

PRICK

Magazine



**JULIETTE
AND THE LICKS**

St. Louis Tattoo Expo

**ANONYMOUS
TATTOO**

*Adam
Sky*

Sun Karma

HOT INK VALENTINE

VOLUME 8 - ISSUE 5
FEBRUARY 2008

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FEBRUARY 2008 VOLUME 8 ISSUE 5



FEBRUARY: VALENTINE'S DAY AND BLACK HISTORY MONTH

I thought that we could do something hot for Valentine's Day as well as something historic for Black History Month; so, ladies and gentleman, I give you Sun Karma, PRICK's first ever African American Hot Ink in February. After years of almost happening, the stars have finally aligned between PRICK and this lovely lady. Admittedly, I've been trying to arrange this for

years, and I am so stoked that it has finally happened.

Things to look out for on the horizon include the SLC Tattoo Convention scheduled for February 15th-18th, as well as the 8th Annual St. Pat-PRICK's Day Bash on Saturday, March 15th at The EARL in Atlanta. In addition to our usual bands, beer, and babes, we will also be staging our own tattoo contest, so be sure to come out—it's going to be off the chain! Check out our ad on page 45 for all the details.

This issue is packed full of killer stuff with little to no filler; I hope you enjoy reading it as much as we all enjoyed putting it together.

- Chuck B.

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Sun Karma

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Kenny Raymons won Best Black and Gray with his backpiece by Jamison of Hearts of Fire Tattoo



Strange of Prime Mover



Beth Hogan won Best Overall Female with tattoos by James Hogan, Russ Abbott, Todo



Moni Bartoli's Best Color winner by Todo

SLAMMING INK SHOW PRICKIN' AROUND ATLANTA

BY SYLVIA HAGAR

The New Year has just begun, and ATL's Southside kicked off 2008 with one hell of a show at Breaker's Music Hall last month. The Slamming Ink Show was presented by Todo and ABT Productions. It was a night of free beer and wild head banging to the three metal bands 13 Autumn Rituals, Hallows Eve, and headliners Prime Mover. In between the bands, the stage belonged to a great number of hardcore tattoo fans who competed for this year's tattoo trophies. PRICK was one of the sponsors for the event, and we were on hand to help judge the tattoo contest. The cherry on top of this night was Atlanta's own Terror Twins featuring Virgin Iron who put on a hot grinder performance and showered the crowd with bright sparks. Let's just say, you ain't metal if you missed out on this event. ★



Stacy Andersen and Doyle Bright of Hallows Eve



Josh of Prime Mover

For more information, go to www.abttattoo.com.

BODY ART EXPO 2008 PRICKIN' AROUND L.A.

BY JARED ABRAMS

It was a rainy weekend in January for the crowd at the 2008 Body Art Expo in Los Angeles, Cali. However, the weather did not deter over twenty thousand people from coming out to see the art and get inked at the Fairplex in Pomona. Friday was a bit slow, but by Saturday the event was in full swing with all of the artists working in overdrive. Plenty of people entered the tattoo contests, most with some pretty impressive work. From mommies to tough guys, every shape, size, and sort of person was on hand at this year's Expo. A big thank you goes out to Edwin Kwong and David Lutz from Mega Productions for putting it all together and to Baba of Vintage Tattoo for working his ass off the entire time he was there. ★



Dane's tattoo by Dave Hatton



Stephanie and Royce enjoying the Expo



Jared Abrams getting tattooed by Dave Hatton of Velvet Grip Tattoo in West Hollywood, Cali.

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**HOT INK
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 YOUR TATTOOED VALENTINE

BY SYLVIA HAGAR
 PHOTOS COURTESY OF SUN KARMA

Mix equal parts tattoo fan and Hustler girl (like the magazine) with career aspirations like reporting and writing, shake and stir them together, and you've got the yummy cocktail known simply as Sun Karma. This once-overweight girl transformed herself into the hottie she is today. And don't be fooled by any clichés, Sun Karma is not just easy on the eyes, she's also got the brains—and she's ready to take over the world.



When did you get your first tattoo?

When I was 18, I got the small ankh in the middle of my back—now part of the bigger piece on my upper spine. I wanted to get a full back piece, but I'm a chicken and that larger piece hurt like hell. Eventually I'll get it done, though.

What are your thoughts on tattoos?

Tattoos are a transformative journey of the soul to me. Each one has a message and documents a span of time in my life—a feeling, an emotion, or a thought. I'm totally a hardcore tattoo fan and, to me, tattoos are serious things: I plan them all out. I never walk into a parlor and think that I'm just going to get something. Most of the designs on me are Egyptian. I also love dragons because I feel that they represent my personality—mystical, magical, and mighty. Oriental designs have the most beautiful dragons I have ever seen, so I chose Oriental for one arm and kept the Egyptian theme running throughout the rest of my body. It's a neat blend of two different cultures.

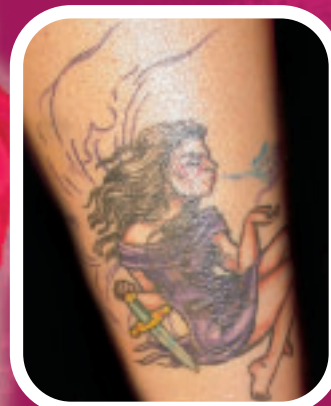
Do you have any funny tattoo stories you'd like to share?

Keely Tackett from Anchor's End Tattoo did the black work around my areolas at a tattoo convention in Richmond a few years ago. Of course, this presented her

with all sorts of logistical problems, as she had to figure out how to tattoo me on the convention floor without being "obscene." She decided that she was going to put me in a corner and have me stick two big fluffy pillows under my arms so no one could see my boobs. Unfortunately, this did not work too well as her booth was located at the end of an aisle. Despite the effort, after 3 hours of tattooing I had drawn quite a crowd staring at me.

What's your experience with working in the adult industry?

The adult industry is mostly shady. That is what I have come to understand in working independently. You have to hook up with a major organization to really do anything. Hustler, for instance,



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SLAMMING INK SHOW 2008

was a success Thx to Breakers Music Hall, Prick Magazine, Hallows Eve, Prime Mover, 13 Autumn Rituals The Terror Twin, Lady Cora, Randy and Crew, and all the great Tattoos that entered the contest. Photos of the event are posted at the ABT site. We hope to do another next year don't miss out.

Across from Atlanta Motor Speedway at Bootes Crossing.



have been very good to me. So have Amelia G and Forrest B from Blueblood. Also, I have to mention Jean McFal; she is also very good. It is often not in what you do, but who you know; networking means everything. So I would say that I've had my horrendous times and I have my wonderful times. It just depends on who I'm talking about at the moment—or who you ask me about.

Your looks have changed quite a bit over the years. How has that changed your life?

I've lost 150 pounds and was featured on the "Geeks to Chic" episode of Maury Povich a few years back. I wouldn't say I was a "geek" back then, or that I'm all "chic" now, but it was quite a trans-

formation for me in dropping that much weight. People look at you differently when you are heavier; it's like they don't see you for the person you really are.

I had to lose weight because I wanted to be healthy; I did it for me and for no one else. You have to be happy with who and what you are. Also, I seem to have more of an attitude now where once I was this shy, quiet girl, now I'm outspoken and straight up. I no longer make excuses. It takes balls to strut your stuff in front of a camera nude and say, "Here I am! Love me or hate me, here I am!" There are exceptions, but all the women I have met are powerful divas. They take control and have confidence.

Any plans for Valentine's Day?

I plan on spending it with my significant other and photographer, Evil Fx. I think he has a surprise planned out for me. I would love to go to a spa and just get pampered all day. Afterwards, we could go to dinner. After dinner, I'd change into my PJ's and fuzzy slippers and watch a Japanese horror movie all curled up on the couch.

Any future goals or plans?

