

# INKSPIRED

ISSUE #51

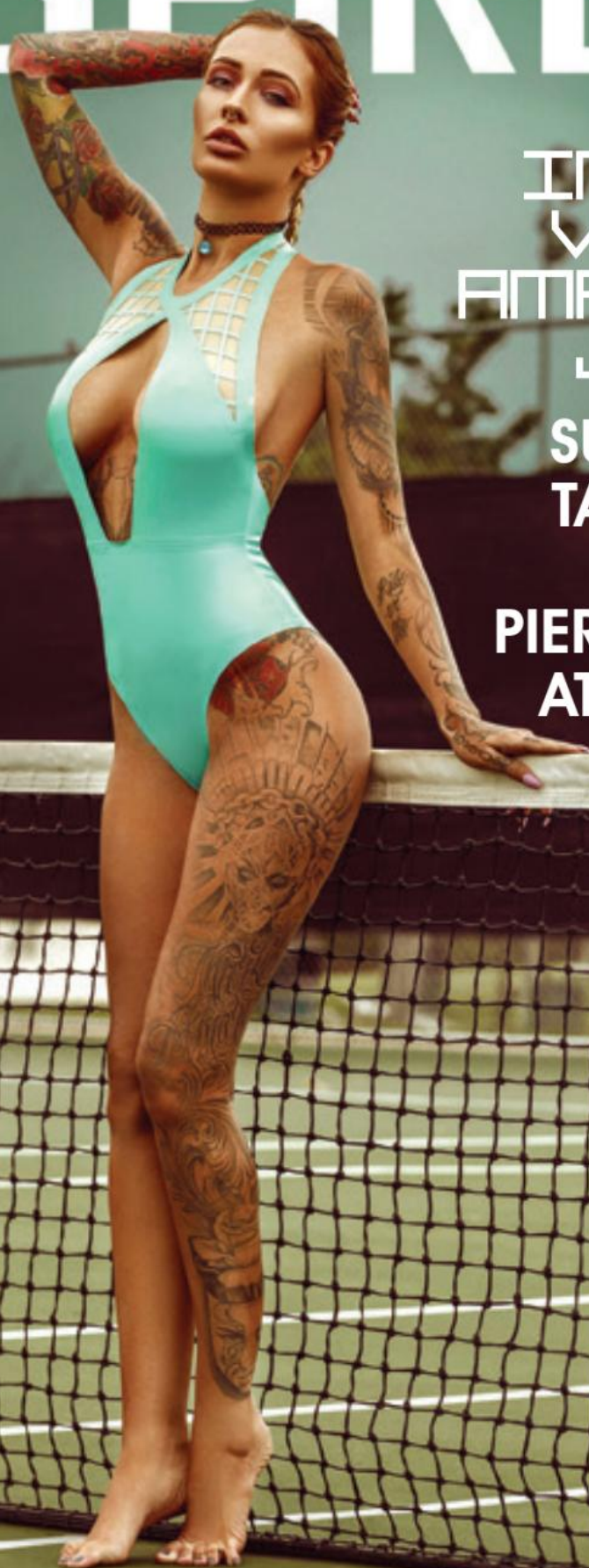
COVER  
MODEL:  
BRITTANY  
HETZER

>>>>

TATTOO ARTIST  
GEORGE DRONE

INTER  
VIEW:  
AMANDA  
JEAN

SUPPORT  
TATTOOS  
AND  
PIERCINGS  
AT WORK



# DEAD ERA

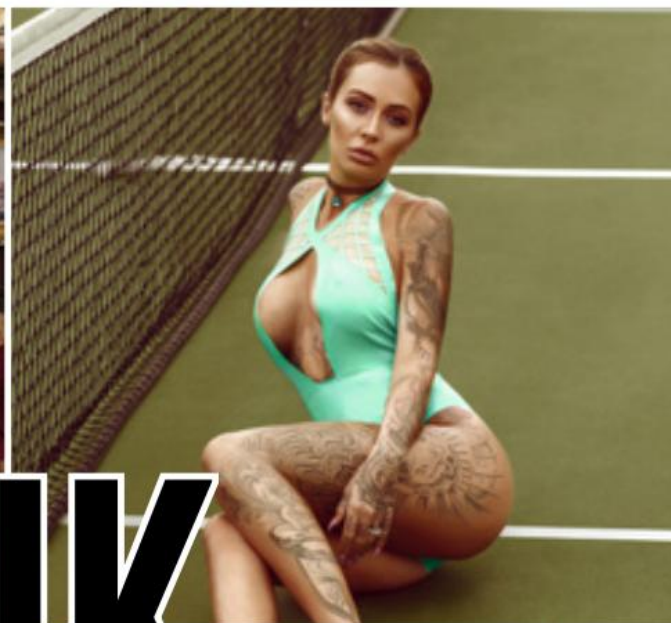


## REANIMATE!

Dead Era started as the brainchild of my personal disgust at the lack of an identifiable culture within my generation. I, and so many people I know, had become digitized, minimized, pixilated, and...

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

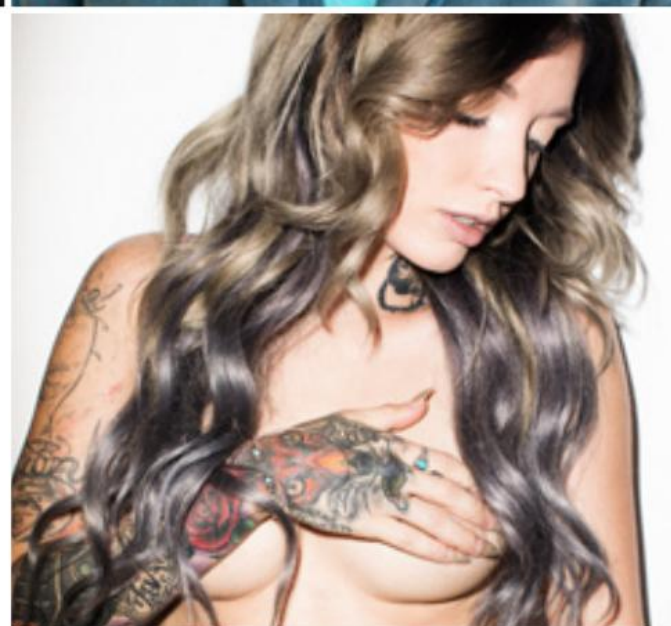
IG #deadera



# INK



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# INKSPIRED

## MAGAZINE

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**Editor-in-Chief** - Candies Deezy Liu  
**Creative Director** - Sean Hartgrove  
**Art Director** - David Rossa  
**Piercing Editor** - Sean Dowdell  
**European Editor** - Ákos Bánfalvi  
**Positive Spin Editor** - Kate Monahan  
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**Music: Decadence**

Words: Justine Corona  
Photos: Sean Hartgrove

**Fashion: InkSpired Shop**

Words: Candies Deezy Liu  
Photos: Sean Hartgrove  
Tammy Newcomer

**InkSpired Story: Tony Jefferson**

Words: Candies Deezy Liu  
Photos courtesy of: Arizona Cardinals  
& Ink Masters

**Piercing: Aaron Pollack**

Interview: Sean Dowdell

**The Sculpture Mutation of Ranya Art**

Words: Simone Jane

**Tattoo Artist: George Drone**

Interview: Ákos Bánfalvi

**Tattooed Model Brittany Hetzer**

Interview by: Ákos Bánfalvi  
Photos: Dametreus Ward

**Positive Spin: Support Tattoos and  
Piercings at Work**

Words: Kate Monahan  
Photos courtesy of: STAPAW

**Interview: Amanda Jean**

Photos: Thom Ko

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**Who's on the cover:**

Model: Brittany Hetzer  
Photo: Dametreus Ward

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# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

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The start of 2017 meant the launch of InkSpired Shop with more than 50 brands and 40,000 products ranging from men's and women's apparel to accessories, art, home decor, and even something for the kids. This is just the beginning for our new online retail store. We will be adding more handpicked brands and items that we love and know you'll love to. No matter what your style is, you can find something at [www.InkSpiredShop.com](http://www.InkSpiredShop.com).

