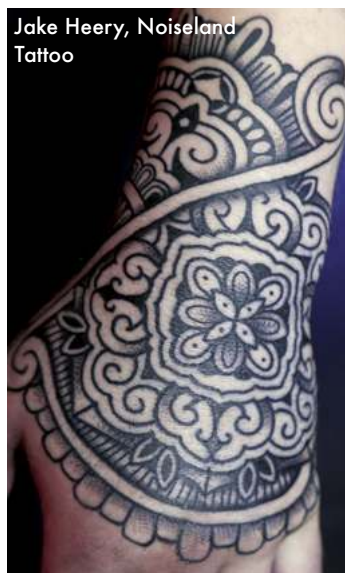
Dharma Tattoo



Jessie Foakes, Goodship 13



Iris Lys, The Foundry



Jake Heery, Noiseland Tattoo



Abi Tonge, Ultimate Skin

“SEEING SO MANY BOOTHS WITH PRE-DRAWN FLASH HAS MADE ME THINK ABOUT HOW I PREPARE FOR A CONVENTION. I’VE LEARNED A LOT FROM THIS WEEKEND AND I’M GOING TO BE STEPPING UP MY GAME NEXT YEAR.”

- ONE OF THE MANY GREAT ARTISTS



The Leeds Expo has a reputation for being 'trad heavy', but this is not strictly true. Yes, some of the UK's best traditional artists were certainly present – and there was strong European representation too – but the show also featured quality neo-trad, line work and realistic pieces. And this convention is great for picking up smaller pieces and choosing flash, or simply rolling the dice or turning the dial on one of the many 'get what you get' machines (although it's always advisable to pre-book with large scale and realism artists of course!) The styles and subject matter of the pre-drawn designs and flash available was indicative of how committed the artists were to their art form. Gone are the days of relying on an out-of-date portfolio; conventions are now about presenting clients with cool ideas and space-fillers to get there and then.



Kyle Shields,
Empire Ink



Norbert Mirk,
Thundercat Tattoo



Norbert Mirk,
Thundercat Tattoo

Stephanie Melbourne, The Church



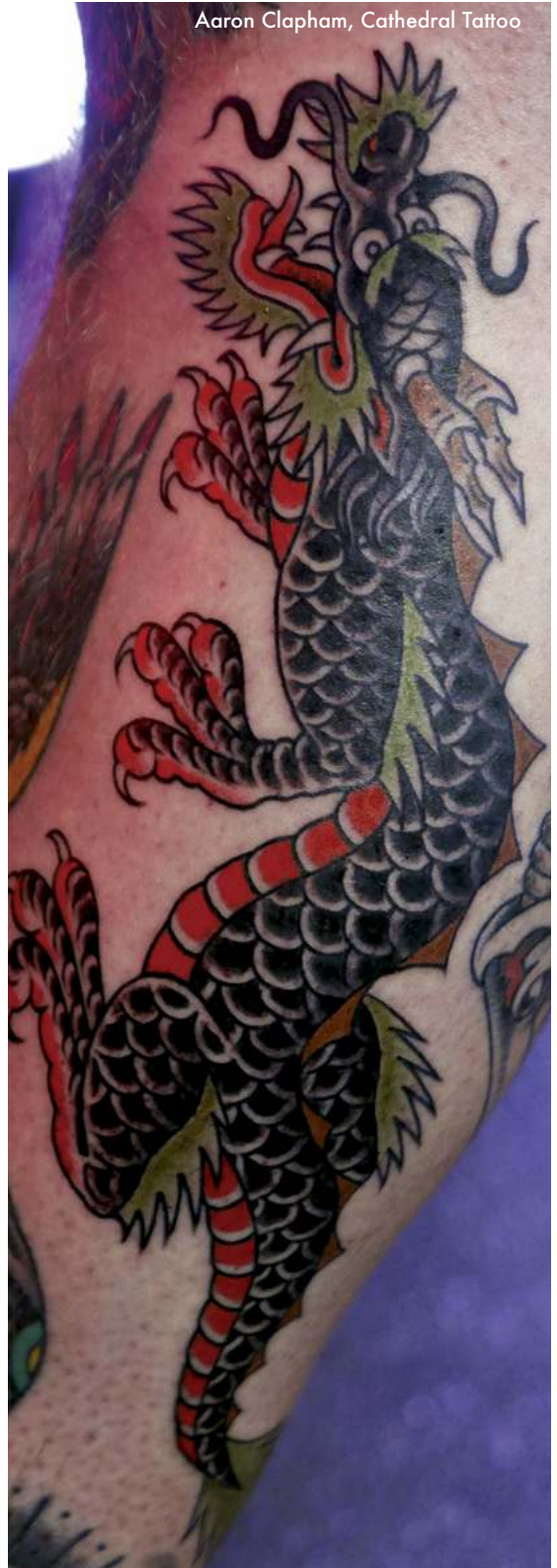
Anthony Barros
Castro (Spain)



