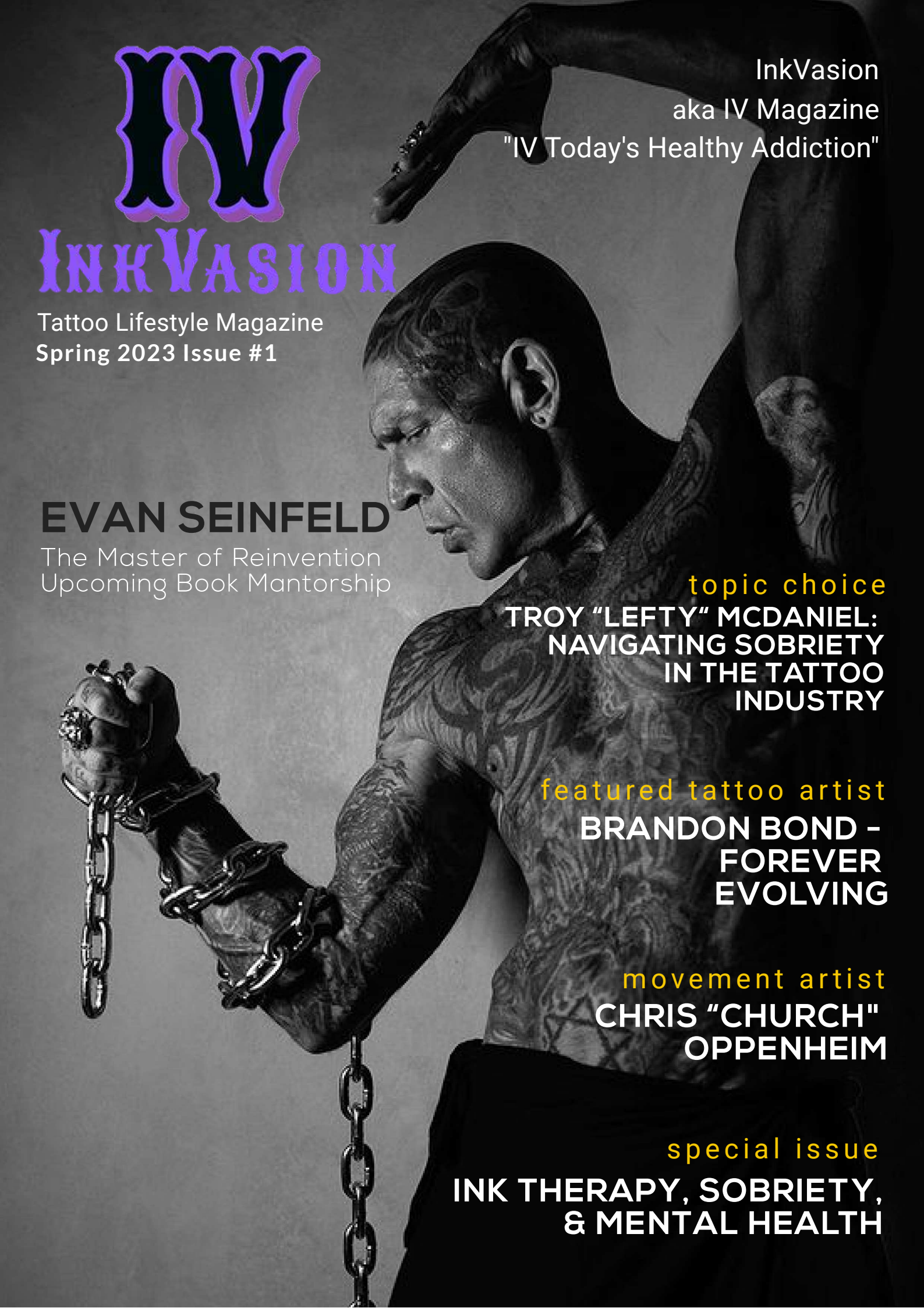

IV
InkVasion
Tattoo Lifestyle Magazine
Spring 2023 Issue #1
InkVasion
aka IV Magazine
"IV Today's Healthy Addiction"
EVAN SEINFELD
The Master of Reinvention
Upcoming Book Mantorship
topic choice
TROY "LEFTY" MCDANIEL: NAVIGATING SOBRIETY IN THE TATTOO INDUSTRY
featured tattoo artist
BRANDON BOND - FOREVER EVOLVING
movement artist
CHRIS "CHURCH" OPPENHEIM
special issue
INK THERAPY, SOBRIETY, & MENTAL HEALTH

CALOOSA SOUND
CONVENTION CENTER

OVER 200 AMAZING LOCAL, NATIONAL
& INTERNATIONAL TATTOO ARTISTS
UNDER ONE ROOF

JUNE 23-25, 2023

FLORIDA
TATTOO EXPO
GULF COAST

COMEDY
SIDESHOWS
SURPRISE GUESTS
DAILY TATTOO CONTESTS
LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT
JEWELRY/FASHION/ODDITY & LOCAL VENDORS
DAILY DRAWING FOR $250 CREDIT WITH ARTIST OF YOUR CHOICE

@FLORIDAGCTATTOOEXPO
FLORIDAGCTATTOOEXPO.COM
CALL OR TEXT (954) 868-1416 FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

1375 MONROE STREET
DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS, FL

Table of Contents

2 **Editor's Voice** — Frankie Scorpion sets the tone for InkVasion Magazine's first issue. Ink Therapy - Sobriety & Mental Health.

