

Inked

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THE MOTORCYCLE ISSUE

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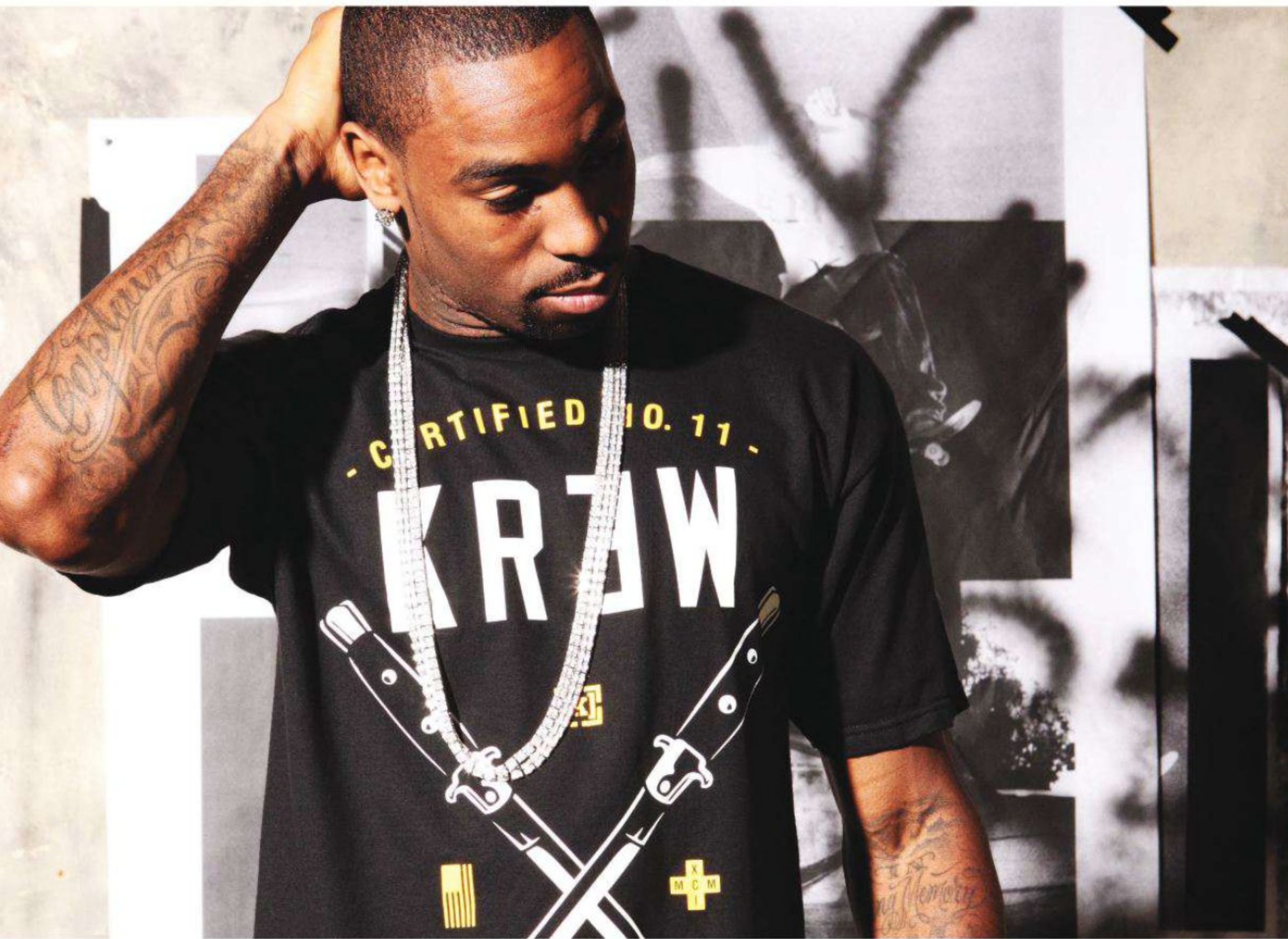
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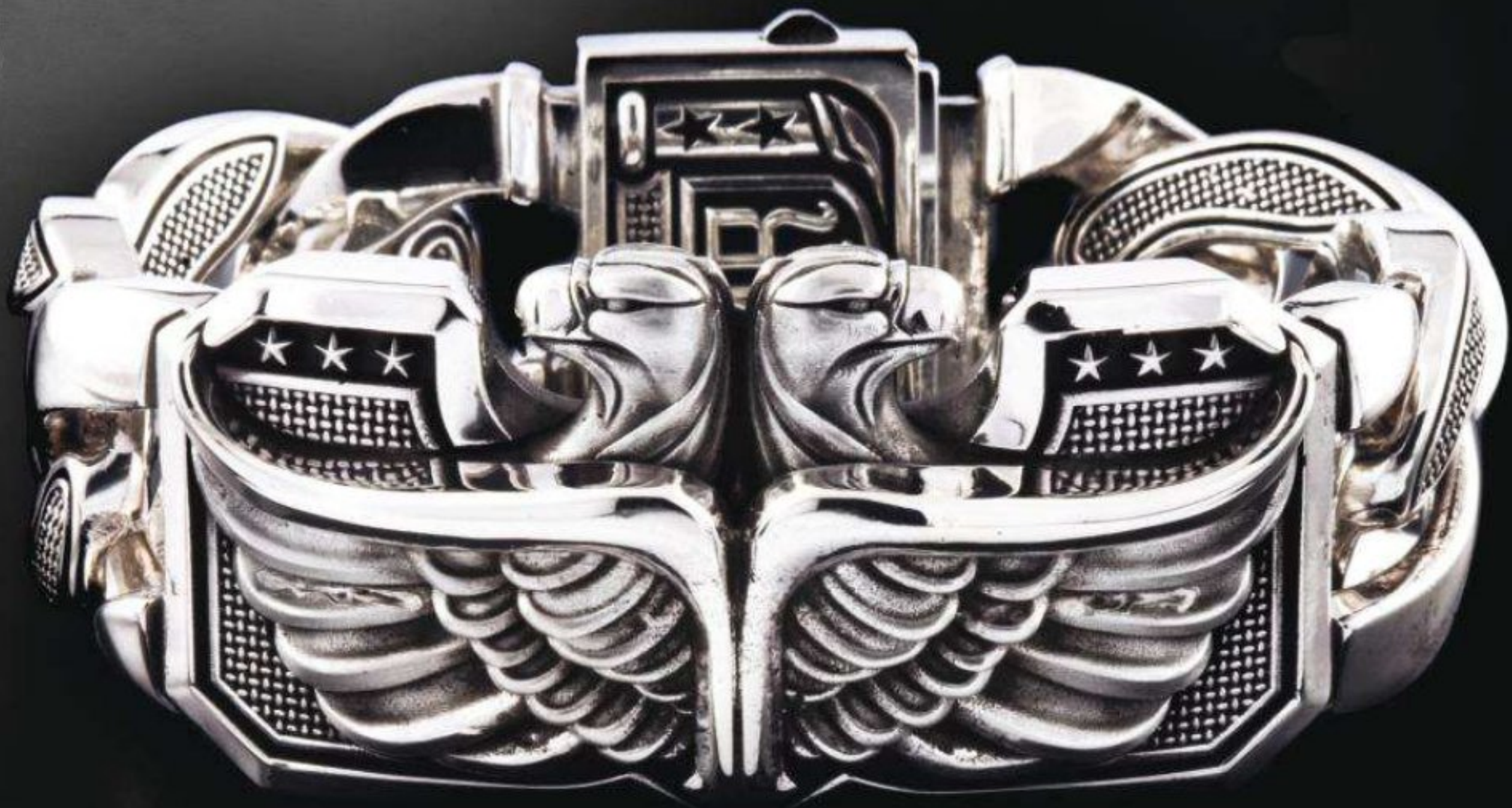
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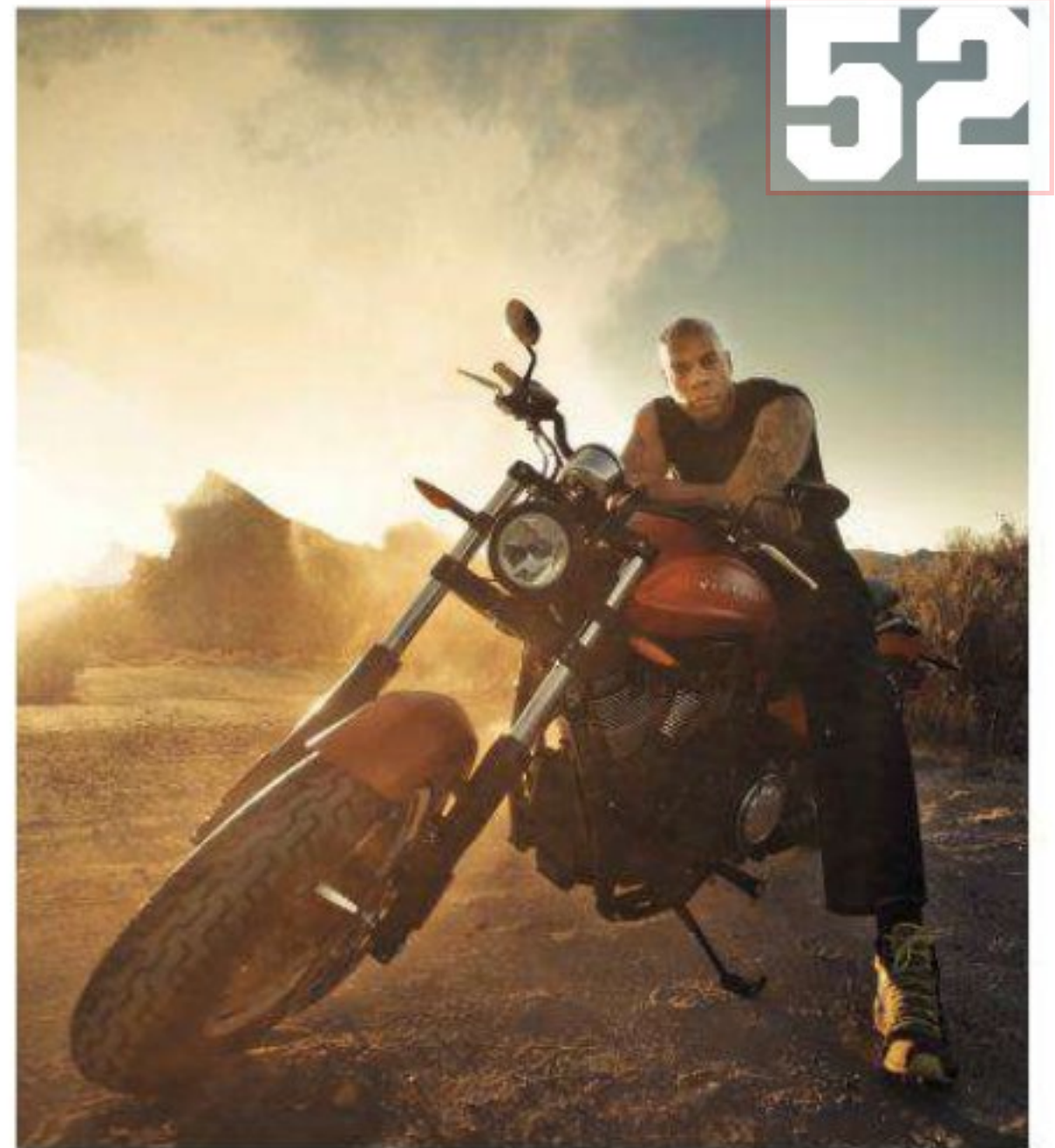
COVENANT BRACELET

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On the cover: photo: WARWICK SAINT; styling: YOUNG-AH KIM; hair: STACI CHILD for redken/cutler at de facto; makeup: DANIELA KLEIN using MAC cosmetics at the wall group; motorcycle: special thanks to HARLEY-DAVIDSON OF NEW YORK CITY for providing the 2012 SOFTAIL DELUXE BIKE; location: FAST ASHLEY'S.

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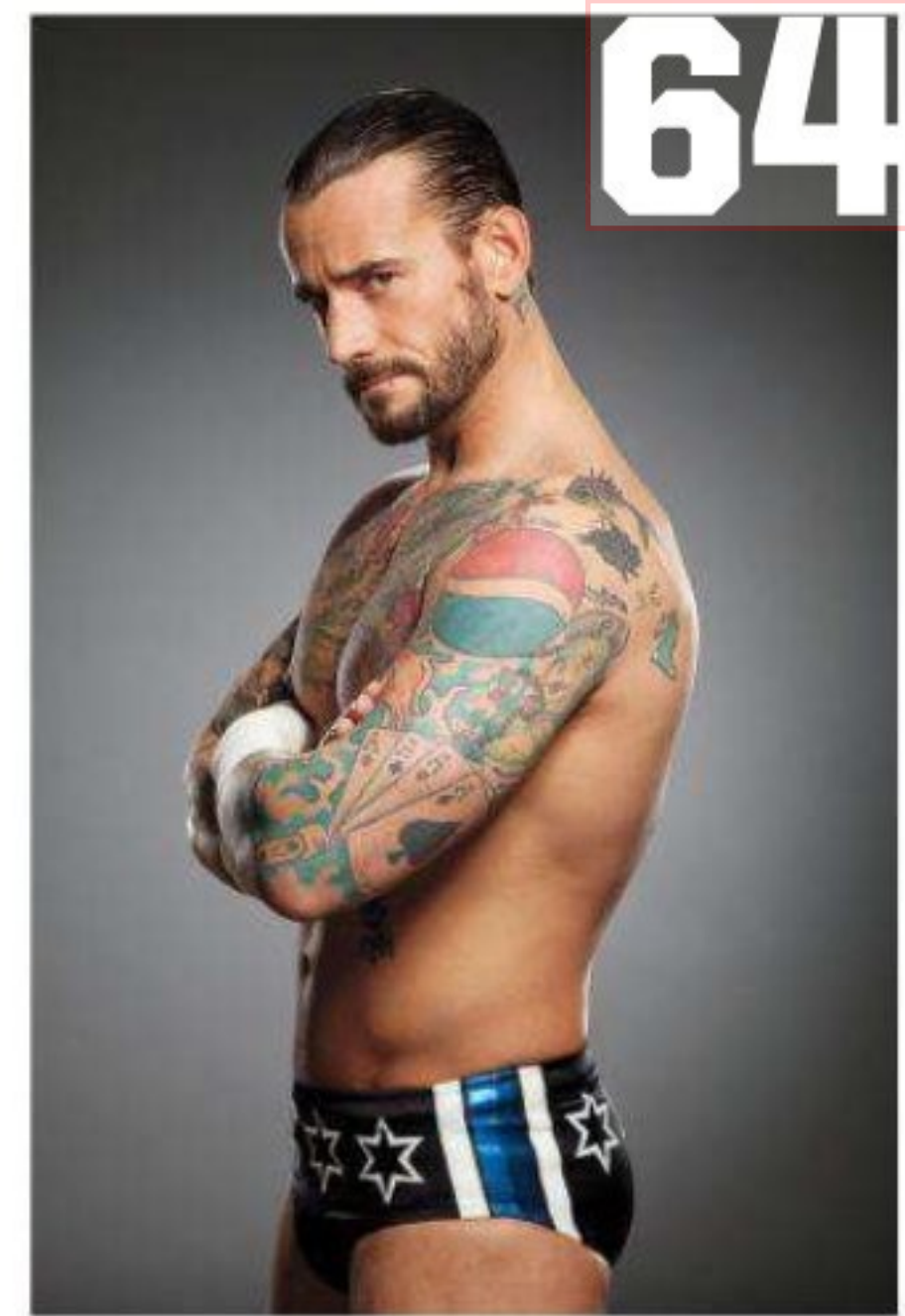
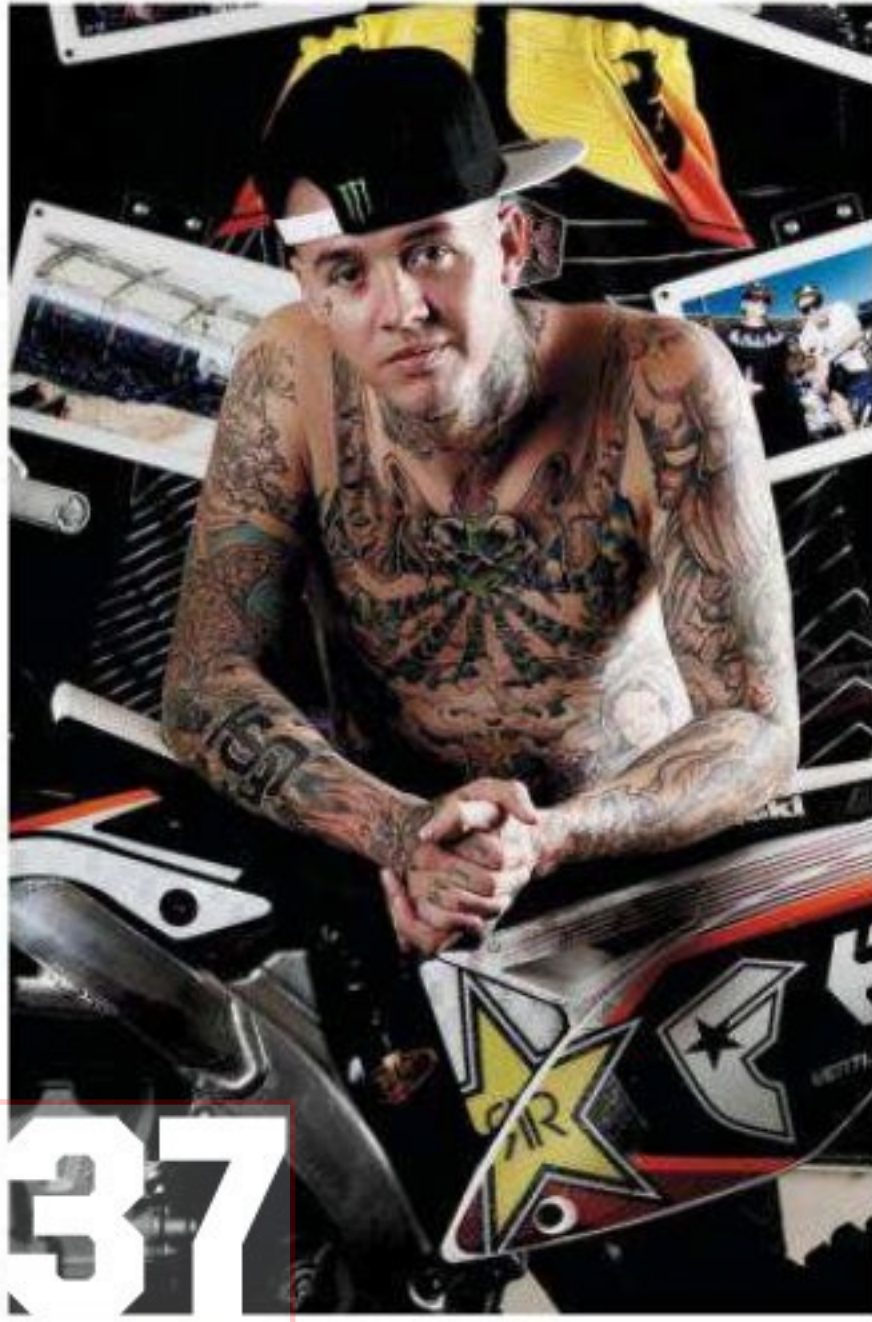
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fulfillment prestige fulfillment
subscription info 888-465-3305
subscriptions@themagstore.com

INKED, ISSN (1555-8630) Issue 44, is published monthly except combined issue in Jun/
Jul & Dec/Jan by Quadra Media, LLC 12 West 27th St, 10th floor, New York, NY 10001.
Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Inked Magazine, P.O. Box 8607, Ft. Lauderdale,
FL 33310-9965.



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ink well

I love sidecars as much as the next guy, unless the next guy is a lush from the 1920s. But the point of motorcycles is that they are single-passenger rockets. They are the ideal go-it-alone, blaze-your-own-trail vehicle. Tattoos are similar in that they are a way to set yourself apart—it's no wonder that most riders have ink. This month, the start of riding season—when temperatures across America start to warm enough to flaunt sleeves and leg pieces—we highlight the highest form of personal transportation alongside the highest form of self-expression.

Brittany Ineson (1) catches up with freestyle motocrosser Jeremy "Twitch" Stenberg; Dove Shore (2) shoots comedian and rider Alonzo Bodden; Andrew Kuykendall (3) captures new biker fashion (and some leathers) in action; and Nadia Kadri (4) profiles our Inked Girl, Amy Forrester, who is quite possibly the best thing to be on a bike since ape hangers. Freddy Negrete, the man who helped bring his style of Chicano tattoos to a high-art level, sits for photographer Steven Perilloux (5), and Brandon and Darrell Sheets, of *Storage Wars* fame, tell Kara Pound (6) about how they've found museum-quality art in abandoned lockers.

To celebrate TATTOOZdayz, a weekly video program on krockradio.com where the sickest acts in music share their tattoos and the stories behind them, host Jay Zustra "Z" (7) interviews Senses Fail's Buddy Nielsen, while Alexander Richter (8) snaps away.