Tony Kennedy, Black Gate Tattoos



Aaron Clapham, Cathedral Tattoo

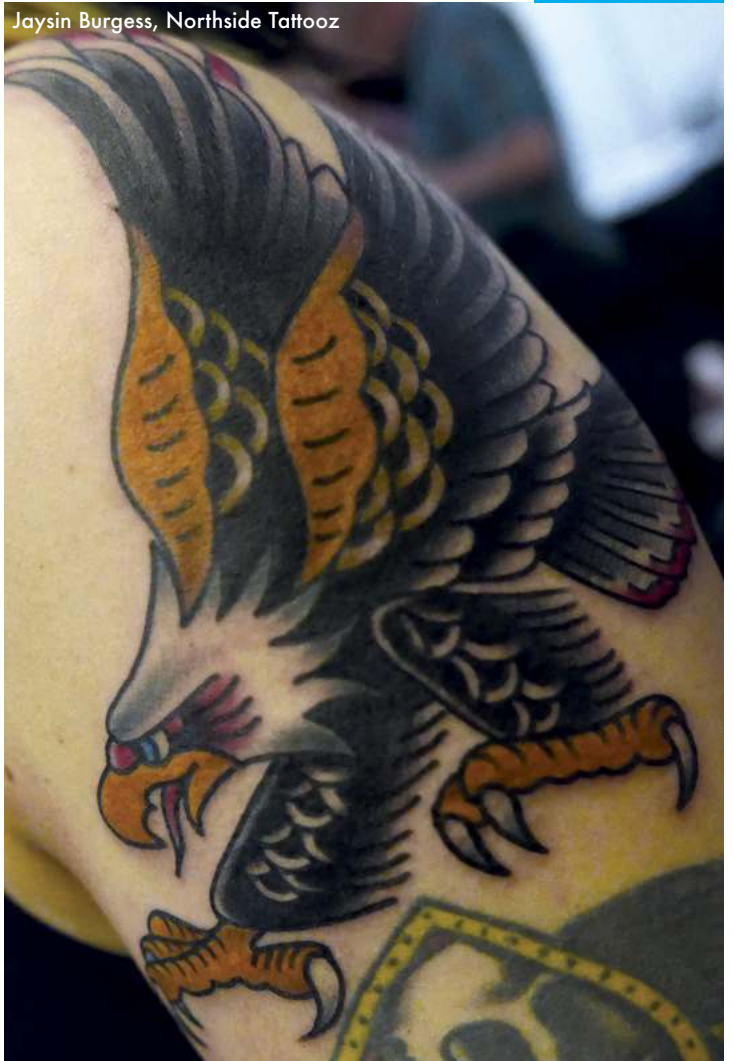


When it came to the competitions, bigger did not necessarily mean better. It was refreshing to see so many traditional and smaller pieces on display – and with 'Best of Day' and 'Best of Show' being the only categories, all sizes and styles had the chance to be judged equally against each other. The high standards of craftsmanship were apparent with each entry, and it was clear from all the lengthy deliberating that the judges were having difficulty deciding on the best of the best. What was also great was the prizes on offer, every winner walking away with Fireball Whisky, Musotoku power supplies and machines from OG Tattoo Supply, plus a beautiful hand-painted trophy from Kerry Evans.

Aaron Clapham, Cathedral Tattoo



Jaysin Burgess, Northside Tattooz



Steve Wade, All Seeing Eye Tattoo



Guerilla Needles, Red Tattoo & Piercing



Emily Dawson, Holy Ghost Collective



The Leeds Expo is special. It has a lot of support from both public and artists, and this is very evident in its friendly and sociable atmosphere. Silvia, the chief organiser, is reliably on hand to check on everything and her positive, no-nonsense approach is infectious. Those working the convention were treated incredibly well, with complementary refreshments in a green room, assistance with stencils, and free samples of Hustle Butter from Killer Ink – little touches that really count. The atmosphere was fantastic. All artists and traders were working hard, but they were approachable and smiling throughout, and the standard of tattooing spoke for itself.

Mors, The Foundry



Kyle Shields,
Empire Ink



“THE STANDARD OF WORK IN THE COMPETITIONS WAS CONSISTENTLY GOOD ACROSS THE BOARD. EVEN THE ‘BAD’ TATTOOS WOULD HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED TOP CLASS A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO. IT JUST GOES TO SHOW HOW FAR THE TATTOO WORLD HAS COME.”

- ONE OF THE COMPETITION JUDGES



Matt Renshaw,
Holy Ghost Collective



Paul Talbot,
Modern Electric Tattooing



Bon Bon, House of Wolves

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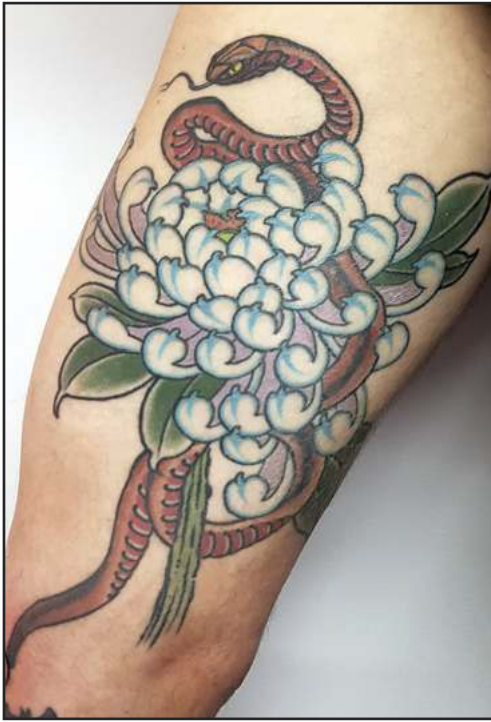
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PORTFOLIO-JOE FARRELL

KILBURN ORIGINAL TATTOO





PORTFOLIO-CHRIS MORRIS

SEMPER TATTOO





PORTFOLIO-DEAN COWLEY

HIGH BRIDGE TATTOO





PORTFOLIO-CLAIRE HAMILL

SEMPER TATTOO





MATTHEW PRITCHARD: THE DIRTY VEGAN

Matthew Pritchard first shot to fame in 2003 as one quarter of the outrageous MTV stunt group Dirty Sanchez. He's now a vegan advocate and endurance athlete, as well as owner/manager of Sleep When You're Dead Tattoo & Barbershop in Cardiff. We sent guest writer Matt Haddon-Reichardt to meet him and find out what he's up to now.

The Sanchez boys were the UK's answer to America's Jackass and in the usual British tradition they were cruder, ruder and far more irreverent than their Stateside counterparts. More TV shows followed, including Channel 4's hit Friday night prankfest Balls of Steel. As the challenges got more painful and the stunts more extreme the only way was up and in 2006 the Dirty Sanchez movie was

released. The high point (or low point depending on your perspective) of the film was Matthew cutting off the end of his little finger to gain his honour.

**'I'M PLANT-POWERED
AND GOING STRONG.'**





Matthew still appears on TV, but now as a vegan advocate and cook. And he's replaced the stunts of his Sanchez years with something far more gruelling, becoming an extreme endurance athlete. He also somehow finds time to manage Sleep When You're Dead (SWYD).

I've been to a lot of cool tattoo studios in my time but SWYD Tattoo & Barbers in Cardiff is one of the coolest. The studio is Matthew's baby and has become one of the most popular tattoo venues in Wales since it opened nearly six years ago. How did it all come about?



"I just love getting tattooed," he tells me. "I started getting tattooed at Zulu Tattoo in Ireland back in the day. Hanging out with the guys there, partying, I just kind of fell in love with the whole scene. I spent a lot of time there in the Sanchez days. Years later, when the whole Sanchez thing was coming to an end and I was looking for something to do, people suggested why don't I set up my own tattoo studio - and as I was also known for all sorts of crazy haircuts I thought I'd combine it with a barbers. That's how Sleep When You're Dead was born. It's five and a half years now since the first shop opened and we're continuing to grow as a business. It's all good really."

I ask Matthew what he feels is the secret of his success, especially in such a heavily saturated market. "That's a tricky one to answer, but I guess we're successful because we're good. And nice!" he laughs.



"I remember going into some tattoo studios back in the day and it was really intimidating. They would look you up and down when you walked in. It felt like going into a saloon bar in an old western. The music stops and everyone stares at you. With SWYD, I wanted to create a friendly atmosphere where people could come in and feel welcome. I obviously only employ good tattooists with impeccable hygiene, that's a no-brainer, but they also have to be nice people. At the end of the day, who wants to work with arseholes or be tattooed by arseholes?"