6 **Mogul & Masters** — Tattooed Celebrity Entrepreneur Evan Seinfeld

13 **Tat2 History** — Marvin Moskowitz (Bowery Stan's nephew) shares his Tattoo History Fun Facts!

14 **Tattoo Art Petition** — Implementing tattoo art in the art history curriculums in the schools.

15 **Issue Topic Choice** — Dawn Bennett interviews Troy "Lefty" McDaniel on Sobriety in the Industry.

17 **Topic Choice Tattoos** — Tattoo Artists that are making a movement in society or in our community.

20 **Movement Artist** — Chris “Church” Oppenheim

24 **Artisan Art** — Wine & Shoes

25 **Editor's HotPiX** — Fav Book, Venue, Song or Band, Tattooed Activist & Product from the tattoo culture.

26 **Featured Artist** — Reputable Tattoo Artist Brandon Bond owner of All or Nothing in GA.

38 **Tattoo Art** — By: Tattoo Artists Submissions

45 **Urban Roots-Rooted in Art** — Chico Cortez owner of Marked4Life interviews Robbie Ripoll from a Latino's perspective.

49 **Models** — Taylor DeMers & Anna Bridges

55 **Fashion** — Influencer: Jeanette McManus writes about the late Vivienne Westwood's influence on Punk Fashion and her favorite fashion picks.

56 **Music** — Influencer: Patrick Hicks writes about Rock'n'Roll & Tattoos

58 **AI Inception** — Bringing Artificial Intelligent Knowledge of Tattoos.

Editor's Voice

Let IV Mag be your new healthy addiction

R.I.P.
Let me begin by remembering all the amazing souls that have passed in the last decade from the tattoo industry convention circuit. I've admired and have had the pleasure of meeting them "The Godmother of Tattooing - Shanghai Kate, Tony Olivas, Bowery Stan, Tattoo Lou Sr, Philadelphia Eddie, Mz.Inkaholic, Shane and Lala Heartline, Michelle Legg & Lyle Tuttle" and some I've had a shit load of great conversations. All of you are missed dearly and will never be forgotten.

Setting the Tone:
InkVasion Magazine will advocate for the industry to maintain old-school ethics but still be progressive enough to align with today's climate. We, the industry have evolved in so many ways that we are no longer the misfits of society. We must not forget the pioneers who paved the way for all these exceptional artists. This magazine will educate and guide new and upcoming artists to stay true to their craft by giving them exposure and covering topics that will show them how it all began and how they are part of the continuing evolution.

We believe that tattoo artists are today's version of master artists. Our magazine will be covering what's trending through our social media marketing campaigns along with our 40-plus tattoo convention tour. Our writing team includes reputable artists and industry people as well as influencers that have mastered the social media craze. We will have celebrities on the cover and tattoo industry people and models of all shapes, sizes, and colors. Our magazine will be a diverse melting pot. We will cover the transitions and obstacles all minority groups endure in what was once an all-white male-dominated industry.

Women were once shunned by shop owners when they asked for an apprenticeship. We were sexualized and objectified. I personally spent my first 5 years in the industry fighting to change that. Also, the Urban community took even longer to be able to break through. But now we need to hear those stories that gave us every strength to overcome these obstacles. InkVasion Magazine welcomes you to join our journey as we enter the world of tattoos.

Special Thanks to:
I personally would like to thank my sister, Vanessa for always being there and teaching me how to balance life aka Adulting.

Suffolk Beast Mario from HA. Your words that you shared with me when I was at my lowest gave me hope about my tattoo industry career. You always had my back. Thank you and I love you.

Chris Potts, my biz partner for pulling me out of hibernation with your sincere and kind words. I never felt like you needed or wanted anything from me. You always believed in me. You encouraged me to go back to my tattoo industry career. Thanks to your persistence I came around. I was ignited and inspired to go back.

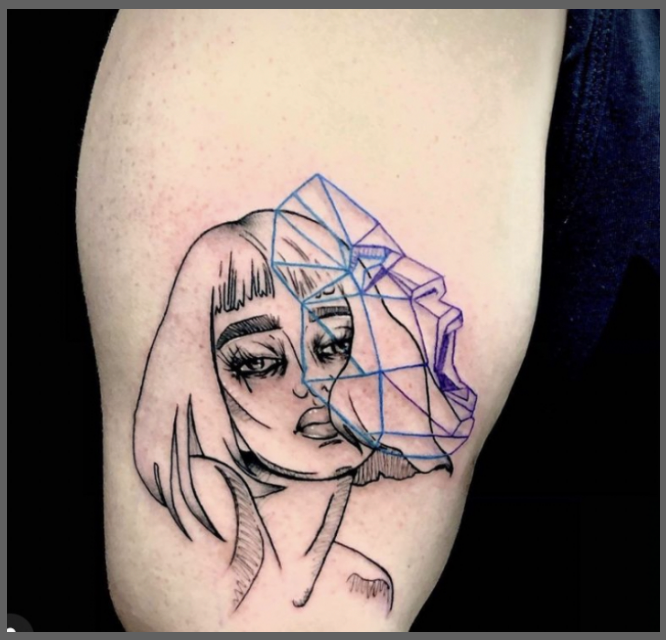
Mindy Christianson, you know me from the biker world and tattoo world and we've both covered the music circuit too. Always a 6 degrees separation from someone of those three industries. Throughout all these years you have remained a good friend to me as my eyes and ears and being loyal. Thank you for that last battle we won together.