Issue No. 51 features George Drone, a tattoo artist from Athens. Drone's work is stylistic and unique, elements of his craft that are very important to him.

Tattooed sweetheart, Brittany Hetzer graces InkSpired's cover in the first issue of 2017. An exclusive interview with her by Ákos Bánfalvi reveals more about this inked bombshell.

In this month's art section, we feature something completely new: the sculpture mutation of Ranya Art. Our features writer, Simone Jane dives deep into the mindset of an Italy based sculptor who creates provoking pieces with elements of sci-fi, goth, and metaphor.

Support Tattoos and Piercings at Work is a movement that has swept the workforce in local businesses and corporate companies alike. In Positive Spin, we highlight this organization that has played an important role in the acceptance and support of tattoos and piercings in the workplace.

As we kicked off 2017 with an epic time at Decadence, (our music feature this month) we look forward to what this year will bring us - more tattoos, more stories, and more InkSpired.

Signed,  
Candies Deezy Liu, Editor-in-Chief

# INKSPOT

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## **InkSpot - What "InkSpires" You?**

"I feel like getting tattooed is a way of expressing yourself that can't be done any other way. It's such a powerful statement with no words necessary." Michael Taylor

"Honestly, I think it's a fashion statement that will never go away. Tattooing has been around for thousands of years. Whatever the significance is in that era, it is and always will be something meaningful to the person that has it." -Dustin Larson

"My tattoos are about conquering myself, breaking through the boxes I have been put in throughout my life, and beginning to know myself, love myself, and accept my past, no matter how others choose to judge me. -April O'Callaghan

"I like to collect tattoos from artists that are passionate in their craft. I'm just an enthusiast that likes to be an outlet for these artists to get their work out." -Jim Myers

"I like to travel, and getting tattooed is a cool way for me to not only document my physical journey, but my memories as well. I always learn a lot about the cultural significance of tattoos in different countries." Julian Smith

RECENT

# GALLERY OF BOOKS

by author ÁKOS BÁNFALVI



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



[www.wilkinsonpublishing.com.au](http://www.wilkinsonpublishing.com.au)

# DECADENCE 2016

Words: Justine Corona / Photography: Sean Hartgrove



The City of Decadence where it all began after six years and going strong Decadence NYE 2016 was another epic two day endeavor into the city of dreams that had the biggest, baddest, and most memorable lineup yet. With a fierce lineup, Decadence 2016 was more epic than ever. What started in 2011 has grown into one of the most talked about EDM gatherings of the year, expanding into Decadence Arizona in the last two years and growing into a nationally recognized event.

With a chance to ring in the New Year with astounding DJs like the enigmatically masked Marshmello, Griz with their funky instrumental vibes, Zeds Dead, and Snails, that's only the beginning of the long list of artists in a two day rager that you never want to end. Of course, Decadence wouldn't be the same without the much loved Bassnectar, who has always been a Colorado favorite. Adventure Club—another favorite—didn't disappoint, killin' it with their duo vibe and dub-electronica sounds. The ultra popular Chainsmokers were one of the major headliners in the first



night of Decadence. On night two of Decadence, Tiësto did the honors of officially ringing in the new year with an unforgettable countdown that was accompanied by his signature sounds and an over-the-top explosion of lights, confetti, and balloons. Together, thousands of music lovers and EDM enthusiasts celebrated the end of 2016 and the beginning of 2017 at the nation's biggest New Year's celebration.

Glimmering lights combined with pulsating décor created a entrancing adult playground with massive sound systems and multiple rooms welcome showgoers with performers, art, and talent filled arenas. Decadence is always quite the spectacle. This year, it was on another level.

**[www.DecadenceNYE.com](http://www.DecadenceNYE.com)**

**[www.Facebook.com/DecadenceNYE](https://www.facebook.com/DecadenceNYE)**

**Twitter & Instagram: @DecadenceNYE**



Chainsmokers



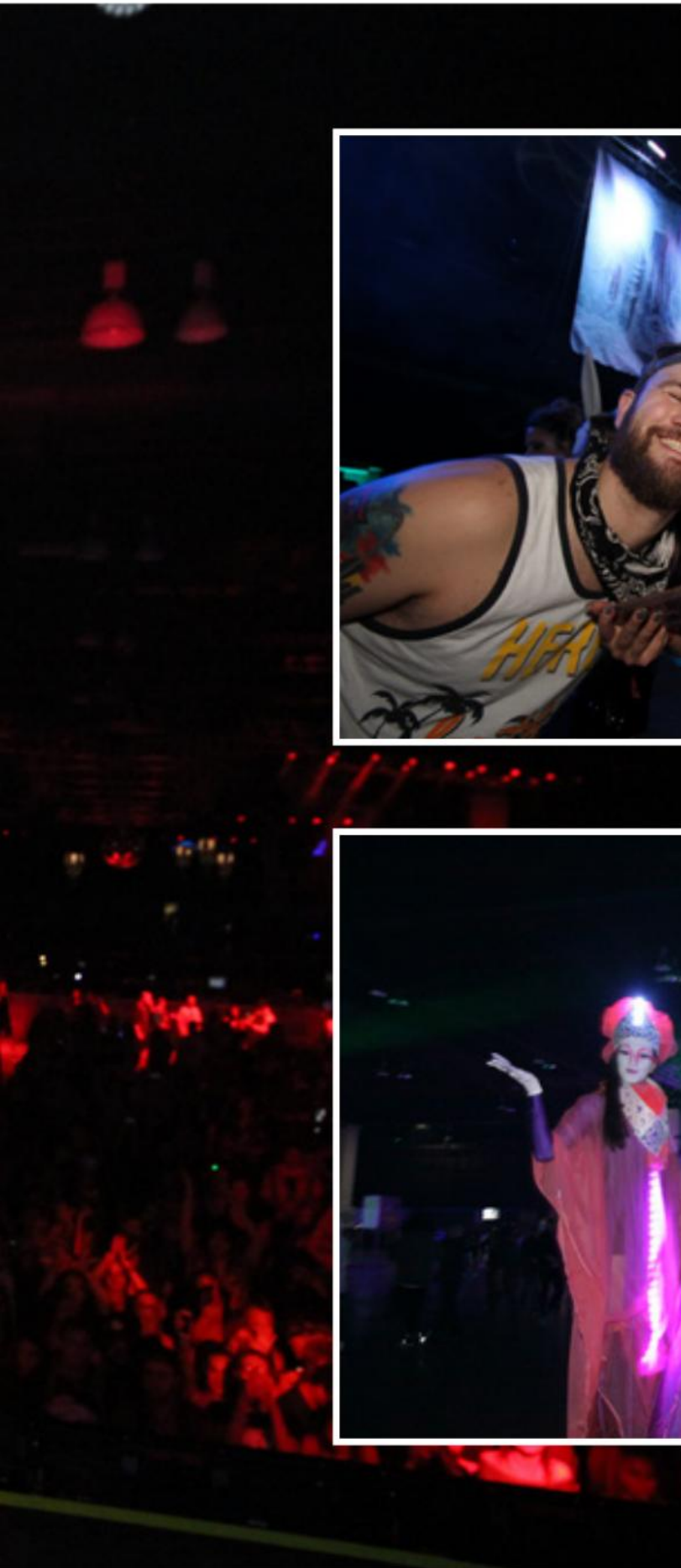




















# INKSPIRED SHOP

Words: Candies Deezy Liu

Launching February 2017, InkSpired Shop features the top brands in tattoo culture, lifestyle, and fashion. Accessories, hats, tanks, tees, dresses, and housewares are just a few of the different items available in InkSpired's new online retail store. From tattoo apparel household brands such as Sullen and Sourpuss to couture fashion lines like GhostCircus Apparel and Junker Designs, InkSpired Shop will have a wide variety of apparel options ranging from affordable to high end.