"It's also about building up community spirit within the industry. I can't stand it when shops compete and bitch and slag each other off. The good studios should be working together to promote tattooing. If someone comes to us for a tattoo and we can't fit them in, or the design isn't right for my artists, I'll send them to another good studio where they can get the work done. There are so many bad studios out there it's about the good ones pulling together and being proud of what we do."

Back in his Dirty Sanchez days Matthew lived a full-on rock and roll lifestyle, but he has now left behind his party monster alter ego and is focused on health and fitness. "I did the Cardiff half marathon when I was 16," he tells me, "and when I quit my old ways I thought to myself that I'd like to give it another go. It just grew from there really. I support two charities through my sport - The Lions Barber Collective and The Sound of Animals. I still enjoy a beer and have the odd blowout, but I love exercise. It's not hard to do what you enjoy."



Matthew moved from half marathons to full marathons then onto triathlons, Iron Man competitions and beyond.

"One of the challenges I'm most proud of is my circumnavigation of Wales," he says. "I did a 25-mile swim from Penarth to Porthcawl, then cycled the whole coast of Wales to Prestatyn, then ran back to Penarth. To finish the challenge I ran the Cardiff half marathon for the last day as I arrived at 1am on the morning of the race. I'm not sure which was tougher - that, or when I did 30 half Iron Man challenges in 30 days. That was in March 2016 and it involved a 1.5-mile swim, a 57-mile bike ride and a half marathon every day for 30 days. I'll be honest with you, by the end of both of them I was knackered. But it's great to use your skills to give something back."



"The only drawback to all the training for these challenges is it stops me getting tattooed. You can't heal a tattoo when you're getting in the pool every day, and running and cycling miles!"

Not only did Matthew switch from party animal to fitness machine, he also overhauled his diet and went vegan.

"People told me I wouldn't be able to do a marathon vegan - let alone Iron Man - yet I feel fitter in body and brain now that I'm vegan than I did eating meat and animal products. I'm plant-powered and going strong. I feel a lot better not supporting the slaughter of animals and my body can train harder and longer. There are a lot of myths out there about veganism and exercise, but I'm living proof you can be vegan and still achieve your fitness goals. If I can run, cycle and swim the circumference of Wales without milk, eggs and steak then it just proves how healthy veganism is. I'm not trying to preach. We are all adults and we all have to make up our own minds, but for me a vegan lifestyle is fantastic - especially when I think about what's happening to the world's environment."



Matthew's vegan principles and eco-consciousness extend to tattooing. "I definitely think the tattoo industry can do more to eliminate animal products from the tattoo process. There are plenty of vegan tattoo products out there, and if a studio can make vegan choices then why opt for the alternatives? Why put cream on your fresh tattoo that contains animal products when a plant-based alternative does just as good or an even better job? The same goes for ink. I'd rather not put bits of dead animals into my skin or have animals harmed as a by-product of getting a tattoo."

"We can also reduce our reliance on plastics," he continues. "Every little helps and small changes now will lead to big changes later. I'm 47, so it feels right to give something back. We're doing our best to cut down on plastic waste as much as possible in our shops. It's not about being preachy or righteous; it's just common sense. Why shit on your own doorstep by ignorantly damaging the planet? We've all got to live here, so we should all do our bit - big or small. It's all about mindset. If you set your mind to something you can achieve it. The tattoo industry can become more environmentally friendly if we all work together."



It's been a few years since the Sanchez boys' last television series, but Matthew is still fondly remembered by his fans. "Me and my old Sanchez buddy Lee Dainton did a question and answer tour last year," he tells me, "and it went really well. It was great to see all these people around my age - who had grown up with us - still giving a fuck about the crazy, idiotic shit we used to do. Even though we've all moved on I've got no regrets about it all, and if it made people smile and keeps making them smile what more can you ask for?"



It's difficult to imagine a show like Dirty Sanchez being commissioned today in the current climate of hyper-sensitivity and virtue signalling. After all, Matthew was the man who famously had snooker balls fired at his testicles and Dainton's name tattooed on his penis. Though he has definitely moved on from the extreme pranks and stunts, one last hurrah is planned before the four members of Dirty Sanchez ride off into the sunset. "We're planning a reunion this Christmas," Matthew tells me, "where we'll show the Dirty Sanchez film and have a question and answer session at the end. It will be nice to be on stage together one last time. The world's moved on and I think we took the format as far as it could go. Happy memories! Showing the movie again will be a nice way to say goodbye."



Matthew has just opened another tattoo studio in the town of Bargoed in the Welsh valleys and he has another new business venture about to take shape too. "My dog Lemmy is my best training partner and he's inspired me to open up a dog grooming salon. I've been successful at running a business cutting people's hair, so I thought I'd try it with dogs! I have to point out, though, that we won't be offering tattoos to our canine customers. I think the RSPCA would have something to say about that..."

Like Matthew said, it's nice to work with nice people and despite his crazy reputation he's one of the nicest people I've ever interviewed. I can't help but ask one last clichéd question before I leave: does he still have 'Dainton' tattooed on his knob? "God, I always get asked that!" he laughs. "Yes I do. He's not been lasered off yet. I'm always telling my girlfriend that she keeps putting Dainton in her mouth..."

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SADÉE GLOVER

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Based in Swindon, Wiltshire, Illustrator turned tattooist Sadee Glover describes herself as “a lover of tea and dungarees”. Fans worldwide love her impeccable tattoos, which combine solid traditional lines with the softer, more sympathetic shading of neo-trad.

How long have you been tattooing?

I’ve been tattooing professionally for eight years now, since I was 25.

How did you get into tattooing?

I’d been getting tattooed for years and had lots of work by various people, but I didn’t pursue it as a career until after I left university. Honestly I just wasn’t confident enough to ask a shop for an apprenticeship. The whole idea just felt so intimidating. I thought I would get laughed at, or that my work wouldn’t be what they were looking for. Even before I went to university to study Illustration (at Lincoln) my art had a very illustrative look about it and I figured it just wasn’t tattooable. It wasn’t until I’d got utterly miserable working in a



bank for a couple of years that I sucked it up and took a whole heap of sketch books and paintings to a local tattoo shop – and they were nice enough to give me a chance!

Did you do a formal apprenticeship?

I wouldn't say it was formal! It was a couple of guys who owned a real small shop. I worked the desk for them, cleaned, etc. All the usual stuff. I drew some of their pieces for them to tattoo. I wasn't apprenticing for very long before they said I could have a friend come in and I could do a tattoo supervised. That same day, they said I could start doing small pieces on friends on Saturdays. I think it was maybe a month later I started working full-time for them. It was all really fast.