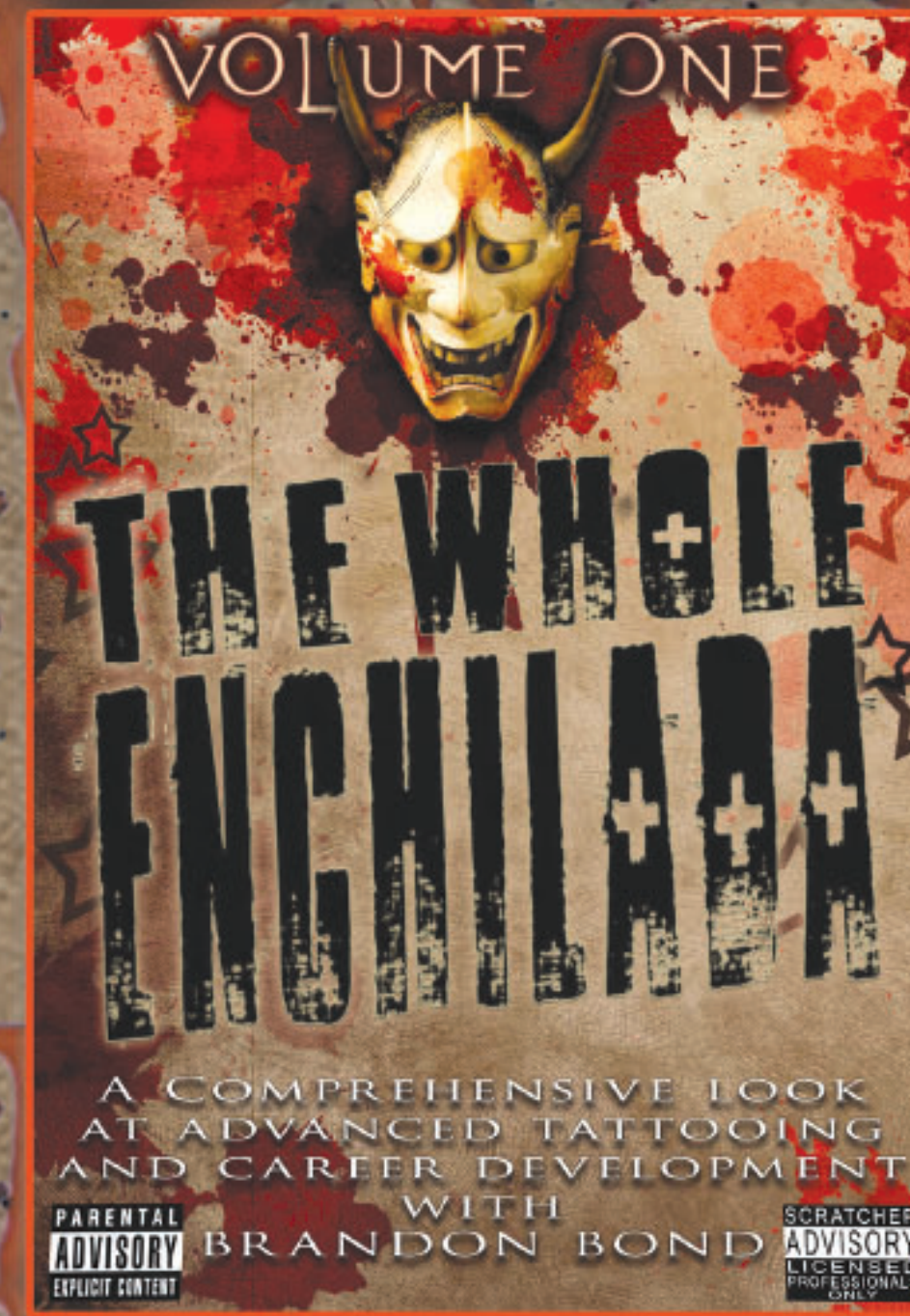
Ruling the world would be nice. ★

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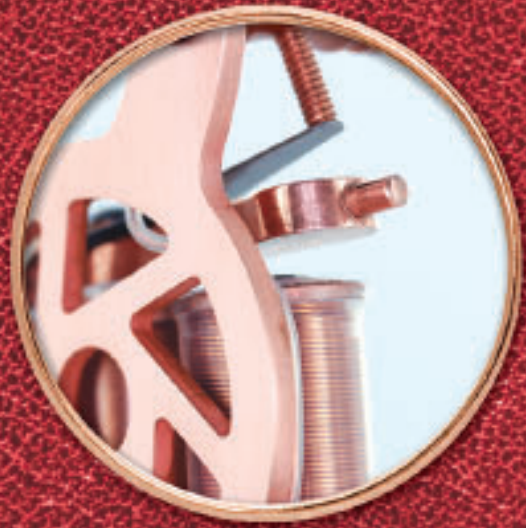
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BY ASHLEE MCCANN

LYLE TUTTLE'S OLD SCHOOL EXPO

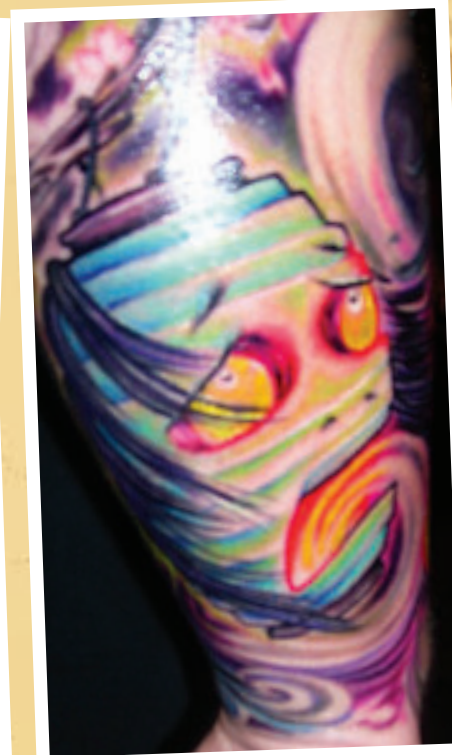
TATTOO SHOW

Most of us have been to the usual tattoo convention filled with shirtless guys showing off their work and heavily tattooed ladies roaming while that distinct smell of skin and ink fills the air. This describes some of the scene at the 3rd Annual St. Louis Old School Tattoo Expo. Just add a three story indoor slide, a huge jungle gym for kids and adults made of everything from an old fire truck to pieces of historic St. Louis buildings. This was the real scene at this legendary expo held at the City Museum in the heart of St. Louis.

The St. Louis Old School Tattoo Expo took place November 9-11, 2007 providing a weekend full of fun and

ink. Big talents like Guy Aitchison, James and Tim Kern, and over fifty other artists from around the United States were present at the convention. Artists from Snoopy and Pussifer even made the trek all the way over from Northern Ireland especially to be part of the St. Louis Expo. "Artists really love this building and the atmosphere it provides," said Bill DeMichele, tattoo expo promoter.

Walking into an environment so colorful and full of interesting homemade art pieces added to the convention as a whole. To get to the convention floor you had to pass a giant whale, a three story slide made of





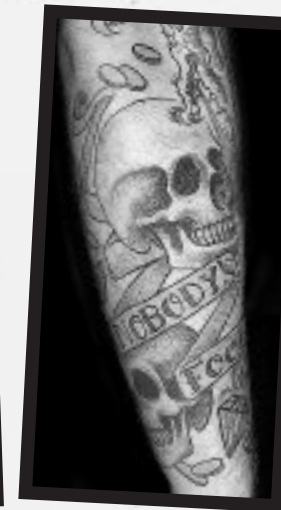
ST. LOUIS TATTOO EXPO

conveyor belt sheets and rolls, and tons of little kids mixed with tattooed adults gawking at the featured art above and below them. Once inside it was all ink in this packed house. Wall to wall individuals were getting tattooed by their favorite artists, and of course many booths were set up with merchandise—from flash books to t-shirts, it was all covered.

St. Louis artist, Mo Malone of Iron Age Studio, loves the unique environment of this convention and thinks there are no others like it. "We are lucky to have it here in St. Louis and at this giant playground for adults and kids. It's almost like a carnival," Malone said. She is an award winning tattoo artist that has been with Iron Age Studio for approximately five years. Starting in northern Va. right out of college, she took the move to St. Louis with grace and came directly to Iron Age. "I moved to work at Iron Age. I've always loved this city and would only move for Iron Age."

Another perk that comes with this convention is the fun, free for all environment. It's organized enough to have several different speakers, from world renowned Lyle Tuttle to Chris Longo, the man that has no problem getting down to his undies to show off his full body suit. There is nothing at all stuffy about this environment or the people in it. When the City Museum is filled with tattooed enthusiasts there is just the right amount of chaos. "Artists are really excited to come to this, we encourage them to create their own environment to tattoo in and to utilize space and art around them," DeMichele said.

Though this convention is named the St. Louis Old School it is not solely about old school tattoos. Everything was being shown off from



traditional work to portraits. Many different styles were being worked on all weekend long, while many finished pieces were displayed and judged at the nightly competitions. Competitions included the classics such as best full back piece, best sleeve, best small, medium and large color along with several others. "Our purpose is to celebrate traditional aspects and the proper way to conduct oneself as an artist. We embrace all tattoo styles."

Legendary Chicago native, Guy Aitchison, graced the audience with a talk and slideshow about his work. It was great to hear Aitchison speak about how his work transforms from paintings and into tattoos and vice versa. "Tattooing and painting, as mediums, borrow a lot from one another. They go hand in hand in the overall cycle," he explained.

Of course, all of our favorite artists would be lost without one thing—the customers. Many clients came out to this expo to support the work and art that they love. Artists and clients were working collectively for full day stretches due to the rarity of their seeing each other. Working together artists and clients make tattooing the success it is, and it was visible all over the St. Louis Expo. "My biggest influence is the clientele, they make us do work we wouldn't otherwise do," Aitchison said.

The St. Louis Old School Tattoo Expo is growing every year, but will never be so big that you can't find your favorite artists in the crowd. Promoters of this expo are proud of its size and the talents that are show cased. "We have less than fifty booths and we are happy with that. It's not meant to be a shopping center," DeMichele said. "We want to keep tattooing in tattooing." ★

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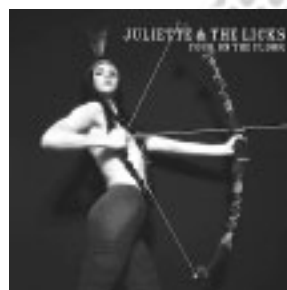
BY NOEL POTTS
PHOTOS BY SYLVIA HAGAR
Group photo above courtesy of Ink Tank PR



Call it "that band with Juliette Lewis" and you're likely to be just another Natural Born Killers fan waiting outside a tour bus with your stack of movie posters. Or who knows, you might actually catch the show and realize that her band really fucking rocks. Don't worry, they're used to it. According to guitarist Todd Morse (of the hardcore band H2O), "The second time we come to a town is when the true music fans show up."

This is Juliette and the Licks. The celebrity of the edgy rock-and-roll band's lead singer is just the tip of the adrenaline-soaked iceberg. You might want to ignore it, but it's there and Lewis embraced her fame when it came to the naming of the band. "She didn't want to hide. She's proud of her movie past," says Morse. He adds, "Her celebrity has been a blessing and a curse. They want to see us fail, but we always overcome that."

Formed in 2003 (now composed of lead vocalist Juliette Lewis, guitarist Todd Morse, bassist Jason Womack, and drummer Ed Davis), the 4-piece has found what drives the band creatively — incessant touring. They've run the gamut of music venues, playing for 90,000 people in London (opening for The Who) one day and rocking the faces off of 80 people on a hole-in-the-wall stage the next. "Bands you wouldn't think like our music have taken us on tour," says Morse. Such bands include Muse, Social Distortion, and Courtney Love.



Juliette Lewis on vocals and Jason Womack on bass

On stage, Lewis can only be described as an explosion, almost as if she's physically and violently shedding her Hollywood image with every punching lyric. Often abandoning the stage for a more in-your-face musical experience, she completely shuns convention or what's expected of female lead singers. And she does it in some delightfully bewildering outfits.

Juliette and the Licks released their first EP, *...Like a Bolt of Lightning*, in 2004. *You're Speaking My Language*, their debut album, followed shortly thereafter. As Morse describes it, "It's rock and roll that still has an edge to it. People just assume that that means punk, but it's still rock and roll." Even though the band was still experimenting with their sound in *You're Speaking My Language*, they recognized what was at the core of their identity. "We balance our classic influences with modern ones. It's Queens of the Stone age meets the Rolling Stones," describes Morse.