We've got all that plus the best motorcycles rolling out this year, bitchin' products for gearheads, where to visit when you tame the Tail of the Dragon, and beer. Welcome to our clubhouse.

Rocky Rakovic

Rocky Rakovic
Editor
editor@inkedmag.com



mail



DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS

I have an idea for Fat Mike: He has that [NOFX] album *S&M Airlines*, so he should make an airline where you don't just put a seat belt buckle on, but get strapped into your chair. And I'll let you imagine what the flight attendants look like.

George Constantine
Ann Arbor, MI

Holy shit, I had no idea that Fat Mike was into submission! I picked up INKED because I love NOFX—I even have a NOFX tattoo on my arm—thinking that there'd be an article on the band and what they are up to. But it seems that Fat Mike has been up to more than I thought. And his girl-

friend, Soma Snakeoil, is gorgeous. I'm into restraints and bondage but have been reluctant to tell anybody about it, really. This proves that it really is punk rock, because submission is about doing something non-mainstream, something that you want to do when society tells you it's dirty. I have one question: Was that really in their house or at a set?

Punk Rock Simon

Wilmington, DE

Editor's note: Yes, Simon, Soma and Fat Mike were kind enough to let us into their love dungeon.

AN ANGEL WITH A PRETTY FACE

I've seen a lot of Joanna Angel—more than my girlfriend probably thinks.

facebook

ZOMBIE BOY

JUSTINA ARROYO I find this man incredibly attractive ... Sorry, Mom!

TAMI PERREAULT that guy is so friggin awesome! He is a work of art.

INKED GIRL: KATHERINE HARTLEY

ROBERT FOREST Perfect placement for those roses on the backs of her legs! Awesome!

TODD HIRST My mom has an Afghan rug just like that one.

JAMIE SMITH

JULIANA SALAS Wishing Jamie Smith and all my fellow tattooed entrepreneurs the best. Have the courage to stand out and be yourself!

MICHELLE MYLES

JASON CTHAETH THOMPSON Not only is she a great artist, but she's intelligent and witty. I'd sit in her chair for hours just for the conversation alone.



READERS OF THE MONTH

ROBBIE RUTSTEIN AND KIM SENN
LOS ANGELES, CA

Want to be a Reader of the Month?
E-mail photos to inkedgirl@inkedmag.com

SAM I AM

I'm reading the book on Samuel Steward [Justin Spring's *Secret Historian*] now and it's fascinating how he had two strikes against him being a tattooer and a gay man in the '50s. It's great that tattoos are starting to be okay, but the Republicans are basically running their primary on who hates gays more.

JJ Nesbitt

New Orleans, LA



WRITE US. Got something to say? Send all praise, notes of complaint, story suggestions, and other comments to letters@inkedmag.com. All submissions should include the writer's name and address. Letters may be edited for clarity, length, and content. **Also join the party at [facebook.com/inkedmag](https://www.facebook.com/inkedmag).**

MY FIRST INK

Name: Melia Green

Occupation: hotel specialist

Hometown: Berlin, Germany

"I thought about getting tattooed for years. Of course I like the look of tattoos—the colors and designs—but I told myself I'd only get tattooed with something that had real meaning to me. My first was the Ganesha, which shows my love for Buddhism. Next came my Buddha. My snake is my Chinese zodiac sign, and the lotus blossoms represent preciousness and purity. The name of my niece is written in one of my lotus blossoms too. My tattoos have become a way of expressing my personality, a way to make me different."

PHOTO BY TOM MEDVEDICH





A CLOSER LOOK

Star of *The Closer* Kyra Sedgwick showed off her side piece on the red carpet of the Screen Actors Guild Awards. "It's a family tattoo," she told *E!*'s Giuliana Rancic. "It's all our initials: K, K, S, and T." If you are keeping score at home, that's herself, her husband, Kevin Bacon, and their children, Travis and Sosie. We hope the tattoo is a sign that she'll never be in any degree of separation from Bacon.



THAT'S TURRIBLE!

In what might be the most disturbing lip-lock in sports history, NBA Hall of Famer Charles Barkley smooched referee Dick Bavetta during the 2007 NBA All-Star Weekend. This season, when Shaquille O'Neal began appearing on TNT's *Inside the NBA* with Barkley, he offered to pay anyone who got a tattoo of that moment \$1,000. Three days later Emmet Bentley answered the call. He told *thesportsgeeks.com*, "I have a couple of ridiculous tattoos already, and this seemed pretty harmless, especially with the possibility of getting a grand from Shaq."

THE HIGHEST
NUMBER OF
PUNCTURES PER
MINUTE A TATTOO
MACHINE CAN MAKE

3,000



GAME PIECES

Xbox Live Marketplace is offering tattoos for your avatar. Right now there are 23 different designs to choose from—including full sleeves (240 Microsoft Points) and smaller pieces (160 Points)—but they're only available for arms. "The only real bummer about these avatar tattoos—outside the fact you're paying real dollars for non-real items—is that the tattoos aren't independent, wearable pieces," reports *Craveonline.com*. "Instead, tattoos are part of avatar shirts without sleeves, making it so you can sport that sweet wifebeater to show off your manly tats." Another drawback is that the art isn't up to our standards just yet.



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BEER NUTS

Six cheers for the drink of thinkers, presidents, and Cliff Clavin.

After water and tea, beer is the most widely consumed liquid in the world. And for good reason: It's delicious. Here are what some great minds have reportedly said about the beverage:

"He was a wise man who invented beer." —*Plato*

"Without question, the greatest invention in the history of mankind is beer. Oh, I grant you that the wheel was also a fine invention, but the wheel does not go nearly as well with pizza." —*Dave Barry*

"Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy." —*Benjamin Franklin*

"I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts, and beer." —*Abraham Lincoln*

"Bart, a woman is like beer. They look good, they smell good, and you'd step over your own mother

just to get one!" —*Homer Simpson*

"Well ya see, Norm, it's like this ... A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. And when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members. In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Excessive intake of alcohol, as we know, kills brain cells. But naturally, it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first. In this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine. That's why you always feel smarter after a few beers." —*Cliff Clavin, of Cheers*

HEADY CONVERSATION

A chat with **Ally Levine** of Spritzenhaus, a beer hall in Greenpoint, Brooklyn.

INKED: How does working at a beer garden differ from working at a bar? Craft beer halls attract a lot of different folks from all walks. We get locals, folks from the Polish neighborhoods in Greenpoint, kids from Williamsburg, and even cats from the city or bridge-and-tunnel types. Mostly it's about catering to people with a common interest in more complex or alternative tastes in brew.

Since you work at a beer garden are you in a dirndl? I dress like a dude-lady. I wear sneakers and let my tattoos be as they are.

How do your customers react to your tattoos? They're typically intrigued and curious.

Where do you get tattooed? I'm from the Northeast, so most of my work is from Connecticut and upstate New York. I am a regular with Corey Scoolidge at Explicit Tattoo, Murray Sell at Flying Tiger, and Brad Stevens at New York Adorned. I usually dig on traditional art with new-school flair—almost comic book or pop-like even.

Do you know any German toasts? I don't. We have a big Polish clientele so I got *na zdrowie* down pat.



PABST BLUE RIBBON

Dearest Hipsters, Give us our damn beer back. Before it was cool/ironic/totes awesome, PBR was a great blue-collar brew that tasted clean and got the job done for a few bucks, and it still is.



HEINEKEN

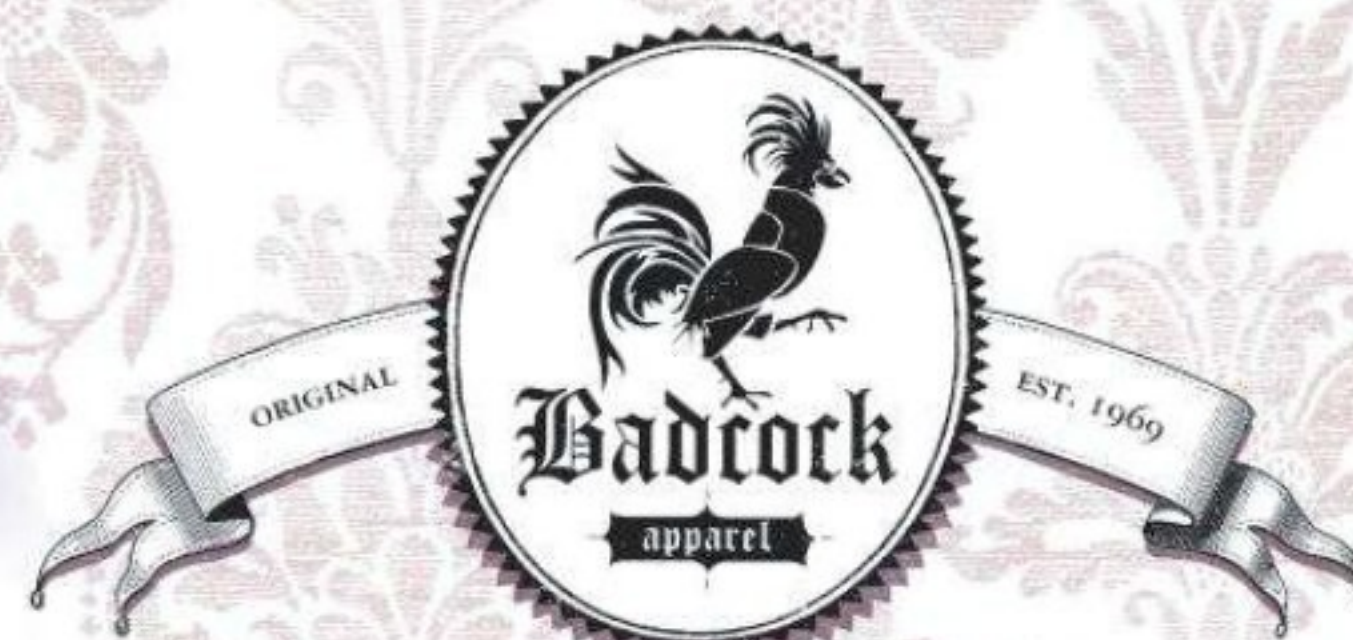
This pale lager has been flowing out of the Netherlands since 1873. They recommend that you serve it at 45 degrees, if you are brave enough. God bless, it's our choice for hot nights on the town.



BUDWEISER

The king of American lagers produces a beer that is both sharp and drinkable. After taking a nice, long motorcycle ride there is nothing that is going to take the taste of road breath out of your mouth.

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Clockwise from top left: *A Smile Makes It All Better*; *Tastes Like Chicken*; *The Secret Ingredient*; *Follow Me Kids!*; the artist.



THE ART CRITIC

Through his paintings, Kelly Hutchison kills sacred cows, including McDonald's, KFC, and the nuclear family.

After a stint in the Navy, Kelly Hutchison spent the mid-'90s traveling the country via Greyhound bus. "I was trying to find religion. I was trying to find God," the San Diego-based visual artist explains. What he also found were plenty of highway miles to draw and paint.

"I didn't have a job and I always drew as a kid," he says. "So I would experiment drawing cartoons and selling them at swap meets." Now 37, Hutchison has planted roots in southern California. "I used to have a part-time job baking edibles at a local dispensary," Hutchison says. "I remember getting so pissed off at all of the ridiculous hypocrisies with the city and the local government." Hutchison took his frustration and used it to fuel his artwork. "It's my way of release," he explains. "I always try and get people to look at my work with dark humor."

The work he's referring to are his ironic, iconic, and downright hilarious social commentary pieces. In *Tastes Like Chicken*, an anxious cat peers out of a Chinese takeout container. In *Follow Me Kids!* a jubilant Ronald McDonald sits atop a melancholy beef cow. In *Pot Brownies*, a '50s-

style housewife mixes up some special brownie batter.

When Hutchison's not painting, he's running Dark Vomit's Crime and Outsider Art Gallery, an online store that sells serial killer and true crime collectibles. Looking for original artwork by John Wayne Gacy or Charles Manson? This is the (creepy) place to be. "I first became interested in this niche after visiting The Museum of Death," Hutchison explains of the museum originally established in San Diego and now based in Los Angeles. "I would spend hours in there looking at the artwork and reading the letters."

Much of Hutchison's tattoo work is in step with his fascination with the macabre. On the inside of his left arm, he has a web of eyeballs done by Than Wilson. On his other arm is *Satan Winking*, a piece inked by Andy Robbins that allows Satan to wink when Hutchison bends his elbow. He also has work by Bobby Lane of Two Roses Tattoo in San Diego. "As far as the future of my artwork, I just want to make a comfortable living," Hutchison says. "I'm not in it for *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*. I'm more of a realist." —Kara Pound





FIVE and DIAMOND

WILD CARD

TAWAPA

fiveanddiamond.com

wildcardcollection.com

tawapa.com

inked life | SPEND

SHOE, TREE

Etnies Jameson 2 Eco kicks (\$60, etnies.com) are made out of recycled materials, and for every pair bought, the company builds a tree in a rainforest. Step lively.



PHONE BOOK

Once considered just awesome things to read, books like this tuned-up edition of *Dracula* (\$55, store.wired.com) have been turned into iPhone docks.



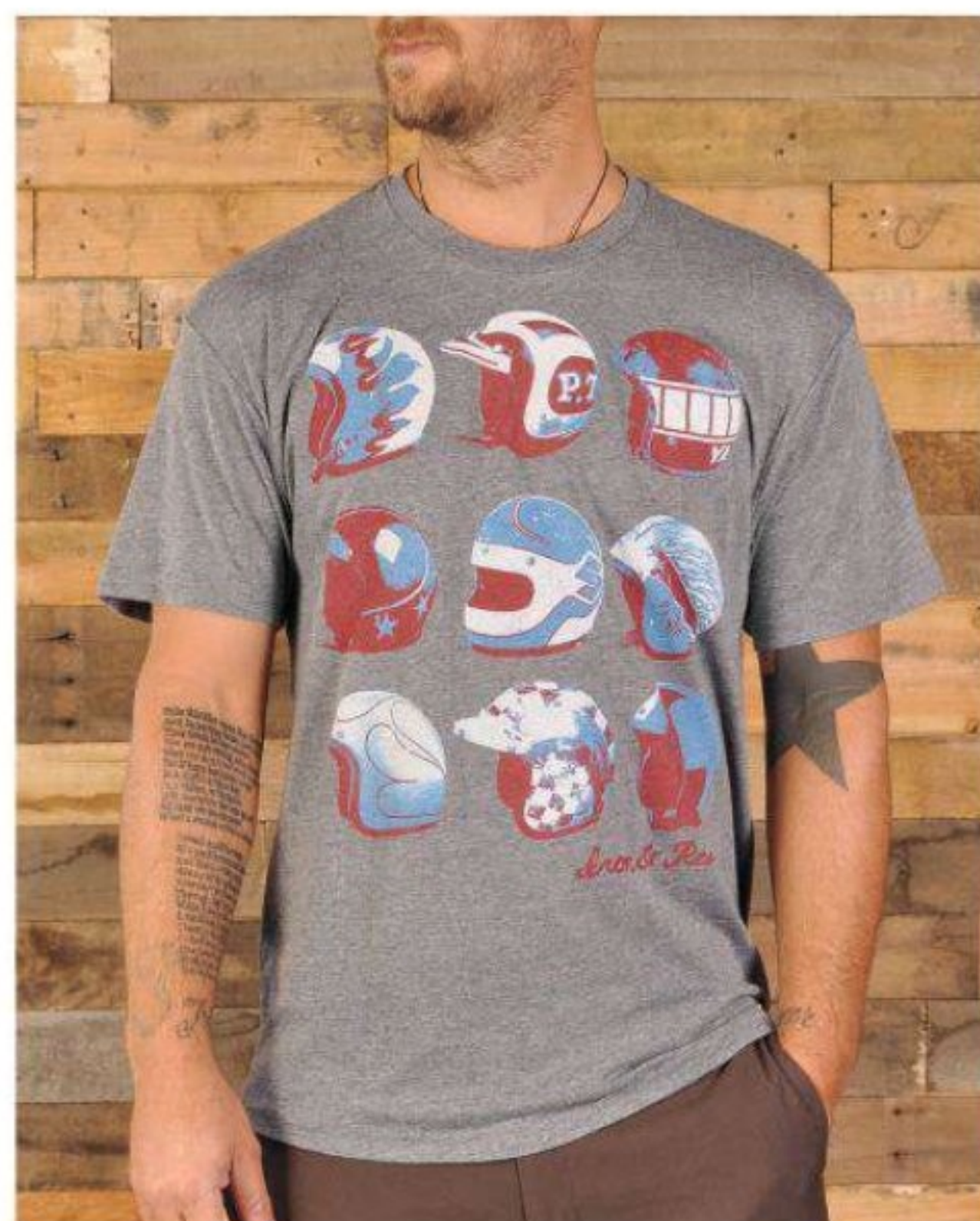
GRIP IT

Loser Machine Death Grip Gloves (\$39, losermachine.com) come in black, brown, or oxblood with suicide-attempt scars on the wrist.



HOT SEAT

The Pneumatic Biker Stool (\$200, kotulas.com) is built for both speed and comfort.



HEAD CASES

A collection of helmets adorns Iron & Resin's killer Brain Buckets T-shirt (\$36, ironandresin.com).



HELLO DOLLY

Marina Bychkova takes a needle to the porcelain of her tattooed Enchanted Dolls (custom orders, enchanteddoll.com). The finished product is stunning.

RIDE OR DIE

The Cycle Zombies are some rad dudes who have cool-ass baseball shirts. Join the ride (\$27, cyclezombies.bigcartel.com).



DEAD MEAT

We'd prefer you use the Knuckle Meat Pounder (\$13, whatonearthcatalog.com) for steaks rather than knuckle sandwiches, as it's a perfect tenderizer.

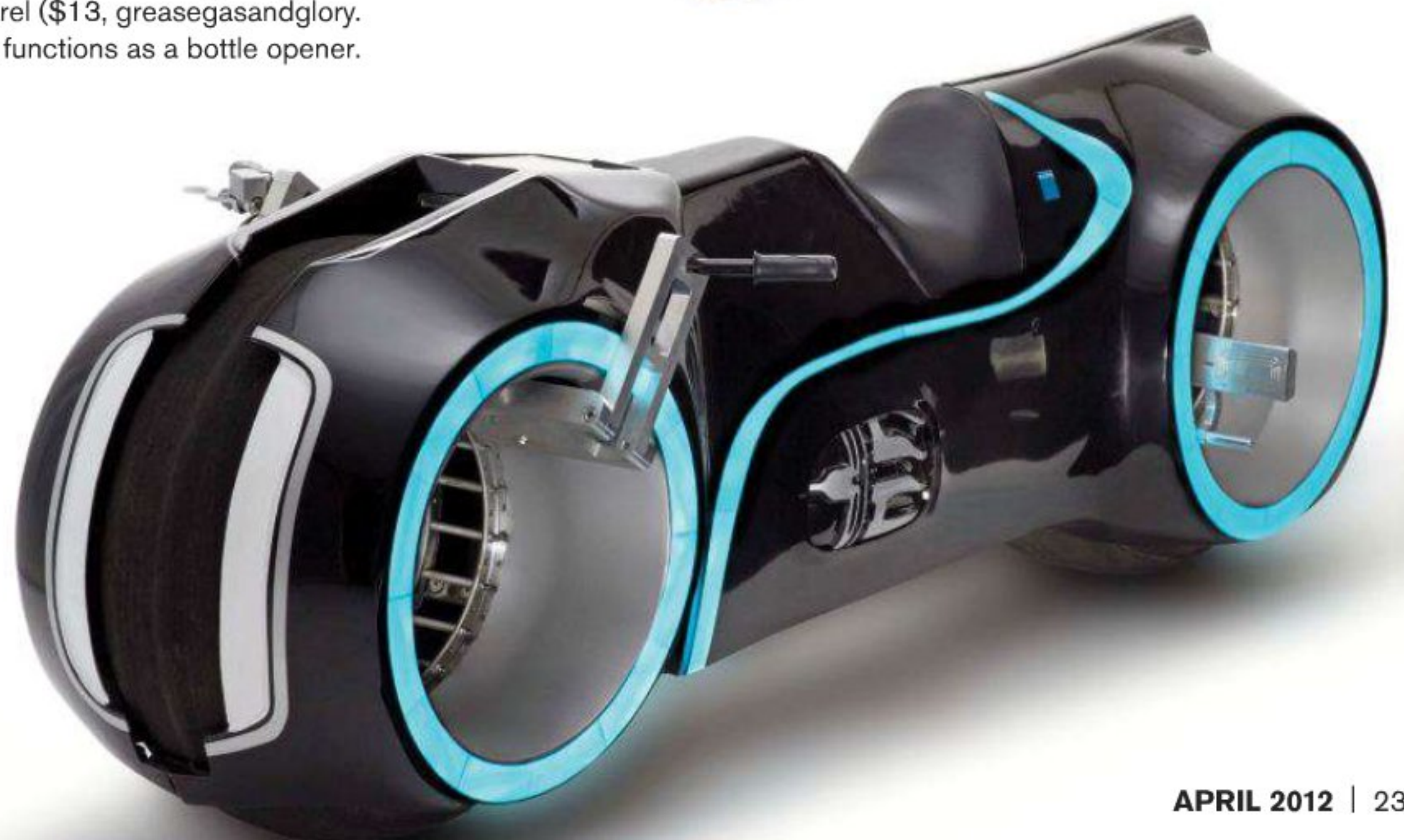


TURN KEY

Reminiscent of the makeshift bathroom key chains found at garages, this key chain from Lucky 13 Apparel (\$13, greasegasandglory.com) also functions as a bottle opener.