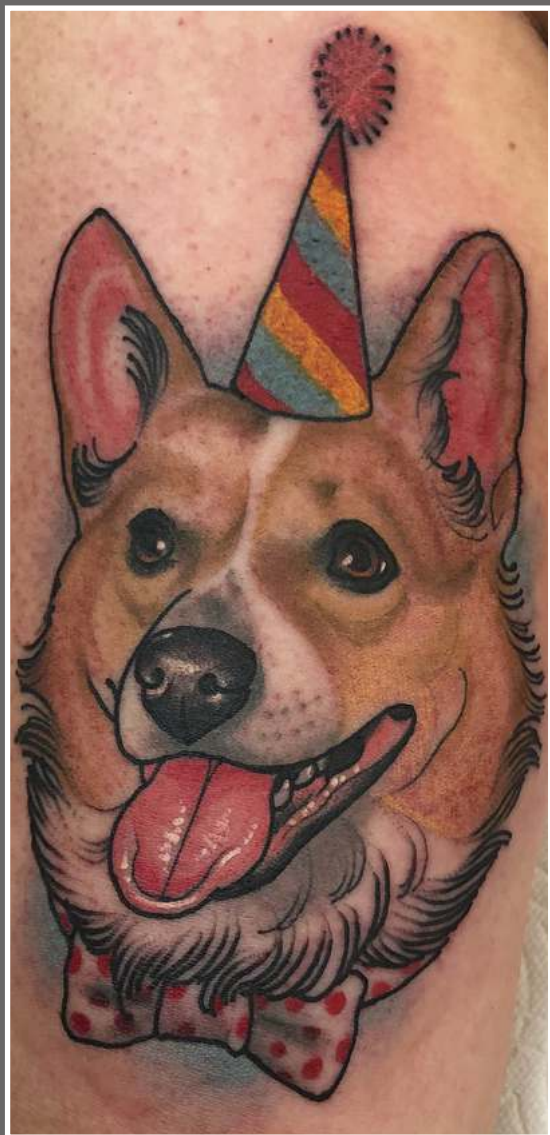


How easily were you able to transfer your illustrative skills to skin?

I found it super easy. There was already a bunch of tattooers doing a traditional / illustrative style and I spent a lot of time looking at how they put pieces together. I already had tons of pre-drawn pieces from years of just drawing and painting, so right off the bat I was lucky enough to be able to tattoo in the style I liked. And I had lots of friends who knew I'd started an apprenticeship, so it was also real easy to get people in to practice on. I still tattoo a lot of those people now, which is super nice (after fixing all the naff stuff I'd done at the beginning of course...!)

Looking back, was your education beneficial in your approach to tattooing?

Maybe not in terms of learning the trade – I don't think university taught me how to draw or get placement right, etc – but it did help with my approach to hard work. I start early and finish late to get everyone in, and I think university helped with preparing me for these long working days. But then again, I've always been a bit of a grafter. I'm not work shy or lazy.



You have a beautiful, fun style that some people might label as 'cute'. How would you describe it?

I do tattoo a lot of 'cute' stuff, but I don't feel I'm inherently a tattooer of cute images. I work to the subject matter requested by my customers. I enjoy tattooing fluffy bunnies of course, but I'd equally enjoy tattooing a snake and a severed head.

Do you think 'cute' tattoos are sometimes not taken seriously?

I think an image that's drawn well and applied with precision will be taken seriously whatever the subject matter.

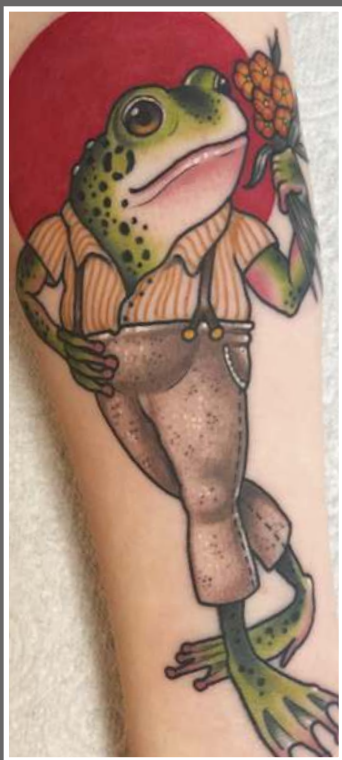
What themes and subjects do you most enjoy tattooing?

Anything mystical, whether it's a boily-nosed hag, something 'Wicker Man'-esque, or a witch burning at the stake. Historical characters are always super fun, and I would love to do more. Pop culture, and portraits too. I love tattooing animals. I think there's a lot of freedom with animals in terms of positioning, and I also like a narrative, which animals are great for. They can be so expressive, and tell little stories.



Is it important to you to like the subject matter you are tattooing?

To be honest, if the design doesn't interest me I'm not likely to take it on in the first place. Everyone deserves their tattooist's enthusiasm and excitement regarding their design; if that's something the artist doesn't share, then the customer isn't likely to get their best work. I wouldn't want a piece done by someone who wasn't into the idea! I think this is where social media platforms really come into play. You can see instantly by an artist's content what sort of thing they promote and what they are all about. I think this has really helped people with finding the right artist for their tattoo.



Where do you find your inspiration?

So many places! The low-brow illustrators – Gary Baseman, Audrey Kawasaki and Alex Gross for example – are always giving me great ideas. And I often look at magazines for inspiration. Hi-Fructose is a great one. I have tons of old issues I go through when I'm having a brain fart. I also love 15th and 16th century art. Religious paintings will never not blow my mind! Botticelli's 'Lamentation over the Dead Christ' is one of my faves. I think there's so much inspiration to be found within this kind of piece.

Name three tattooists you'd be honoured to be compared to...

When I'm tattooing collectors, I always ask whose work they already have. The three names that come up most often are Jody



Dawber (she's a good friend of mine and we often travel together), Guen Douglas (I need to get something by her too!) and Gibbo (I see a lot of his work on my customers). All of them are great tattooers who do lovely work.

We hear you're going to be doing a trip to America...

Yes, I go to America a lot. I love it. I think conventions abroad are great. It's the best way of seeing the world, meeting people and doing some tattoos along the way. My only problem is every place I go to immediately becomes my 'favourite ever' place, and I start making plans to return. So I'm constantly planning trips away. The cats bloody hate me.



Do you ever go on holiday just to relax?

Oh yes, all the time. I have two separate holidays. Work holidays and family holidays. For me personally, it's really important to separate the two. As fun as working abroad is, it's pretty hectic. I usually need a proper holiday after a work holiday! I go away with my husband and friends as often as I can. God I sound like a spoilt turd...

Professionally, what are your goals?

To tattoo for 20+ years. I've always thought that if my tattoo career can last for a couple of decades, I'll be pretty happy. Other than that, just to keep on pushing myself and travelling.





What do you enjoy most about your work at the moment?