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Juliette Lewis on vocals and Todd Morse on guitar (above). A few of Todd's tattoos (below)



Their latest album, *Four on the Floor*, is a more streamline creation compared to its predecessor's ragged edges. On it you'll hear the legendary drumming of Dave Grohl, who needs no introduction. "It was like playing live," Morse describes. Per the band's website, Grohl was "originally brought in to play on demos the band recorded at his 606 Studios in Cali., but he extended his stay for the album."

The band is freckled with tattoos, but it's Todd Morse who is the most vocal about them. When it comes to the rapport between tattoos and music, he says, "I gave my life up to [music]. That's what you do when you get a tattoo. It's the physical manifestation of that lifetime commitment." The guitarist describes himself as having "nice tattoos and



a bad attitude." Such "nice tattoos" include everything from traditional to Japanese, and of course the occasional music related tattoo.

Whether you catch them opening up for an arena-touring band or squeeze into a more intimate setting, you'll remember Juliette and the Licks, and not just because of the actress-turned-rocker's Native American headgear. This is a band with a rich presence and palpable energy. And if their plans of "being legitimized and taken as a piece of rock-and-roll history" take root, this is your chance to catch them in a venue where the sweat is still within range of your face. ★

For more information, go to www.julietteandthelicks.com.

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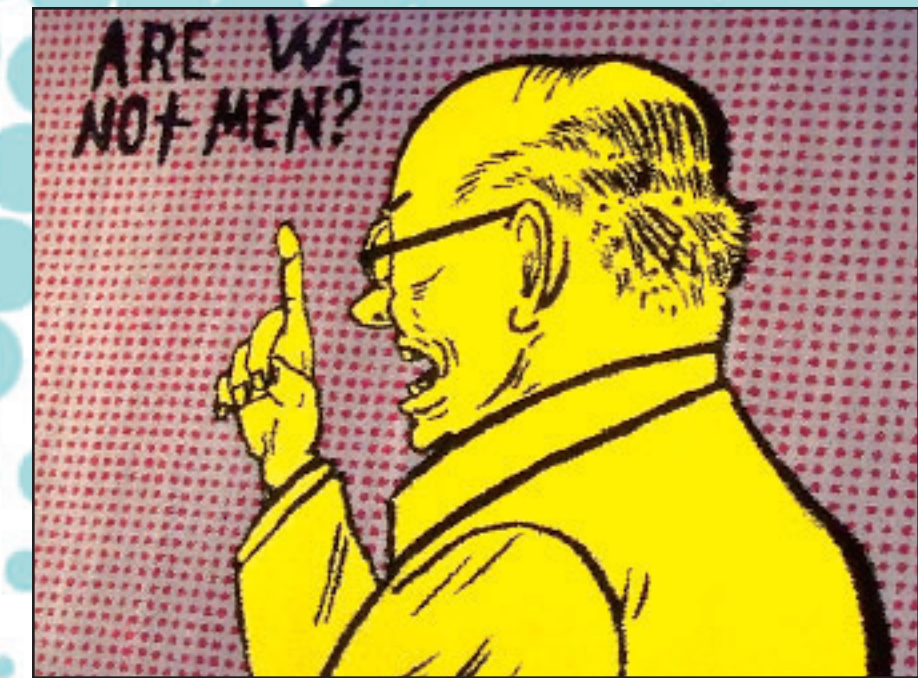
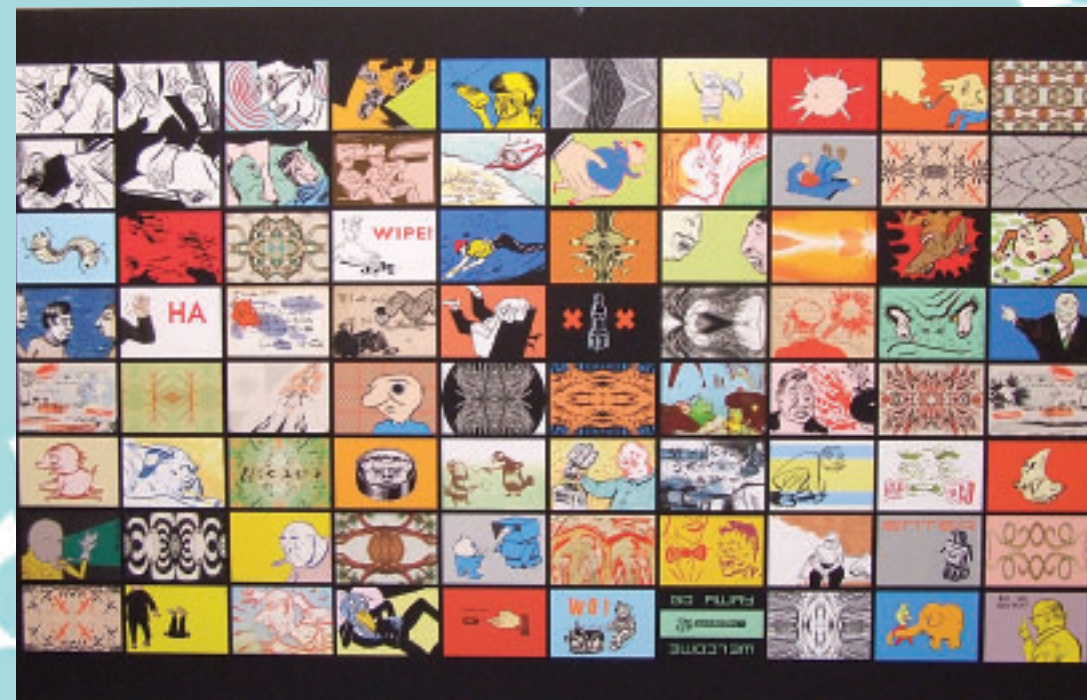
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MARK MOTHERSBAUGH

RUGS DURING WARTIME AND PEACETIME ART TRIPPIN'
BY CHRIS SCHARFFENBERG

Most notable for his musical achievements as co-founder of new wave band DEVO, Mark Mothersbaugh has found great success through a variety of creative outlets. Although still together, since DEVO's most popular years in the '80s, Mothersbaugh has developed a highly successful career writing musical scores for film, television, and video games. Before the musical path took its course, Mothersbaugh had always been interested in and an active participant of the art world. Over the span of his life, Mothersbaugh has evolved as an artist



"WHEN I WAS A KID, I LOVED RUGS, BUT CARPETING FREAKED ME OUT."



focusing mainly on drawing, painting, printmaking, and photography. He has been able to finally start showcasing his artistic abilities on a larger scale within the last decade.

On November 17, 2007 the Scion Installation L.A. Gallery in Culver City, Cali. presented the Rug Art of Mark Mothersbaugh in a show entitled *Rugs During Wartime and Peacetime*. The 4,500 square foot gallery was packed with a fascinating display of Mark's wildly eccentric and brightly colored rugs which were all for sale to the general public. There were also signed digital prints, books and collectible postcards for sale as well, where one hundred percent of sales go directly to the artist.

The mission statement of this presentation read, "This show is an exploration of the imagery we choose to bring into our homes and how we interact with it for the purpose of comfort and peace-of-mind, rather than an esoteric sense of art for art's sake". The opening reception proved to be a big hit which even included celebrity attendees,



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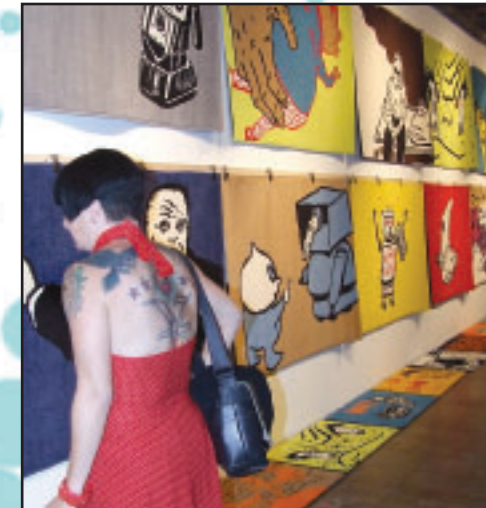


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Actor Jason Lee (center) discussing Mothersbaugh's work with artist Shepard Fairey (left)



Mothersbaugh signing an autograph for a fan (left) and a few of the rugs on display (right)

including *My Name Is Earl* star Jason Lee, and well known graphic artist Shepard Fairey, who were both seen discussing Mark's work. Hundreds of pieces were put on display and all the rugs were manufactured using a combination of materials including nylon, wool and silk. Standard sizes of all rugs were available for purchase in twenty-two inches by thirty-four inches selling for \$275 and four feet by six feet which sold for \$850. Larger sizes of the original productions of the rugs were also available for sale, which reached well into the thousands of dollars. Even the names of the artwork contained Mothersbaugh's own personal touch with such quirky titles, including "When He Fell Through the Trap Door, Then Everything Started Going Wrong".

As always, for opening nights at the Scion Gallery, free valet parking, admission, drinks, and Scion swag were all available to attendees. PRICK will be sure to come back for the next event. ★

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CAVALCADE OF CUSTOMS PHAT RIDES

BY CHUCK B.

The AutoRama World of Wheels, Cavalcade of Customs car show thundered through Atlanta, Ga. last month. While here, it brought custom car fans some world-class whips to check out. Highlights included big screen favorites like "Lightning McQueen," from the hit animated film *Cars*, and the Bumblebee '76 Camaro from *Transformers*. The show's one minor disappointment was the Camaro concept car—it was, unfortunately, a no show.

All in all, the get together was a huge success; a veritable river of people streamed through the many levels of the Georgia World Congress Center to see the killer cars and some of the industry's more notable stars. There were several TV personalities on hand, including Will Castro from *Unique Whips*, Jimmy Shine from *Hard Shine*, *LA Ink's* Pixie, and—my personal favorite—Bo freakin' Duke, a.k.a. John Schneider, from the *Dukes of Hazzard*. Schneider was



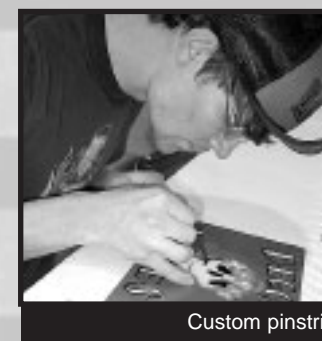
Hot Rod Walt & the Psycho Devilles



The amazing BMX Extreme team caught in mid-stunt!