I dedicated this issue Ink Therapy (Sobriety & Mental Health) to 3 of my ride-or-die friends who now get to thrive in their sobriety. I have seen all of you at your worst but I'm glad now I get to see you at your best. Anna Russo, Carol Antonopolous, and Kim Signoretti. This issue is for you guys.

Personal Touch:
I have suffered from severe mental health in the past, which I've finally conquered after a 10-year hiatus from livin' life. Although I hid it well at times, it took that time to heal from traumas that were deeply rooted in my soul. I know all too well about self-harm. If you ever get the gut feeling you need to call someone to check up on their mental health, Do It! Don't Hesitate.
I also struggled with addictions of all kinds. I finally found my happy medium as a California Sober. It works for me and everyone should respect each person's sobriety journey. Getting a tattoo (my Ink Therapy) always helped me heal from the pain I was going through.

Mission Statement:
Let IV Mag be your new healthy addiction. We will induce ink into your life.
InkVasion Magazine
Aka IV Mag (for short)

Frankie Scorpion



@aces_n_spades_tattoo

Thank you to all of our industry collaborators & influencers. Check out their links & bios on our website.

@nubz_tattoos

TATTOO VIEW PODCAST

LIVE STREAMING SESSION

LAUNCH DATE April 4, 2023

Covering Tattoo Artists, Celebs, Models, Moguls, Entrepreneurs & Collectors

Evan Seinfeld

The Master of Reinvention

Evan Seinfeld and I have known each other for almost two decades. Evan has led one of the most interesting and diverse lives of anyone I have ever known. Always a pioneer and a leader with a hardcore twist, Evan has had successful careers in music, acting, reality tv, the adult business, tech, and more. I have seen him reinvent himself several times and his story continues here. I got a chance to catch up with Evan for an interview for the first issue of InkVasion.

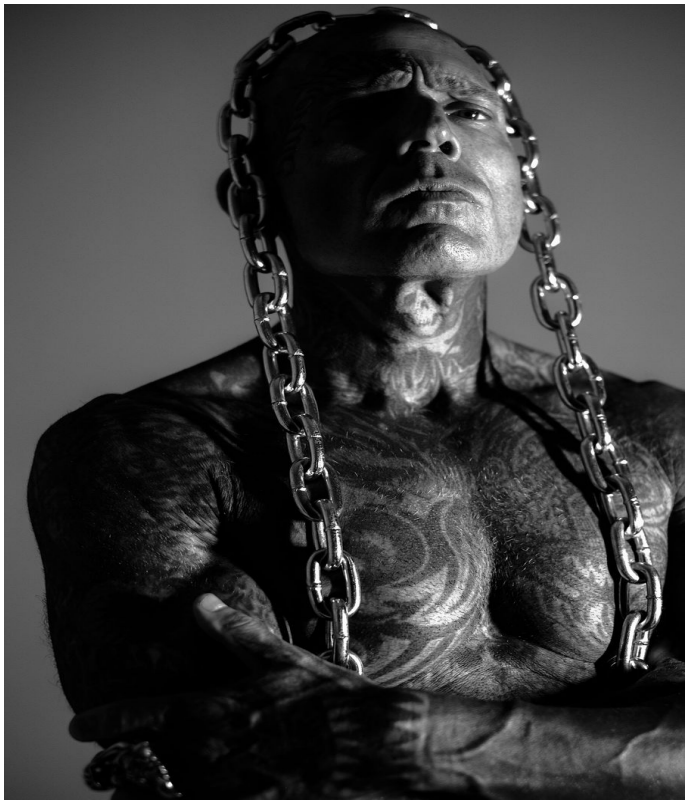
FS: Evan I have always known you as a driven man since back in the day. Many people know you as the lead singer and bassist from Brooklyn hardcore legends BIOHAZARD. With the recent news of your reunion with the band, what can you tell me about it?

ES: Hey Frankie, thanks for the great intro! Well, all I can say right now is that Biohazard is officially reunited and we have a bunch of tour dates and festivals coming up this summer. I feel like a kid, it's so exciting! I am so grateful to have this opportunity once again to get with the guys I grew up with and saw the world with to go out there and connect with the fans! Performing live is really my first love. I've been away from the band for 10 years so it feels like being reborn. We aren't doing any interviews about Biohazard officially as of yet but I can let you know, some really exciting announcements are on the horizon.