The brands offered in InkSpired Shop provide a selection of dynamic styles to choose from. Keep it casual with brands like Cartel Ink, DPCTED, Tat Daddy, 7th Revolution, Rudechix, and Pinky Star. Dress up in the retro, vintage, and pinup stylings of Demi Loon, Switchblade Stiletto, and Sourpuss. Rock out in one of a kind rock 'n' roll inspired apparel by Junker Designs and GhostCircus. Discover unique streetwear brands such as Germany based clothing line, Yakuza893.

From casual to pin up, punk, goth, rockabilly, streetwear, rockstar chic, and everything in between, InkSpired Shop has something for every tattoo culture enthusiast. Shop men's, women's, and even kid's apparel. Extend your love for tattoos beyond your body with stylish home decor and housewares. InkSpired Shop will be housing more than 50 of the hottest companies in tattoo apparel with regular additions of new items and brands.

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



Couture fashion from GhostCircus Apparel by Eli James Model: Kia Estes





GhostCircus Apparel Models: Malcolm Guess, Shay Kozlowski, Dorian Dane Photos: Tammy Newcomer









Junker Designs Model: Meizy Chiang



Custom leather jacket by Junker Model: Meizy Chiang







Handmade custom vest by Junker Designs

Junker Designs Model:  
Meizy Chiang



Back print of custom  
vest by Junker Designs  
Model: Vinny Cheap





Hand printed Stuka t-shirt by Junker Designs Model: Meizy Chiang



Shop: [www.InkSpiredShop.com](http://www.InkSpiredShop.com)

# INKSPIRED STORY

## TONY JEFFERSON

Words: Candies Deezy Liu

They say he is a hidden gem of the Arizona Cardinals' defense. Could he be the league's most underrated safety? Tony Jefferson leads the Cardinals' defense in snaps played—930 to be exact—and in solo tackles. The 24 year old ended the season with 96 tackles, a career high for him in 2016, two sacks, and two forced fumbles. In only his third year in the league, Jefferson is already considered one of the NFL's top safeties.

Jefferson has always had a passion for the sport, starting to play at the young age of four. The San Diego native started out playing football offensively as a running back. He attended the University of Oklahoma, where his coaches switched him from playing offense to defense.

Off the field, Tony has a passion for paintball, video games, and tattoos. He has over 18 tattoos and was featured in an episode of SPIKE TV's Ink Masters in which artists were tested on their technical precision by tattooing footballs on super fans.

**Stay updated with Tony Jefferson:**

**Instagram - @TonyJefferson1**

**Twitter - @\_tonyjefferson**



Arizona Cardinals



Arizona Cardinals



Ink Masters



Arizona Cardinals



# PIERCING

## AARON POLLACK

Interview: Sean Dowdell

Studio Name: Dandyland Tattoo and Body Piercing

City/State: San Antonio, Texas

Number of Years Piercing: 10

**Sean Dowdell: Why did you want to learn to do body piercing?**

Aaron Pollack: Honestly, I didn't know that I wanted to be a body piercer. After a brief stint in college, I realized that academics were not for me, and took up piercing as a side job until I decided where to go next. I ended up falling in love with it and have been doing it ever since.

**Sean Dowdell: When did you start body piercing, who taught you, and where?**

Aaron Pollack: I started piercing in Auburn, Alabama in 2006. I did a very brief training with a local piercer and was mostly self-taught beyond that. A bit later, I met Seth Dietz of Adorn and he showed me how body piercing was much more advanced than what I was taught and really helped me improve the level of service I offered.

**Sean Dowdell: What piercers do you look up to and why?**

Aaron Pollack: Cody Vaughn would be first on my list. He taught a Fakir course that I attended and had a wonderful way of teaching that really reached me. He does a ton of work to make body piercing better for all of us. Bethrah Szumski because she is a true business woman, and has the ability to balance her studio with her APP work and make every client feel special at the same time. She has done so much for this industry. Kendra Jane because she is one of the hardest working people in our industry. Her attention to detail and ability to do the work that no one else can really amazes me.

**Sean Dowdell: What is your favorite style of jewelry currently on the market?**

Aaron Pollack: Picking one style would be difficult. I am excited to be working in this industry in a time where we have so much innovation in jewelry styles. So many companies are putting out really innovative pieces at a pace we have not seen in a long time.

**Sean Dowdell: What would you say you are most known for in the industry and in your place of business?**

Aaron Pollack: In the industry, I am best known for my media presence in spreading the safe piercing message through online outlets. In the studio, I am the guy who will take all the septums!

**Sean Dowdell: How did you get into the APP and why?**

Aaron Pollack: Piercing is my profession, joining the professional organization just made sense. Knowing the work that the APP puts into spreading a safe piercing message keeps me here. As piercers, we desperately need a unified voice to keep our industry safe and accessible. Educating piercers, clients,



and other interested parties is good for the sustainability of piercing as a career. A few years ago, I joined the Social Media Committee. Later, I became chair of that committee. In 2015, I became the Secretary for the organization. I am honored to be able to work for so many of my respected peers in this capacity.

**Sean Dowdell: What do you think are (if any) problems within the piercing industry?**

Aaron Pollack: The rapid growth of the industry has presented a host of problems that we as a community must continue to address. We see this in every rung of the ladder that is our industry. Most concerning to me is the lack of experienced professionals to staff studios. Right now, business owners are often faced with the dilemma of offering apprenticeships, continued onsite training, or overworking their current staff. These options are not ideal for many studio owners. I think developing universal standards for how training is accomplished is very important to helping solve this problem moving forward.

**Sean Dowdell: Where would you like to be in 5 years (pertaining to life and business)?**

Aaron Pollack: I would like to be right where I am now. In a studio that I love with coworkers that are as fantastic as the ones I have at Dandyland. Going home every night to my wonderful wife and dogs. Continuing to be a welcomed part of this industry and being able to give back to it.

**Sean Dowdell: What is your favorite piercing to perform and why?**

Aaron Pollack: I really enjoy doing conch piercings. I love that they have so many different styles of jewelry that look great in them. I really like that almost everyone can get them and look great with them.

**Sean Dowdell: Are there any procedures that still make you nervous to perform and why?**

Aaron Pollack: Working with atypical anatomy will still make me a little nervous, but not any one specific piercing.

**Sean Dowdell: Do you prefer to pierce with tools or freehand, or a combination?**

Aaron Pollack: I am capable of piercing both with tools, or freehand, but I prefer a combination of both depending on the anatomy I am working with and the specific piercing.

**Sean Dowdell: What do think is something positive that comes from the piercing industry, if anything?**

Aaron Pollack: My work with the APP has exposed me to a group of people who are working together outside of their comfort zone to provide a better working environment for their peers and experience for their clients. Seeing so many people dedicated to education and service is really positive. I am glad to be exposed to all of these wonderful people.

**Sean Dowdell: What would you like other piercers to know that they might not know about you?**







Aaron Pollack: I love board games, comic books, dogs, and most of all, Auburn Football. War Eagle!

**Sean Dowdell: As a veteran piercer, what advice do you think that most new piercers should be aware of as they climb into this industry?**

Aaron Pollack: Education never stops. Keep pushing yourself. Book guest spots, take every class, don't squander any opportunity to better yourself... but keep it balanced. At the end of the day, this is a job, don't burn yourself out. Have healthy outlets outside of body piercing to keep it all in perspective.

**Sean Dowdell: Is there anything you wish to learn or get better at in the piercing industry?**

Aaron Pollack: I am always excited to see how other piercers are working in their studios. I want to travel more to experience the flow of different studios and how they handle the varied needs of their individual clientele.