The freedom. I'm so fortunate in that sense. And I don't take it for granted. Also the guys I work with – James Francis and Nick Ferris. They're the best!

Finally, if you could tattoo anybody (past or present) with a tattoo of your choice, who would you tattoo, what would it be, and why?

I would tattoo some hair on my grandad Ken's head. He's been bald forever, and he'd love that.

Black Chalice Tattoo
 Edgeware Rd, Swindon SN1 2HG
 Tel: 01795 671432
www.facebook.com/BlackChaliceTattoo
sadeetattoo@gmail.com

REGIONAL DIRECTORY

Find the best studios near you, If you own a world class studio and would like to be included in our directory simply call **01603 958062** or email totaltattoo@totaltattoo.co.uk for more information. Alternatively you can write to:
Directory, Total Tattoo Magazine, 111 Furze Road, Norwich NR7 0AU UK



SCOTLAND

Aberdeen Tattoo Collective

80 Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen
 AB25 1NU

Tel no: 01224 635 672
aberdeentattooco@gmail.com
www.aberdeentattooco.com

Bold and Gold

238 Leith Walk,
 Edinburgh EH6 5EL

Tel no: 0131 629 0171
boldandgoldart@gmail.com
www.boldandgoldart.com

Dark Ink Gallery

160 Hope Street
 Glasgow

G2 2TJ
 Tel no: 07492622582
darkinkgallery@gmail.com
www.darkinkgallery.com

FHT Bathgate

46 Hopetoun St, Bathgate
 EH48 4EU

Tel no: 01506 654 442
fhtbathgate@gmail.com
www.fhtbathgate.co.uk

Empire Ink

11 East Fountainbridge, Edinburgh
 EH3 9BH

Tel: 07540 290 234
 Email: via website
www.empire-ink.co.uk

Forevermore Tattoo

202, Hope Street, Glasgow.
 G2 2UG

Tel no: 0141 332 9340
forevermoretattoo@gmail.com
www.forevermoretattoo.co.uk

Inkdependent

56 Dalry Rd, Edinburgh
 EH11 2BA

Tel no: 0131 623 6565
inkdependenttattoos@gmail.com
www.inkdependent.eu/

Insider Tattoo

89 Henderson St, Edinburgh
 EH6 6ED

Tel no: 0131 554 6083
info@insidertattoo.com
www.insidertattoo.com

Main Street Tattoo

116 Main St, Wishaw
 ML2 7LU

Tel no: 01698 355 877
mainstreettattoo@live.co.uk
 Instagram: @mainstreettattoo

Nirvana Tattoo

9 Chisholm Street,
 Glasgow,
 G1 5HA

Tel no: 0141 548 1543
nirvanatattooostudio@yahoo.com
 Instagram @nirvanatattooostudio

Richards Tattoo Studio

3 Trinity Quay, Aberdeen
 AB11 5AA

Tel no: 01224 575 599
info@richardstattoo.com
www.richardstattoo.com

Santa Cruz Kustom Club

Unit 3 Huntly Crescent,
 Stirling.

FK8 1SU
 Tel no: 01786 357272
SKCKTattoo@gmail.com
www.SKCKTattoo.com

Semper Tattoo Studio

7 Grass Market,
 Edinburgh EH1 2HY
 Tel no: 0131 466 0370
sempertattoo@gmail.com
www.sempertattoo.com

NORTH EAST

Apostle

23 Church Square
 Hartlepool
 TS24 7EU

Tel no: 01429 271030
www.apostletattoo.co.uk
www.facebook.com/apostletattoo

Art La Vey

56 High Street, Gateshead. NE10
 9LT

01914472490
art_la_vey@outlook.com
artlaveytattooostudio.bigcartel.com/

Heavy Duty Tattoos

38 Tubwell Row, Darlington.
 DL1 1PD

Tel no: 01325 484 432
heavydutytattoos@gmail.com
www.heavydutytattoos.co.uk

High Bridge Tattoo

15 High Bridge,
Newcastle Upon Tyne. NE1 1EW
Tel no: 0191 261 9473
dean@highbridgetattoo.co.uk
Instagram: @Highbridgetattoo_ncl

Masamune Tattoos

29 Front Street
NE16 4EA
Tel no: 0191 488 6222
masamunetattoos@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/
masamunetattoos

Northside Tattooz

25 Station Road, Whitley Bay.
NE26 2QY
Tel no: 0191 2971327
hash@northsidetattooz.co.uk
www.northsidetattooz.co.uk

Northside Tattooz (Newcastle - The Private Rooms)

2 - Basement, Bewick Street,
City Centre,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 5EF
Tel no: 0191 221 0328
low@northsidetattooz.co.uk
www.northsidetattooz.co.uk

No Love Lost Collective

8 Scarborough Street, Hartlepool.
TS24 7DA9
no.lost.love.collective@gmail.com
Instagram @no.love.lost.collective

The Tattoo Station

20 Ridley Place, City Centre,
Newcastle Upon Tyne.
NE1 8JN
0191 232 8491
www.tattoostation.co.uk

Triplexix

24 Fawcett Street,
Sunderland. SR1 1RH
Tel no: 0191 565 6665
Contact through Facebook:
triplexixstudios666

YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER

Black Lantern Studio

4 Marshall Avenue, Bridlington,
East Yorkshire, YO152DS, UK
Tel no: 01262 674 045
Blacklanternstudio@gmail.com
FB: black lantern tattoo studio

Crooked Claw Tattoo

734 Ecclesall Road, Sheffield,
S11 8TB
Tel no: 0114 327 1411
crookedclawtattoos@gmail.com
www.crookedclawtattoo.com

Electric Kicks

17 Front Street, Pontefract.
WF8 1DA
Tel no: 07725 029 567
electric.kicks@hotmail.com
FB: Electric Kicks Tattoo Studio
Instagram: @electric.kicks.crew

Follow Your Dreams Tattoo

160 Devonshire Street, Sheffield,
S3 7SB
Tel no: 0114 216 8078
Email: fydtattoo@gmail.com
www.fydtattoo.com

Fun House

140 Sheffield Rd, Barnsley
S70 1JH
Tel no: 01226 779 595
nigelkurtl@gmail.com
www.nigelkurt.com

Red Tattoo & Piercing

Leeds Corn Exchange
Tel: 01132420413
Email: redtattooandpiercing@hot-
mail.co.uk
www.redtattooandpiercing.com

Sacred Electric Tattoo

2-3 Mill Hill,
Leeds LS1 5DQ
Tel no: 0113 242 5553
Sacredelectrictattoo@gmail.com
www.sacredelectrictattoo.com