VOLT TRON

Yes, this is a battery-powered motorcycle inspired by *Tron*. The Xenon (\$55,000, evolvemotorcycles.com) can hit 100 mph and has a range of 100 miles.



INK ON THE STREET

SUBJECT: Mikael Guglielmetti **SPOTTED:** Williamsburg, Brooklyn

WHERE HE GETS INKED: Flyrite Tattoo, in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. "Marina Inoue laced me up with six nude beauties on my thigh—at second glance, though, they form the head of Satan," says Guglielmetti.

WHAT HE'S WEARING: Motorcycle Federation Rider jacket (\$898) and Easy Rider T-shirt (\$50, both available at motorcyclefederation.com)

BRAND BACKSTORY: Unsatisfied with the range of leathers and loud, motorcycle-inspired clothing on the market, Roberto and Colleen Crivello created Motorcycle Federation, which caters to an audience of riders who have an eye for fashion. With an edge of modern street culture that still respects the flavor of vintage bikes, New York City Motorcycle Federation has blazed its own trail. Keep an eye out for their pieces, which are easy to spot thanks to the adventurous styles and a slick logo featuring a skull wearing the Statue of Liberty crown.

WHAT ELSE HE'S WEARING: Iron Heart jeans; Thorogood shoes; vintage Army surplus glasses and helmet.





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CONCERT



THE COACHELLA REPORT

Every spring, music fans invade Palm Springs, CA, the sleepy former playpen of old Hollywood turned quietly luxe desert community, to attend the Coachella Music Festival. This year, for the first time, it will be taking place over two consecutive three-day weekends (April 13–15 and 20–22). Headliners this year include the blues-rock duo The Black Keys, perennial game-changer Radiohead, and the pillars of West Coast hip-hop Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg.

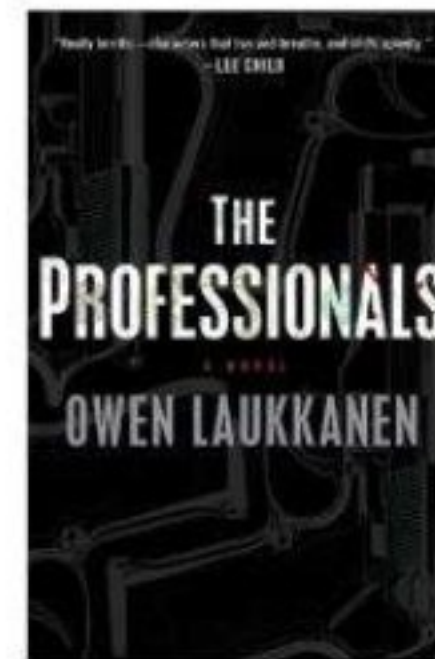
More than just music draws the masses to Coachella, it has become the place to see and be seen. During the festival, the verdant, well-kept polo grounds will be baking in the desert sun, which means acres of near-naked flesh and plenty of opportunity for showing off ink.

Festivals attract a special breed of music fan: the type who is devoted enough to stand knee-deep in mosh pit mud, the type willing to coat himself in SPF 90 and live in mosquito netting, the type who doesn't mind writhing

against strangers' flesh in the crowd. These things are acceptable at a festival because they're ephemeral, gone once you've packed up your tent and returned home. But it takes a certain kind of wild passion to mark devotion to a band or musician permanently on your corporeal body.

I've been to more than 25 music festivals, and Coachella is one of my favorites in terms of the incredible and inventive music-related body art. While I'm once again looking forward to admire the tableau of body art on festival-goers, I'm also eager to see the ink adorning performers onstage, like the antique birdcage on Florence Welch's middle finger and the heart and bird on her arm. And I'm not sure I'll never forget when Joseph Greer of Temper Trap showed me the hilariously snarky cartoon conversation bubble he had tattooed above the faded, semi-regrettable tattoo of a dragon on his arm. I can't wait to soak in this year's sights and sounds. —Ashley Hillis

BOOK



AND THEN THERE WERE THE 99%

In an impressive debut that should put him on the thriller map, Owen Laukkanen spins a crime yarn for the 99 percent with *The Professionals*. Four friends saddled with student loan debts, a terrible job market, and useless college degrees hatch a scheme to travel across America kidnapping rich white guys and ransoming them for a year's worth of middle-class pay a pop—that is, until they nab the wrong man and end up with the FBI and the mafia on their tail. It's a smart, timely page-turner packed with action and dripping with satire. —Anthony Vargas

MOVIES



LOCKOUT

We need more movies with Guy Pearce (*Memento*) in the lead. *Lockout* is a futuristic sci-fi action flick that follows a falsely convicted (and cocky) ex-government agent (Pearce) who is on a mission to rescue the president's daughter (Maggie Grace) from convicts who have taken over a maximum-security prison in outer space. If he succeeds, he will regain his freedom. Director duo Stephen St. Leger and James Mather are pretty much newcomers, but their script is cowritten with Luc Besson (*The Fifth Element*), who is also producing the flick. —Gilbert Macias



THE CABIN IN THE WOODS

Shrouded in mystery for some time, the buzz on this project is starting to emerge and it has been pretty positive so far. The synopsis is simple: Five friends go to a remote cabin in the woods. Bad things happen. You might think that screams *The Evil Dead*, but judging from the trailer, it looks like it has more things in common with *Cube*. Drew Goddard, who wrote *Cloverfield* and also has some producing and writing ties with *Lost*, directs this flick based on a screenplay he cowrote with Joss Whedon (*The Avengers*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*). —G.M.



AMERICAN REUNION

It's been nine years since the last theatrically released *American Pie* movie splattered the screens. Since then, the series plummeted to shit-tastic direct-to-DVD oblivion with Eugene Levy as the only returning cast member. No longer hormonal teens but now grown, Stifler and the rest of the gang from the original trilogy are back for their high school reunion—and old promiscuous habits resurface. Jason Biggs, Alyson Hannigan, Tara Reid, Sean William Scott, Mena Suvari, Eugene Levy (duh), and Shannon Elizabeth all return, and we're glad to see them back. —G.M.

DVD



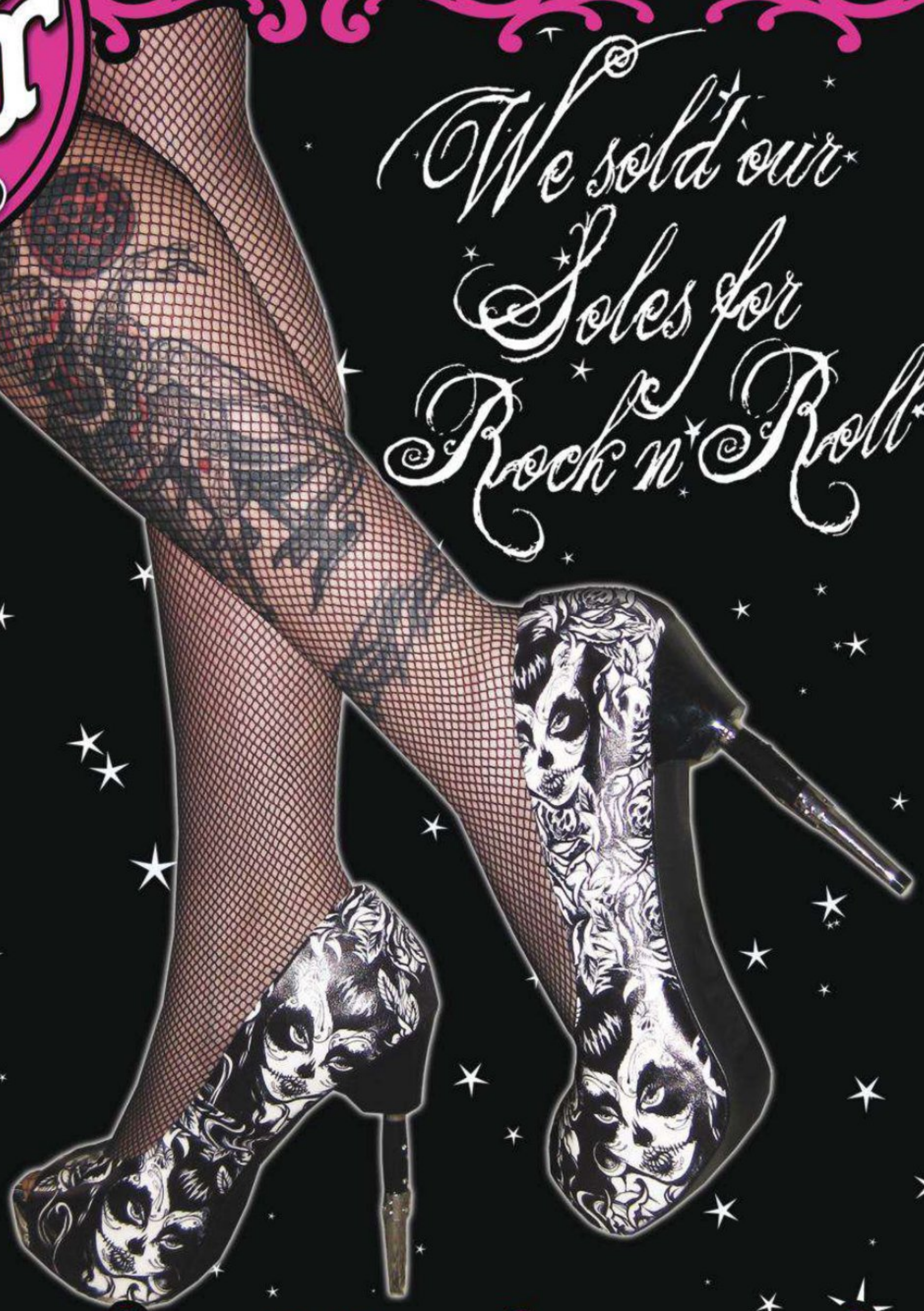
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO

When it was announced that the critically acclaimed Swedish film *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo* was going to be remade for the American audience, which apparently can't read subtitles, the news that David Fincher (*Seven*, *The Social Network*) would direct came as a sign of relief. Not only did Fincher knock it out of the park, but Rooney Mara is a revelation in the role of Lisbeth Salander. Despite minor plot changes, it's hard to say which version of the film and Lisbeth is superior. But the remake has an awesome score by Trent Reznor and Atticus Finch. —G.M.

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VIDEO GAMES

**MLB 12: THE SHOW**

PLATFORMS: PLAYSTATION 3, VITA

Sony's PlayStation exclusive baseball game has 10-run ruled the competition for years now, but like the New York Yankees, that isn't stopping the developers from upgrading its evil empire. For 2012, San Diego Studio is unleashing several new features, including another layer of polish on the already impressive presentation, more realistic ball physics, and full-blown PlayStation Move controls. Batters can now aim the location of your swing to catch that cutter on the outside of the plate, and on the mound a new timing-based mechanic better judges the accuracy of your pitch. The Show also introduces a new card-based mode that takes cues from EA's popular Ultimate Team mode, and cross-functionality with the Vita lets you play your PS3 franchise games on the road. **Play If You Like:** Collecting baseball cards, *Moneyball*, no salary cap —Matt Bertz

**RESIDENT EVIL: OPERATION RACCOON CITY**

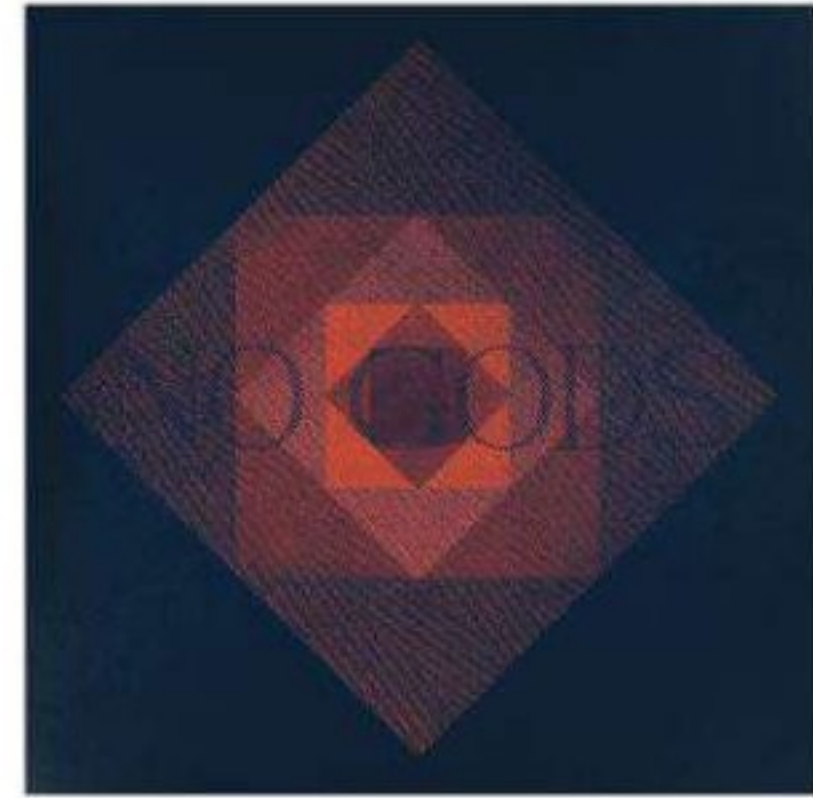
PLATFORMS: PLAYSTATION 3, XBOX 360

Like its undead subjects, the zombie craze refuses to die. Operation Raccoon City goes back in the series timeline to the second outbreak. The government has quarantined this unassuming industrial town after its residents are infected with the zombie manufacturing T-virus. As an agent of the evil Umbrella Corporation, you need to take out the remaining residents (zombie or not) and clean up any evidence of the company's dastardly deeds. You can up your odds of survival by playing the campaign cooperatively with three buddies, but don't trust them blindly. If one of your bros gets infected, he will lose control of his character and attack you and your teammates until you put a bullet in his zombified head. If you're having more fun taking out your friends than shooting zombies, turn on them by choice in the four competitive multiplayer modes. **Play If You Like:** 28 Weeks Later, Resident Evil 2, Shaun of the Dead —M.B.

**SILENT HILL: DOWNPOUR**

PLATFORMS: PLAYSTATION 3, XBOX 360

After a few wayward entries, the eighth installment of the classic survival horror series returns to the formula that made the franchise a fan favorite. Players assume the role of a convict who comes across the foggy, abandoned town of Silent Hill after his prison transport crashes unexpectedly. As you solve brain-busting puzzles to make your way through the maze of dilapidated buildings and avoid capture, moribund flashbacks make you face up to your sins of the past. When the torrential rain starts pouring, there is a lot more to fear than wet socks, pneumonia, and bad dreams. With scarce ammo, melee weapons that degrade over time, and grotesque enemies crawling out of every orifice, your odds of coming out unscathed from the rain sequences are worse than in the prison shower. **Play If You Like:** Jacob's Ladder, Alan Wake, Flatliners —M.B.

**THE Inked PLAYLIST**

BY JONAH BAYER

SHARKS**"Arcane Effigies"**

If you've ever wondered what Elvis Costello would sound like if you added buzzsaw distortion, you're welcome.

ANTHONY GREEN**"Get Yours While You Can"**

Circa Survive frontman Anthony Green channels his psychedelic spirit on this inventive rock tune.

ANTI-FLAG**"The Neoliberal Anthem"**

A melodic call to arms that's so catchy you'll have no choice but to pay attention to their message.

CURSIVE**"The Sun and Moon"**

This latest rock opus is as artful as it is aggressive and continues to take post-hardcore to new, exciting places.

THE LIFE AND TIMES**"Day Eleven"**

If nothing else, this sweetly syncopated song proves that post-rock clearly needs more break beats. Seriously.

LUCERO**"Sometimes"**

There's nothing fancy about this mid-tempo, alternative-tinged rocker.

PIANOS BECOME THE TEETH**"Good Times"**

Thursday and Thrice have called it quits, but this intensely emotional song proves screamo still has a future.

THE SADDEST LANDSCAPE**"In Love With the Sound"**

Equal parts heavy and melodic, this is catharsis in motion.

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POMADE WONDERFUL

When it comes to hair, the slick is back.

Other than the tattoos on your skin, the most customizable part of your look is your hair. It connotes as much about you as your clothing, and in some cases it can not only identify you, but also define you (e.g., Curly, Blondie, Shaggy). Plenty of social groups have even used a hairstyle to identify members—the greasers, the longhairs, the skinheads—to the point that non-members might be downright scared to have similar 'dos. Hair can even be politically charged: When Hunter S. Thompson ran for sheriff of Aspen in 1970, part of his plan to beat the incumbent Republican, an ex-military man who wore a crew cut, was to shave his head bald and refer to his uptight competition as “my long-haired opponent.”

Nowadays, everything from bald to bangs is in, but one of the most popular coifs is a throwback. “Right now the classic styles are back—not just the pompadour, but all the classic cuts of the 1940s and 1950s,” says Crissy Salazar, co-owner of Big Kat's Tattoo & Barbershop and Kat's Meow Salon in Houston. “The clean-cut look makes everyone look great.”

Pulling off a classic with class requires a product that will hold your style in place without dripping onto your shirt. Salazar suggests “a water-based pomade, so the grease washes out as easily as a gel.” Her favorite is Suavecito Pomade. And to the aspiring greasers who think that keeping their hair away from shampoo helps the natural sheen, she says: “Wash your hair if it's dirty—and make it at least once a week, depending on how much product you use.” —Anja Cadlek



SWEET GEORGIA BROWN BLUE

Once your hair is set with this strong-hold pomade (\$7, sweetbrownpomade.com) it isn't going anywhere for the rest of the day. It even passes the motorcycle ride test. The Blue also gives your mane a shiny-matte finish.



SUAVECITO POMADE

This new kid on the block (\$10, suavecito.com) is impressive and doesn't demand top-shelf prices. As they explain: “It is wrong to charge someone more for what they put in their hair than what their haircut actually costs.”



AMERICAN GREASER SUPPLY 90WT FLAT-TOP WAX

What a throwback this product (\$8, thegrease.com) is. The lid of the wax even advertises a “Prize Inside,” à la Cracker Jack. If you want a haircut that Grandpa Simpson says you could “set your watch to,” this is your goop.



AXE HOLD + TOUCH FOR NORMAL HAIR

Praise the AXE scientists. They remedied this quandary of making a product strong enough to shape hair but not so sticky that a woman can't run her fingers through it. Their eureka moment came with this spiking glue (\$8, drugstore.com).



Modern
Madame de
Pompadour.

STYLING, BETHANY WOLOSKY; MAKEUP, GRISELLE ROSARIO; MAKEUP ASSISTANT, STEPHANIE SEMEXANT; HAIR, DAVID COLVIN, JR.; MANICURE, KELLY BABER; MODEL, CHLOE BEARDMAN; ROJAS SUSPENDERS; TOPSHOP SHORTS.