Pixie from TLC's *LA Ink*



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Greg Cape's Supercharged 1955 Chevrolet Bel-Air



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inkless but cool nonetheless. He had stories that ranged from his wife's tattoo collection to his daughter's penchant for piercings. Schneider, always the sentimentalist, said that he had saved a pin from his daughter's broken thumb from her childhood and that he was going to have it made into a barbell for her ear lobe. He was a really cool dude... *Bo Duke, how great is that?*

The cars, trucks, and motorcycles on the floor included Precious Metal, Vampire Bubbletop Car, the Ol' Skool Rodz/Car Kulture DeLuxe display, and—of course—creations from Godfather Customs dazzled the crowd with some amazing displays of automobile crafting genius. Another entertaining feature of the show was the custom

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John Schneider a.k.a. Bo Duke showing love for PRICK



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Pixie signing Bruce Denton's tattoo machine

pinstriping, which was charitably performed by regional artists. All proceeds from the pinstriping benefited the Down Syndrome Association of Atlanta.

Hot Rod Walt & the Psycho Devils along with the Twistin' Tarantulas laid down a rockin' live soundtrack throughout the show and there was a pretty amazing BMX Extreme stunt show in the action arena. We must say that the show chairman, Bruce Wilson, runs a great event; the World of Wheels show truly lives up to its motto as "America's Premier Custom Car Show Series." ★

For more information, check out Aurorama.com for details on their upcoming events.

PIXIE

Pixie of *LA Ink* arrived at the W.o.W show on Sunday with a boo boo. She was bitten by her friends dog and was forced to sign autographs left handed. She was a trooper though, and made the line of hundreds of fans very happy by just being there for photo ops



Elena Chaves posed with Pixie (above top) and got her copy of *PRICK* autographed. She met Pixie and as a random bonus, she's now in *PRICK* too. I think she was stoked!

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TATS AND TUNES

SEE YOU NEXT TUESDAY

See You Next Tuesday are (L-R) Andy Dalton, Chris Fox, Travis Martin, and Drew Slavik (photo courtesy of Ferret Records)

You know what this saying means, come on... See-U-N-T. Whether you use it as a cute, little mnemonic or you use it as a dirty, little word in the bedroom, See You Next Tuesday can now be the cute, dirty, little band on your CD player. This four-piece, recently signed to Ferret Records, is quickly captivating audiences with their high-energy shows and passionately powered music. "The whole idea of the band started out as a joke. But once kids started getting into it, [the band] started to take the music pretty seriously," Chris Fox, lead singer, told *PRICK*.

"Seriously" lead them in the right direction. Soon after signing with the indie label, SYNT released their debut album *Parasite*, a fast-paced album that screams grindcore and belts out metal. With influences such as Converge, Pig Destroyer, Rage Against The Machine, Robinson, Pantera, Van Halen, and The Dillinger Escape Plan, they're bound to make some pretty interesting music. "Music for people with A.D.D.," as Fox calls it, "we don't sound like any other band out there. We always

seem to get on tour and realize our music doesn't have much in common with any of the other bands, besides the obvious fact that we're playing heavy music. I have no idea how to describe what we play, so it's hard to compare it to other bands."

Fox is a zealous musician as well as a tattoo artist. In fact, he confesses that touring so much has been challenging because he misses the old buzzing machine. "Tattoos are one of my passions in life. There are only a couple things that I hold higher than tattoos and the lifestyle. I have been hanging out in shops since I was sixteen, and I have been in the game for almost three years now. I love the art form so much. Tattoos are my life besides my girlfriend and the band." As a tattoo artist, Fox has a clear stance on the subject. He can appreciate all styles and all the hard work that is put into the industry. When asked who his favorite artists were he replied, "I have a few that I admire quite a bit. Nikko (Ignition Tattoo-Apple Valley, Cali.) is fucking awesome, I want to get a Predator portrait from him so fucking bad!



Dalton and Slavik's Derek Hess artwork tattoos by Timmy B of Electric Chair in Bay City, Mich., Slavik's right arm by Timmy B, Martin's ship by singer Chris Fox, and Fox's penguin party by Levi Hatch of Splash of Color in Lansing, Mich.



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PHOTOS BY GEOFFREY STEPHENSON



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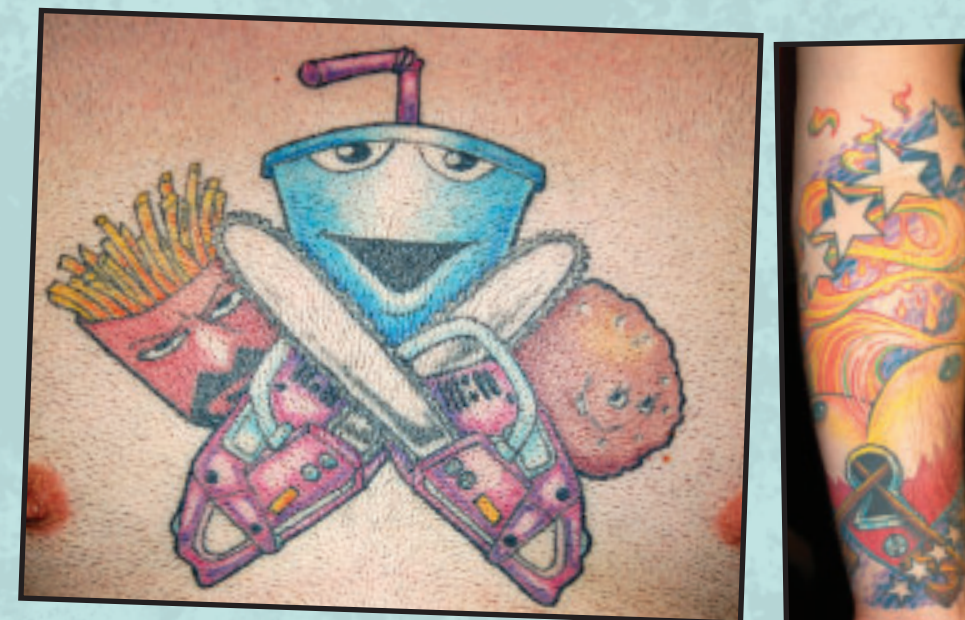
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Fox's *Aqua Teen Hunger Force* tattoo on chest (done on a bet) by Jamie Morton of Magnum Tattoos in Grand Rapids, Mich., left arm by Greg Drake of Splash of Color in Lansing, Mich.



Slavik's abducted cow by Timmy B of Electric Chair, Fox's neck by Jamie Morton

Martin LaCasse has been a big influence as far as my artwork goes. I'm mainly inspired by artists I work around in Mich. like my boss and mentor Hawk and everyone I work with at Mad Tattr's and everyone at Liquid Tattoo in Lansing, Mich. It's ridiculous how many amazing artists are out there today. It's really raising the bar and its causing everyone to produce amazing pieces. I love it." A humbled answer from a humbled man.



Fox's tattoo on calf by Jamie Morton

In the same essence Fox tells *PRICK*, "It's a good feeling to know how far I have come. To walk into a store and see your album or shirt makes you feel really good. It is still kind of weird signing autographs. These kids don't realize that I'm just a normal dude, but it's very flattering." But before you let these kind words sway you, you should know that this is one hardcore dude. Take for example, this story about a tickle fight... "In Jacksonville, Florida on our tour with August Burns Red, I was caught in the middle of a tickle fight with a few of the guys on tour including our drummer, Andy. I was chased out into the back parking lot, and as I was running I didn't notice a truck flying through the lot. It hit me going about twenty-five mph and sent me flying. Luckily, I didn't get hurt really besides some cuts and bruises. But it was still pretty crazy."

Whichever side you prefer to warm up to, the consensus is that SYNT is the new grindcore pick for *PRICK*. They put on an amazing live show, they will strive against all odds to tour, and they are no strangers to the ink. With great attitudes, a sense of humor, and a strong will to succeed, SYNT will be stealing all the young ladies' hearts in no time. ★

For more information, go to www.myspace.com/seeyounexttuesday.