FS: OK, well many people know you as the most heavily tattooed guy on HBO series OZ when you starred as prison inmate biker and killer, Jaz Hoyt for 6 seasons. How was that experience? A lot of the other stars of that show went on to win Oscars and star in big series. Did you or do you want to act more?

ES: I loved the experience. I got to work alongside genius actors like JK Simmons, who won the Oscar for Whiplash, Christopher Meloni, Eamon Walker, Adewale, and Dean Winters who you know best as Mayhem from Allstate. It was equally humbling and uplifting. I learned so much but mostly that there is much to learn if you want to be a serious actor with a real range. I'd love to act more, but the truth is I'm super selective and a bit spoiled by getting to be on my favorite show. I don't want to act just to act.

The truth is that it's hard for me to put my heart into acting in something that I know I wouldn't watch. So I really don't pursue it much. When the right thing comes along, I'm ready! I've always thought about directing and writing a movie and acting in it too. It's on my bucket list. Some of the guys from Oz are very close friends of mine to this day.



FS: What was it like being on SUPERGROUP, the reality show you did with Ted Nugent, Sebastian Bach, Jason Bonham, and Scott Ian?

ES: It was really just 2 weeks in a house with some cool eccentric friends. It's funny because that was such a thing for a while, these “reality” drama shows. We all were really into the music side of it, but VH1 just wanted us to argue and act stupid. So we did a bit of both. Love and miss all those guys. Definitely a good time but funny how often it comes up for something that was just a kinda fun gag. We formed some great friendships and I love each and every one of those guys personally.

FS: As a Rockstar and actor, you have been pretty publicly married and divorced three times . Many people know or don't know that your second wife was pornstar Tera Patrick, and you not only embraced the adult industry, but you did much more than that; you became a director and created an empire with your ex-wife Tera Patrick called Teravision. What was something you can share about the whole experience?

ES: Life is a book with many chapters. This was a wild time in my life but mainly one where I learned a lot about business and making money. It was like a tiny Hollywood without the corporate side, but I was fortunate to be part of the golden era of the adult industry. It was really just meant to be another notch in my “No Fucks” given belt but it ended up extremely lucrative but extremely volatile. As technology moves quickly and most quickly in that business, it was definitely a fun time in those early days. The industry is constantly evolving and does not exist like that anymore as far as i know. Wild.

FS: Aside from your success in the adult industry, before the pandemic, you created the (IsMyGirl.com) premium social media platform which gave power to women in a male-dominated industry. I know you were featured in many interviews from Forbes and Insider to Rolling Stones and Playboy. What was it like to be part of that phenomenon?

ES: In 2008, I built a platform for models to monetize sexy content to their fans. This was before OnlyFans or any other platform was out there. My partners from Inked Magazine and I helped thousands of models earn millions of dollars, and in the pandemic, this was helping people survive when the world was locked in the house and millions of people were losing jobs. It was big news because so many people began making homemade content and selling it. Something so taboo in society became normalized overnight. IsMyGirl.com and InkedGirl.com just got a huge update and today are still top platforms in the industry.

FS: People might look at you and assume that he's all about drugs and partying. I know you started drinking at a really young age but you have been sober since you were 21. That's pretty impressive considering you have toured all over the world for 25 years with Biohazard. Now I hear you are what they call LA sober. What does that really mean?

ES: My understanding is that Cali sober people don't drink or do drugs but smoke weed. Some people may say that isn't really sober but since marijuana became legal in most states it's become more acceptable. I don't personally claim any type of sobriety, just personal development. But to be honest, people need to respect each person's personal choices including your own definition or meaning of what "Sober" is to you.

Some people are fine with a couple of glasses of wine, but not good with hard drugs and others may function fine with just cannabis. As long as you are living a healthy positive lifestyle and not harming others, that's what really counts to me. I was sober from all drugs and alcohol including weed for 30 years before I started smoking again. When I smoke weed I'm a calmer, kinder version of myself. I tend to be less reactive. When I am reacting it usually gets me into some kind of trouble. I'm working every day to evolve past the angry argumentative "Larry David" version of myself that often finds me in confrontations. Life is too short to live in negativity.

FS: I see your most recent transformation is so inspiring. What is going on down there in Mexico?

ES: During the pandemic, after my third divorce, I reflected a lot on why I was even living in LA. I was traveling a lot to Tulum, Mexico either with my son or with one of my best friends who was also going through a divorce. My life was going through a downward spiral and I was dealing with so many issues; physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, financial, you name it. I began to question everything in my life and this led me to want to completely hit the hard "reset" button. I started to simplify my life and gravitate to a more mindful and humble version of myself. I felt myself increasing consciousness and I moved to Tulum to once again reinvent myself. Tulum has a deep community of "woke" soul-searching people. Someone there is always on the journey of leveling themselves up, especially spiritually. I started a rigorous intense practice of fitness, yoga, and healthy living. Meditation, Gratitude, Affirmations. I started figuring out how to "mindset hack". To change my perspective to learn to see the good in all things and have a different life experience. To reinvent myself from the inside out and create a new and improved version of myself. To not only find my updated purpose but to reconnect with my drive and passion.

FS: Have you found your updated purpose? What is next for Evan Seinfeld?