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MAY 9 SHOWBOX SODO SEATTLE, WA

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MAY 13 FIRST AVENUE MINNEAPOLIS, MN

MAY 15 HOUSE OF BLUES CHICAGO, IL

MAY 16 ST. ANDREWS HALL DETROIT, MI

MAY 17 SOUND ACADEMY TORONTO, ON

MAY 18 THEATRE OF THE LIVING ARTS PHILADELPHIA, PA

MAY 19 PALLADIUM WORCESTER, MA

MAY 20 OLYMPIA DE MONTREAL MONTREAL, QUE

MAY 22 THE FILLMORE SILVER SPRINGS, MD

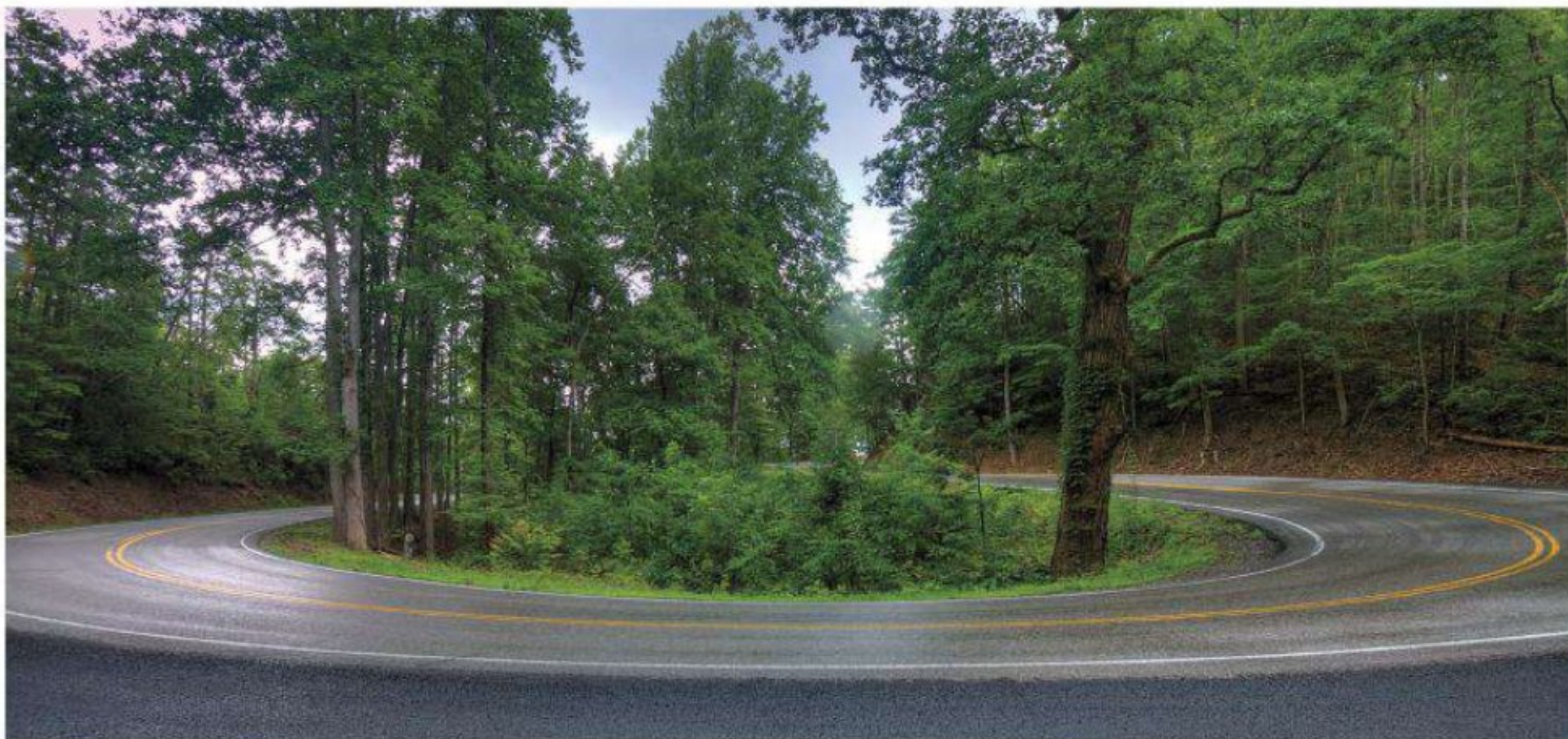
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☞ THE EYE-OPENER If you hate Starbucks, ride into the Pine Mountain Café (3152 Parkway, Suite 7, Pigeon Forge, TN), where they make a mean espresso and a foamy cappuccino—along with coffee and tea. “This is a chill retro cafe that has the best coffee and lattes around,” Treat says. “This place has got us through some late nights at the studio!”

THE TAIL OF THE DRAGON

U.S. Route 129, the most fantastic motorcycle ride in the USA, is a beast. Here's where to take a pit stop.



On the border of Tennessee and North Carolina there's an 11-mile span of U.S. Route 129 that has 318 curves. It's called the Tail of the Dragon, and it's a rider's dream of twists and foliage. If you dare to slay it, spend your downtime in these spots recommended by East Tennessee tattooer Casey Treat. One must-visit is, of course, his own joint, Treat Daddy Ink (3152 Parkway, Suite 5, Pigeon Forge, TN), where they sling serious ink that won't run, no matter how much you hit the throttle. —Robert McCormick



☞ BEST PLACE TO GO DOWN THE MOUNTAIN “Ober Gatlinburg [1001 Parkway, Gatlinburg, TN] is the premier skiing resort and family amusement park in the Smoky Mountains,” Treat says. “On our days off we all head to the resort for some snowboarding and to relieve some stress.” If there's still snow, you can go skiing, snowboarding, and tubing; over the summer, check out the Alpine slide, maze, and bananas water park.



☞ LUCKIEST LOCATION Harrah's Cherokee Casino (777 Casino Dr., Cherokee, NC) lets you try your hand at table games, video poker, and slots before you saddle up to Paula Deen's Kitchen (don't you wonder how much butter they go through?). “They have gaming, dining, and nightlife—what more can you ask for?” Treats says. “It's just an all-around fun place for all of us at Treat Daddy Ink to hang out at after our long nights.”



☞ LOCAL BLOOD SPORT If you like MMA you'll go nuts for the local 3FC events. This Southeastern amateur league was founded by former fighter Gene Click, and many of their throw-downs happen at the Grand Resort Hotel (3171 Parkway, Pigeon Forge, TN). Treat Daddy Ink is one of the league's sponsors, so you'll be sure to see Treat there. “If you're planning a vacation to the Smoky Mountains, you definitely have to check out the 3FC MMA cage fights,” he says.



☞ AMUSEMENT PARK WITH THE BEST BUST Dollywood (1198 McCarter Hollow Rd., Pigeon Forge, TN) is—you guessed it—Dolly Parton's amusement park. “It's the Great Smoky Mountains' family fun vacation adventure with great shows, roller coasters, festivals, and kiddie rides,” Treats says. “It's a great place to take your family and just enjoy the mountains and a few rides.” Make sure you try Daredevil Falls, the Barnstormer, and the brand-new Wild Eagle roller coaster.



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Clockwise from top
right: Indian Chief
Vintage, Ducati Diavel,
Victory Judge, Harley-
Davidson Seventy-Two.



INKED'S BEST BIKES

The ideal dream rides hitting the road this season.

Victory's latest creation, the Judge (2013), is a streamlined muscle bike, the perfect blend of power and style. It's lighter and has a thinner wheelbase than its predecessors, but still gives a nod to the golden age of the cycle with its cast throwback wheels, classic dual exhaust, and smooth curves. With the Judge, the artistry is in the details: a black frame, black pipes, and handlebars; cutouts in the 4.5-gallon fuel tank to cradle your legs; and trimmed fenders and chrome accents. In true Victory spirit, it houses a Freedom 106/6 fuel-injected V-twin and features a six-speed overdrive. All in all, this bike is built to cruise, a reborn classic that will stand the test of time.

Indian Motorcycles have been roaring down the road since 1901, and their unmistakable design has made the company an American icon, setting them apart from other manufacturers for more than a century. Nowhere is their distinct engineering more obvious than the Chief Vintage, a bike that looks like it has a story to tell even when it's fresh off the factory floor. No doubt about it, this bike has earned the coveted badge of the Indian brand. A classic cycle, from its distressed leather saddlebag to the fender-mounted headlight, the Chief Vintage features whitewall tires and 60-spoke rims and is propelled by a chromed-out Power Plus V-twin that has never looked more at home than within the Chief's frame.

Oh boy, the Harley-Davidson Seventy-Two is a throwback to the days when choppers were king (the first time around). From the ape bars to the slung-back silhouette to the narrow proportions—and especially to the red flake paint—this motorcycle is cherry. The hog is powered by an air-cooled Evolution 1200cc V-twin engine that pushes 73 lb-ft of torque at 3,500 rpm, the fuel economy is estimated at 48 mpg, while the classic peanut tank holds 2.1 gallons. Of course, as with any Harley, the Seventy-Two is fully customizable, so if you're a wrencher it could even act as the perfect base to incorporate your vintage parts.

The champion in the power cruiser category comes out of Italy. The Ducati Diavel is what happens when you distill the best qualities of a sports car, a muscle car, and a Sunday driver and then put that all on two wheels. The Diavel has a stretched 62.6-inch wheelbase, a 28-degree rake, a 30.3-inch seat height, a lean angle up to 41 degrees, and a supersized, fat, 8-inch-wide rear tire. It's super low and super long. Not only does the Diavel have attitude and more muscles than a Finlander shot put competition (163 horsepower), it also utilizes Ducati's electronic riding modes: Select urban mode for handling city traffic and its pratfalls, touring for a long, smooth ride, and sport when you want to grip and rip the throttle. —Nick Fierro

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INKED PEOPLE

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“ON YOUR DOWNTIME,
YOU GET SHIT DONE
AND YOU GET TATTOOED.”
—JEREMY “TWITCH” STENBERG





JEREMY “TWITCH” STENBERG

He may have his hands full being a father, starting up his own business, and breaking most of his bones, but Etnies' moto-rider Jeremy “Twitch” Stenberg will still find time to kick up dust. Stenberg started riding when he was young to keep himself out of trouble. “I grew up in a really shitty neighborhood in San Diego, so my dad would take me riding every day just to keep me away from all the drugs and gangs, and it just ended up being my job. I was in the right place at the right time,” he says of his freestyle motocross career.

The punk turned pro is considered to be one of the most naturally talented riders in freestyle, accumulating more than 20 awards throughout his career. But it wasn't an easy ride. Diagnosed with Tourette's syndrome at the age of 8, Stenberg found riding therapeutic. Fellow riders nicknamed him Twitch, a name he learned to embrace. “It's funny because I'll call people now and be like, ‘Oh, hey, this is Jeremy Stenberg,’ and they're like ‘Who?’ And I'm like, ‘Twitch,’ and they're like, ‘Oh, hey man! What's going on?’”

Stenberg is constantly pushing the limits of his tricks and abilities on the dirt. After breaking his tibia and shattering his heel during X Games 17, he was forced to take a break from riding, but he's been anything but stagnant. He just wrapped up his first R.A.D. Awards show. “I look at it like, we work our asses off so hard throughout the year, why can't someone step up and give us an award show? Give us one night,” he says. “So I was like, Fuck it, I'm gonna do it.” He's also been busy filming for VH-1's *The X Life* and designing his fourth, fifth, and sixth pair of

signature shoes for Etnies. Plus, he started his own company, called DBK (Dirt Bike Kids), which is coming out with riding gear and apparel this year. He even has the company's tag line, Money Can't Buy Style, tattooed between his fingers. “That's what you do on your downtime, you get shit done and you get tattooed,” he laughs. “I enjoy getting tattooed. I like it every time I sit down in the chair. I'm like, *Hell yeah, I can't wait!* And then I'm like, *Ah, shit why did I want it here this big?* And then the next time you go back you get something bigger and in a place that hurts even more.” Stenberg gets inked at Hart & Huntington Tattoo Company in Las Vegas and rides under the banner of the shop's clothing line.

But not everyone is as supportive of his love for tattoos as his riding. After his first tattoo, he says his parents grounded him for a week. “I was sitting in my room thinking and I was like, Fuck, a week? That's it? A week ain't that bad ... what can I get tattooed next week?” His first piece was a lower back tattoo that's currently being removed, and his more recent tattoos are of his daughters' names. “Having kids makes you think about shit before you do it, that's for sure. I used to just go out and do stuff but now I have two little girls and I want to be able to hold them,” he says.

While his daughters may have slowed him down a bit, Stenberg doesn't plan on putting the breaks on his career anytime soon. “I'm not going to stop, no way,” he says. “That's my job, man. That's what I do. I get paid to break bones and win medals.” —*Brittany Ineson*



DARRELL AND BRANDON SHEETS

There are 6 million ways to get rich—who would have thought opening up old, musty storage units would be one of them? To father-and-son team Darrell and Brandon Sheets, there's nothing more exciting than opening an abandoned old locker to sift through one man's treasure and find gold. That's the "wow factor," as Darrell calls it.

A star on A&E's show *Storage Wars*, Darrell has been in the business of buying publicly auctioned storage units and selling their contents for more than 30 years. Along the way, he says he's found four original artworks by Picasso and one of the world's largest comic book collections, among other unclaimed riches. "I just couldn't believe that there was so much stuff and that you could make so much money off of it," Darrell says of getting into the business after being fired from a pithy landscaping gig. Now they call him "The Gambler."

A few years ago, producers approached Darrell about being on a show that highlights the little-known industry of buying and selling the stuff inside abandoned storage units. He was apprehensive. "At first, I didn't want to do the show because I knew that once it got on TV, the business was going to be exposed," Darrell remembers. "So I said, 'You guys got to at least match what I'm making every year.'" Eventually Darrell and the network agreed on a price per episode.

Storage Wars, now in its second season on A&E, is the network's highest-

rated series of all time, with nearly 5 million viewers per episode. It's even birthed a spin-off, *Storage Wars Texas*. Joining Darrell and Brandon are some other interesting characters. "Brandi [Passante] and Jarrod [Schulz], I like them. They're a young couple—remind me a lot of me when I was young. Barry [Weiss] is just a crazy, cool old dude," Darrell says. "But Dave Hester is the biggest asshole I've ever met in my life—on the show [and] off the show."

With this kind of on-air (and off-air) drama, it's nice to have someone in your corner. Darrell's son, Brandon, joined the show after a few guest spots. He grew up going to auctions with his dad to buy storage units. "I saw that you could buy this stuff and make a quick profit by selling it at swap meets," Brandon explains. "I was hooked." The father-and-son team share almost everything, including a love of tattoos. "The connection with buying storage and tattoos is that they're both very addicting," Darrell says of the Sheets family ink. Darrell sports a jester on his arm and a woman who represents "things I want to be cautious of in my life." Brandon is adorned with a Day of the Dead skull, "San Diego" in bold script, and a dirt bike sprocket.

When asked if there's anything he wants viewers to know about him, Darrell simply says: "The thing people should keep in mind is that they need to pay their rent or I'm going to end up owning their stuff." —Kara Pound



BUDDY NIELSEN

Every Tuesday on krockradio.com, K-Rock takes you backstage to check out the tattoos of the sickest musical acts on the new program *TATTOOZDayz*. In the premiere episode, host Jay Zustra “Z” sat with Buddy Nielsen, the frontman of Senses Fail, before the band rocked the Starland Ballroom in Sayreville, NJ. Read an excerpt of their interview below, or snap the QR code at the top to see the entire episode at krockradio.com.

Z: Did being a musician influence you to get tattoos, or vice versa?

BUDDY NIELSEN: I guess in being a part of the music scene tattoos are accepted, so it was something that I was interested in. Then when you get into the scene you say, “I can get tattoos and it’s not going to affect my job.” It gives you the freedom to do what you want. So I would say that music influenced me to get tattoos.

Who is the most inked-up member of Senses Fail? I definitely have the most. I guess I’ve been tattooed 60 or 70 times for maybe 50-something pieces. I don’t know what to count as tattoos or part of a bigger piece, but it’s at least somewhere in the upper 40s.

Which was your first one? This card [a blazing king of hearts playing card on his left forearm] I got at Shotsie’s, in Wayne [NJ], and just kind of went from there. I’ve gotten them all over Nebraska, Texas—a lot of them are from Texas. I don’t know why. I guess there are a lot of tattoo shops in Texas. And

my right arm was done in Philly. My whole right arm was done by this guy Frank Murphy. I have been tattooed all over, but for the past few years I got most of my tattoos in Philly.

Is there a place where the fans are crazy inked up? Texas. This one girl in Texas has me tattooed on her arm.

What’s that like? It’s definitely funny. I’m glad the tattoo is done well and doesn’t suck. Sometimes you will see people with Senses Fail tattoos and they suck, and you are like, Shit, that sucks—they went through the lengths of getting lyrics or album artwork on them and it looks bad.

Do you like getting tattoos on tour? I don’t like taking care of them on tour. Now I like getting them at home because they heal better. I used to get a lot of them on tour and then I learned they are better to get when you are home.

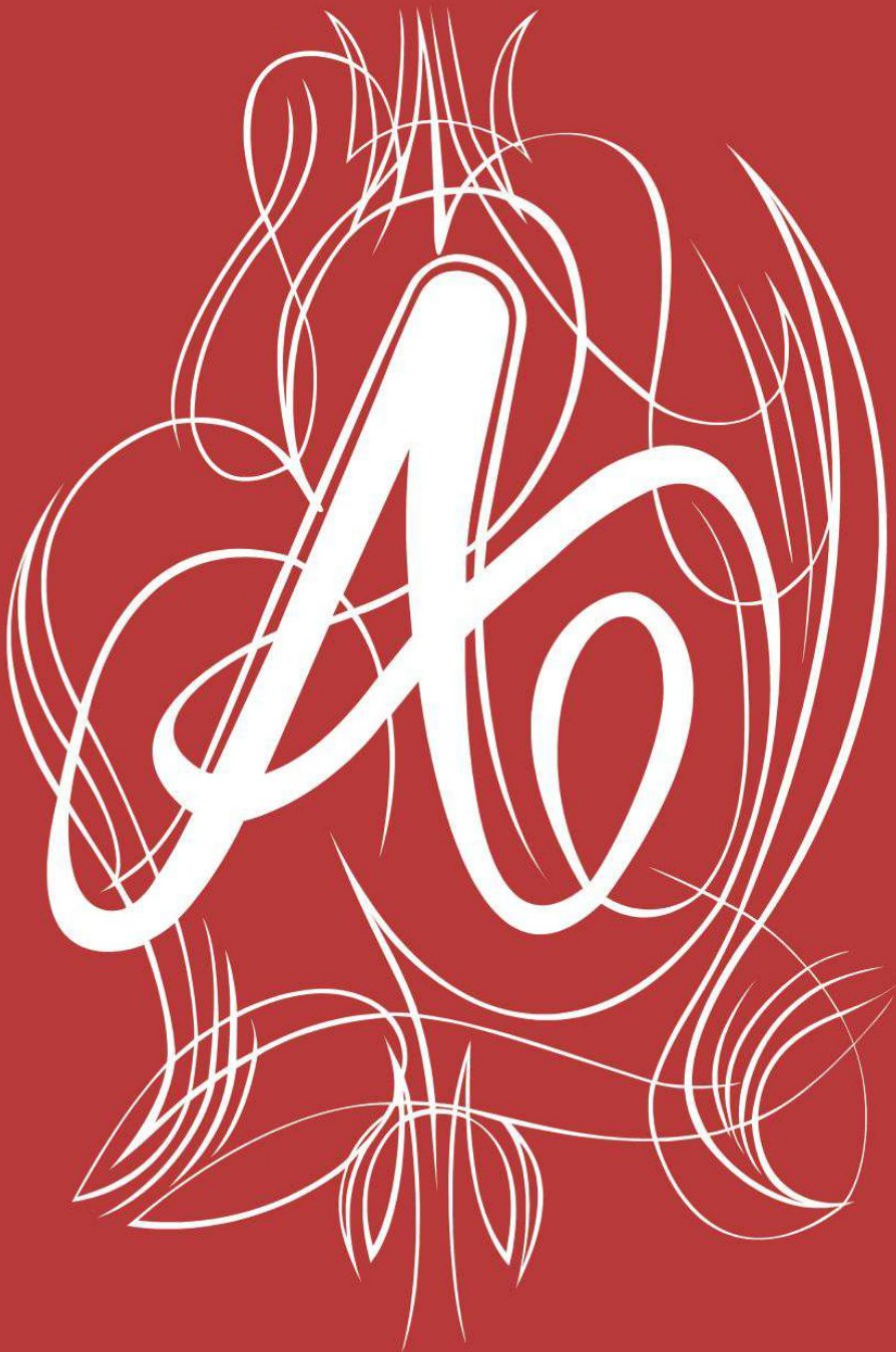
Do you have plans to get more ink? I want to do a traditional cowboys and Indians, all, like, Sailor Jerry—influenced Native American and cowboy stuff.

Which other bands have nice work? I don’t notice people’s tattoos anymore. I’m around so many people with tattoos, and I have so many that I honestly don’t notice tattoos. I’m kind of just oblivious now.





inked girl



amy forrester

PHOTOS BY WARWICK SAINT

PAGE 45



AMY FORRESTER IS A MAKEUP ARTIST WHO, INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, saves her brush solely for others. "I'd rather wear no makeup," says the MAC Cosmetics employee. "I wear my glasses all the time and I really don't like to get dressed up." But if you want to change your own look with a few master strokes, Amy is your girl.

She's been using the human face as a canvas since she was young. "I didn't go to beauty school, but I had a little sister to try new things on," she says. But the art was more of an experimental hobby for her at first—her original aspiration was modeling, but she soon opted out for an art with more creative leeway. Her love for human art soon translated into tattoos, which she would much rather cover herself with.

"I grew up in a really small town and everyone was into football and cheerleading. ... I had an old-

er brother who was covered in tattoos and I went through a lot of different phases, so I really got it all out of my system," she says. "I don't care how I look, I'm confident in my own way. I love doing makeup on other people and helping them look the way they want to."

She dipped a toe into the tattoo world at 18 when she got Psalms 51:1 on her finger ("Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions"). "I was allowed to get tattooed when I was 16 but waited because I had a modeling career," Amy says of her first piece, which was done in Venice Beach, CA with her mom. "I started small, but then it got a little bigger and bigger and then finally, I decided I wanted to go all the way with it."