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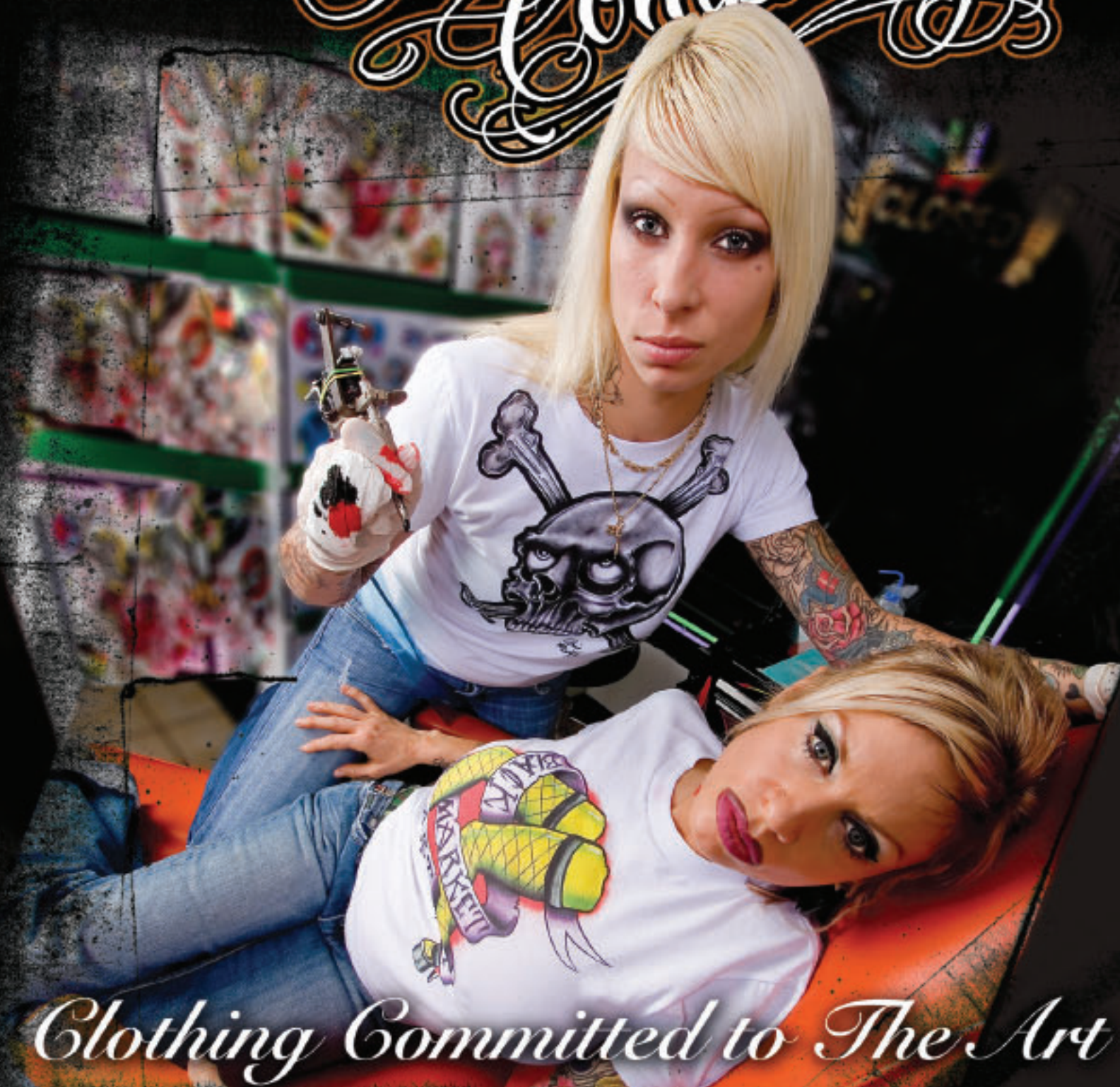
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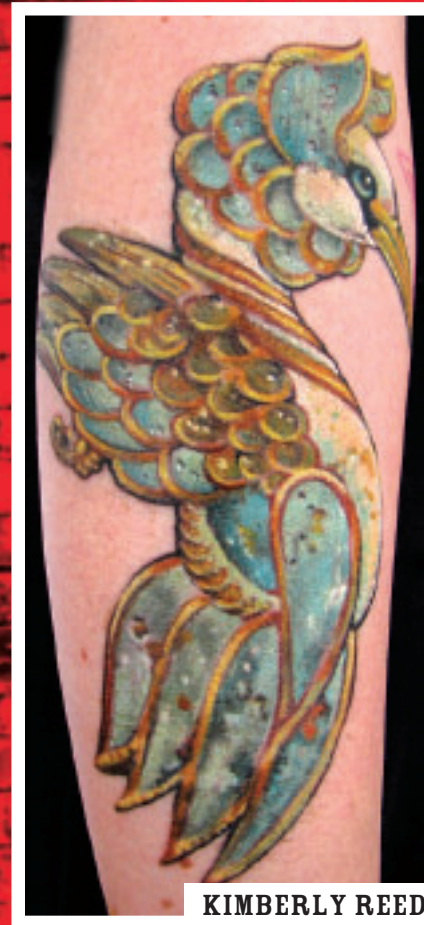


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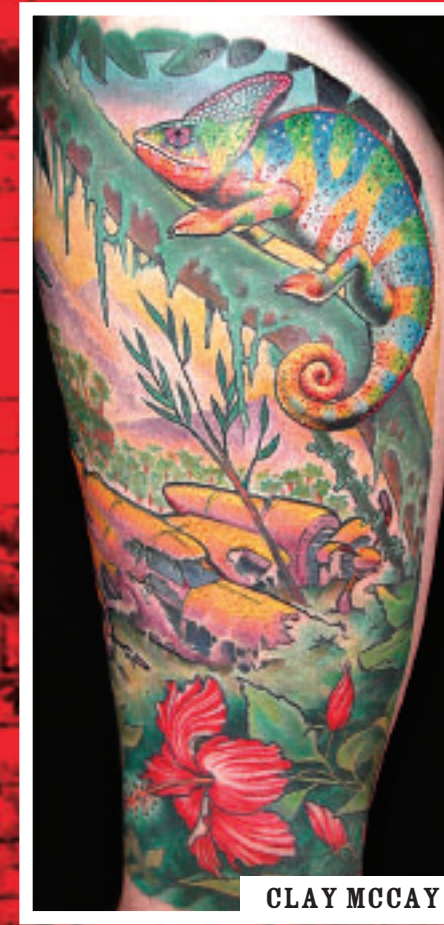
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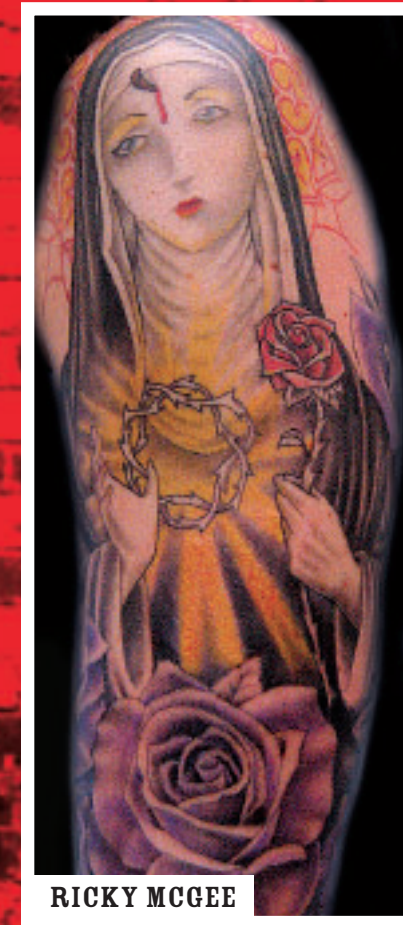
KIMBERLY REED



CLAY MCCAY



RICKY MCGEE

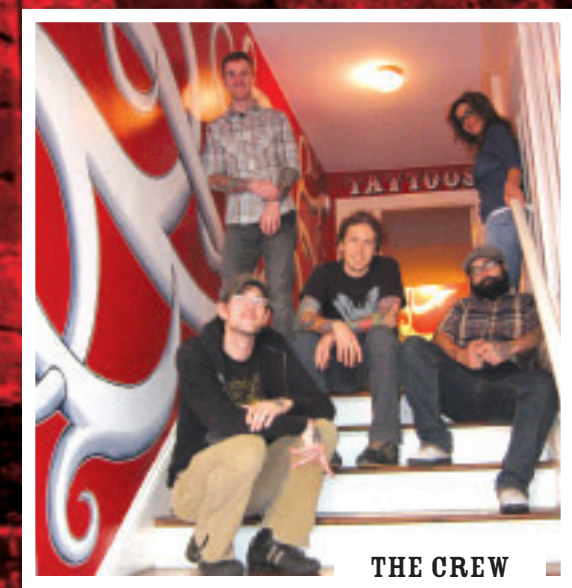


RICKY MCGEE

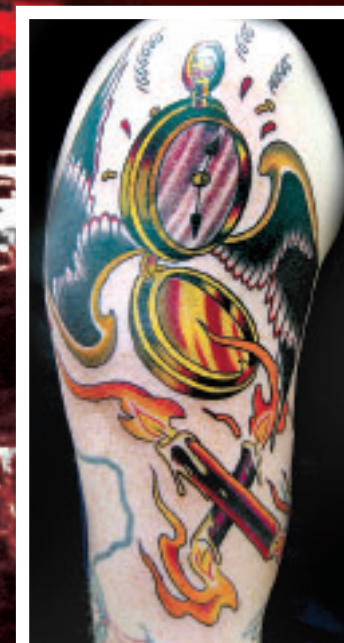
SHOP OF THE MONTH ANONYMOUS TATTOO

BY GEOFFREY STEPHENSON

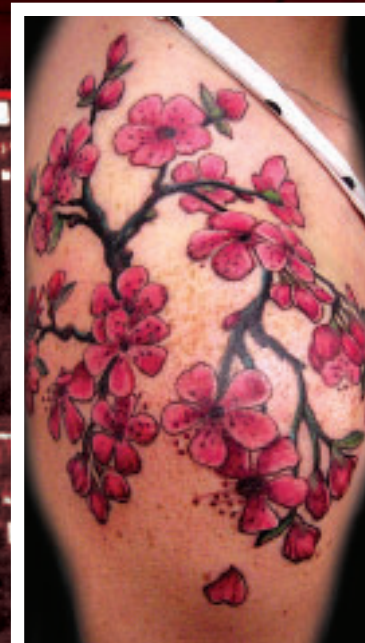
Anonymous Tattoo opened up shop three years ago in a large loft space in historic, downtown Savannah, Ga. Owned and operated by artist Ricky McGee, Anonymous is a beautiful shop with large windows and a skylight that provide plenty of natural charm. The high ceilings make for a really comfortable and creative environment in the shop. Their current lineup of talented artists includes McGee, Clay McCay, Zack Spurlock, Kimberly Reed, and Ron Decosta. Although Anonymous is primarily a custom shop, they also accommodate walk-ins whenever they can. "I think with this group we have all styles covered. Whatever you want," says McGee.