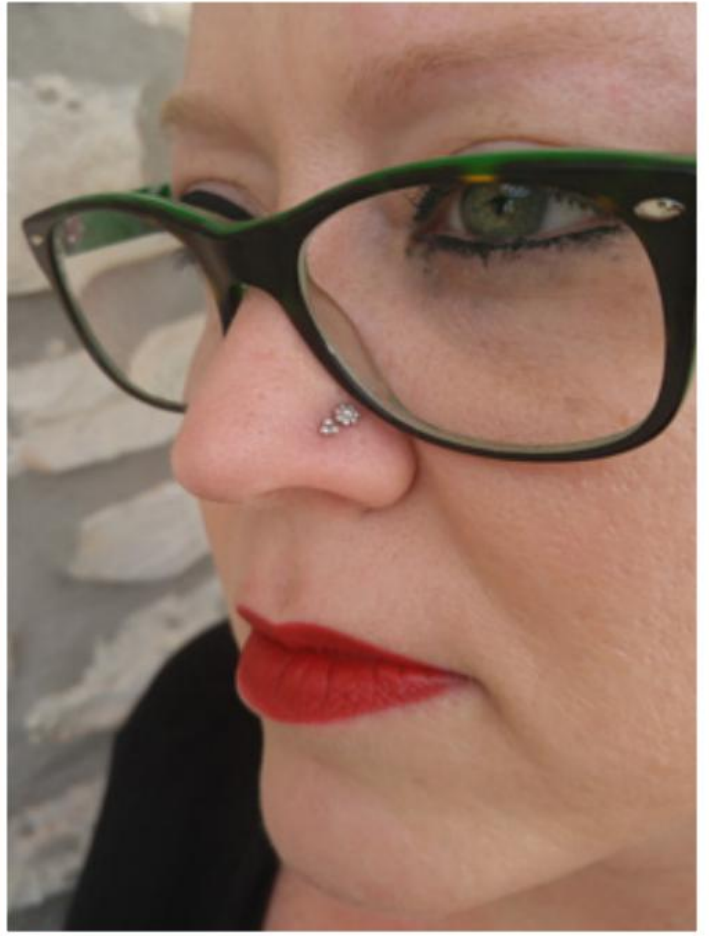
**Sean Dowdell: What are you currently doing and where?**

Aaron Pollack: I am piercing full time at Dandyland Tattoo and Body Piercing in San Antonio, Texas. I am spending my off time doing work for the APP, fishing, playing games with my friends, and hanging out with my dogs.

**Sean Dowdell: What is your favorite thing about your career?**

Aaron Pollack: The privilege of making someone feel great about themselves, and the friends and family I have made along the way.





# THE SCULPTURE MUTATION OF RANYA ART

Words: By Simone Jane



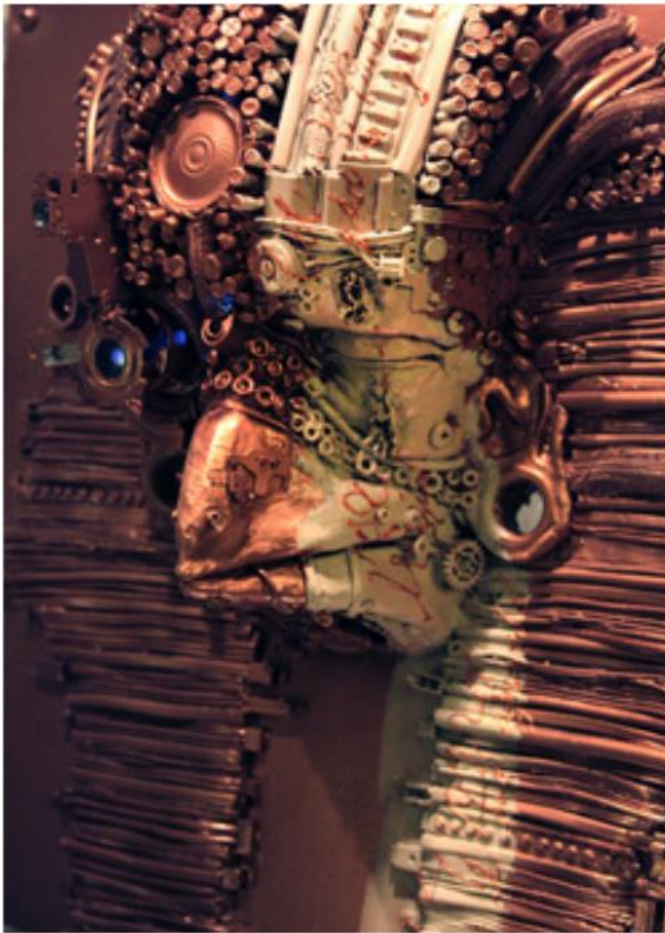


Italy based sculptor Pamela Ranyaart, the one woman inventive whirlwind behind Ranya Art, first began her journey as an artist in 2014, creating art that blurs the human visage with those of recycled objects distorting the line between organic and robot. Her art evokes both feelings of uneasiness and awe; sci-fi fantasy, gothic, and the cyber world, blended with delicacy, alchemy, and metaphor. Common features of her installations are a mixture of acrylic paint, clay, plaster hands, and her surreal face creations.

Pamela's artistic sculptures evolved from abstract creations on canvas using recycled media and materials rescued from her family's bankrupt telephone shop. Her first inspiration and series of sculptures was based on the face of a tattoo artist. She admitted, "I had a crush on him. He is such a handsome man, and to be honest, it was the perfect way for me to show my art at Italian Tattoo Conventions where he worked." The plan succeeded, but not in the way Pamela expected. She was almost immediately elbow deep in accolades and awards for her creations in this new world. "I find inspiration here," she explained. "All these people I have the honor to work with, from those who organize the conventions, to the artists, they do everything with passion, and dedication. They have such a great deal of experience that they do not fail to share. I have built strong and valuable relationships and friendships for life. It is a world of art," she continues.

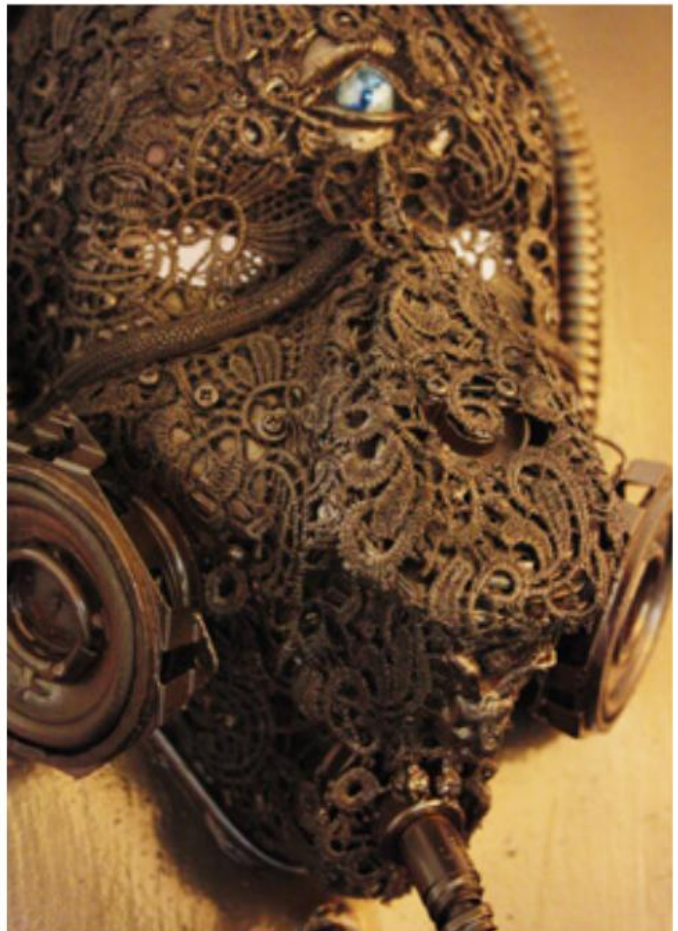






Creative blocks can be crippling, as any artist can relate, and for Pamela, a block is deep down depression. She laments, "I am moody, and if I try to work in that state, I get absolutely nowhere. I cannot create art with my sadness. I need to transform this feeling into something else to get the creative juices going again." There cannot be a multitude of emotions at play in the process when forging these works according to Pamela. Ironically in the country known for its romance, and sublime love, Pamela finds no solace in either when working. She is entirely focused on her process and needs to keep away from anything that could affect her frame of mind. "The problem in general is, if I date somebody, even the slightest disappointment affects my work and my creativity," Pamela confessed. This includes dating, boyfriends, and bottom line, love.