Tenacious Tattoo

296 Prince of Wales Road, Sheffield,
S2 1FF
Tel No: 0114 327 4060
www.tenacioustattoo.com

Ultimate Skin

33 New Briggate,
Leeds LS2 8JD
Tel no: 0113 244 4940
ustattoo@gmail.com
Instagram: @ultimate_skin

EAST MIDLANDS

Base Shade Tattoo

6 Church Street, Rushden,
NN10 9YT
Tel No: 01983 316 055
Email:
baseshadetattoo@yahoo.co.uk
www.facebook.com/baseshadetat-
tattoo

Bunraku Tattoo

1a Victoria Parade,
Leicester, LE1 5FG
Tel no: 0116 262 9401
info@bunrakutattoo.co.uk
www.bunrakutattoo.co.uk

Embody Tattoo

(handpoke and machine tattooing)
7 Canal Street, Derby. DE12RJ
Tel no: 01332 986 920
embodytattoo@mail.com
www.embodytattoo.co.uk

Epona Art and Tattoo

Waterloo Yard, King St,
Southwell NG25 0EH
Tel no: 01636 815 771
theresatattoo@btinternet.com
www.eponatattoo.com

Fat Fugu

24 Fish St,
Northampton NN1 2AA
Tel no: 01604 630 557
info@fatfugu.com
www.fatfugu.com

Hypnotic Art Tattoo

200 Queensway,
Milton Keynes MK2 2ST
Tel no: 01908 989 695
hypnoticarttattoo@gmail.com
www.hypnotic-art.co.uk

Lewis Point Tattoo Studio

61 High Street, Daventry,
NN11 4BQ
Tel No: 01327 315133
www.lewispointtattoo.com

Lucky 13 Tattoo

192 Clarendon Park Road
Leicester
LE2 3AF
Tel no: 0116 270 0558
studio@wearelucky13.com
www.wearelucky13.com

Red Tattoo & Piercing

Leeds Corn Exchange
Tel: 01132420413
Email: redtattooandpiercing@hotmail.co.uk
www.redtattooandpiercing.com

Second Skin

77 Ashbourne Rd,
Derby DE22 3FW
Tel no: 01332 242 688
info@secondskinstudio.co.uk
Instagram: @secondskinderby

Wet Paint Collective

7 Bowley Court, Melton Mowbray
LE13 1XY
Tel no: 01664 668110
wetpaintcollective@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/Wetpaintcollective

EAST OF ENGLAND

Black Dog Tattoos

47 St Benedicts Street
Norwich
Norfolk NR24PG
Tel no: 01603 291049
blackdogtattoos@gmail.com
Instagram: @blackdogtattoos

Black Galleon Tattoo Studio

22 Blackfriars Street
Kings Lynn
PE30 1NN
01553 777322
www.facebook.com/blackgalleontattooostudio

Braintree Tattoo Studio

148 Coggeshall Rd,
Braintree CM7 9ER
Tel no: 01376 560 633
info@braintreetattooostudio.co.uk
www.braintreetattooostudio.co.uk

Churchyard Tattoo

14 Churchyard,
Hitchin SG5 1HR
Tel no: 01462 338 781
cytattoo@gmail.com
Instagram: @churchyardtattoos

Crossed Arrows Tattoo

21-23 St George Street,
Norwich. NR3 1AB
Tel no: 01603 762 636
crossedarrowstattoo@gmail.com
Facebook: Crossed Arrows Tattoo

Cult Classic Tattoo

32 North St,
Romford RM1 1BH
Tel no: 01708 730 500
cultclassictattoo@gmail.com
www.cultclassictattoo.com

Electric Punch Tattoo

Unit 4, the Pavilion,
Tower Centre, Hoddesdon
EN11 8UB
Tel no: 01992 447 756
info@electricpunchtattoo.co.uk
www.electricpunchtattoo.co.uk

Five Keys Tattoo

8 Orford Hill,
Norwich, Norfolk NR13QD
Tel no: 01603 958 814
fivekeystattoo@gmail.com
www.fivekeystattoo.com

Good Ship 13

374 London Road Hadleigh, Essex
SS7 2DA
Tel no: 07415 299998
goodship13info@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/Good-Ship-13-Tattoos

Indigo Tattoo and Piercing

2 Lower Goat Lane,
Norwich, Norfolk NR2 1EL
Tel no: 01603 886 143
www.indigotattoo.co.uk
indigotattooandpiercing@gmail.com

Immortal Ink

39 - 43 Baddow Road,
Chelmsford, CM2 0DB
Tel no: 01245 493 444

contact@immortalink.co.uk
www.immortalink.co.uk

Next Generation

4 Wolverton Rd, Stony Stratford,
Milton Keynes MK11 1DX
Tel no: 01908 560003
info@nextgenerationtattoo.co.uk
www.nextgenerationtattoo.co.uk

True Love Tattoos

16 Bridewell Alley,
Norwich NR2 1AQ
Tel no: 01603 613277
tlnorwich@gmail.com
www.tlnorwich.co.uk

LONDON

The Blue Tattoo

2 Studland St, Hammersmith, London, W6 0JS
Tel no: 0208 746 3133
Email: info@thebluetattoo.london
www.thebluetattoo.co.uk

Briar Rose Tattoo

172 Manor Lane, London, SE128LP
private and custom only studio
www.briarrosetattoo.com
instagram: @briarrosetattoo
instagram: @tiggystattoos
instagram: @olivetats

The Family Business

58 Exmouth Market,
Clerkenwell, London EC1R 4QE
Tel no: 0207 278 9526
info@thefamilybusinesstattoo.com
www.thefamilybusinesstattoo.com

Frith Street Tattoo

18 Frith Street (basement),
Soho, London W1D 4RQ
Tel no: 020 7734 8180
frithstreettattoo.london@gmail.com
www.frithstreettattoo.co.uk

Happy Sailor Tattoo

17 Hackney Rd, London E2 7NX
Tel no: 020 7033 9222
Email: Via website
www.happysailortattoo.com

I Hate Tattoos

Unit 1, 400-405 York Way, London
N7 9LR
Tel no: 07904 174 819
herringfishbloke@hotmail.co.uk
Facebook: I Hate Tattoos Studio

Ink Lounge Tattoo Studio

310 C Green Lanes, Palmers Green
London N13 5TT, UK
Tel no: 0203 490 2663
info@inklounge.co.uk
www.inklounge.co.uk
Instagram - inklounge

Inksmiths Of London

8 Chequers Parade, Eltham,
London SE9 1DD
Tel no: 020 8617 3338
Inksmithsoflondon@gmail.com
Instagram: @InksmithsofLondon

Kilburn Original Tattoo

175 Kilburn High Road,
Kilburn, London. NW6 7HY
Tel no: 0207 372 3662
info@kilburnoriginal.com
Instagram: @kilburntattoo

Leviticus Tattoo Emporium

170 High Road (Cuthberts Alley)
Loughton, Essex, IG10 1DN
Tel no: 0208 502 4029
leviticustattoo@hotmail.com
www.leviticustattooemporium.co.uk