THE CREW



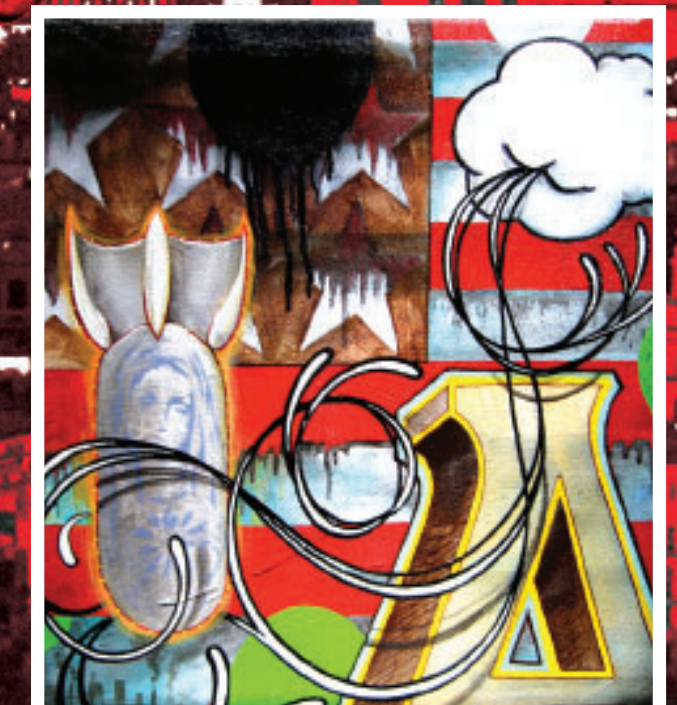
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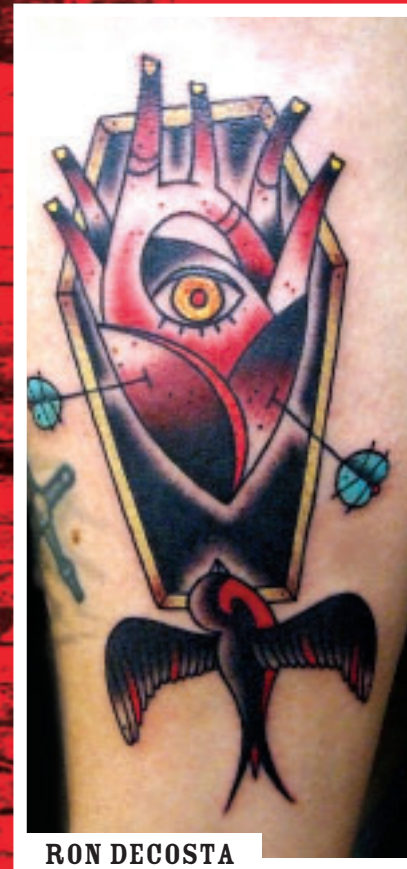
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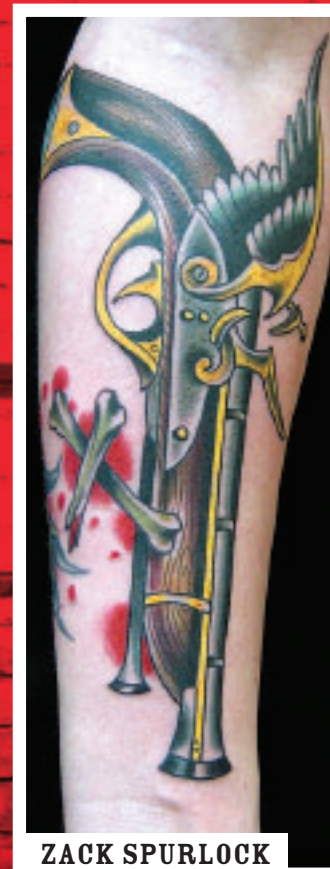
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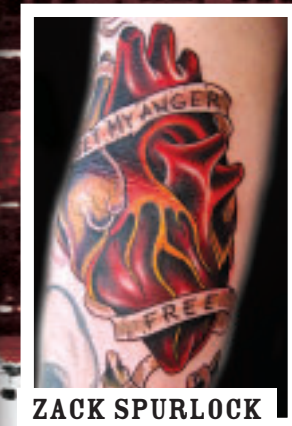
Ricky McGee has been tattooing for ten years, and he learns more about the craft every day. Pretty impressive considering the talent he possesses. "I love my job and enjoy all styles of tattooing. I have not pigeonholed myself into one style of work—aside from just trying to do the cleanest tattooing that I can. I'm always up for a challenge," he says.

Another masterful artist at Anonymous is Clay McCay, who has been tattooing for thirteen years. When asked about his style, McCay responds, "I have a special place in my heart for the darker side; skulls, bats, spiders, etc. Style wise, I would say that I'm somewhere on the realistic side of cartoony. Detailed, traditional, illustrative you might say. I could tattoo skulls all day, every day and be happy. Symphonic folk black metal is what I would listen to while doing skull tattoos. I am also a southern redneck at heart."

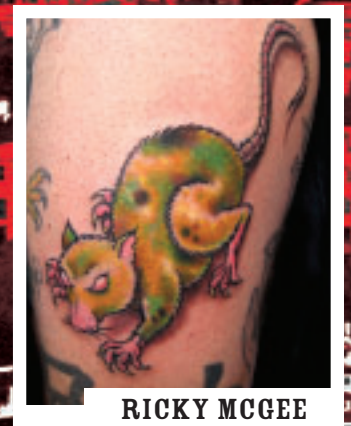
After a couple years bouncing around learning the art of tattooing, Spurlock found a home in



RON DE COSTA



ZACK SPURLOCK



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THE SHOP



ZACK SPURLOCK



RICKY MCGEE

Savannah; he "re-apprenticed" under McGee upon his arrival. "I was able to work slowly and concentrate on what I was doing. It was like tattoo grad school," says Spurlock. His training shows in the skilled work he creates. "I love our shop and have a great feeling of shop pride. All I have to do is step one station over to learn something. Savannah is a great place for me."

Kimberly Reed has been tattooing "since around the mid-to late '90s, I think." She has traveled a bit during her career and has followed her talented gypsy blood all the way to Anonymous. "I've learned so much these last two years being in Savannah and working with these guys. But isn't that what it's about?" As far as her style is concerned, she says "I love pretty...anything pretty. I'm all over it. I've also learned that I have a knack for knocking people out, hence my [nick name]: kokimi. I know that I'm very blessed to be here and I learn something new every day, which I hope continues as I move closer to working the way I hope to some day."

Ron Decosta is the newest addition to the Anonymous family; he was apprenticed in-house for a year and has been tattooing now for nearly as long. For his limited experience, Decosta has produced some amazingly clean work. McGee claims that Decosta will be the first and last apprentice to come out of Anonymous.

You can catch the Anonymous Tattoo crew at a handful of east coast conventions each year, or by simply stopping in to meet these talented and friendly folks. When asked for some final words, McGee said, "I would like to thank all our customers and friends for supporting us, and especially the crew at the shop. They make the difference and I couldn't ask for a better group of people to work with." ★

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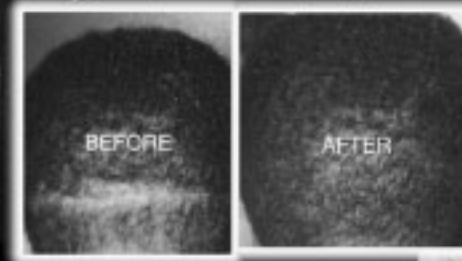


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THE FUCKING WRATH

Season of Evil [Goodfellow Records]
Heavy, droning, aggressive metal. *Season of Evil* sounds exactly like its title—dark and demonic. Unlike your everyday metal band, The Fucking Wrath adds breakdown components and creative intros to keep your attention throughout the album. The “guttural onslaught” of vocals from lead singer Craig Kasamis are raw and gritty, while the heavy rhythm and fast paced riffs keep you bobbing your head from song to song. According to their MySpace page, “The Fucking Wrath is out to destroy everything.” This

could be a possibility or they could just destroy your ears with constant metal overload. - Lisa Sharer



KILLING CALIFORNIA

Goin' South [Basement Records]
Punk's not dead, and Killing California is thick with original punk values. Although their songs are a little longer, they still follow the speed riff and shouting vocals formula. Perfect for screaming along with, this is the sound that comes out of your favorite dive bar and scores a well deserved record with an indie label. There's nothing pop about it, these boys are bringing back that '70s staples with the whole feeling of leather jackets, safety pins, and studs. Don't worry, it has the modern rock

elements that we all love, but this album might make you pull out the Ramones and the Clash between songs. - Switchblade Siouxsie



CRISIS IN HOLLYWOOD

Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea [Financial Records]
Most of you reading this are probably old enough to get into R-rated movies which means you probably don't listen to too much pop-punk, but there's no denying a catchy song when you hear it and this disc has at least three. It's exactly what you need to wean your little sister off of that one Fall Out Boy album she's had on repeat for the last two years. *Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea* probably won't change your life, but it's new and it's fun in a sort of dot your i's with little hearts kind of way. - Patricia (Evilneedles.com)



LAFCADIO

Kibosh [Joyful Noise]
Their debut was pretty impressive with lots of crazy time changes and hi-tech chaos. This sophomore release shows that Lafcadio is one of the few bands that actually got the memo: most people don't like to listen to flat out noise. *Kibosh* has all the bite you would expect from a pack of wild hyenas without all that noisy barking and howling. They've also taken the high road and stayed away from the southern rock trend. It's heavy, stiff and structured math metal with just the right amount of melody and brute force. - Patricia (Evilneedles.com)



THE SHACKELTONS

The Shackeltons [Planetary Group]
At first listen The Shackeltons self-titled album sounds like most of the other radio-friendly post-punk hipster bands. But you quickly notice a few distinct differences that put them above the fray. The quirky eccentricities of singer Mark Redding's vocal stylings create an audible tension that forms the music into something purely passionate. Most of their sound is a seemingly simplistic formula of indie and post punk, but The Shackeltons just do it right. The album contains a veritable hodgepodge of sporadically placed

tempos and melodies that somehow sound soothing when they should have driven you into a maniacal fit. That's how the entire album feels; your ears either ride the waves of the fervent vocals until they crash upon the shore or they sail off into the frozen expanse. - Chelsea James



THIEVES & LIARS

When Dreams Become Reality [Dreamt Music]
When Dreams Become Reality is the debut album from San Diego-based power trio Thieves & Liars. It's an auspicious beginning for the group, yet still proudly harkens back to the glory days of epic rock. Think Zeppelin meets Floyd, as they say. It's the kind of music that makes you want to kick out your car's windshield and let your long hair whip about in the wind as you cruise aimlessly down a deserted highway with a joint in your hand and six pack of cold beer riding shotgun. Too bad you can't get

this one in 8-track format, then your long dormant yearnings for the ultimate rock 'n' roll fantasy would be complete once again. Crank it up and float on. - Gustavo Montoya