Every artist always has a favorite piece. Some refuse to name the pieces; others are open with their emotions about their art. Pamela is one of the latter, she is humble and grateful to those who helped launch her career, and she wants to show her gratitude through her art. As Pamela describes, "For me that piece was life or death. I gave it my all. I created a portrait of the director Paolo Core, which now hangs in his studio. I didn't know how to thank him for commissioning my first prizes, which







was a life changing moment. This changed my perspective and my direction completely. Paolo was and will always be a special person to me. So much I plan on dedicating my next exhibit and new series exclusively to him." As the form of a thank you, Pamela reciprocated; her art is always the highest form of flattery.

Originally studying as a graphic engineer, Pamela pursued the world of dance at the age of 18 while also opening a costume boutique before finally making the decision to shutter its doors to focus on her sculptures. "I never believed I could do great thing with my hands," she confided, "this success with my art has come as a surprise to me as I never studied it; I have only seen a few tutorials. In March of 2016, I created some hand sculptures for a convention in Rome for a contest. Out of 21 hands, 10 broke in the oven. Making a sculpture out of a hand is one the most difficult things to accomplish. In the midst of this crisis I realized, if I can do this, I can do anything in life!" Hands in life and in art hold power, whether to create something, or just to reach out and intertwine fingers with another being so they do not feel alone, that is the wonder of it, and when an artist can harness that power nothing is impossible.

















# Inked Baw

## TATTOO INSPIRED CLOTHING HOUSE WARES

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# TATTOO ARTIST

GEORGE DRONE

Interview: Ákos Bánfalvi

George Drone is a 24 year old tattoo artist from Athens, Greece. He currently lives in Germany and travels the world pursuing his passion of tattooing. George also has a love for the fine arts, life, and graffiti. He credits hip hop and tattooing for saving his life. For the last 10 years, he has gone by his graffiti tag, "Drone," a moniker that has stuck by him in the name of art.

"I'M DOING  
EVERYTHING  
I AM ASKED  
FROM MY  
CUSTOMERS  
IN THE WAY  
I SEE IT..."







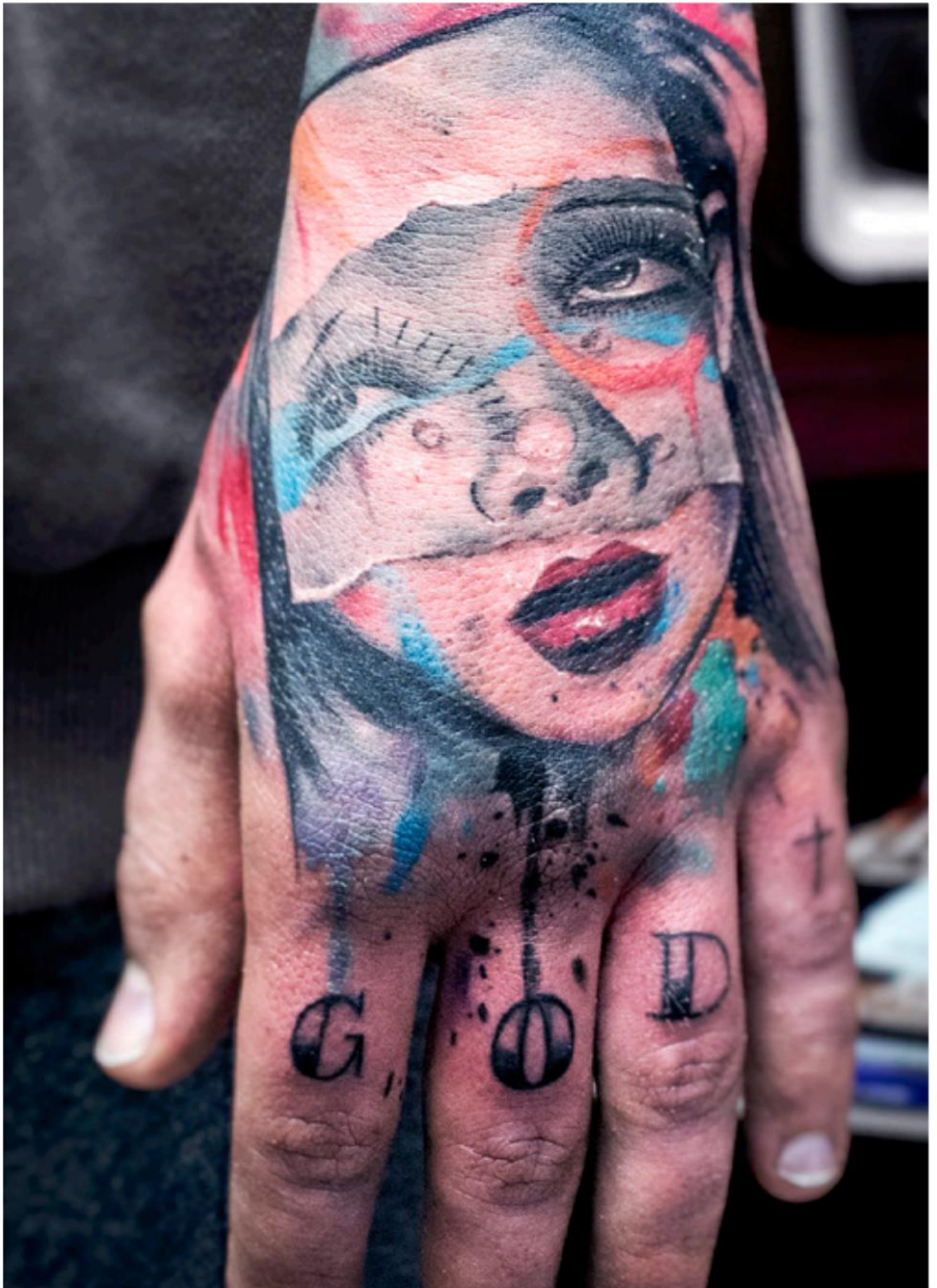
**What made you want to become a tattoo artist and how long have you been tattooing?**

I started with graffiti when I was 14 with my best friend for fun. We had a crew, "FRC" Fiera aka Fuck Rules Crew. Fuck Rules was and is still my religion and policy in arts. At this age, I started loving tattooing too! I loved tattoos on people, even bad ones. I found and still find them more interesting than empty body "canvases." So boring, I thought. I wanted so badly to start tattooing when I rarely found tattoos I liked but I knew I was too young and I had to wait for the right time. Until this time, I just bought international tattoo magazines to be updated. To improve my skills, I had some academic sketch lessons for a few years and also got into a Fine Arts University. After six months, I retired. There were too many rules and I felt it was time to start doing what I love. I have been tattooing professionally for four years. Before that, I had done eight to nine tattoos for fun in a two year time period.

**What did your family and friends think about you getting into the business?**

I have been working since I was 13 or 14. I wanted to earn my own money for my spray cans, life, tattoo magazines, et cetera. So my parents trusted me a lot and supported me in finding my own path, even if we had some arguments for graffiti in police stations. (Laughs.) I chose tattooing or it chose me so they had nothing to do with that. My friends, on the other hand, sat in the chair and gave me the boost. Someone had to take these free bad first tattoos. (Laughs.)