Even before the Bible verse, tattoos were in Amy's blood. "I've known my tattoo artist Kong [at

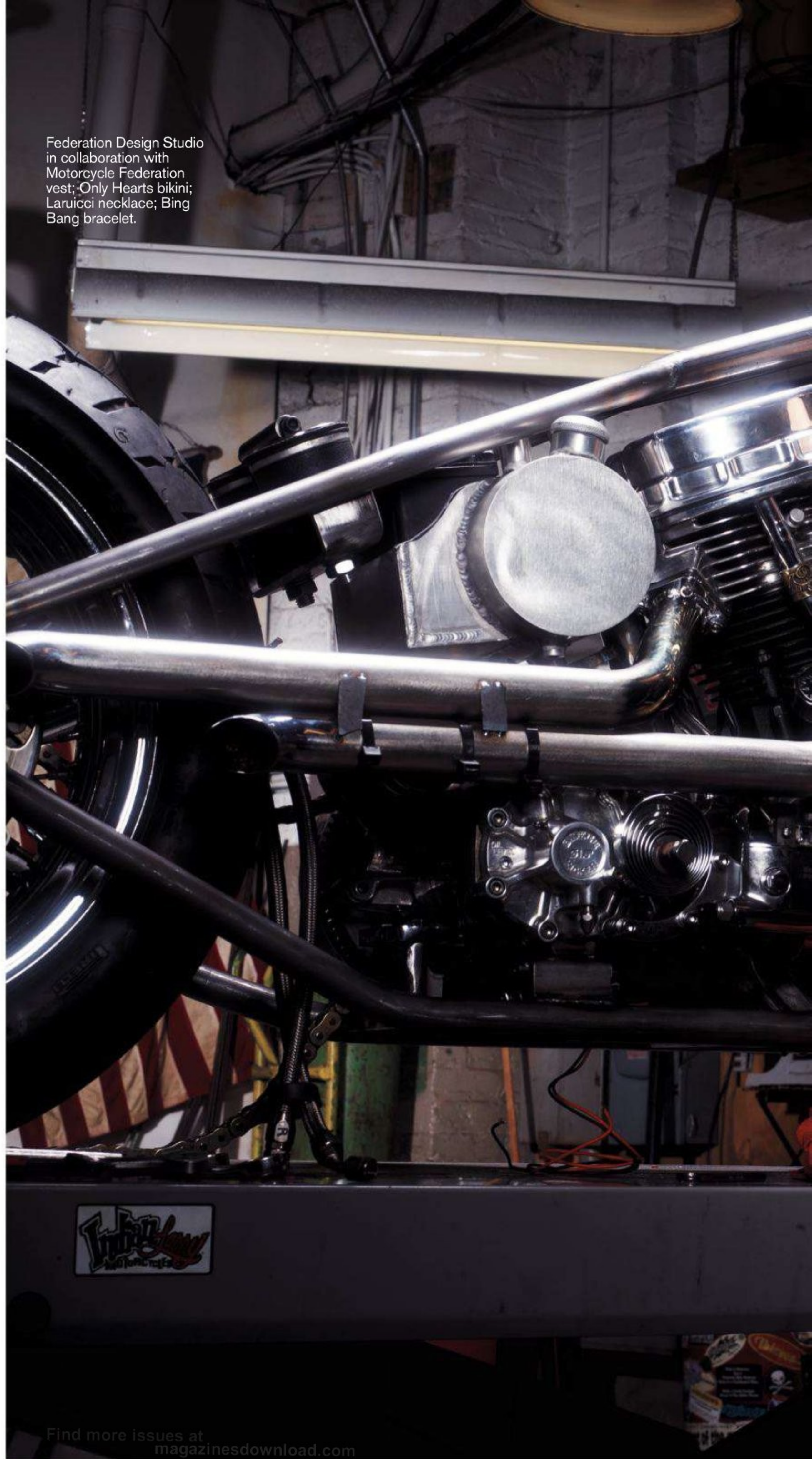
House of Art Tattoo in Bullhead City, AZ] since I was 10 years old. He's tattooed everyone in my family. Me and my brother are in an unspoken race of who can get tattooed the most." She says her next might not be another sleeve, but one of Shakespeare's sonnets on her left arm.

Amy's tattoos have since grown to display her love for the bizarre and unusual, like her sleeve of a zombie girl surrounded by a *Beetlejuice* quote: "I myself am strange and unusual." A traditional Sailor Jerry clipper ship covers her chest, complemented by bats and roses scattered across her body. Her favorites are "Sorrow and Suffering" on the back of her calves, which she got at Living Ghost Tattoo, in Tempe, AZ. "It's actually from a children's Christian book, and it means a lot to me," Amy says. "Without sorrow and suffering, you really don't know what joy and peace are." —Nadia Kadri



Levi's vest; Maison
Close underwear.

Federation Design Studio
in collaboration with
Motorcycle Federation
vest; Only Hearts bikini;
Larucci necklace; Bing
Bang bracelet.



“I don’t
care how
I look, I’m
confident in
my own way.”



Federation
Design Studio
in collaboration
with Motorcycle
Federation helmet.





Maison Close underwear;
Sergio Rossi boots.

Stylist: Young-Ah Kim

Stylist Assistants: Edward Agir
and Liana Vasserot

Hair: Staci Child for Redken/Cutler at De Facto

Makeup: Daniela Klein using MAC Cosmetics
at The Wall Group

Location: Indian Larry Motorcycles



WE RIDE AT DAWN

It's daybreak and Alonzo Bodden has just scrubbed off the acrid smell of last night's comedy club. After coming down from the high of a good show, he chases another thrill on the back of his 2013 Victory Judge. Try to keep up.

PHOTOS BY DOVE SHORE

PAGE 52



***"IF I CRASH AND BURN ONSTAGE,
I DON'T LITERALLY CRASH AND
BURN. ASPHALT HURTS."***





I went for my first ride on the back of a Triumph on a dirt road on my grandmother's farm. It felt like flying, still does.

I've always been a gearhead—a mechanical type of guy. My first job was building stealth fighters. Of course, I can afford bikes and cars, and I can't afford a fighter plane—they go for a few hundred million each, and even with zero percent financing, the payments are pretty steep. There's nothing as quick or fast as a sport bike for less than a hundred grand.

The difference, generally speaking, between sport-bike people and cruiser people is that sport-bike people like performance skill and wear safety gear; cruisers like chrome, noise, and style. It's funny to me to separate them because I ride both. I prefer performance cruisers like the Honda Valkyrie I had or my Triumph Rocket III.

I've seen sport-bike guys who can't ride and cruiser guys who can. The funniest experience is when I'm on a Ducati in the morning and the sport-bike guys wave. Then I'm on the Triumph in the afternoon and the cruiser guys wave. The Harley guys are consistent—they never wave at all.

Racers are a different breed; they crash and go faster. They are also young and heal faster.

I once read you should never try to go fast in a slow corner, then I learned that's pretty damn good advice. I was exiting Turn 2 at Buttonwillow; it's a slow double apex right-hander. There was too much

throttle coming out, and when I let off I high-sided. You know, it's funny how things slow down when you're airborne. I knew the landing would hurt ... and I was right.

There's no a stigma against women who ride in my world, unless stigma means "hella sexy."

If you think a hottie is sexy in chaps, you should see one in racing leathers unzipped about halfway. And don't get me started on umbrella girls...

My favorite vehicles on two wheels are the Ducati Diavel, which is possibly the best bike I've ever ridden; the Triumph Rocket III, which proves that, yes, size does matter; this awesome 2013 Victory Judge; the Ducati 1098 (what a sound!); the Honda Valkyrie, the bike I'll always regret selling; the Suzuki Hayabusa, which doesn't accelerate so much as it amazingly sucks the world into you; and the Honda Gold Wing (one day I'll own one—it's the only way to travel).

I used to ride with Diamond Dave, the owner of Body & Soul Tattoo in Sherman Oaks, CA. After about a year hanging with him I got my first tattoo, of a jester. They say if you hang around a barbershop you'll get a haircut—my head was already shaved, so I went with the ink.

Of all my tattoos, I probably like the drama and comedy masks with the words "Laugh Now, Cry Later" the best. I also like the jester because only he could make fun of the king ... but if he wasn't funny, off

with his head! I like the idea of working with those stakes—it would eliminate a lot of hack comics.

Biker gangs wear patches that most of them take far too seriously. I get it that's it's a way of life, but if you're in a street gang killing over a color, a bike gang killing over a patch, or a government killing over a religion, lighten up.

We used to meet for breakfast and have race leathers on. The waitress would call us Power Rangers, and we loved it. Biker gangs don't like being called Power Rangers. They have no sense of humor.

I once heard those who don't wear helmets have nothing to protect. Good advice: Wear a helmet and pay attention. On that note, you can get my comedy DVD *Who's Paying Attention?* on Amazon.com or iTunes or at Blockbuster (hey, remember Blockbuster?).

Being funny comes naturally to me. Plus, if I crash and burn onstage, I don't literally crash and burn. Asphalt hurts.

What's scarier: getting tattooed, performing improv, or rain starting to fall when you are out riding? If I had to pick, I'd say rain because I live in L.A., and when it rains, L.A. drivers get even worse.

I'd be scared of a tattoo artist I'd never met or one whose work I'd never seen. I never understood how people just walk in a shop without checking them out first. But comedy? That doesn't scare me—not even comedy in the rain while getting tattooed. ■



CROWN GLORY

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you're king of the road.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL KRAUS

Clockwise from top left: Shoei RF-1100, shoei-helmets.com; Biltwell Hustler, biltwellinc.com; Arai Corsair-V, araiamericas.com; Bell Custom 500, bellsports.com; AGV RP60; agv.com. Center: Ruby Pavillon helmet; ateliersruby.com. Opposite: Deryck Todd Highway to Helmet; derycktodd.com.





SHE'S A KNOCKOUT!

JJ Anderson, host of Blackbelt TV's *Three Rounds With*, talks martial arts and tattoos.

BY ROCKY RAKOVIC
PHOTOS BY MAGDALENA WOSINSKA

-PAGE 59-



I

n addition to modeling for companies such as Vans and Converse, “Jabbin” JJ Anderson spars with celebrities on her interview show, *Three Rounds With*. “I want you to be able to sit down on your couch, crack a beer, and hang out with me and the guest,” she says of the program on Blackbelt

TV, the only all-martial-arts television network. (Put this magazine down now and complain to your cable provider if they don’t carry it.) The channel, whose tagline is “Kicks, Flicks and Chicks,” airs fights, screens kung fu movies, and has hired beautiful women to host their programming.

Anderson went from serving as an MTV VJ type on the network to landing her own interview show not long after she started. “I’m not sure if it’s because of their martial arts training, but all my subjects are completely grounded,” she says. “I try to get out of [my interviewees] what makes them who they are, with my main goal being to show our viewers that celebrities are real people who worked hard—and that anyone can achieve their goals with hard work. I want people to be inspired by the celebrity’s life story.” Her favorite subject was Ed O’Neill (believe it or not, Al Bundy has a black belt in Brazilian jujitsu). “He was my favorite, hands down; he had me laughing every five seconds,” she says of the actor.

Anderson doesn’t just talk the talk—she’s a fighter in her own right, having placed in California’s state wrestling championships when she was younger. She’s also trained with Steve Fisher (who served as a karate advisor on *Mortal Kombat* and *Beverly Hills Ninja*), and her mother teaches a combat conditioning class at a MMA gym.

“When I was 18, [my mother] took me to Fip Buchanan at Avalon Tattoos, who tattooed a little Rasta baby on my back,” she says. “At that age I appreciated how good my first tattoo was, but I don’t think I really knew how special it was to get inked by Fip.” Both Anderson’s parents are heavily tattooed; her mother has old-school pieces here and there, while her father has sleeves and a full back.

“I didn’t really have a traditional upbringing,” she says. “My parents met because my father was my mother’s drug dealer. They are both clean and sober now; my father works in a D.A.’s office and my mother is a drug and alcohol counselor. ... Our lives have always been about just having fun. I was raised going to car shows and listening to music.”

When Anderson left home for college in Alabama she stayed connected by getting tattooed on the weekends. “I’d drive to see Melvin Todd,” she says. “Before he got big at City of Ink in Atlanta he did my whole side.” It didn’t start out as one cohesive piece, but eventually Todd blended elements from Anderson’s life—a mix tape, a Chevy logo, her parents’ names—into a cascade that flows across her body. Her most impressive piece is her butterfly knife with a banner that reads *Doll Face Hooligan*. “My mother has this small doll’s face, and *hooligan* is the best word to describe us,” she explains of the tattoo.

The piece she really wants, however, is a portrait of her grandmother, which she has planned for her arm. But she wants to wait until her modeling career cools off before she gets it. “Sometimes when I see my modeling pictures where they have Photoshopped out my tattoos I get a little sad because they tell who I am,” Anderson says. “They are my life’s story.” ■



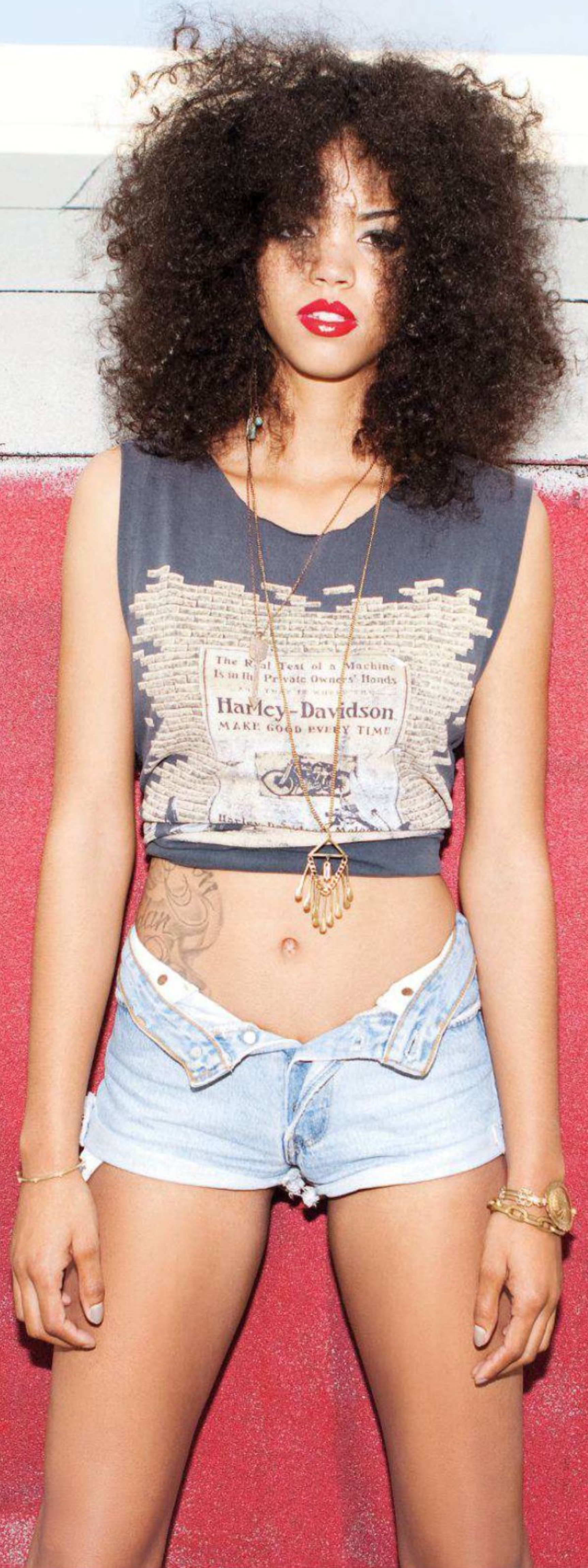




**"WHEN I SEE MY
MODELING PICTURES
WHERE THEY HAVE
PHOTOSHOPPED OUT
MY TATTOOS I GET A
LITTLE SAD BECAUSE
THEY TELL WHO I AM."**

Pages 58-59, 63: What Comes Around Goes Around vintage Harley-Davidson shirt; vintage Levi's shorts; Low Luv by Erin Wasson necklace; House of Harlow 1960 necklace; Bing Bang bracelets. Page 61: Mara Hoffman bustier; Obesity and Speed shorts; H&M jacket; Alexandra G heels; Low Luv necklace; Bing Bang necklace. Opposite page: JJ's own vest; vintage fringe vest and belt; Madewell bra; Washborn jeans; Low Luv by Erin Wasson jewelry.

Stylist: Ashley Abercrombie
Hair and makeup: Rebecca Friedman for Goodform Salon





CM PUNK

Once in a decade a WWE Superstar comes along and changes the game. CM Punk's secret is that he isn't a character, he is who he is—and he's badass. See for yourself, below, and compare during WrestleMania XXVIII this month.

BY CHARLIE CONNELL

Few lifestyles seem more at odds than pro wrestling and straight edge punk. The success of WWE relies on its ability to tell over-the-top stories involving larger-than-life Superstars to millions watching on TV or in packed arenas. Excess is the key to the WWE image: enormous egos, huge physiques, gigantic spectacles. The straight edge movement is more defined by substance than style, outspoken but less brash (unless the target is Chris Brown). Straight edge finds its home at all-ages basement punk shows free of alcohol and drugs. Serving as a bridge between these two divergent worlds, we find WWE champion CM Punk.

Since arriving in the WWE in 2005, Punk has introduced a whole legion of WWE fans to straight edge and punk rock while also converting some young punks to fans of combat sport. He also has eccentric ink, from a large Pepsi logo to a slice of deep-dish pizza. If you disapprove of his tattoos, Punk doesn't care: "These are all things that make me who I am. So, yeah, you're damn right I ink them on my body and I want them to be with me for the rest of my life." Many would try to conform to one lifestyle or the other—not Punk. He has always found himself out of step with the world, and he wouldn't have it any other way.

INKED: After you first won the champion title at Money in the Bank and "quit" the WWE, you took the story line beyond Monday Night Raw and other WWE events by posting pictures of the belt in your fridge on Twitter and by showing up at Comic Con. What made you want to use alternate media to move the story line forward?

CM Punk: Pure boredom. That and my belief that I have my fingers on the pulse of what our audience wants way more than management. I think that it's important for me and for any other Superstar that works for the company to be in the public eye, to be out there, to be considered celebrities. TMZ sees me on the street now and they want to ask

stupid questions like they would with some phony like Tom Cruise. We're on television and we seem to have this one niche audience, and I want to expand way beyond that.

Leading up to your championship you were portrayed as an outsider and an underdog. You've talked about how you weren't marketed correctly or enough. Now that you have been crowned champion, can you still make that claim? Not without adding some sort of severe backlash from people. It's hard to say you're an underdog when you're the champ. There are still people who are crossing their fingers waiting to see me fail. This industry has always been about image,

and I don't fit that image. I'm the one standing up and saying, "So what?" I'm the best wrestler in the world, and that is what this is about. Who cares if I don't look like you want me to? That's something I've been dealing with my entire life.

Your wrestling persona doesn't seem to differ too much from your actual personality. I don't really have a different persona. Now, I don't walk around the street and kick people in the face to solve my problems, obviously—I would be in jail. [Laughs.] There is really no other difference between inside and outside of the ring.

Was this a conscious decision? We ask because some of your earlier WWE story lines almost seemed to mock the straight edge lifestyle. That was an extreme interpretation of the idea of straight edge. I'm not preachy like that when I'm in my jeans and my hoodie. I'm straight edge for me. That's one thing about the business that I'm in: It's my job to twist and bend reality to meet my needs. It was fun to get people pissed at me because the straight edge thing always draws a line in the sand.

Have you always been straight edge? I never really fit in anywhere. When I read about Ian MacKaye, Minor Threat, and straight edge I thought, Oh, there's a label for what I am—cool.

It would be safe to say that the first time your average wrestling fan was introduced to straight edge was through you. How do you feel about this? It's kind of a when-worlds-collide situation. I've always been the punk rock kid who





grew up listening to the Clash and the Ramones. Straight edge has always been associated with the hardcore scene—with music—so for it to be associated with combat sports all of a sudden is a little bit of a culture shock. Some people can't handle it. For me, the bottom line is that no matter who you are or where you come from, just be yourself. The message is positive and I don't force it on anybody. If one kid can take away anything positive from that, I think it's awesome.

What bands got you into punk? I think everybody had to like Naked Raygun, which was a rite of passage. I was a big Slapstick fan; I thought those guys were awesome. Obviously, later on, all the members of Slapstick were in various bands like Alkaline Trio and the Lawrence Arms. I'm drawing a blank on any others—I do get hit in the head for a living, so my memory is not the best.

Who does your tattoo work? I'm fortunate enough to have parlayed what celebrity I have into the opportunity to get tattooed by great artists. I had Dan Smith draw me up some stuff to work with him out in L.A. Recently I had Luke Westman, a friend of mine, tattoo me. So I get to bounce around now. For me the meaning is still there, but when you're as tattooed as I am it ends up being:

as much as I love pizza. Or my little sister's jersey number, which I have behind my left ear. These are all things I love. These aren't things that I'm going to grow out of or grow tired of. So, yeah, you're damn right I ink them on my body and I want them to be with me for the rest of my life. I love that idea. There's something romantic about that.

While being a straight edge punk is the most prominent way that you stand out from your fellow WWE Superstars, another thing that people might not know is that you are a huge comic fan. Most people don't expect a pro wrestler to be a comic book nerd. I get that all of the time. The funny thing about that is that comic books and wrestling are two of the original arts that America has given to the world—the other being jazz. Those are the three things we can lay claim to, while everything else is just bastardized from other cultures. Once again, I feel sorry for people who want to make fun of me for reading comic books because they're the ones missing out. They don't get to experience these awesome stories and characters that I've been reading about, and I've just been a fan of them for my entire life.

Has your love of comics found its way into any of your ink? I guess you can count my Cobra

a lot cooler back then. When I was a kid, Macho Man was the shit. When he passed away I just felt the need to do something. So I had some classic WrestleMania III Macho Man tights made and I wore them, thinking that maybe someone who didn't know who he is would hear people talking about him and check him out. I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for Macho Man. He is cooler than anyone around today, myself included.