HIGH ON FIRE

Death Is This Communion

[Relapse Records]
Those familiar with metal faves High on Fire know that Matt Pike can peel paint off the walls with his axe. I wasn't expecting, however, his voice to feature so prominently into the explosion that is *Death Is This Communion*. It does—and powerfully so—giving nod to Motorhead's Lemmy, especially on the punk metal anthem “Rumors of War.” The songs here are smart and diverse, from Middle Eastern-tinged instrumentals to balls-out rockers that pay off big time. Another secret weapon on this CD, besides Pike's uncanny ability to take a song to that next, most metal level, lies in the production. The drums are sharp and high in the mix making your heart pump along in fury to the rise and fall of the kick. It's all there. High on Fire deliver the goods on this one. - Kitty Liquor



LIVING BRIDGE

Various Artists

[Rare Book Room Records]
Living Bridge is the debut release from Rare Book Room Records. The two-disc compilation is a collection of almost all new, previously unreleased songs that were recorded in RBR's quaint studio in Brooklyn, N.Y. As was the original intent, the entire release plays like a well-crafted mixed tape. Each song seamlessly flows into the next, with obvious attention to song placement and the inclusion of even the faintest note. Cool kids will rejoice in the overflowing abundance of indie bands involved, including Deerhunter, Enon, The Silver Jews, and Avery Tare from Animal Collective. If this promising assemblage of quality producing is the first thing they offer to the masses, then we look forward to many more releases from RBR in the near future. - Pistol Penelope



THE DICTATORS

Every Day Is Saturday

[Norton]
This one's for anyone who's ever even *thought* the Strokes were original. Granted the Strokes are a lot easier on the eyes, but as one of the purveyors of the pre-punk genre, the Dictators wrote the textbooks the Strokes stole their image from. *Every Day Is Saturday* is a collection of 22 previously unreleased crust 'n' roll tracks spanning 1973-2002. They're brash and vulgar and should appeal to trashy people who like to listen to the Ramones while riding the washing machine with an unbalanced load. - Patricia (Evilneedles.com)



ATLAS SOUND

Let The Blind Lead Those Who Can See But Cannot Feel

[Kranky Records]
Take off your thrash hats. Atlas Sound, a solo project by Deerhunter frontman, Bradford Cox comes across with experimental electronic sounds and dream pop. While it echoes Deerhunter, it explores a wider variety of sounds and mellow drone. It begins with a ghost story that sends you off to pensive lyrics and childhood haunts. Various instruments were used in these recordings from gong bowls to treated bells from Ghana. But for the most part mainly lap-top and guitar based. The special thing about this record is its ability to express such emotion that is often difficult to portray in such a beautiful way. Top tracks, “River Card,” “Scraping Past,” and the title track. - Casheena Frison



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Sat. February 02, 2008 9:30PM Triple Ds presents: Rizzudo - Beat the Devil The Liverhearts - \$8	Fri. February 15, 2008 9:30PM wordproductions presents: Black Mountain Blood on the Wall - \$10	Fri. February 22, 2008 9:30PM wordproductions presents: Snowden Constellations Twin Tigers - \$10
Wed. February 06, 2008 9:00PM wordproductions presents: Ponderosa Josh Roberts & the Hinges Junior League - \$7	Mon. February 18, 2008 9PM OK Productions presents: Dead Meadow All the Saints Untied States - \$10	Sat. February 23, 2008 9:30PM wordproductions presents: cd release Dropsonic Traindodge - \$8
Thu. February 07, 2008 9:00PM wordproductions presents: Bombadil - Georgia Fireflies Blake Guthrie - \$7	Tue. February 19, 2008 9:00PM A3C 2008 Preview Night - \$3	Fri. February 29, 2008 9:30PM The Dynamites featuring Charles Walker Cordero - \$12
Wed. February 13, 2008 9PM Robot Face Productions presents: The Pendletons Hope for agoldensummer Delta Co. - \$7	Wed. February 20, 2008 9 PM Triple Ds presents: The Coathangers Chopper Mammals - \$7	

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ARTIST OF THE MONTH ADAM SKY

INTERVIEW BY WILLIAM THIDEMANN



Hailing from one of the greatest cities in the world, Adam Sky is one of those guys you should pay attention to. Aside from being the man behind Tattoodles, he is now—due to a recent acquisition—owner of Read Street Forum. Sky is a solid tattoo artist with years of experience. This is one of those guys that lays in the cuts and get busy.

We first came across Sky at the Vancouver Tattoo Convention about four or five years ago and since then we've been paying attention. He is a busy man and a real force in the Canadian tattoo world, and his international exposure continues to grow. Sky helps to prove that Canada is not just the U.S.'s largest suburb but is, in itself, a viable and vibrant part of the tattoo world.



Thidemann: How and when did you get started in tattooing? Have you always been in Vancouver?

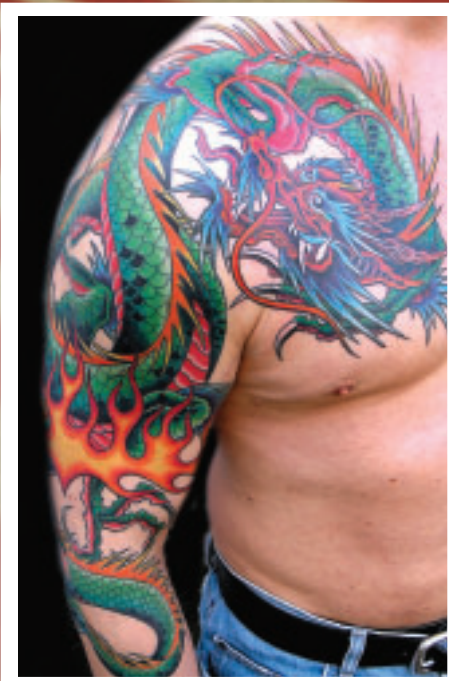
Sky: I did my first tattoo in 1986. I was living in a punk rock party house in a really run down area of East Vancouver. I lived in a house with eight other punk rock kids. We called it the Hell House—we all worked shit jobs washing dishes or as bicycle couriers and to blow off steam we'd have LSD parties every Saturday night. Our acid parties got crazier and more notorious until hundreds of people started showing up for them. The rules were that you had to be tripping on psychedelics if you were going to party with us.

One night some biker showed up on his Harley with a cookie tin full of homemade tattoo guns and Indian inks. The biker got all fucked up and passed out on our living room floor. Everyone was super bummed because he was supposed to do some tattoos. I had some art schooling and, since I was tripping somewhat less than everyone else, I was nominated as the tattoo artist of the evening. I did a few tattoos and, although I was shitting my pants, people seemed pretty pleased with what I tattooed. When the biker came to, he checked out my work and told me he was so impressed that I could keep his homemade tattoo rig if I tattooed him.

Our Saturday night LSD tattoo parties turned into Sunday morning tattoo parties which then turned in to Monday afternoon tattoo par-



PHOTOGRAPH BY
WWW.I45INK.GO.MI



ties and before I knew it, I was tattooing almost every day. Since we were all punk rock and broke, my rate of charge was based on food and alcohol. A small tattoo would cost you a bag of Doritos and a half-liter of chocolate milk; a medium-sized tattoo would run you a deli style sandwich; and a large tattoo would set you back a case of beer. Since everyone had no money, a case of beer would mean a case of Pilsner, which is the skunkiest Canadian beer you could imagine. Once in a while I'd get real beer, which was no-name-brand beer. We actually had generic beer that just said 'BEER' on the can and nothing else.

Who were your influences, what inspired you to start tattooing?

My early influences were pretty much beer, Doritos, and sandwiches. After a few years of



fucking people up with homemade tattoos, I realized that if I wanted a future in tattooing, I'd have to start taking it seriously and start respecting my customers by no longer creating horrible tattoos. I realized that I needed professional training or, rather, re-training in order to ditch all of my bad habits. I went to every tattoo shop in the Vancouver area trying to find an apprenticeship. No one would hire me. No one was interested in helping me come up in the business because by that time I had a bad reputation as a scratcher.

Eventually, I pulled a super-pussy move and opened a street shop and hired pro artists to work with me. The plan was to just glean what information I could from them. My first shop was Sacred Heart Tattoo, which is still located on Vancouver's very affluent West Side. We opened Sacred Heart in 1993, right at the crest of the wave of the tattoo renaissance. We had some really fantastic artists working at Sacred back then, including Theo Jak, Bill Baker, Rob Hope, and a bunch of other mind blowing Canadian tattoo artists. I ran Sacred for 3 years and then sold it for enough money to buy a Ducati motorcycle. I used that motorcycle to ride to San Francisco where I found work tattooing at various spots in California.

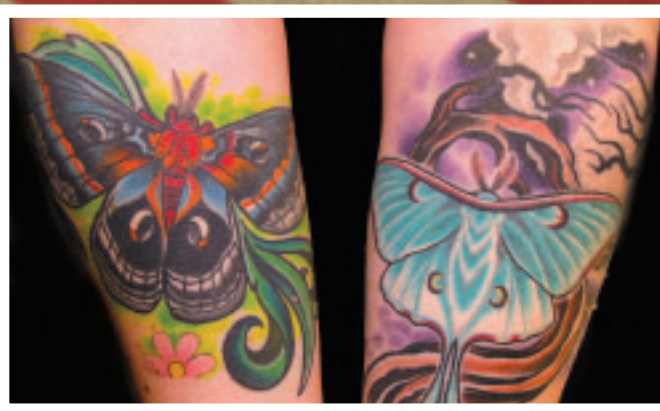
What is the role of tattoo flash in a modern shop?

I don't know what it's like everywhere else, but it certainly seems that customers are much savvier

than they were only a few years ago. I think that we, as tattooers, have successfully started to educate the public en masse—be it through magazines, the tattoo reality shows, or other media. People overwhelmingly want custom work now. But that doesn't negate the role of flash in the tattoo shop; flash is still an excellent way to see how other tattooers draw common symbols in our language of tattoo art. Flash is a free range to reproduce these symbols in our own way and create custom work from it. Flash isn't irrelevant, but its role seems to be changing.

Tell us about your studio.