#### **Tell us about your shop, please!**

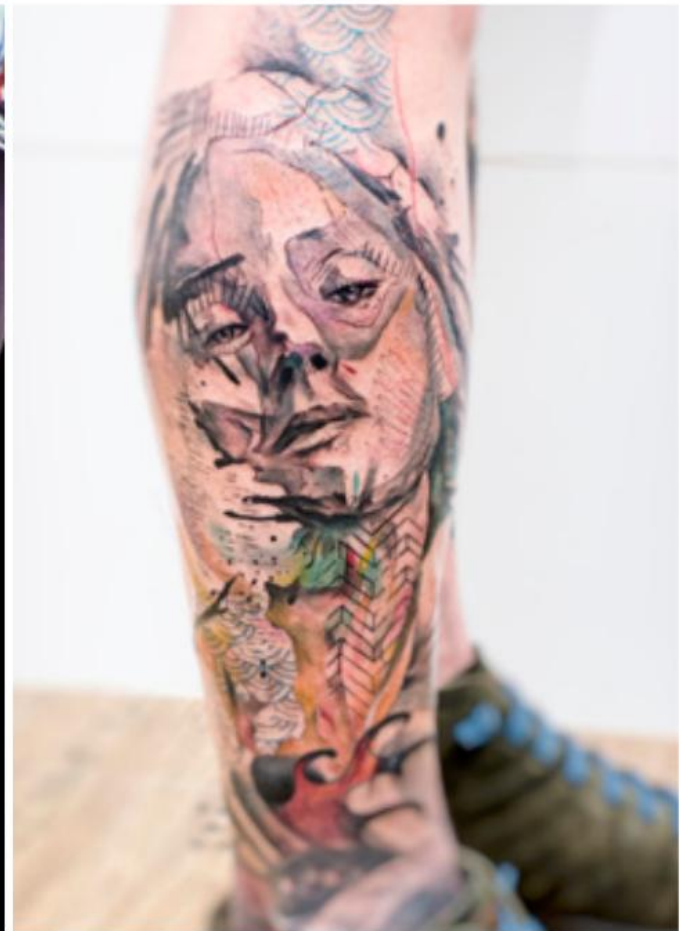
Owning a shop is marriage with a place for me. I do not own one yet since I'm still traveling and searching for the perfect place for me. Eight months ago, I left Athens, Greece and moved to Hamburg, Germany but I have been on the road the majority of the time since I began tattooing, so I don't want to confuse you with shop names that I work with. You can follow me on Instagram and Facebook since I regularly post updates of where I'm tattooing.

#### **Describe how you go about creating a tattoo from concept to finished design. How do you put your own unique touch on your tattoos?**

First, I show my customers their options and they choose, like Morpheus. Some customers prefer to leave it to me for best results, others have specific ideas and like to customize their own design. The second one is risky, their skills are not always the best and they create chaotic results combining ten ideas into one design. I always prefer open minded customers so I can actually do nice compositions and put my "unique touch" on their idea. Photoshop is my favorite tool and freestyling while tattooing is my favorite part!

#### **What was the first tattoo you ever did? Can you tell us about it?**

The first tattoo I did was a long quote from a song on the ribs of a waiter-colleague of mine while I was studying fine art in Thessaloniki, Greece. I told him I would do it for free, because I was finally ready to start tattooing and wanted to use some Chinese coils I bought years ago. We made it in my house, in my bedroom, smoking and drinking. I was sweating to death







because I had lost the stencil, I did it with plain water and didn't know I should start from the bottom. I had to use a Carioca and freehand most of the quote, sounds simple but I don't even want to remember it.

**How would you describe your style? And which tattoo style do you like best?**

I would simply describe my style as "contemporary-under construction" since I'm still studying and experimenting. I'm doing everything I am asked from my customers in the way I see it in combination with how open they are to it (that's the toughest part). I like Japanese, blackwork, and graphic-abstract but I can't choose just one style, they all have elements I enjoy. I love fresh, unique artists with personality and something to give.

**Do you see tattooing as a job or a way to express your creative side?**

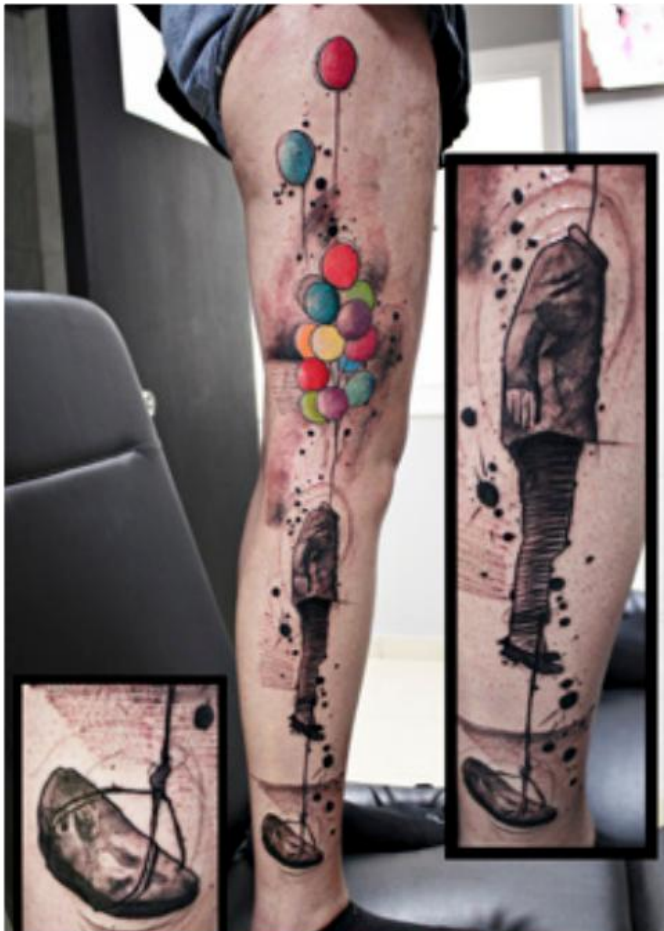
Whether I see it or not, it is a job. Although, I'm struggling to find out if it's the way to express my creative side. I'm seeing it as a part of the journey to find myself and to win the challenge of getting more open customers for better compositions.

**Describe how your role models and any other sources of inspiration have affected your tattoo style.**

Some of my favourite artists are Jean-Michel Basquiat, Andy Warhol, Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dali, and Jackson Pollock. These individuals and other artists related to them changed my point of view of how things work in art. What is valuable and "real" art, and what's not. I began my artistic journey with sketching and painting realistic objects and portraits. After a lot of studying and thinking, I stopped. I began focusing more on how I can create







something unique and fresh, especially with tattooing. Tattoos will stay and new generations will be able to see them, I want my tattoo style to be as fresh as they can be for as long as possible.

**What is the most interesting tattoo you have been asked to do?**

Well, that's a tough question. (Laughs.) I had so many customers with so many life stories and designs with hidden meanings.