What's it like to wrestle alongside or against the same guys you idolized as a kid? I wrestled independently for a very long time and wrestled guys like Dusty Rhodes, Terry Funk, and Ricky Steamboat, so that stuff blows my mind. I met Mick Foley in 2003 and he said, "I think you're awesome and you need to be in WWE." Mick's been waving the CM Punk flag for damn near a decade. Having these old-school guys have my back, having Dusty and Terry Funk telling me that I'm the man after wrestling in front of 500 people in Philadelphia—to me that's bigger and better than any paycheck I'll ever get. That's validation from people who are as close to being my heroes as you can get.

Do you think people understand how many years of effort it took to finally reach the main stage? When I came to WWE I was already

“WHO CARES IF I DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU WANT ME TO? THAT'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN DEALING WITH MY ENTIRE LIFE.”

“What are you doing?”

“Nothing.”

“Luke is around—wanna go get tattoos?”

“Oh, yeah, great.”

So I wound up getting a lot of—I guess there's no other way to describe them, but—bro tattoos. My friends and I all have a lot of the same tattoos.

When you're not using those celebrity connections, who inks you at home? Robin King is the one who did my chest, and it's gorgeous. I'm in love with that tattoo. She works out of Metamorph in Chicago. I have to mention Mike Baalke, who has done probably 85 percent of my work. He works out of Tattoo Factory in Chicago. I've been going to him for years and years.

What is it about tattoos that you are so drawn to? And what are some of the ones that have great meaning to you? They all have a lot of meaning to me. The reason that I like tattoos is that I'm a very heart-on-my-sleeve kind of guy. I can cover my body in my beliefs and the things that I love. Tattoos are very subjective. I know there are a lot of people who look at me and think, *Your tattoos are stupid, you have a tattoo of a slice of pizza.* Well, guess what? I'm from Chicago and I love Chicago pizza. So I got a tattoo of it. It's sad to me that they don't have any tattoos because they can't possibly love something

tattoo as a comic tattoo. That's me; I'm a bad guy. If G.I. Joe was a reality, and there was a Cobra and a G.I. Joe, I can honestly say I would be on the dark side, for sure. I'm trying to remember if I have any other comic book tattoos.

One of the most noticeable things about you in the ring is your love for your hometown, Chicago. You have the stars from the flag on your tights and boots. Were you motivated to do that to stand out, or is it just a reflection of your true self? I was born in Chicago and it's a huge part of who I am. I have such a love for the city that it made sense to me to rep that. Ironically enough, it's the one tattoo I don't have yet. I can't really think of exactly what I want to represent my love of Chicago. Do I get the Chicago flag? I'm not really sure. That's one that is always on the back burner; it's always on my mind. I do have the pizza. But I do need to have the El in there or something else.

You seem to be cognizant of wrestling history. For example, after Macho Man Randy Savage's death, you wore tights designed like his and performed his elbow drop. Why is the past so important to you? Like they say, if you don't remember the past you're doomed to repeat it. Not that repeating pro wrestling's past would be such a horrible thing; there were certain aspects that were

world traveled, I had all these tools, and I knew how to wrestle all these different styles. That made me know how to deal with all the pitfalls and land mines I have to navigate in WWE. I think that's something a lot of guys today are lacking.

It seems like wrestling has always struggled to gain respect from the general public. What are your thoughts on that? We've always had that stigma. There are always people who are going to harp on, “Oh, it's fake!” I dare anybody who has the balls to say that to my face to step into my shoes for one day and do what I do.

Do you think that those opinions will ever change? Or do you think that the lack of respect is something that will always be there? I'm sure golf can be viewed the same way. Is golf a sport? I'm not going to criticize these people because I'm kind of in their shoes. I have people telling me wrestling's not a sport all the time. They can't tell me that it's not, and I can't tell them that it is. It's a stalemate. To me it's like religion. The people who believe in God can't be convinced otherwise, and for the atheists there is no explanation to get them to believe. I love pro wrestling. I'm a fan of it and I'm going to champion its history until the day I die. I just wish there were more people who honestly respected it as much as I do. ■

G-Star jacket;
Shades of Grey shirt;
Marc Nelson jeans;
AllSaints boots.

THERE ARE POWER LINES IN OUR BLOODLINES

Here's to the wild ones,
the guys who blaze
their own trail—on a
motorcycle and in their
wardrobe.

photos by **Andrew Kuykendall**
styled by **Luke Storey**

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Top right: Comune jacket; Kerisma Knits shirt; Actual Pain leggings. Bottom: On Kelley, Vintage jacket and pants; model's own shirt. On Jameson, DKNY vest; Nudie Jeans denim; model's own jewelry. On Alice, Skingraft shirt; Jill Pineda bow tie; Camilla and Marc blazer; Hysteric Glamour jeans. On Lauren, Marco Marco bodysuit; Widow jacket; Camilla and Marc jeans.

AllSaints jacket;
Shades of Grey
shirt; Marc
Nelson jeans.

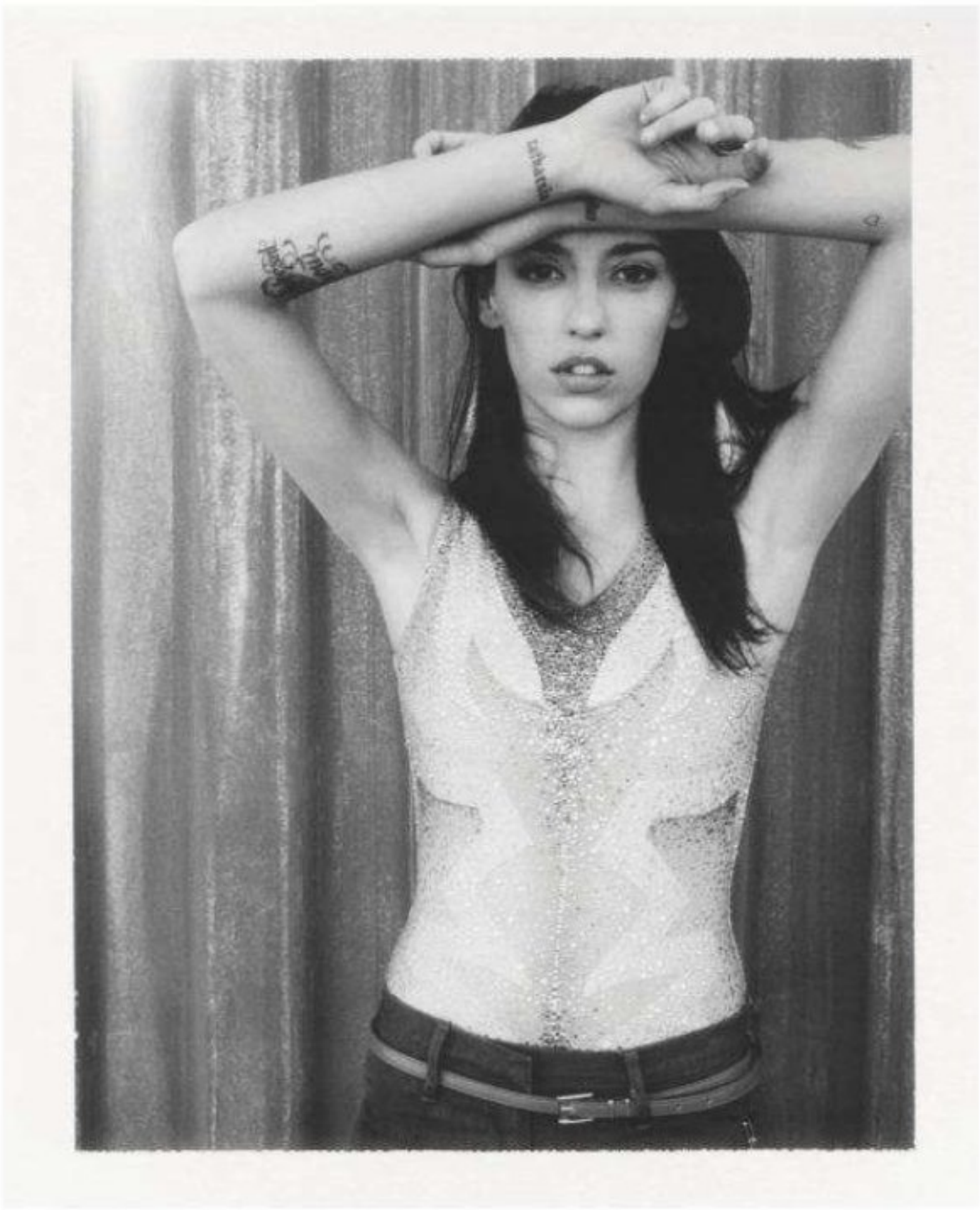




Bottom left: On Alice, Comune shirt. On Corey, Comune jacket and hat; vintage Harley-Davidson bandanna. Bottom right: Ashton Michael shirt; Nudie Jeans denim; Luv Aj necklace; model's own bracelet and ring.



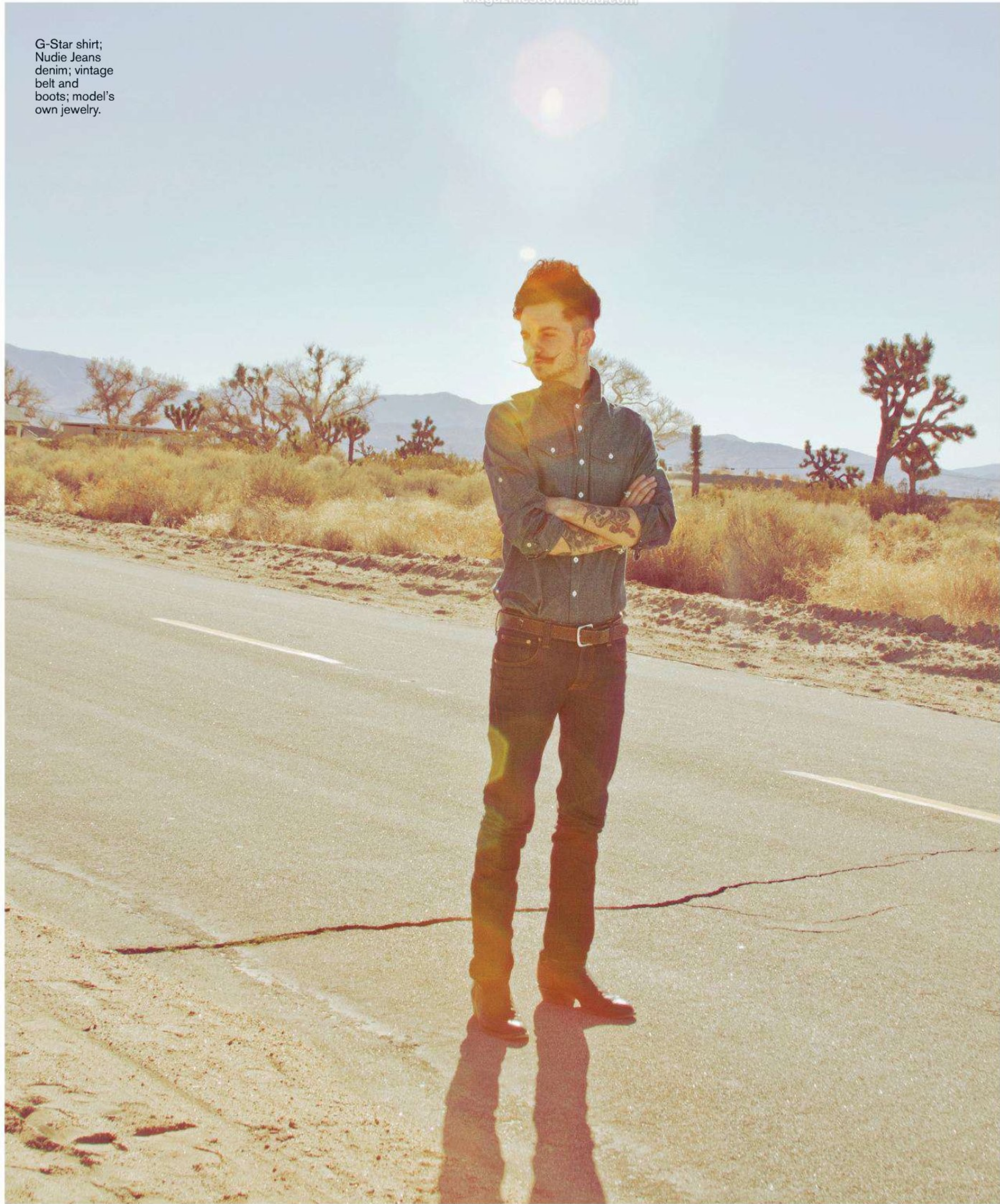
Top right: Marco Marco bodysuit; Camilla and Marc jeans. Bottom left: On Jameson, Comme des Garçons shirt; AllSaints tank; Nudie Jeans denim; model's own jewelry. On Max, AllSaints shirt; Marc Nelson jeans.



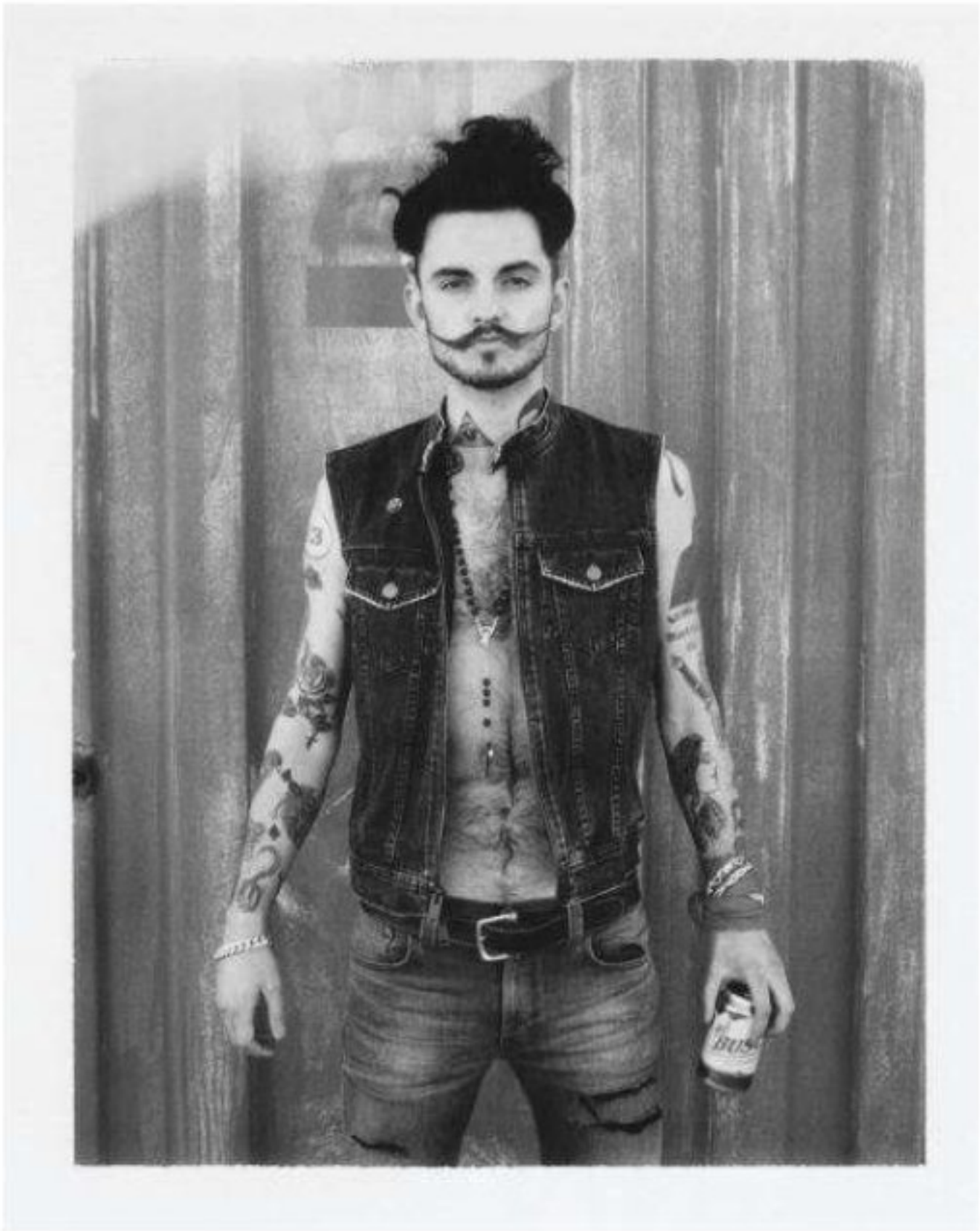
On Corey, Comune shirt, vest, and hat;
G-Star jeans; vintage boots. On Mike,
Chapter jacket; WAAR pants. On Luke,
Diesel hat; AllSaints shirt; Levi's jacket
and jeans; vintage boots.



G-Star shirt;
Nudie Jeans
denim; vintage
belt and
boots; model's
own jewelry.



Top right: DKNY vest; Nudie Jeans denim; model's own jewelry. Bottom: On Mike, Shades of Grey jacket; Neil Barrett shirt; WAAR pants. On Amanda, Alexander Wang shirt; Hysteric Glamour shorts.





Top left: AllSaints jacket and boots; Shades of Grey shirt; Marc Nelson jeans. Bottom: All clothing models' own. Opposite page: DKNY vest; Nudie Jeans denim; vintage boots; model's own jewelry.



Hair and makeup: Juxta
Stylist assistant: Lauren Messiah
Models: Jameson at PhotoGenics;
Corey Smith; Luke Scott, Mike
Quinones; Max at Vision; Alice
Davis; Lauren Graham; Amanda at
L.A. Models; Kelley Ash at Q
Special thanks to Corey and
Luke for the wild hogs: Corey,
Harley Dyna FXDB 2012; Luke,
Harley FXSTS Chopper



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FREDDY NEGRETE

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BY ROCKY RAKOVIC
PORTRAIT BY STEVEN PERILLOUX

The aim of American jails is to ingest wayward souls and rehabilitate them to the point where they are useful to society. While it might not have been the California penal system's goal, the jails in that state also fostered the prison tattoo art of Freddy Negrete, who went on to pioneer the fine-line black-and-gray work seen on everyone from inmates to A-listers. Much in the way that Negrete's signature prison style has come in and out of vogue since the '70s, his own life has been a roller coaster of life highs—tattooing with Ed Hardy, being named tattoo artist of the year, working on blockbuster movies—and drug highs that put him in jail and nearly killed him.

INKED: How did your crazy journey start?

FREDDY NEGRETE: My parents went to prison when I was a kid. My mother is Jewish and my father is Mexican, but the foster home they put us in was white so I was hanging out with surfer kids. My foster parents were pretty abusive. At around age 11 I started rebelling and found myself in juvenile hall. I was in a holding cell with an older kid—he was, like, 17, he was a cholo gangster who had tattoos all over and I was amazed by them. I started asking him about them and he told me that you get a needle, you melt it into a toothbrush, wrap it with thread, dip it in India ink or mascara, and you just poke yourself. When I got released the first thing I did was hook up a little needle to thread, got my sister's mas-

cara, and put my first little tattoo on me. I was really impressed by that guy in juvie—he was more like me than the surfer kids—that I also ended up becoming a cholo and joined the gang. Shortly, my whole left arm was covered in hand-poked tattoos. Among the youngsters I was the guy who did all the tattoos, the crosses and gang slogans. I was all right at it, and then when one of older guys, Bunky, got out of prison he showed me all the techniques they did in there and I took to prison style right away.

You learned prison style outside the joint?

But I perfected it in there. I went to Youth Authority, which is like state prison for teenagers. I was in this lock-up program called Tamarack. The pro-

“PROFESSIONAL TATTOOS WERE CARTOONY LOOKING WITH THEIR THICK, BOLD LINES; WE WANTED OUR TATTOOS TO LOOK MORE REAL, WITH A THIN LINE.”



gram was for the hardest of the hard guys—it was like gladiator school. The staff was permissive with us, they let us do what we wanted as long as we didn't kill each other—they let us tattoo. We got the plans of the tattoo machine from these guys in Susanville Prison. It was a single-needle sharpened guitar string hooked up to the motor from a ghetto blaster. I was there for three years and got really nice at prison-style black-and-gray.

Did you share designs between prisons? I worked in the YA print shop and I would do these tattoo designs, then print out thousands of them on stationery paper so that guys could write home or to other guys and have, like, a letterhead. One of the most famous ones I came up with was while I was reading a magazine with an ad for an acting workshop. I saw the comedy and tragedy masks, so I did a sketch with a play off that oldie but goodie tune “Smile Now, Cry Later.” Another one was a *charra* girl in Daisy Dukes. My designs went everywhere.

Was there a notion that shaped prison style? We were very conscious of the thin line. We thought that professional tattoos were cartoony looking with

their thick, bold lines; we wanted our tattoos to look more real, with a thin line. And shading was everything to us. We would water down the black ink to make it lighter or let it evaporate to go darker.

In the prison system's spirit of rehabilitation, you came out of Youth Authority with a skill. When I got out I immediately set up in my apartment and everyone wanted prison-style tattoos. At the same time, Good Time Charlie's opened up in east L.A. on Whittier Boulevard, and was attempting to do prison-style tattoos. The shop was owned by Good Time Charlie, and he employed Jack Rudy, Creeper, and Lady Blue. Jack's nickname was Huero—everybody was going on about Huero this and Huero that. His tattoos were nice, but after I finished my tattoos I would send people into Good Time Charlie's to show Huero my work. One day I heard that Huero wanted to meet me. When I walked into the shop I noticed that they had my *charra* girl with Daisy Dukes on their wall. I told them it was my design, and they said, “Dude, do you know how many people claimed that their cousin or uncle did this design?” Then I took the original out of my book and showed them.