ES: I am writing a book. I've always been a fan of stoic wisdom. I'm a devotee of Eckhart Tolle as well. I read a lot today and learned from many different thought leaders. Even as a young man in my 20's I loved books that taught how to possibly have a different perspective. We can all see how society now is suffering so much with their mental health and emotional issues. Spiritual emptiness, the brain fog from the fear of what was the result of the pandemic paranoia. In constant fear of what's next. It feels like there is a cultural shift towards mindfulness and change in general. Everyone spent a couple of years in the house and many of us were forced into taking a close look at your life. Writing a self-help book that teaches you all about mind hacking while empowering other men.

FS: From the look of Evan with his alpha demeanor and being heavily tattooed body, you would think he would be the last person to show his vulnerability. But during the writing of his new book, he actually became a great voice for other men to feel comfortable showing their vulnerability.

ES: Evan elaborated: "This book is a guide, plan of action, plan of steps, and a plan of pillars to get me on a path of self-development." The book is a guide on how to build your confidence, embrace the fear of the unknown and turn that into the power of change. In my third mid-life crisis and tenth reinvention of myself, I am mastering mindset hacking. Learning to see the good in all things. Learning to be in control of how I experience and process my perspective or even my perception, before it even gets to my emotions or reactions. Cut the snake off at the head.

Out of the process of writing this book and creating this program to help work on my own evolution, I accidentally created an online and in-person group worldwide of men empowering each other and MANTORING or in a way, on the level life coaching each other through group online zoom meetings and in person mens circles here in Tulum, Mexico where I live. Other locations are coming soon. This allows men to be free to share their traumas, insecurities and help get rid of toxic male behavior. This is how "Mantorship" - the circle of brotherhood came to be. There are hundreds of men in our group who share and support one another from the heart. It's absolutely humbling. My goal is to bring this to the masses, better than therapy, more real than this, you won't get. Constructive feedback and authentic relating from other men.

Mantorship has groups starting up in Thailand, Dubai, Holland, England, Belgium, Portugal and a bunch of states in the U.S. Some are in person and others will be via WhatsApp or Zoom. Eventually his goal is to create an app to broaden his membership to the millions.

FS: Last question. How is life in the tropics?

ES: Life is a long book with many chapters. I'm in great shape doing yoga and training in the gym with fire! I am in love with a beautiful Argentinian girl named Iris. We live together here in the jungle, so close to the beach. Life is a gift. Thanks for the interview Frankie.

FS: It is always a pleasure to work with Evan. He always surprises me with some amazing new ventures. But this is by far the best thing I've seen him do. I look forward to seeing how men react to this mind hacking development. His passion for empowering others never stops. You might think that Evan with his badass exterior is the last person you expect to be teaching men to be vulnerable, supportive and live a mentally, emotionally and spiritually healthy life, but Evan Seinfeld is the perfect messenger for helping men find their truth. He opened his heart, mind and his soul that led to this amazing journey. Check out his book Mantorship after his manifesto which is being released in the next month. The book itself will be launched before Evan embarks on Biohazard's reunion tour. Yes people he's going on tour again.

@evanseinfeld
@mantorshipofficial
@biohazarddfl

Frankie Scorpion

THE RETURN OF AMERICA'S FAVORITE TATTOO FESTIVAL IN 2023!

HELL CITY TATTOO FEST 2023

MAY 19TH-21ST

COLUMBUS, OH

HYATT REGENCY DOWNTOWN

350 N HIGH ST COLUMBUS OH 43215

614-463-1234

SCAN YOUR SOUL AWAY!

REDTREE TATTOO GALLERY

KINGPIN TATTOO SUPPLY

SPLIT ARROW PRINT HOUSE

TRUE TATTOO SUPPLY CO. STAY TRUE

TATTOO ARMOUR

ELECTRUM

BOOK YOUR ROOMS! GET PRESALE TICKETS!
SEE ARTIST & EVENT INFO, ALL AT:

WWW.HELLCITY.COM

BATTLEFIELD

JULY 7-9
2023

TATTOO EXPO

GETTYSBURG, PA

Tattoo History
Fun Facts

Hi, I'm Marvin Moskovitz. I come from a long line of tattooers, and I'm the last man standing in the Moskowitz tattoo family lineage. My grandfather, Willie Moskowitz, was a Russian immigrant who bought a barbershop on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. He rented the back room to transient tattooers and eventually became a tattooer himself. My uncles, Bowery Stan and Stanley Farber, AKA Flatbush Stan, were also tattooers. They were the sons of Walter, my grandfather's partner in tattooing.

Unfortunately, none of my cousins or siblings followed in the tattooing tradition of our family, but I'm determined to keep the legacy alive. My dad and uncle shared some incredible stories with me from their time in the Bowery. For instance, there was this one time when a sailor named Bill Killingsworth walked into their shop while they were beating up a big, tough guy. Killingsworth asked if he should finish the job with a gun, but my dad simply replied, "Nah, just wanted to beat him half to death."