**What is the most shocking tattoo you have done?**

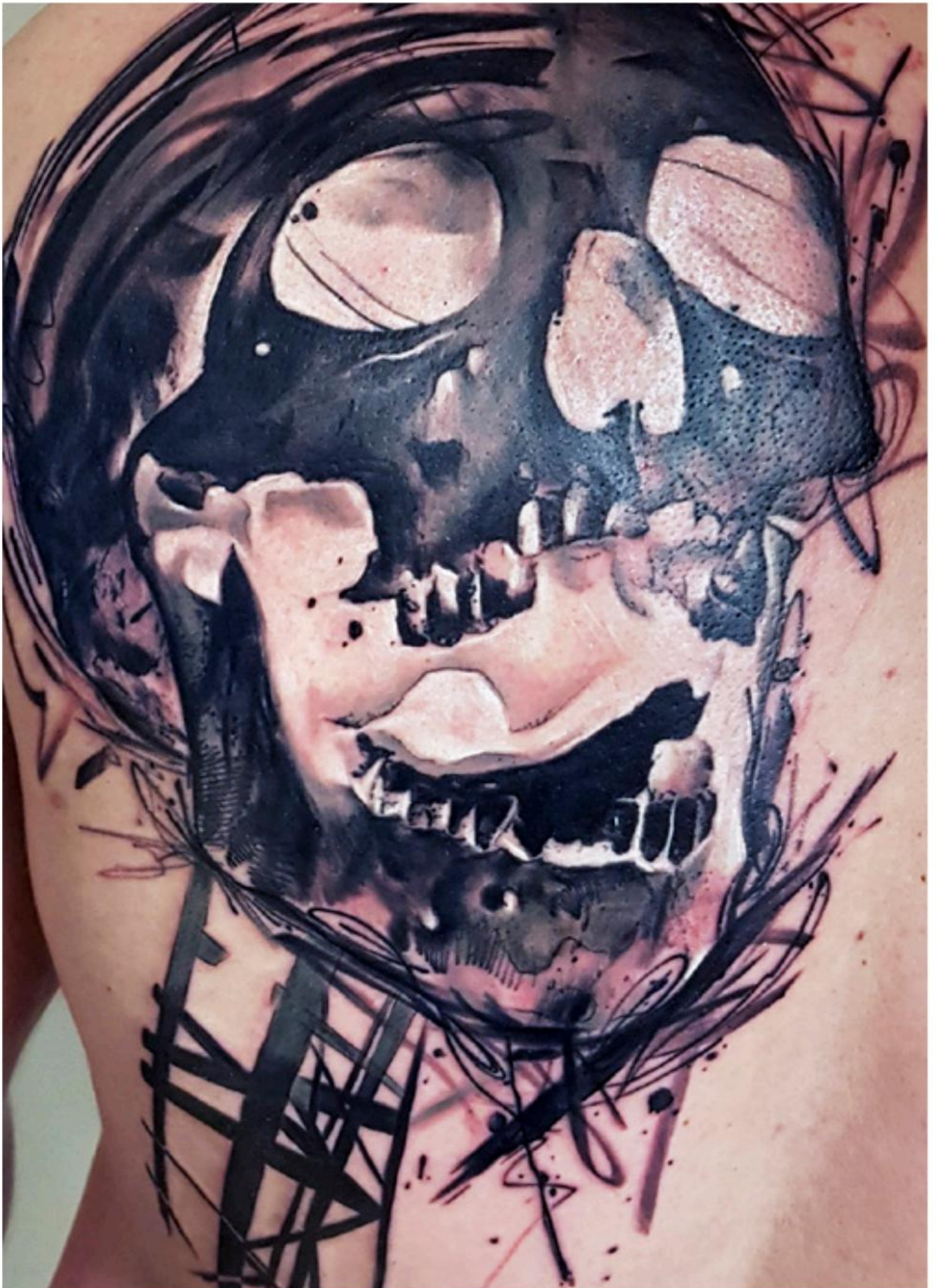
Most shocking for me usually are memorial portraits. But last year, I made a realistic homeless old man's portrait I chose from a photo on the web. I had to look at his sad photo for hours while I was tattooing and I couldn't stop thinking of homelessness. What if this was me, you know? I've never been homeless, most of us, haven't. How is it for an old man to live out in the dirt? And finally to end his life journey dying from hunger or cold. Most humans are blind in purpose, but when we have to look at someone's face for six hours, we can't avoid the truth and the abjection of humanity.

I recently did a tattoo at the Dortmund Convention of a homeless old couple - two portraits but I didn't feel as bad, they seemed like they had a reason to live for. They were in love and happy.

**What do you think a client should expect from you as a tattoo artist and what do you on the other hand expect from a client to make a successful tattoo and a good collaboration?**

A client should expect respect from me and a unique approach to his/her idea or design if they have one. Also, expect honesty and some tattoo knowledge to be aware of what he/she is getting







in order to have an opinion and reasonable prices. On the other hand, I expect from a client respect and understanding. Be determined for what they want. Whether they have an idea or not, I expect them to let me know what elements of my work they like and in what kind of art they are into. Be open minded to how I think the tattoo should be applied.

#### **Are there any positive sides of being an artist?**

Interesting question. In tattooing, I don't see myself as a real artist but as a craftsman. For me, even if you have mad skills in fine arts, painting, or sketching, when it comes to tattooing something, you need technique and experience.

Being a traveling tattooer, I've met and spoken to so many people I never imagined I would, literally from all over the world with such different experiences, backgrounds, personalities, from ex-homeless or war immigrants to silver spoons of Beverly Hills. This for me is the most positive side of my craft and life. Since I get bored very easily, that lifestyle keeps me motivated most of the time. I'm learning constantly so many things from my customers I'd never had the opportunity to learn. Another awesome part of my job is I get to work on constantly moving human skin and people get to see my work after so many years. In my opinion, it's like a mark of "I was here." Of course, we are all mortals and our works don't live "forever" but I guess an artist's goal is to create an idea. Ideas stay, tattoos and paintings don't!

#### **Can I ask if there are any negative parts of your job?**

Well, that's a hell of a question. Of course in every job, there are positive and negative parts. Especially when you're not only full time but married to your job. In art, sometimes we hug our







passions so tight, they consume us. The tattoo industry is a very complex world, some people become workaholics for the money or the recognition. Some lose control of their schedules due to lack of organization skills. Others let their egos destroy their talent. I know artists that are divorced because their wives couldn't wait anymore for these long sessions to end and their return from the international conventions. From my view, traveling and working a lot has changed my life. I rarely see my friends and family. Tattooing large sessions every day for long periods and multiple trips for conventions in a row can sometimes make me feel like collapsing.

**How would you describe the current status of tattoos by the general public in Greece?**

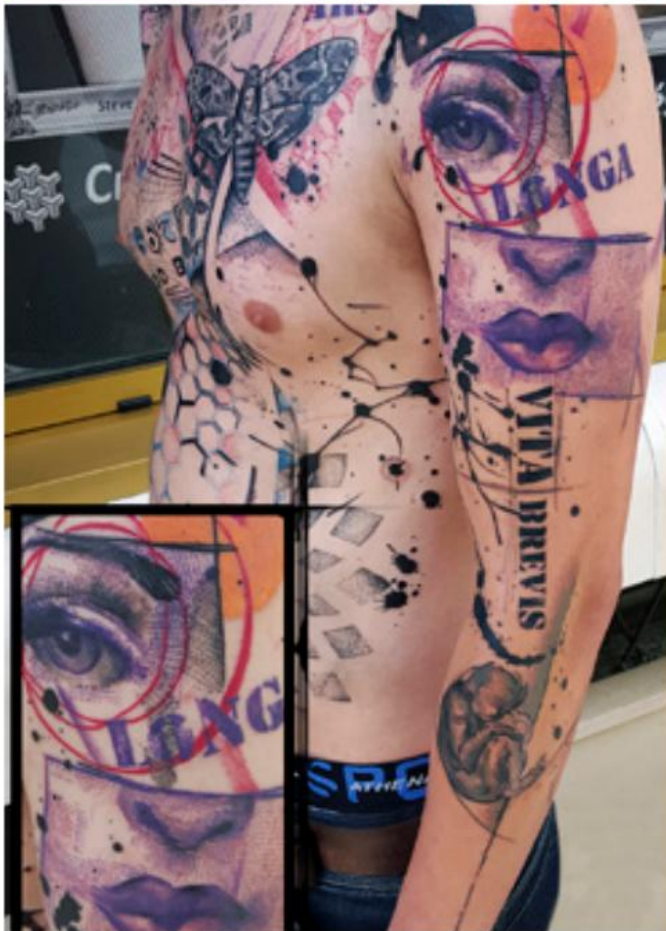
In Athens where I am from, at the moment it's socially acceptable but it's the capital. 40% of the Greek population lives there, so you can imagine things are different in the province where older generations live. I have obvious tattoos and sometimes in Athens, I can feel the negative vibes from people looking at me. You also will not see policemen, nurses, or firemen covered in tattoos.

**Have you noticed any changes in the tattooing industry since you started?**

I have actually noticed that there are twice as many studios around, even in this short period. More and more people are interested in getting inked and it's even more accepted. I've also seen some new tattoo magazines, a lot of new machines and technology that have helped young tattoo artists with real skills create serious work.


[www.Facebook.com/Dronart](https://www.facebook.com/Dronart)

Instagram: @GeorgeDrone







A photograph of a window with white curtains. The window frame is black. The curtains are slightly parted, revealing a glimpse of the outside world. The lighting is soft and natural, coming from the window.

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# BRITTANY HETZER

Interview: Ákos Bánfalvi

Photography: Dametreus Ward  
(on social media: @meech213)

Brittany Hetzer grew up in a small town in western Oklahoma. She's the youngest of three other siblings. Brittany moved to Dallas where she met her husband Rudy when she was 24. They have a shop in Dallas - Dallas Tattoo and Arts. Aside from that, she has been modeling for two years, starting just two months after her daughter was born.



"THE BEST THING  
ABOUT BEING A  
MODEL IS BEING  
AN INSPIRATION  
TO OTHERS..."