Lowrider Tattoo

311 Bethnal Green Road,
London E2 6AH
Tel no: 0208 739 5115
Inquiry@lowridertattoolondon.com
Instagram: @lowridertattoolondon

Low Tide

19 Market Place, Southend-on-Sea.
SS1 1DA
01702344060
lowtidetattoo@gmail.com
Instagram: @lowtidetattoo

New Wave Tattoo Studio

157 Sydney Road, Muswell Hill,
London N10 2NL
Tel no: 0208 444 8779
lalhardy@hotmail.co.uk
www.newwavetattoo.co.uk

Old Habits Tattoo

364 Kingsland Road,
London. E8 4DA
Tel no: 0203 609 0931
oldhabitstattoo@gmail.com
www.oldhabitstattoo.com

Seven Doors Tattoo

55 Fashion St, Shadwell,
London E1 6PX
Tel no: 020 7375 3880
sevendoorstattoo@gmail.com
Instagram: @sevendoorstattoo

Skin Sorcerer

116 High St, Maldon CM9 5ET
Tel no: 01621 842443
Instagram: skin_sorcerer

Tattoo Shop By Dan Gold

104 - 106 Oxford Street, London,
W1D 1LP
Tel No: 0207 637 7411
http://tattooshopbydangold.co.uk

Through My Third Eye

342 Hornsey Road,
London. N7 7HE
Tel no: 0203 417 2552
throughmythirdeye@outlook.com
www.throughmythirdeye.com

SOUTH EAST

14 Arrows Tattoo Studio

55-57 Grosvenor Road
Tunbridge Wells
TN1 2AY
Tel no: 01892 458342
fourteenarrows@hotmail.com

All Or Nothing Tattoo and Piercings

12 Church Street
Witham, Essex CM8 2JL
Tel no: 01376 519 602
Email :aontattoo@outlook.com
www.aontattoo.com

1770 Tattoo

4 Little East Street
Brighton BN1 1HT
Tel no: 01273 710 730
info@1770tattoo.com
www.1770tattoo.com

The Church Tattoo

11 Church Road
Redditch B97 4AB
Tel no: 01527 759 852
thechurchtattoo@hotmail.com
Facebook:
facebook.com/thechurchtattoo

Fine Art Tattoo and Piercing Studio

6 York Street, Ramsgate,
Kent CT11 9DS
Tel no: 01843 588 885
fine-art-tattoo@hotmail.co.uk
www.finearttattoo.co.uk

Higgins and Co

69 Terminus Road, Above
Coffee Republic,
Eastbourne BN21 3NJ
Tel no: 01323 301 973
higginsandco71@gmail.com
www.higginsandcotattoo.co.uk

Inked Moose

204 Whaddon Way, Bletchley, Milton
Keynes MK3 7DG
Tel no: 01908 411151
info@inkedmoose.co.uk
www.inkedmoose.co.uk

Leo Rios Tattoo Studio

11 Lime St, Bedford MK40 1LD
Tel no: 01234930504
leoriostattoos@hotmail.co.uk
www.facebook.com/LeoRiosStudio

Rising Phoenix Tattoo

6 High Street,
Leighton Buzzard. LU7 1EA
Tel no: 01525 217 121
studio@risingphoenixtattoo.co.uk
www.risingphoenixtattoo.co.uk

Rivergate Tattoo

Unit 1 Rivergate House
Cheapside
Luton
LU1 2HN
Tel no: 01582 51500
info@rivergatetattoo.co.uk

Seven Sins Tattoo

10 High Street, Horley,
Surrey, RH6 7AY
Tel no: 01293 775 385
info@sevensintattoo.com
www.sevensintattoo.co.uk/

Skinned Alive Tattoo

24 Church Street
Brighton, BN1 1RB
info@skinnedalivetattoo.com
www.skinnedalivetattoo.com
Instagram: @skinnedalivetattoo

Tattoo FX

32 Middle Village, Bolnore,
Haywards Heath,
West Sussex,
RH16 4GH
01444454411
info@tattoo-fx.co.uk
www.tattoo-fx.co.uk

The Hidden Tannery

10-11 Lewes road, Brighton,
BN2 3HP
hello@hiddentannery.com
www.hiddentannery.com

Valhalla Tattoo

215 High Street, Bromley,
Kent. BR1 1NY
Tel no: 0208 313 9470
info@valhallatattoo.co.uk
www.facebook.com/valhallatattoo215

SOUTH WEST

Black Chalice Tattoo

Unit 4, Plaza 21, Edgware Road,
Swindon, Wiltshire, SN1 1HE
Tel No: 01793 671 432
blackchalicetattoo@hotmail.com
www.facebook.com/blackchalicetattoo

Blackfriars Tattoo

5 Maylord Street,
Hereford.
HR12DS
Tel no: 01432 278330
blackfriarstattoo@gmail.com
Instagram @blackfriarstattoo

Crow Quill

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

Eightfold Tattoo

1 Heanton Street, Braunton,
EX33 2JS
Phone: 01271 523732
www.eightfoldtattoo.com
Instagram: @eightfoldtattoo

Needle and Fred Tattoo

22 High St, Littlehampton
BN17 5EE
Tel no: 01903 733 622
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 300 123
purplerosetattoo@hotmail.co.uk
www.purplerosetattoo.co.uk

WALES

Broadside Tattoo

38 Singleton Street, Swansea,
SA1 3QN
Tel No: 01792 455 000
Email:
broadsideswansea@hotmail.com
Instagram: @broadsideswansea

Dexterity Ink

Unit 9 Indoor Peoples Market
LL13 8 Wrexham
Tel no: 01978 447 100
www.facebook.com/DexterityInkTattooStudio09

Physical Graffiti

124 City Road, Cardiff. CF24 3DQ
Tel no: 029 2048 1428
pgct@hotmail.co.uk
Instagram: @physicalgraffititattoos

Stronghold Tattoo

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

Surrealistic Sanctuary

144 City Rd, Cardiff, CF24 3DR
Tel no: 07413 383 323
sstattoocardiff@gmail.com
www.surrealisticsanctuary.co.uk

WEST MIDLANDS

Blood & Honey Tattoo Co

Winchcombe St,
Cheltenham,
GL52, 2NE
Tel no: 01242 352306
hello@bloodandhoney.uk
bloodandhoney.uk

Cosmic Monsters Incorporated

Mitre House, the courtyard
27 The Strand, Bromsgrove B618AB
Tel no: 07863 135814
cmitattoo@gmail.com
www.cmi-tattoo.com