And they hired you on the spot? Jack liked the work I was doing, but Good Time Charlie ignored me. I think it was because Charlie came from Pike, where the carnies and the bikers owned tattooing. There was no way he was going to let a Mexican gangster cholo guy in his shop. When Good Time Charlie turned Christian, he sold the tattoo shop to Ed Hardy. Ed was impressed with the new prison style of tattooing and Jack told Ed about me. Ed brought me in because I could relate to all the cholos coming into the shop. This was at the height of cruising culture, when all the Mexican gangsters would cruise Whittier Boulevard. All of a sudden I was making money. When I was tattooing out of my house I didn't know what the going rate was so I had been doing a lot of big ol' tattoos for \$15.

What did you learn from Hardy? People don't realize that he was the first to set up a shop like a dentist's office and do “appointment only.” Before I met him I never saw Japanese or stuff done on that scale. Our style was that you cover yourself with a bunch of small black-and-gray tattoos—one piece here, one piece there, like badges—and then you'd fill in the spaces with some kind of background,

inked scene | ICON



like smoke or spider webs. He was doing elaborate color work where people would have one piece of art covering their body. I started swapping chairs with Bob Roberts at Realistic Tattoo Studio, Ed's home shop, and started experimenting with bigger pieces and mixing color into black-and-gray pieces. In 1980, I won tattoo artist of the year at the Fifth World Tattoo Convention for this back piece I did of a black-and-gray Madonna with an all-color background.

You were also getting notice from Hollywood.

In the early '90s I got a call from a producer saying he needed prison tattoos for a movie. After seeing me work start to finish on Freddy Corbin at a tattoo convention he hired me to work on *Blood In, Blood Out*, where I met make-up artist Fred Blau. We partnered up, developed a method for movie tattoos where the mix of colors would make them look like they were under the skin, and worked on some 30 feature films together.

What were your favorite projects? The director of *Con Air* gave the actors free rein on their tattoos. Ving Rhames, who played Diamond Dog, and I designed all of his tattoos, each with a backstory. *Blade* was a big one. The original Blade character in the comic books didn't have any tattoos, but Wesley Snipes insisted on it and so he and I got together. I also was in SAG and walked onto some of the movies. When I would show up on set as a day player, no one would talk to me, but when I walked on as the tattoo artist I was a star. During the filming of *Fatal Instinct* Carl Reiner asked me to do a temporary tattoo on his arm, so here is this old Jewish guy walking around all day on set showing off his ink.

Doesn't get much better than that. Let's talk about your lows: You struggled with drugs. What made you get sober? I nearly died. After one

"WHEN I WAS AT TATTOO MANIA ON THE STRIP, I WOULD DO A TATTOO, THEN RUN UP TO THE RAINBOW ROOM AND PARTY, THEN GO BACK, DO ANOTHER TATTOO. BACK IN THE LATE '80S EVERYBODY WORE TIGHTS, AND CHICKS DIDN'T LIKE YOU UNLESS YOU ... LOOKED LIKE A CHICK."

of my sons died, I plummeted into heroin and speed addictions. I was already diagnosed with congestive heart failure, and when I violated a possession-parole I went back to prison. The withdrawal triggered the heart condition really bad. I was in a wheelchair, I had three heart attacks, the doctors in jail told me that I would probably need a heart transplant. My lungs were in failure, my liver was in failure, and I felt like I was going to die in jail, so I decided to pray. To get to this area where I could be alone and pray I had to climb two flights of stairs, which took me half an hour because I could only take a few steps at a time. It was pure suffering, but I prayed and asked God for more time. The next morning I had a heart attack. They rushed me to the hospital and I really felt different in there, like I was going to make it. Two weeks later they sent me back to the jail. I was walking around, I even started doing push-ups. Every Tuesday they would take me to the hospital and the doctor would check my heart. I told him about the push-ups and did a few for him. The following Tuesday I went back to the hospital and there were all these doctors and interns in the room. The doctor said, "Excuse all the interest. We've heard of people recovering like this, but have never seen it before." God gave me more time. I didn't want to go out like that in the county jail. I wanted a chance to show that I could really change my life and from there I went into rehab. It was there where I learned how to get sober and stay sober.

You were already a religious man, though, right? In 1980 I became a born-again Christian through Victory Outreach, which was a church that reached out to gangs and people with drug addiction in east L.A. There were these hard-core guys, killers, who I knew from jail and tattooing that started to come around with Bibles and preaching God. It was a new thing to me. Back then I was using and I really wanted to change my life, I wanted to raise my son and save my marriage. I went to church and I was born again. Then they insisted that I had to quit tattooing, that it was a sin, so I did for some time.

What made you come back to tattooing? After looking closer at the Bible passages they used [in arguments] against tattooing, I saw that it was telling people not to cut their flesh. Back then, when people were in mourning they would cut themselves and put marks on themselves.

There were cutters in Biblical times? Yeah, and that's why when the Jews are in mourning they will rip their clothing. They do that instead of cut-

ting their flesh like the heathens. Then there is also the thought about tattooing false gods—but that's not what tattooing is about these days.

So what's your opinion of what tattooing is about now? Tattooing's about the art. We are in an individualistic society, and tattooing is a way of defining your individualism.

Will religion ever loosen up about tattoos? I volunteer at Beit T'Shuvah, which helps out Jewish people who have drug problems. It's a really large congregation that has youngsters from uppity homes who have heroin addictions. When I first got there, the rabbi, who is an ex-gangster, looked at me and said, "I'm going to change you from the outside in." He would make me cover up my tattoos when I was there. But he has become more accepting. Now I even have a tattoo shop apprenticeship program with the kids who are kicking heroin.

You're doing the Lord's work. But do you think some tattoo shops can be crucibles for drug use? Yes, but there are drugs everywhere. I think one of the hardest things a drug addict struggles with, especially if it's a heroin habit, is scoring every day. And tattooing is still a cash-in-hand game. When I was at Tattoo Mania on the Strip, I would do a tattoo, then run up to the Rainbow Room and party, then go back, do another tattoo. I used to love the Strip except that back in the late '80s everybody wore tights, and chicks didn't like you unless you were wearing makeup and looked like a chick. Now I'm back on the Strip, at Mark Mahoney's Shamrock Social Club. I owe Mark everything. I've fallen as far as a man can and he still believes in me, and even gave my son Isaiah a chair. My life is now about my son and our art. I'm now learning that I can be responsible and sober, and really focus on my tattoo art.

Do you feel like your art slipped? When you are high you think you are doing a great job. But now I see tattoos I did when I was using that I cut corners on or didn't do my best. I've been sober four years now and my art is still improving.

You have come a long way. Yes, in sobriety. And I can't believe that something I learned in prison would take me this far. I never thought that prison-style black-and-gray would get mainstream, but now it's worldwide. It was just some troublemaker east L.A. cholo art, but black-and-gray and I are here to stay. ■

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From left: Lisa Marsella, Scott Trerotola, Chris Amlie, Nick Cimino, Russell Angrisani.

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BY LANI BUESS
PORTRAIT BY STEWART ISBELL

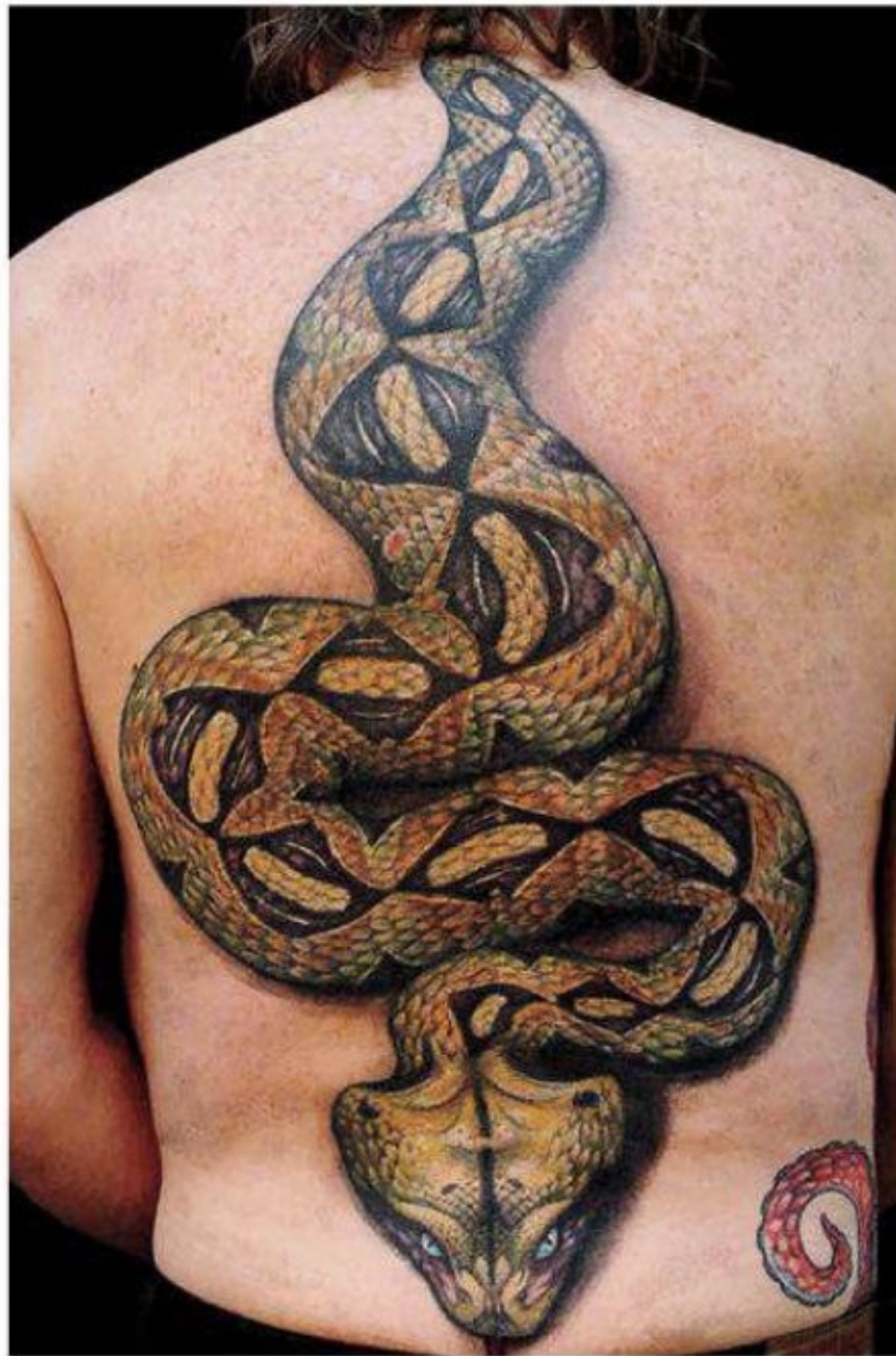
Traditional church pendant lights hang from the ceiling, a congregation pew stands before customized wallpaper fashioned with the face of Satan, and portfolios lay atop a wooden table where religious candles and a human skull replica (holding business cards in its mouth) somehow harmoniously mingle. Inside Alchemy Tattoo Arts you'll also find framed paintings of skulls juxtaposed with those of saints and Virgin Mary figurines united with devil heads. The décor undeniably portrays the duality of good versus evil and heaven versus hell, so it only seems fitting that the seemingly sinister-looking shop be located in a charmingly tranquil suburb on Long Island. "I kind of wanted a vibe that Aleister Crowley got together with Ozzy Osbourne and started a tattoo shop," says shop owner Scott Trerotola. "It's great for the escapism factor. You get lost in here ... and forget about the rest of the world."

Having been immersed in comic books as a kid, Trerotola's creativity in shop scenery comes as no shock. At 25 cents each, comics offered an easy access to imaginative art and adventurous fabled lands. "I didn't have books on Michelangelo's work or Leonardo's," he says. "I had comics." In particular, it was the work of fantasy artist Frank Frazetta—

elaborate settings with mythical creatures, buxom broads, and fearless warriors—that caught Trerotola's eye. "His paintings blew me away," he says of Frazetta's style. "The novelty never wore off for me. I still look at his work like the first day I ever saw it." As it happens, surrealistic imagery is one of Trerotola's favorite subject matters to tattoo.

He found a fellow fan in Twin Moon shop owner Cindy Chiarella, who offered him an apprenticeship 20 years ago after seeing his artwork. He drove a cab at night to support himself and apprenticed by day, until a bad car accident pushed him into tattooing full-time. With only one year of apprenticeship under his belt, "it was a bit premature, but it was the best thing for me," he says. "I never looked back."

Eventually, Trerotola made the seamless transition from tattooer to shop owner, opening Alchemy several months ago, after selling his stake in Tattoo Ritual, a shop he co-owned in Farmingdale, NY. In addition to boss man Trerotola, tattooer Chris Amlie and regular guest artists Jay Paranich and Dan Henk deliver custom work for a specific type of client. "If you're looking to pick something off the wall and negotiate a price on it, this ain't that place," says Trerotola. "If you want to get tattooed today,



Clockwise from top left: tattoo by Scott Trerotola; interior of Alchemy Tattoo; tattoo by Chris Amlie; tattoo by Trerotola; tattoo by Amlie.



forget it. But if you want something really killer, and you're willing to work with an artist, that's what we're here for." For the serious collector, Alchemy's artists offer an array of specialties, whether it's Paranich's traditional *tebori* style, Henk's horror and realistic tattoos, or Amlie's preference for fine-line black-and-gray illustrative work.

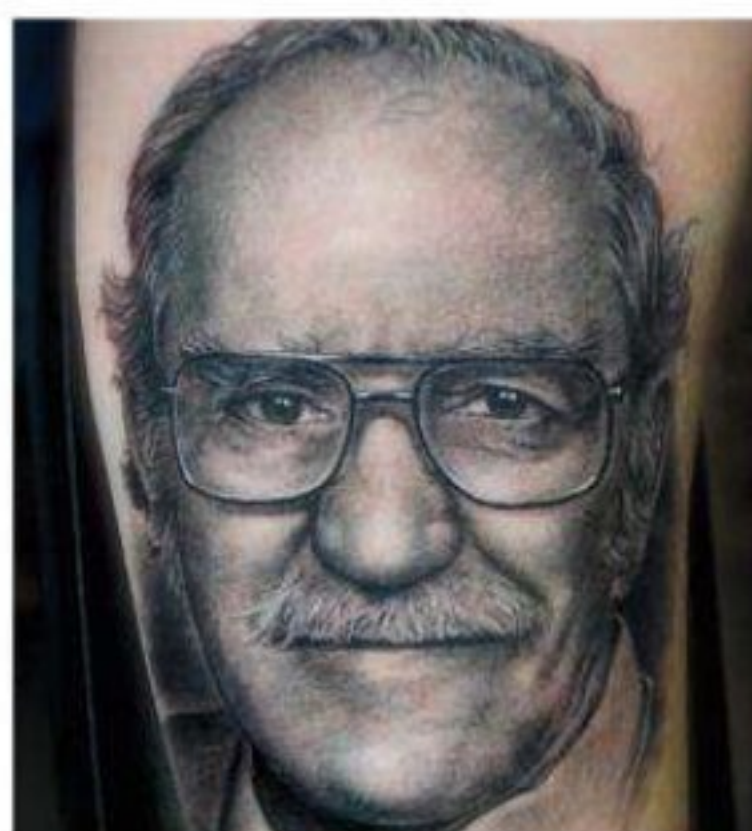
Amlie, whose cherry was popped with a Misfits-related tattoo at 18, also landed an apprenticeship with Cindy at her shop 16 years ago, and that's where he met Trerotola. The two have been like brothers ever since. "I know how he tattoos, know

his type of personality, and know the shop is safe with him," says Trerotola of Amlie.

Though he's worked in shops throughout New York and Florida, Amlie says Alchemy is like home. "The vision Scott had for the shop, I mean, my head was in the same place," he says. "I wake up looking forward to going to work. It's not just because of tattooing; it's also because of where I'm at."

The two constantly strive for perfection. Just ask Trerotola, who was so impressed by the level of artistry in the tattoo community that he went back to the drawing board to revamp his own style. "I

slowed down," he says. "Maybe you charge the customer a little less per session so they can afford to get it finished, but you do a bigger tattoo, you do a better tattoo." It's that mind-set that gathers customers on the church pew. Instead of hymnal books, they peruse portfolios and collect permanent impressions at Alchemy. And they've come to the right crew for solid skin art. "If you have a lot of tattoos and want to get really good work, this is a great place," says Trerotola. "If you're a first-timer and a little scared, between me and Chris, we'll definitely hold your hand and walk you through it." ■



PORTFOLIO OF THE INK MASTER: SHANE O'NEILL

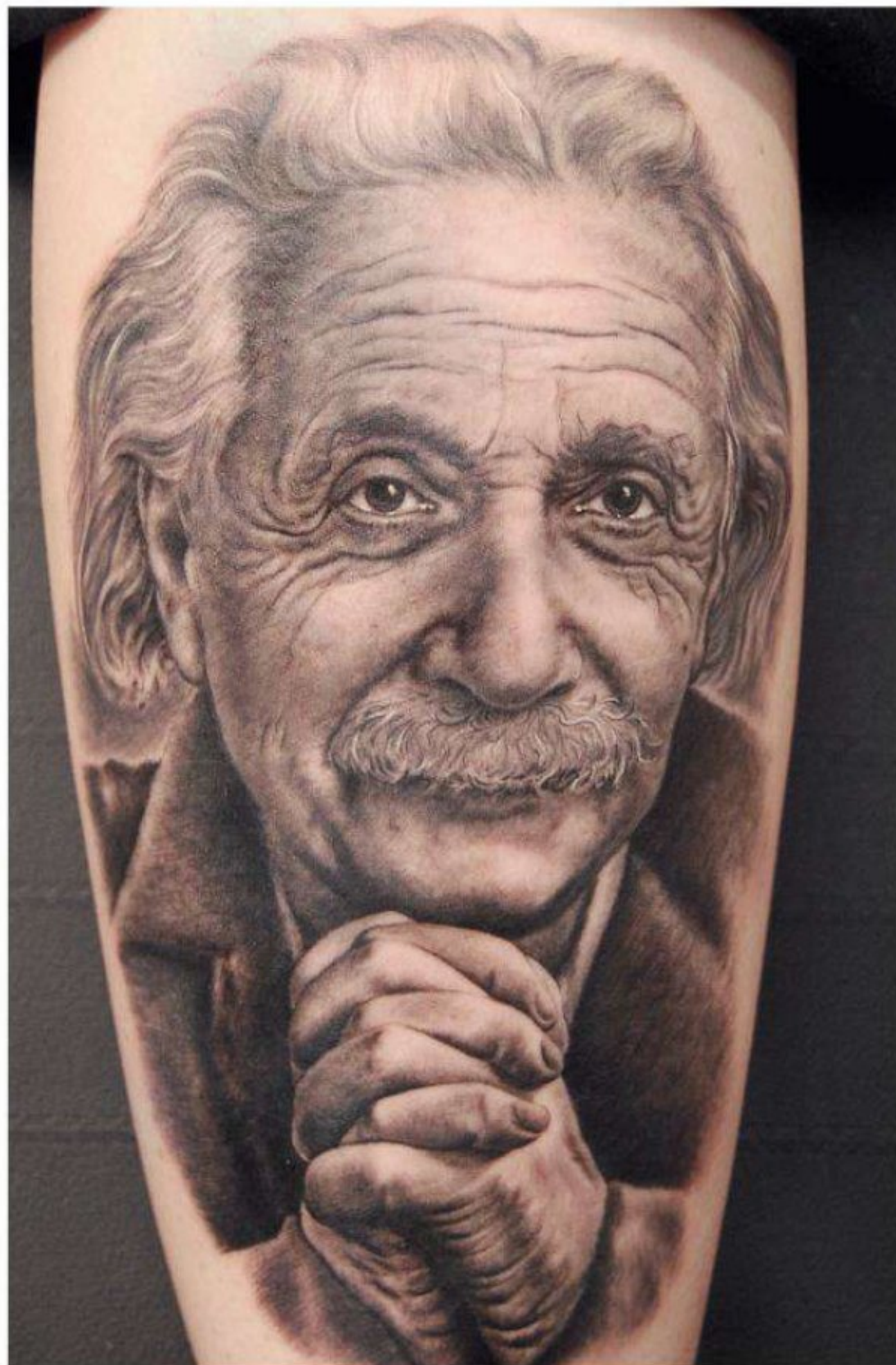
Proficient at black-and-grey, photorealism, and anything else thrown his way, O'Neill was named Spike TV's first Ink Master on the show of the same name. Marvel at the work from the new big name in tattooing and then visit him in Delaware at Shane O'Neill Tattoos. Congratulations, and well-deserved, Shane.

Congrats on winning Ink Master. How do you feel? It's pretty crazy.