I've had some wild adventures of my own too. Once, I went to see a friend who was a professional boxer, and I ended up fighting in the opening preliminaries that same night. I hope to have more stories like these to share about the tattooing business in the future.

marvin.moskowitz1

Written by: Marvin Moskowitz

INKVASION MEDIA

Presents:

TAT2EDU.PETITION

Implementing Tattoo Art in the Schools Art History Curriculums Nationwide

www.change.org/Tat2Edu_Petition

Topic Choice

Navigating Sobriety in the Tattoo Industry

Grant me the serenity to accept ...

Many of us know this passage. I had the pleasure of talking with Troy "Lefty" McDaniel of Lefty's Tattoo of Cedar Rapids. He has been clean and sober for 10 years. To say he has turned his life around is an understatement. With the love and support of his wife (Keri “Righty” McDaniel) and family, he has built a successful tattoo business and gives back to the community every chance he can. By throwing multiple fundraisers to help those in need, to mentoring up and coming artists. His will to give back is great. His efforts as a sober man have shown through in his day-to-day life as an artist, husband, father, and as friend.

From a young age, he has been in and out of different state institutions, from a mental hospital at 9 and again at 10. Between the years of 10-13 years old, he was in and out of foster care and group homes. At 15 years old he sat on a stool ready to end his life only to have the gun slip and go off beside his head. By his 18th birthday, he was on his way to prison. Running from state to state, drinking and using drugs, trying to escape his problems. He finally settled in Cedar Rapids, Iowa ready to face his fears of sobriety. He had taken life for granted. He finally said “No More”.

In 2006 he opened his tattoo shop with only $1500.00 and the support of his wife. “Tattooing and my family have changed my life. I have been at the lowest of the barrel and I'm hoping my story can help others. Whatever I can do to help others, I am there".

When I asked for any last words, what Lefty so elegantly said had me in tears ...
“What was once my secret is now my story. If it helps just one person I am forever grateful. No one is ever too broken. The will to survive is strong".

When we look at today's tattoo community we have grown past the stigma of addiction. We all have grown as people and as artists. The will to give back whether it be in art or helping our neighbors. We as a family and a community believe in our calling. The last thing I want to leave you with is if there are tattoo artists in the tattoo convention circuit struggling with addiction don't hesitate to our community for help. Navigating sobriety in an industry that is already stigmatized can be hard but there are many that can guide you to the right place and still feel accepted.

There is life after sobriety and trust me it's still fruitful. We no longer have to live under the titles of reprobates, junkies, and the underdogs of society. Tattoo artists have evolved into talented, proactive members of society. Having a healthy mindset can be an asset to your art.

Written by: Dawn Bennett

@tattoosbylefty
troy.mcdaniel

Topic Choice

Art

The accessibility of social media has revolutionized the field of tattoo art. A group of gifted tattoo artists from Instagram, who specializes in designs related to sobriety and mental health, have been hand-selected. Their mission is to promote understanding of and support for people dealing with addiction and mental health issues by utilizing tattooing as a healing and recovery tool. Each artist contributes a distinctive style, with intricate and bold designs that deliver a potent message of resiliency and hope. Through their combined efforts, they demonstrate the therapeutic benefits of tattooing as a means of self-expression and life reclamation.

Mental Health & Sobriety Tattoos from IG

@creative_works_by_oxley

@jpelletier_tattoos

@inkandartbyida

@paulnycz

@richnielsentattoo

@simona_tavcitattoo

@thejacobgrosberg

@mafaldadiegotattoo_artist

@orchid.oddities

ASYLUM TATTOO

CUSTOM TATTOOING AND PRECISION PIERCING

FOLLOW US @ASYLUMTAT2

(631) 846-4481 | 2229 NY-112, CORAM, NY 11727

N8V INK

@N8VINK @REDBEARN8VINK

(850)-257-5311 6138 E HWY 98 PANAMA CITY, FL

MOVEMENT ARTISTS

Tattoo Artists are making a movement in society or in our community.

Chris "Church" Oppenheim

Chris Oppenheim has been drawing since he was old enough to hold a pencil. He got mixed up in drugs at a very young age. At the age of 12, he stole his father's cocaine. Through the years of his continuous addiction, the only two constants throughout his life were art and drugs.

Chris "Church" said the following about his journey in the tattoo industry, "I figured tattooing would be a natural progression in my art. I tried for a few years to get into tattooing by seeking an apprenticeship, which I was unable to find. I finally broke in on my own, and from that point on, tattooing became my drug. I worked obsessively constantly trying to learn as much as I could. I took seminars at conventions by artists that I admired such as Deano Cook, Guy Atchison, and Shane O'Neill. I did free tattoos for practice so that I could consistently stay in the skin and worked relentlessly. Sometimes 12 to 14 hours a day 7 days a week. I was hooked... in the long run, it was not enough, I was still the same addict inside. Fearful, insecure, and self-destructive. After 4 years of abstinence, I had built a very good career for myself. I was super busy with appointments as well as custom drawings and was able to build up to becoming a shop owner."

His old demons got the best of him. He eventually fell off the wagon. Destroying everything that he worked so hard for. His career at that point was over. He spent the better part of 10 years drinking, drugging, and running from the one thing he hated the most, himself.