Folklore Tattoo

119 Lichfield St, Tamworth B79 7QB
Tel no: 01827 768446
folkloretattoos@live.com
www.folkloretattooostudio.co.uk/

Modern Electric Tattoo Co

147 Golden Cross Lane
Catshill, Bromsgrove
Worcestershire, B61 0JZ
Tel: 01527 759434
info@modernelectrictattoo.co.uk
www.modernelectrictattoo.co.uk

Nala Tattoo & Piercing Studio

81 Bolebridge Street
Tamworth, B79 7PD
Tel no: 01827 68 353
contact@nalastudio.co.uk
www.nalastudio.co.uk

Sweet Life Gallery

80 Bristol Street,
Birmingham.

B57AH
Tel no: 01216921361
Enquiry@sweetlifegallery.co.uk
www.sweetlifegallery.co.uk

The Inkspot

Number 6 the Parade,
Silverdale,
Newcastle Under Lyme.
ST5 6LQ
01782 619144
tattoosbycookie@hotmail.com
www.theinkspotuk.com

Tokyotattoo® Studios (Cheltenham)

13 The Courtyard, Montpellier,
Cheltenham, GL50 1SR
Bookings & Enquiries: 01242 300165
www.tokyotattoo.co.uk

Tokyotattoo® Studios (Birmingham)

50 - 54 St. Paul's Square,
Birmingham, B3 1QS
Bookings & Enquiries: 01242 300165
www.tokyotattoo.co.uk

Vicious Pink Tattoo

Suite C, 9a Willow Street,
Oswestry,
SY11 1AA
Tel no: 01691570427
visciousspinktattoo@gmail.com
www.visciousspink.co.uk

NORTH WEST

Ace Kustom Tattoo

78 Church Road
Manchester, M22 4NW
Tel no: 0161 945 8433
acekustomtattoos@gmail.com

All Style Tattoos

28 Crellin Street
Barrow in Furness, LA14 1DU
Tel no: 01229 838 946
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

Black Freighter Tattoo Co.

56-60 Lower Bridge Street
Chester, Cheshire
CH1 1RU
Tel no: 01244 297528
theblackfreightertattoo@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/TheBlack-
FreighterTattooCo

Bold As Brass Tattoo

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

Dabs Tattoo

78b Eastbourne Road
Southport
PR8 4DU
01704566665
Dabstatoos@btconnect.com
https://www.facebook.com/dabstat-
too/DABS Tattoo
@tattoosatdabs

Inkden Tattoo & Piercing Studio

50 B Coronation Street,
Blackpool FY1 4PD
Tel: 07957 021 702
inkden.tattoo@gmail.com
www.inkdentattoo.co.uk

Inked Up Chester

21 Eastgate Row North,
Chester. CH1 1LQ
01244638558
info@inkedupchester.co.uk
Instagram @inkedupchester

Marked for life

45 High Street, (Winpenny house)
Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 1SB
Tel no: 01642 641 235
tattoomfl@gmail.com
www.marked-for-life.com

Market Quarter Tattoo

14 Market Street, Southport,
Merseyside. PR8 1HJ
marketquartertattoo@gmail.com

Facebook - Market Quarter Tattoo
Instagram- @marketquartertattoo

Sacred Art Tattoo

497 Barlow Moor Road, Chorlton,
Manchester. M21 8AG
Tel: 0161 881 1530
tattoo@sacredarttattoo.co.uk
www.sacredarttattoo.co.uk

Skin Kandi Tattoo Studio

50a Westfield Street, St Helens
Merseyside WA10 1QF
Tel no: 01744 734699
skinkandi@hotmail.co.uk
www.skinkandi.co.uk

Studio78 Tattoos

15 Earle Street, Crewe, CW1 2BS
Tel No: 01270 581 581
email: studio-78@hotmail.co.uk
www.studio-78.co.uk

True 'til Death

13 Whalley Road
Accrington, BB5 1AD
Tel no: 01254 433 760
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

16th-18th August Blackpool Tatcon

Norbreck Castle Hotel
Queen's Promenade
Blackpool, Lancashire FY2 9AA
www.tatconblackpool.co.uk

30th August-1st September Kustom Kulture Blastoff

Lincolnshire Show Ground
Lincoln LN2 2NA
www.kustomkultureblastoff.com

27th-29th September London Tattoo Convention

Tobacco Dock, London, UK
www.thelondontattooconvention.com

18th-20th October Liverpool Tattoo Convention

Britannia Adelphi Hotel,
Ranelagh Street, Liverpool,
www.liverpooltattooconvention.com

OVERSEAS CONVENTIONS

2nd-4th August Berlin Tattoo Convention

Arena Berlin
Eichenstraße 4,
12435 Berlin,
Germany
www.tattoo-convention.de

30th-31st August Hans Christian Anderson Tattoo Convention

DOK5000
Havnegade 20,
5000 Odense,
Denmark
www.hcaink.dk

30th August-1st September Ti-Tattoo Convention

Exhibition Center Lugano
Via Campo Marzio
6900 Lugano
Switzerland

5th-7th October Marmaris Tattoo Convention

www.facebook.com/Marmaris-Tattoo-Festival

5th-7th October Ink & Art Expo

De Beursfabriek
Symfonielaan 5,
3438 EX Nieuwegein,
Netherlands
www.unitedconventions.com/nieuwegein/

5th-7th October Barcelona Tattoo Expo

Fira Barcelona Montjuic
Avinguda de la Reina Maria Cristina,
Barcelona, Spain
www.barcelonatattooexpo.com

25th-27th October Amsterdam Tattoo Convention

Amsterdam RAI Exhibition and
Convention Centre, Europaplein,
1078 GZ Amsterdam,
Netherlands
www.tattooexpo.eu

1st-3rd November Dublin Tattoo Convention

Royal Dublin Society
Anglesea Rd, Dublin 4, Ireland
www.dublintontattooconvention.com

8th-10th November Florence Tattoo Convention

Fortezza Da Basso

Viale Filippo Strozzi, I 50129
Florence, Italy
www.florenceconvention.com

8th-10th November I Love Tattoo Expo

Kaohsiung City, Taiwan
www.ilovetattooexpo.com

8th-10th November International Brussels Tattoo Convention

Tour & Taxis
Avenue du Port 86,
1000 Brussels, Belgium
www.brusselstattooconvention.be

7th-8th December Cesenatico Tattoo Convention

Palacongressi Bellaria Igea Marina
Via Uso 1 – 47814 Bellaria Igea
Marina, Italy
www.tattooconventioncesenatico.it

2020 CONVENTIONS UK

February 28th-1st March Tattoo Tea Party

Event City, Manchester
www.tattooteaparty.com

2nd-3rd May Brighton Tattoo Convention

Brighton Centre,
Brighton BN1 2GR
<http://brightontattoo.com/>

Overseas

17th-19th January Goa Tattoo Festival

Tito's Whithouse, Arpora Mapusa
Road, Anjuna Goa India
www.goatattooofestival.com

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