Was it difficult to tattoo on camera? Nah, that stuff doesn't bother me. I'm used to tons of people watching me tattoo at conventions—doing conventions for years prepped me for the show. Sitting down in front of the camera was a little more relaxing because you knew that once you started you knew you were going to tattoo for the next five or six hours. The rest of the time was more nerve-racking, because you weren't sure what they were going to throw at you.

Like the flash challenges? All of the flash challenges were a lot of fun because we weren't just tattooing, we were doing other art-related stuff. Tattooing pigs in the meat locker was crazy. If I knew the pig's skin accepted ink that easy, I would definitely have used color, because it looked super-bright.

What was the house like? There were people not ready to deal with it. The better tattooers would stay up all night drawing tattoos for next day's challenge that should have taken three days to perfect while others slept. They didn't make it to the end.



What is your tip for the next crop of tattooists trying for the title?

The human canvases were a big factor in the show. If two tattooers did two identical tattoos on different canvases, the one with the lighter skin is going to look better. It was extremely important to win the flash challenges because then you could pick your canvas. Some people didn't give a shit and just concentrated on the elimination challenge, but my thinking was that if two people were running close, the judges would go with the one who won more of the challenges.

Other than making better tattoos, what do you think helped you win? Being more versatile and listening to the judges.

What did you think of the judges?

Dave [Navarro] was way more knowledgeable than I expected him to be. And if he knew Oliver [Peck] and Chris [Nunez] knew more about something, then he would step back.

Would you do it again? Definitely. I was prepared for the worst of everything and nothing was the worst. Some [people] came in demanding a sleeve in five hours, so time management and dealing with them was a huge factor. Bili Vegas, who is an awesome tattooer, had five hours to tattoo, and two and a half hours into it he was still arguing with the canvas.

Is Ink Master the best tattooing on TV? Yes. You saw the whole process; artists did their best, and a lot more good tattoos got done in an hour than on any other show. 🐾



inked scene | SHOP TALK

NAME: Brittany Cooper

SHOP GIRL AT: Lucky Stars Tattoo, San Jose, CA

THEY CALL ME THE "SHOP ELF." I do everything: keeping the shop organized, sterilizing equipment, fixing appointment books, and wrestling the artists' kids into submission before running the autoclave. You name it, I can—and will—do it.

I GOT INTO TATTOOS when my mom gave me 50 cents for the vending machines at our local supermarket. I bought a giant traditional panther stick-on tattoo and my dad had a fit. After that, I collected quarters, spent them on tattoos, and applied them places no one would see.

WE GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY with annual fundraisers, like our Tats for Tits event that supports breast cancer research.

PEOPLE LOVE OUR BIG, FULL-COLOR PIECES. We try to steer them into more artistic choices rather than small stuff that's not very colorful. But our bread and butter are our regular clients. One of them has been working on a food fight sleeve, where different fruits and veggies are battling one another and falling into pots and pans. I love it!



Know a stellar shop assistant who keeps the autoclave humming and the tattoo stations organized? E-mail us at shopgirl@inkedmag.com.



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TIBETAN SKULL

Not your average skull ring. This Tibetan Skull by Femme Metale (\$320, inkedshop.com) is completely hand-crafted and cast from .925 sterling silver.



FELINE FATALITY

Tattoo artist Mitch O'Connell's famous cat skull turned sweet necklace courtesy of Kitsch 'N' Kouture (\$24.95, inkedshop.com).



TATTOOED MARILYN

There are plenty of Marilyn Monroe portrait tattoos out there, so Kill It Clothing decided to switch it up and give Marilyn some ink. The result is one badass T-shirt (\$24.95, inkedshop.com).



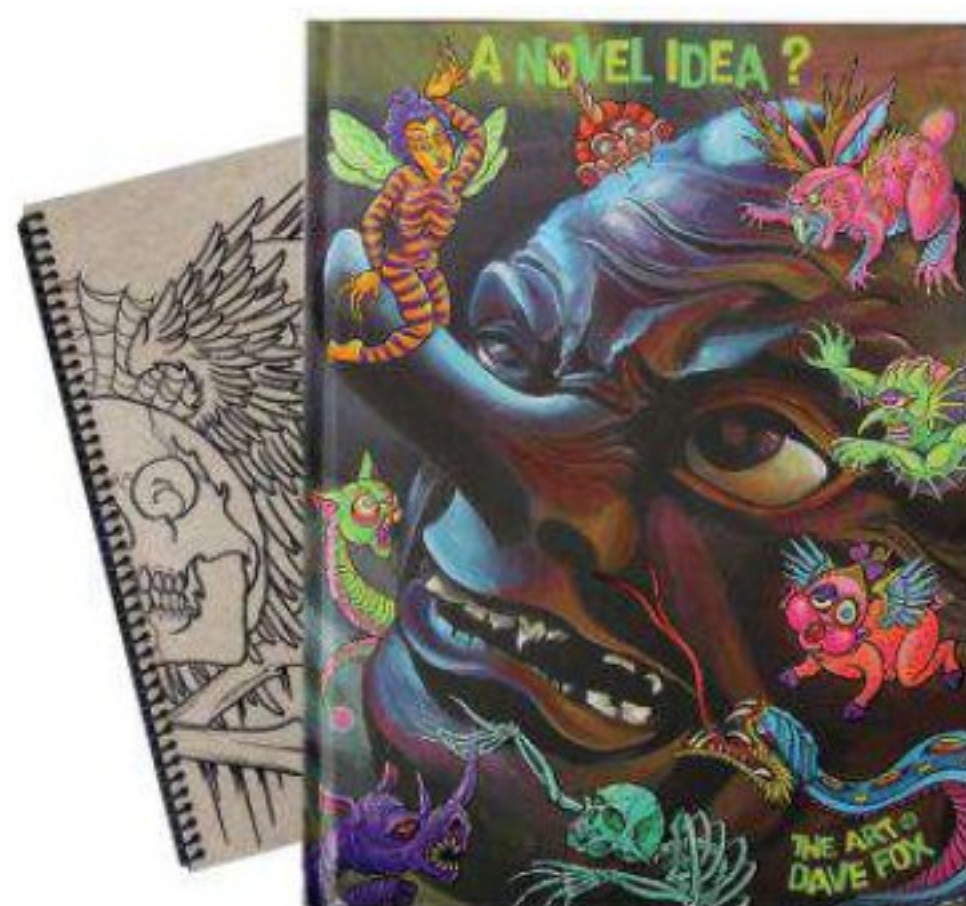
HEADS WILL ROLL

Not sure what we love more about these bracelets (\$44.95, inkedshop.com) by The 3 Sisters Design Co.: the fact that they're made out of recycled bicycle inner tubes, or that they include strategically placed doll heads. Warning: Barbies were, in fact, harmed in the making of these bracelets.



IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH

Smokin' hot chick meets zombie meets Marie Antoinette meets Frankenstein? We can't say what inspired artist Shayne of the Dead to create this Frankenstein Bride print (\$29.95, inkedshop.com) but we're definitely digging the end result.



ARTIST SKETCHBOOKS

"These paintings are my story. This is my novel," says Dave Fox. His book, *A Novel Idea? The Art of Dave Fox* (\$39.95, inkedshop.com) and other artists' sketchbooks are available now in the INKED Shop.



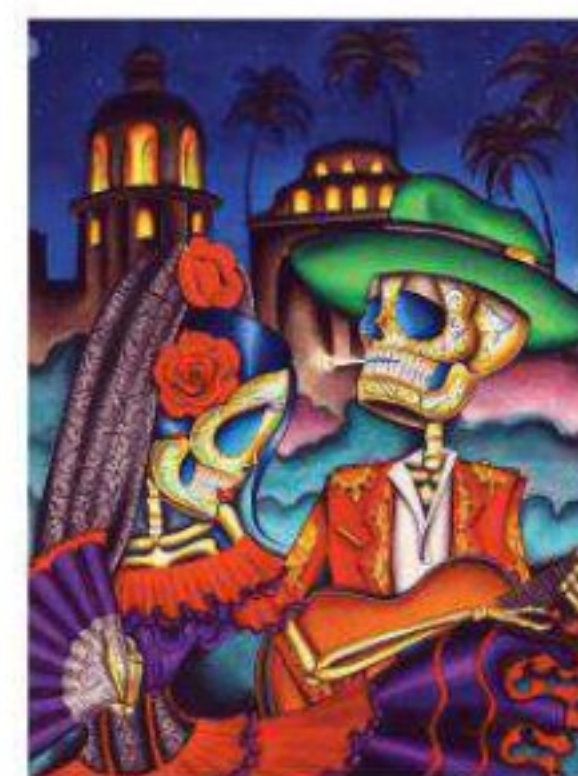
FLEUR-DE-LIS

Derived from the French words for *flower* and *lily*, the fleur-de-lis is a stylized version of the actual lily flower. This completely handmade, functional piece of steel art is created by metal artist Jon Watto Watson (\$14.95, inkedshop.com).



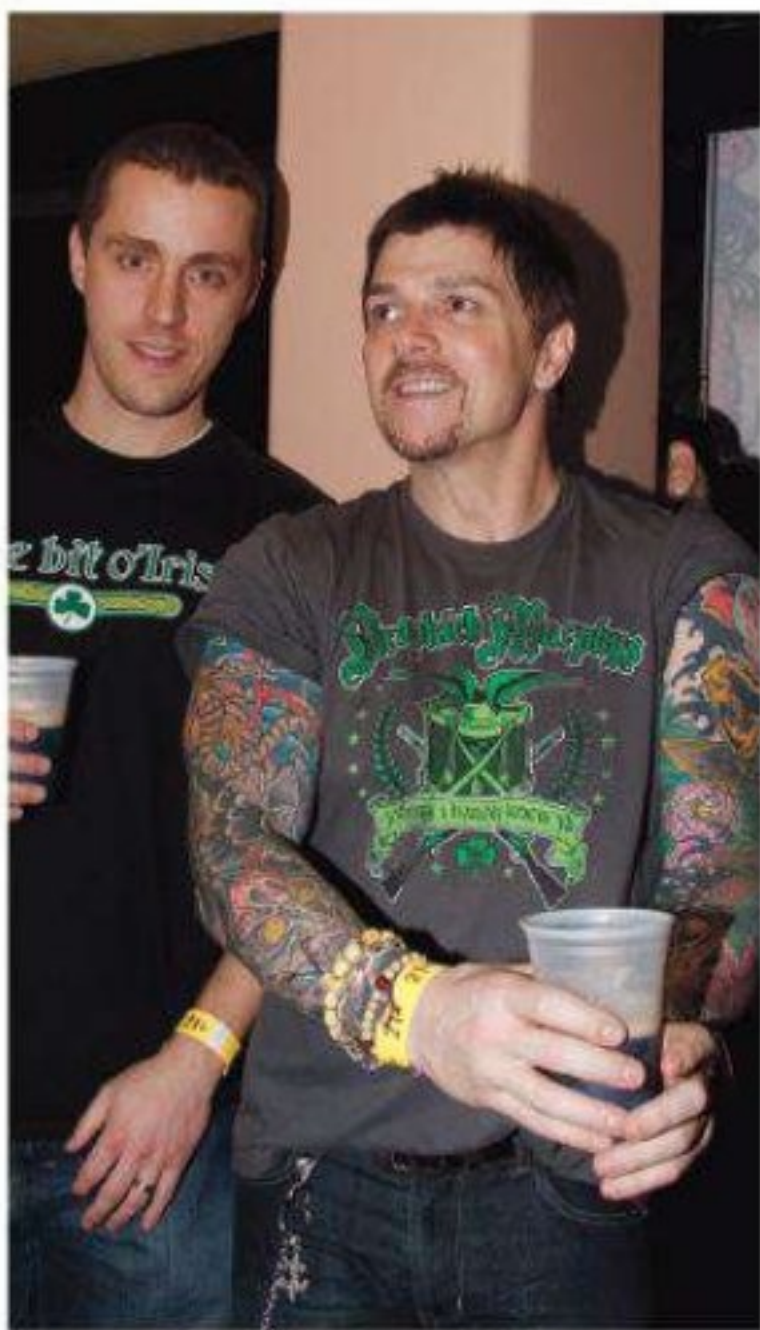
BEWARE THE BARBER

This demon barber prefers a different set of tools. Look closely: This new Sullen design (\$24.95, inkedshop.com) replaced shaving razors with tattoo machines. Watch your back, Sweeney Todd.

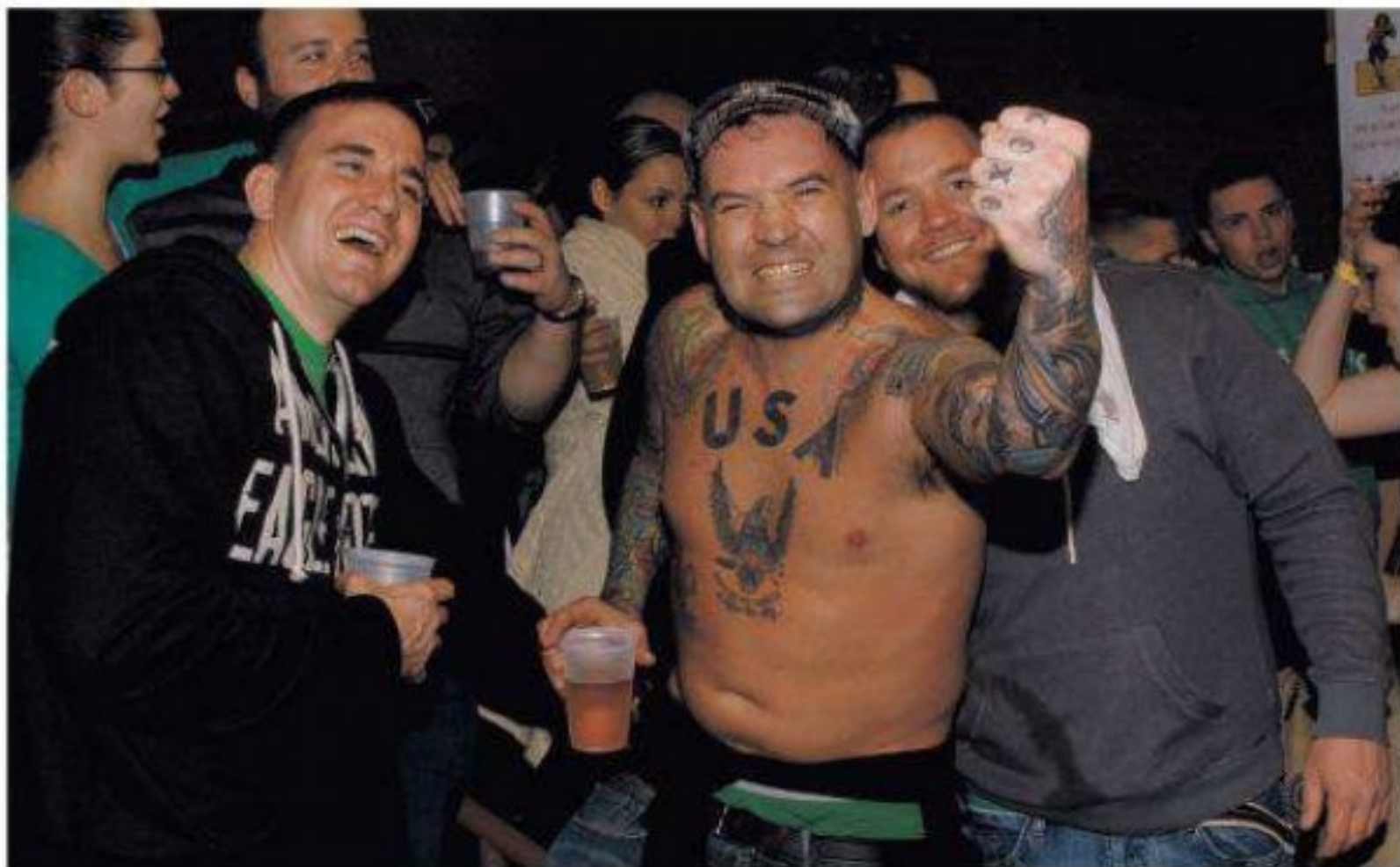


DEATH IS ONLY THE BEGINNING

This print (\$19.95, inkedshop.com) by artist Dave Sanchez, titled *Dark Desert Highway*, is stunning. Browse the Black Market Art Company gallery of prints in the INKED Shop now.



FLOGGING MOLLY AT HAMMERSTEIN BALLROOM
Punk rock is doing what you love and not giving a shit about conventionality, take for instance Flogging Molly who has a tin whistle in their seven-piece act. Molly blew the doors off of NYC's Hammerstein Ballroom during their Live Nation tour, delighting an audience of punks who damn conventional society with skin art.





THE GREAT FROG

There are few jewelry makers we dig more than The Great Frog, so when the London-based metal workers opened up shop in Manhattan we came to help them christen the store, and then later toasted Great Frog at the Thompson Hotel while DJ Michael Baltra spun.



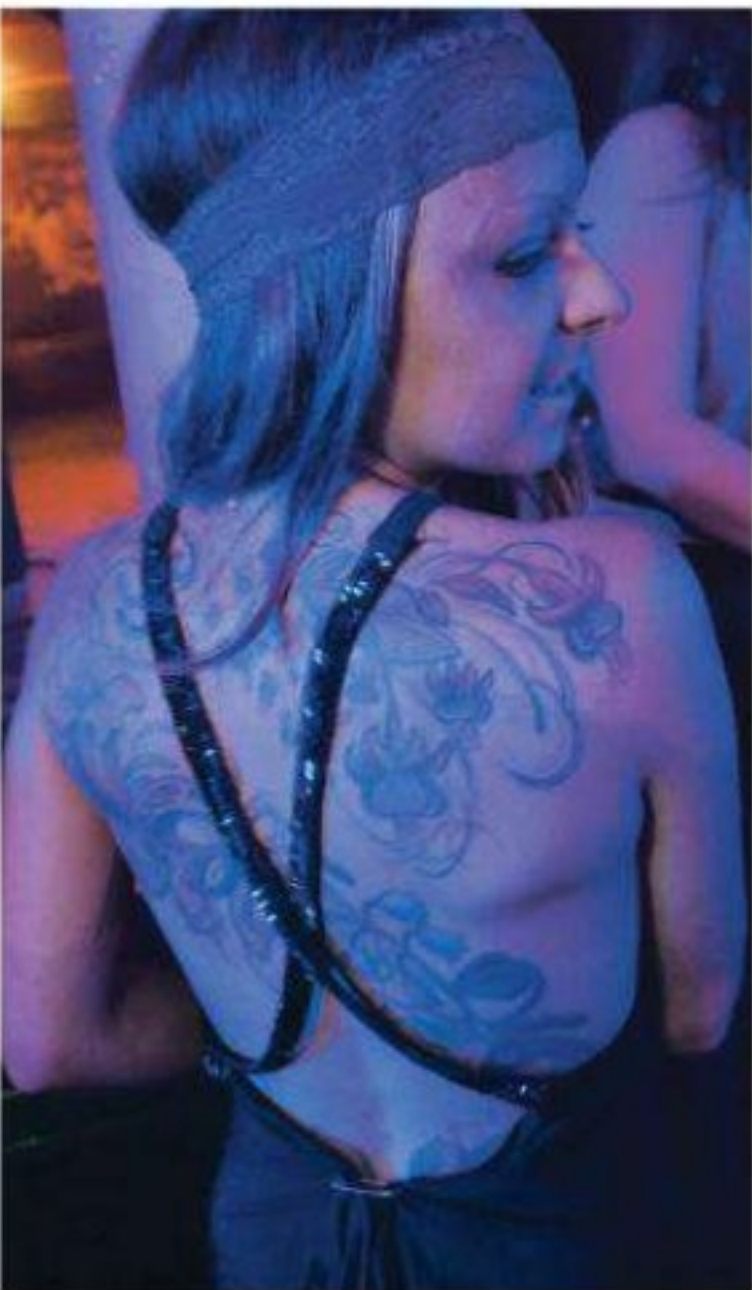
HALF FAST'S BURNING LOVE PARTY

While the guys in the Half Fast riding club of Chicago throw an annual anti-Valentine's Day party they aren't completely cold, as all proceeds went to the Helping Hannah's Heart foundation. During this, the fifth annual fete, the party people were privy to a sick set by punk supergroup Pegboy and Harley-Davidson unveiling their new line of Dark Custom motorcycles.





SEX ISSUE RELEASE PARTY
We threw one of our (cue the Stewie from *Family Guy* voice) sexy parties with Jägermeister at Santos Party House in New York. During INKED's Sex Issue release affair, DJ Charlie Browne got the party people in the mood with hot tracks that made us bump tattoos all night.



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SOPHIE C'EST LA VIE

B of Swords Tattoo, 115 Grand St., Brooklyn, NY, sophiecestlavie.com

Sophie C'est la Vie has created a sweet life for herself as a tattooer and a stylist. "When I'm working as a stylist, my job is to create a visual image that expresses a certain emotion," she says. "It's very similar with my tattooing, where my job is to visually express what the client is thinking through a tattoo. ... To me, fashion and tattoos are monikers of self-expression. I feel that, as artists, our goal is to create beautiful work; [there's] not necessarily a distinction between the medium, field, style." And when C'est la Vie's era comes to an end she thinks it would be fitting to rest in an urn lasered with a feather. "That's how life is in my eyes," she says. "We're all floating around in the winds of life, so let's take advantage of the places and experiences we land on."

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