To his surprise, at the age of 40, he received a phone call from Michael Lynch, former promoter of Felon Fights and Cage vs. Con. These days instead of advocating violence, he helps addicts like Church get their shit together. He introduced Church to recovery through Stairway Recovery Homes and his Intensive Outpatient Program at the Stairway Resource Center. During that phone call, Church was given the opportunity to go to California. This helped him get his shit together and possibly get a shop off the ground, he did just that. At this point, Interstate Ink was thriving, and Carson Hill offered him sponsorship for Neuma tattoo machines for him and all of his artists. Church mostly uses the Neuma 4.

Church just celebrated 5 years clean. Along with his sobriety, he was rewarded with true love. He met and married the love of his life, Kristina. If that wasn't reward enough, he was able to get custody of his children. Early on in those 5 years, he realized he couldn't possibly be the only tattooer struggling with addiction. He then approached Michael with the idea to reach out to artists all over the country, offering them the same opportunity that he was once given. As a result, they are now willing to help other artists like themselves by relocating to Los Angeles to work in a safe, clean environment. This offer comes with a bed in Stairways Sober Living and Intensive Outpatient Services that will provide individual therapy sessions and psychiatric services.

Church explains: "The tattoo industry is plagued with drugs and alcohol, sometimes it's not only condoned but expected. At the beginning of my career, the 'anything goes' industry was very appealing, which took me down a very dark path. It feels good to be the light at the end of that tunnel nowadays".

As I close my interview with Chris "Church", he has become proactive in the tattoo and sobriety community through a "paying it forward" attitude and through his actions by providing resources for other tattoo artists that are struggling with addiction. The fresh start he is providing will help them live a sober and healthy life. I commend Church for all he is doing to create a safe space for all in need. I personally hope to see this facility expand nationwide so all can have these opportunities. Don't forget to check out his podcast it is Recovery in Tattooing aka The Broken Crayons Show.

Written by: Chris Potts

@tattoosbychurch
@thebrokencrayonsshow

Artisan ART

Wine Infused Art by:
Mercedes Bravo

@bravotattooart

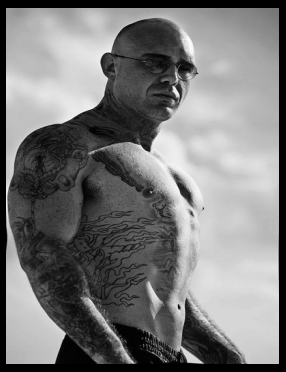
Shoe Art by:
Chris "Church" Oppenheim

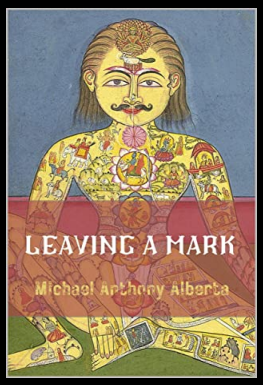
@tattoosbychurch

Editor's HotPix

Book Look

Michael Anthony Alberta
Leaving a Mark





@michaelanthonyalberta

Hit Song:

SOBER
Tom McDonald

https://youtu.be/H5kt27itT4U

Hot Spot

Cocktails & Screams Bar
Orlando, Florida

@cocktailsandscreams

Tatted Activist

Sandy Unger
Tuff Tails Animal Rescue

www.tufftails.org

Reputable Tattoo Artist

Brandon Bond

Brandon Bond founder and owner of All or Nothing Tattoo Studio in Atlanta, Georgia is known as one of the old-school reputable tattoo artists in the industry that innovated the changeover from pre-1990 style tattoo work and helped change it into the line-less color realism style artwork that is so common today. But to me, he's a friend. We've always supported each other. He is by far one of the most loyal people I know, which is rare to find in this cut-throat industry. The last I saw Brandon was when I was producing a tattoo convention in NY. At the time he had been retired from Tattoo Conventions for over 5 years in the U.S. after a long career of doing 20-30 shows a year all over the world for 20+ years. Even though it was a first-year show, he did me the favor of attending. I will be forever grateful. But since then, we have all grown older and wiser and evolved in so many ways as individuals.

As we started our conversation, we commented on how old we are getting but to be honest I think we just entered another plateau in our careers and our family life. He's gone through some challenges from spinal and nerve problems, which have led to 11 surgical procedures as well as a recent diagnosis of Radial Nerve Palsy. Known for tattooing excessively long hours and accomplishing the completion of HUGE pieces in single sessions, he literally destroyed his own body tattooing into oblivion. With a 10 hour minimum still to this day his average tattoo sessions range from 12 - 15 hours, even after all the surgeries. The man is a machine.

I was real curious on how has all this affected his mental health and what transpired from all that he went through. He like the man he is had a more positive view.

He said it was probably a good thing because it slowed him down. He was still working like a “Lunatic.” Working 12 to 15 hours, 5 to 6 days a week, and it blew his spine out. Then, only 6 months ago he was diagnosed with Radial Nerve Palsy in his non-tattooing hand he continued to tattoo ONE HANDED, just not as often. Even now he still finds it difficult to stretch the skin and wipe down that area with his left hand, he has cut back to fewer sessions (still 12-15 hours at a time). The biggest challenge is remembering that he isn’t 25 any longer.