I've got a private tattoo studio in Gastown, which is Vancouver's historical district. There's no signage, no walk-in traffic, and if you passed it by on the street, you'd never know there was tattooing going on inside. I think that with the access the Internet gives us, it's possible to operate a tattoo studio without a storefront. Our studio is modern



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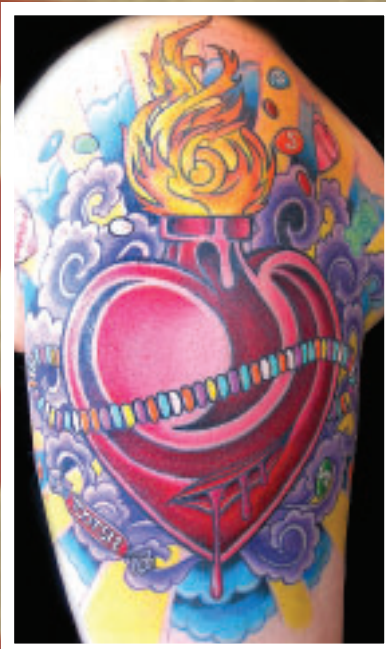
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and clean and very comfortable to work in. I work alongside Mikel, who is a friend of 15 years and a great tattooer. And our studio doesn't have a name. Well, we give it a new name every month. Last month it was Thor's Magic Hammer of Sexy Times. This month we're calling it The Wizard's Sleeve. The concept of not naming the studio was to shift the focus of reputation to the individual artist and not the shop.

How is it living and working in Vancouver?

Vancouver is consistently rated by the international press as one of the top 3 cities in the entire world to live in. I think we're always tied with Geneva or Luxemburg for quality of living. It's beautiful and temperate (for Canada). One thing I should mention is that we have a preposterously skewed percentage of beautiful women who live in Vancouver. It's just fucking ridiculous some days. I know dozens of absolutely punch 'em out, knock down beautiful ladies who do nothing but complain about being single. And all the dudes walk around looking like they get laid way too much. You know that look that guys get when sex is just too easy? They start wearing cheesy terry cloth track suits and walk around with a dumb ass grin like they don't give a shit because their stripper girlfriend will be home in half an hour with a flap of coke and a new video game for the Xbox; anything to keep their man happy and on the couch, you know?

What styles of tattooing interest you the most?

I just like looking at any tattooing that's innovative and different. I don't have any interest in anyone's work that's derivative. Sure, we can all have influences and it's good to draw inspiration from a variety of other artists and other tattooers, but you should use that influence as a tool in finding your own path.

Tell us about Tattoodles, what is it and how did it come to be?

Tattoodles.com is a Web site I launched several years ago. Its original mission was to become an online resource for tattoo flash for tattoo artists. Artists could submit their original designs to our gallery and, in return for their contribution, that artist would have a lifetime membership to download everyone else's flash. Tattoodles also broadcasts an online tattoo community where people can network. We also host the infamous Read Street Tattoo Forum which, as many people know, is the most exclusive and resourceful tattoo artist discussion forum on the Web.

Any last thoughts or anything I forgot?

Zombies rule Belgium. ★

For the complete Adam Sky interview (including more information about Tattoodles) go to www.prickmag.net.

For more information, go to www.adamsky.com, www.tattoodles.com, and www.readstreettattooforum.com.

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TATTOO NEWS



Justin McRoy of Bad Apple Tattoo in Las Vegas giving Fernando Diaz of Houston with his second Dunlop tattoo [AP]



Sarah Dee's advertisement [LeaseYourBody.com]

YOU CAN VIRTUALLY BE YOUR OWN PIMP!

BY LISA SHARER

Lots of times we get tattoos on a whim, other times we get tattoos on a dare, at times we might get tattoos on a bet, and we'll even get a tattoo for tickets to the Superbowl. Okay, so not everyone is insane, but some of us are. A few years ago, some of you remember that moment when our bodies became ad space. It started with a man's head, spread to a woman's pregnant belly, and infected a whole new world of advertisement. I am a true advocate for tattoos, but do I think we should start prostituting ourselves for this proclaimed art form? Let's think...

First of all, most of these tattoos are temporary. Less of an art form and more of a cop-out. That's right. Some random twenty year old kid raked in over thirty seven thousand dollars for a temporary tattoo on his forehead. Another random woman received over four thousand dollars for a temporary tattoo on her pregnant belly. From there on, people jumped at the chance to expose the body parts for a pay check. I'm not saying the world might benefit from less strippers, trust me, I know that's not true. However, I am saying that sometimes our wavering acceptability of tattoos, and our lack of interest in the art as an respectable medium might suffer from blatant disregard.

Now, this doesn't mean I couldn't use some extra cash, or a free set of tires. Here's a company that isn't playing around—Goodyear. They want the real thing. In the event that you choose to get their flying D logo, you will receive one free set of tires. Hello, POS with new tires! However, only one set for a lifetime commitment? Come on Goodyear, you can't make a lifetime commitment to me? That's corporate America for you.

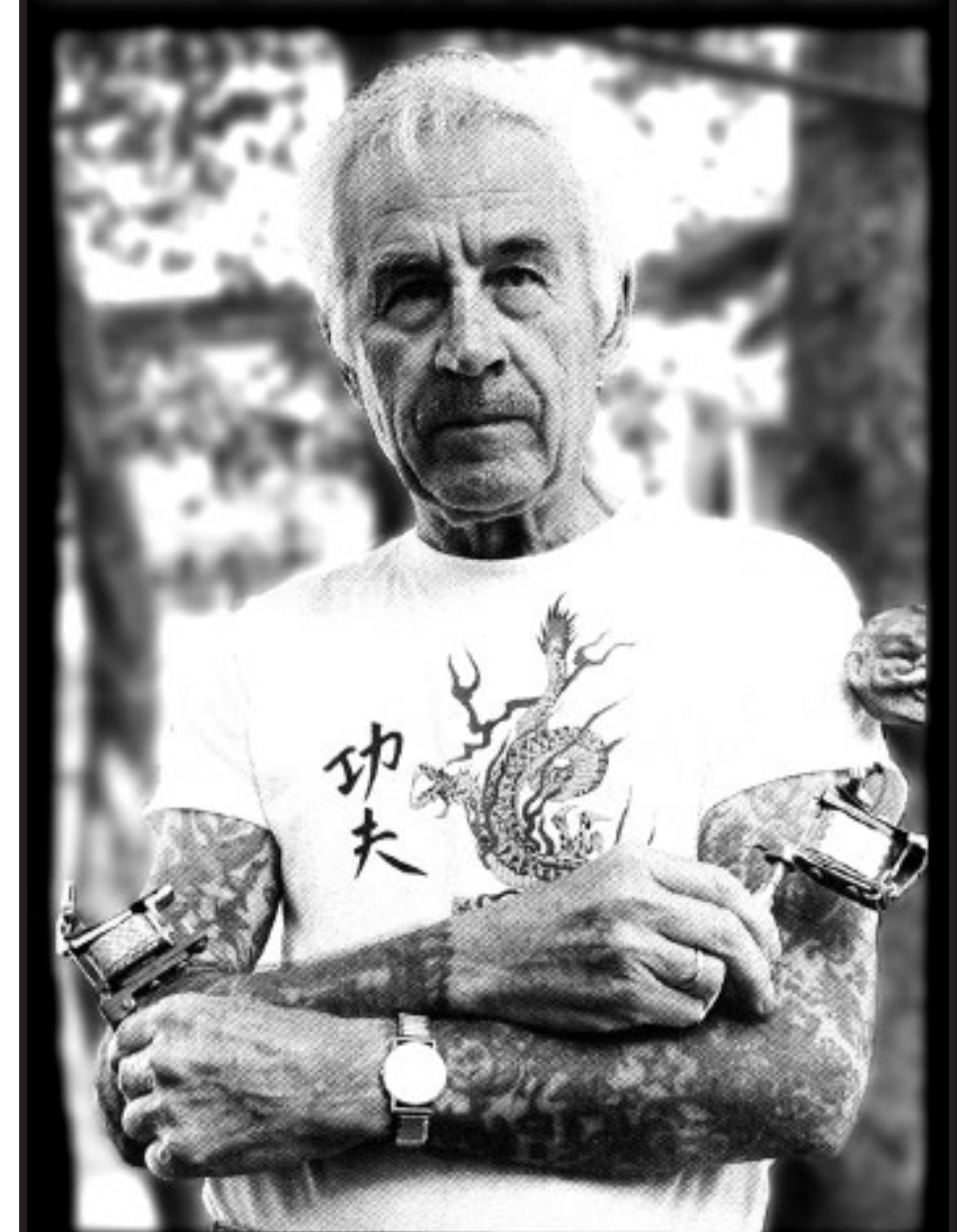
To organize the overwhelming amount of people looking to rent out ad space, Web sites such as LeaseYourBody.com have come into existence. A Web site that only charges you ten dollars; it quickly sets you up with your own profile to sell yourself to all the companies scrambling to get their logo on your skin. Easy money, that stuff your mom said was impossible. Guess what? She's right. Apparently there are thousands of members on this website, and not a single company looking to advertise.

However, that doesn't mean it's not possible. Recently, a Welsh man and wife have decided to tackle this endeavor on their own. After sending out over a hundred letters offering his back up to the highest bidder, they have already been offered a five figure sum to get the real thing. Easy money, the stuff your mom said was impossible. Is it really worth it? You can even find several people reaching out on Ebay. They tell a little about why they would be a perfect walking billboard, and start the bidding at whatever rate they feel is fair.

Hey, I'm not the kind to judge. If I was in a really rough spot, you might find me with a Target logo on my forehead. Or if I had that maybe I'd just be showing everyone that I'm ready for it to be over. Either way, it's amazing to see what the human race will come up with next. ★

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Photos courtesy of Apple

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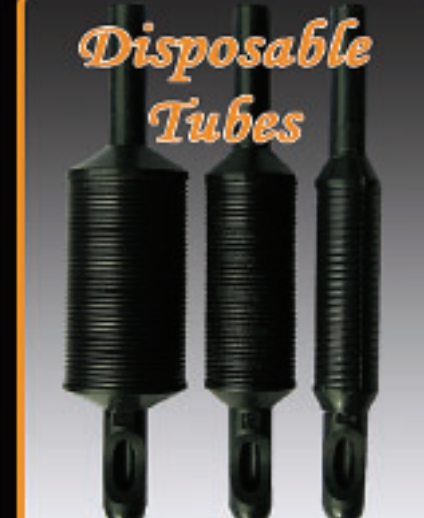
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