**How were you “discovered,” and how did your modeling career begin?**

I was discovered when I went to a tattoo convention with my husband. I was just pulled to the side for photos and ended up getting a publication out of it so I just kept with it.

**Was modeling something you aspired to be growing up or was it something that just happened?**

Modeling wasn't something I necessarily aspired to do. It was something I was always told to do, it naturally just happened.

**How would you describe your personal style? Where do you pull your inspiration from?**

My personal style changes often. I'm either wearing a mom bun or made up from the feet up. (Laughs.) Just depends I guess. I'm a casual type of girl unless it's a night out on the weekend when hubs and I have a babysitter.

**What's the best and worst thing about being a model?**

The best thing about being a model is being an inspiration to others. The worst part of being a model is people thinking you actually care about their opinions. So many internet trolls like to waste their time, apparently.

**Tattoo trends are bigger than ever. Talk us through how you go about choosing your tattoos. What messages do they have, if any?**

My tattoos all have a meaning to me one way or another. I love black and grey! Honestly, nowadays, if it's an awesome piece of art I'd be down to tattoo it on my body.

**Is there anywhere on your body you wouldn't get tattooed?**

My face, I guess. I mean I'm down for a small one near my eye or so but definitely would not get a huge tattoo on my face.





**Do you think other female models are getting tattoos to further their career?**

Definitely. It helps plus it's nice to see models with actual quality work. Nothing more annoying than "tattoo" models with scratches all over them. Hopefully this industry starts to appreciate quality work over "less clothes" a little more.

**Do you think tattoos will continue to get more fashionable over the next few years?**

Tattoos will always become more fashionable with each passing year as the artists get better and the demand for them increases. Definitely isn't going to slow down anytime soon. So that's a HELL YES.

**How do you stay in shape?**

I stay in shape by "mom life." Nothing burns more calories than chasing a toddler around all day!

Some key staple pieces a woman should own in her wardrobe? Black and nude heels, red lipstick.

**What tips would you give girls wanting to come into modelling at your level? What struggles have you encountered in modeling? How have you handled them?**

My best advice is to always stay true to yourself. There's always going to be some sort of pressure that comes along the way. Never lose yourself and always do what you're comfortable with. If people don't accept that then that's their loss and your gain. It's a beautiful feeling to be confident enough to stand tall and not fall for anything. Also, naturally, you'll have haters. That's a given. Just know it is a reflection of themselves and NOT YOU. My favorite response is, "I'd be mad too."









**Five things you can't live without?**

FAMILY, my acrylic nails, pizza, my dogs, and my inner peace.

**Something people don't know about you?**

I'm literally double jointed everywhere. It's quite frightening to say the least. My husband likes it though... (Laughs.)

**What's one question you wish an interviewer would ask you?**

One question I think is always cool... When asked if I'd do it all over again when it comes to all my tattoos? And yes, I would.

**Is there anything else you wish to say?**

Never give up, ladies and most importantly, never lose yourself in this industry.

[www.Facebook.com/itsbrittanyhetzer](https://www.facebook.com/itsbrittanyhetzer)

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"MY BODY  
IS NOT MY  
RESUME."





# STAPAW

Words: Kate Monahan

Support Tattoos And Piercings At Work (STAPAW) is a movement dedicated to stopping tattoo and piercing discrimination in the workplace. It was created overnight when a friend of the not yet formed group lost their job in early 2013. This individual was fired due to two complaints regarding their tattoos and piercings. They did not lose their jobs because of their job performance, but because of their modifications. This is what STAPAW stands for, to base judgment of the employee on their performance, not appearance. When friends of the person who lost their job due to body modifications heard of it, they created a Facebook page. The page got several likes and a week later, the boss' contact information was released. Hundreds of people messaged the boss. The fired employee got their job back and the page was flooded with "thank you" posts. As the Facebook page grew, more and more people shared their stories. As social media growth soared, it became evident that policies could be changed regarding tattoos and piercings in the workplace.

STAPAW has followers, advocates, volunteers, and followers modified and not that promote and support the employment advocacy group that works to change the dynamic in the workplace to focus on ethics instead of appearance. The organization publicly addresses discrimination due to modification in the workplace, helping those who have lost their job due to body modifications get their jobs back, as well as petition companies and investors to change their policies regarding tattoos and piercings. Their mission reinforces that human resource departments should be focused on qualification and merit alone, not appearance.

What's in the future for STAPAW? Some of the members are headed to Asia to work with other charity organizations and nonprofits. STAPAW donates all of its funds after costs to other charities. They are also currently working on a documentary for Netflix due out sometime next year which will show statistics, case studies, and examples of how hiring strictly on a superficial basis only hurts the business. In all of STAPAW's work and what these case studies show is that there isn't any arm twisting. They show that through education and example this can promote a change of heart and leave a lasting impression.

When I spoke with the director and asked him what the main message was, he told me this, "my body is not my resume." A powerful message.

**For more information, visit:**

**[www.STAPAW.com](http://www.STAPAW.com)**

**[www.Facebook.com/SupportTattoosAndPiercingsAtWork](https://www.facebook.com/SupportTattoosAndPiercingsAtWork)**

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photo by Tas Ummur

Amanda Jean

# AMANDA JEAN

Photography: Thom Ko







**How and when did your modeling career begin?**

I started modeling around 19 when I first moved out to Los Angeles.

**Do you have any advice for aspiring models?**

Time and patience. Great things take time. Don't try to rush your life. Sit back, embrace life, and enjoy the ride.

**What else do you do?**

I also work in social media and make travel/product review videos. I first started out as a stylist and designer. Fashion is something I'm extremely passionate about.

**What inspired you to start getting tattooed?**

I love aesthetics. Clothing, artwork, interior design, so when I look at tattoos, I see something aesthetically pleasing. There's something so beautiful about it.



**Tell us about your favorite tattoo.**

Oh where do I begin.... I have a couple that are my favorites but the funnier ones are the ones that I love. I have "your throat here" tattooed on my hand, bloody panties with "cunt" tattooed next to it, so it says, "ya bloody cunt." I also have a fox on my hand that I am in love with and reminds me of my dog, Foxy.

**Who are your tattoo artists?**

I've had many tattoo artist but the one that I use for most of my tattoos is Josh Meow. He is amazing. As for one of my dream artists that I would love to work with would be Nikko hurtado. He is a sweetheart and does amazing work.

**What role do tattoos play in your life?**

Tattoos play a big role in my life only for the fact that if you have tattoos you are looked at and treated differently. Sometimes positively sometimes negatively. As for my modeling, the tattoos also put me in a specific category. They also tell the story of my life and show and express things I love and enjoy.

**What inspires you?**

Not gonna lie, money and clothing. No matter how bad that sounds, I want to be a very successful person. I mostly want the success and money so I can give back to others. I love charity work and I know with money there's so much good in the world I could do. For now, I still give back but just on a smaller scale than I would like to.







**Do you have any people that you are inspired by?**

There are a few that inspire me. A couple of women who I have seen build themselves from nothing and followed their passions and dreams. It makes me realize that anything is possible. Sometimes I get down on myself wondering how people do and achieve the things they want in life. Then I sit back and figure out a plan to achieve my goals, rather than always coming up with excuses and roadblocks in my mind.



**What is something that many people don't know about you?**

Many people don't know that I've suffered from bipolar disorder since I was a kid and later on developed a drinking problem. To this day, I still struggle with being bipolar but worked extremely hard for it to be manageable now. I am now sober and will continue to be sober. I am coming up on my two years of sobriety, thanks to the loving people around me and the strong willpower I have within myself.

Stay updated with Amanda Jean at:  
[www.facebook.com/theamandajean](https://www.facebook.com/theamandajean)  
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### Personal Tattoo Submissions:

If you are not a model or photographer or another professional in these fields, but you still have an amazing tattoo or two that you would like to submit for our new "Reader's Ink" section, we will be accepting lesser-quality images such as those taken from a cellular phone or personal camera (not professionally taken). The remaining guidelines apply, as well as a notation providing us with the name and location of your tattoo artist.

### Tattoo Artists:

If you are an artist who would like to submit your portfolio or

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