Being almost in his 50's, tattooing has taken its toll. Running a mile a minute and conquering his ambitious schedule requires him to find ways to work smarter than harder.

The last of the surgical procedures he endured is called Radio Frequency Ablations, a new and rare procedure to stop spinal pain completely by ‘burning’ all of the nerves in his upper back, both left and right shoulder blades and the spinal column in his neck what has been and misshaped for many years and was incredibly painful from the positioning required for tattooing long sessions. The procedure worked and now he has no feeling in his upper back and neck at all. A temporary fix to a permanent problem. No more physical therapy, chiropractors, pills or debilitating pain whatsoever. "I wanted to stop taking the meds I was constantly being fed. I wanted my life back AND IT WORKED"!

After 8 procedures of numbing the nerves and then burning the nerves, he completely lost feeling but eventually, the nerves may replenish themselves. “You don’t know how long it will last. It relieved the pain, but hasn’t fixed the problems in my spine and neck." Especially with him still tattooing a psychotic schedule, it will come back in a year to 5 years. “You never know,” he said.

He claimed that it was probably good for his mental health to slow down. He needed it. And spent his downtime getting married, and spending time with his family who is scattered across America, something he hasn’t had much time for in his 30 year career. He remains grateful for the whole nightmare journey and still loves tattooing now more than ever. “Almost losing tattooing forever scared me just enough to WANT to tattoo now more than ever and I value the time I get to tattoo”.

I love that he can spin this difficult situation into a positive note. It is a difficult thing but he has always been resilient and hard-headed. I’m sure he would tell you that himself if you've spoken to Brandon before. He has always had a strong and empowering personality. Perseverance seems to come naturally to him in an unnatural level of determination.

The one thing he had to do to evolve with the industry as time went by was re-learning to use the rotary machine with curved mags instead of coil machines and flat magnum needles. He also had to learn to use an IPad along with programs like ProCreate on IPad Pro to design his enormous tattoo designs and sleeve layouts. He didn’t even know how to turn the iPad on, much less create the worlds of art he throws out every day. He had to schedule his learning time into his already busy schedule. The new rotary machines were a new vamped technology that took the industry by storm and was an inevitable thing he had to add to his talents. He explained to me that when he had to learn, he had to have his assistant learn how to use it first and then he had to take time off by setting appointments for himself in his schedule just to force him to take the time off to learn it. At first, he hated it because he was so used to using a coil machine that all that new technology was nonsense to him but as an artist, he knew he had to keep up with the times. “As an artist you are either growing or you’re dying , there is no in-between a very 'All or Nothing' mentality ironically".

The method he prefers now is by far the rotary machine. He said he definitely had to humble himself to learn how to use the new machines. Even though he absolutely hated it, he knew he had no choice; once he did learn, he loved it along with the quality of work he was creating with it. He had taken color blending and smooth black and grey as far as he absolutely could using flat magnum needles and coil machines and in order to break through that barrier he had to change the tools he was using, no matter how difficult the adjustment was. However, he did admit that if he had to line a full Japanese-style sleeve, he would still pull out a coil machine and love the hell out of it. It's faster, bolder, heavier, and tattoos with authority in a way that no rotary tattoo machine ever will. But he hasn't used a coil machine in almost 2 years.

As I asked him what he thought of these modern artists, he said he was fascinated by how progressive they are. Especially international artists that have conquered the talent in such a short time frame. What took others in the past, decades of working, is now taking artists only 2 or 3 years of the time to learn to do what he is doing at 30+ years in tattooing. They are doing a great job. As it should be. Every new generation should be better than the last. And this new generation of tattooers, especially in Europe and Russia are obliterating what we think of when we picture a tattoo. These new kids are insane. There are a couple of Australians murdering every piece they do as well.

He admires anyone who can do this for a living for at least 20 years and survive. If someone has tattooed longer than my 31+ years in, I call them "SIR" when I speak to them out of respect. So Paul Booth, Jack Rudy, Sailor Moses, and Sailor Jerry as well as Guy Aitchison and Filip Leu are always going to be gods among men as far as Brandon is concerned.

But as far as these young kids tearing it up, Walter Montero, Jakob Hendrix, Jay Freestyle, Sam Barber, about a dozen artists from Poland, and at least six from Australia are all just blowing my mind every day. "It's time for me to not just retire but to RUN AWAY AND LET THESE KIDS TAKE OVER! They are by far better than me". he said. But that is the way it's supposed to be for the new generation. Some artists he has collaborated with have been tattooing for less than 5 years, and he says that you can't tell the difference between him and them, even though they have almost 30 years difference in the amount of time they have been tattooing. He finds this fascinating.

I asked him when was the last convention he attended and if he would do more. He replied that he would possibly teach a seminar, but he's done lugging all his gear through airports and dealing with today's modern convention setups. It's not like it used to be. He has no interest in it whatsoever. He's done a few in Atlanta since I last saw him in 2012. He has his team tattoo at the conventions, but he usually goes to hang out, so he can catch up with friends. Since the pandemic, he hasn't gone to any but plans on doing one more tour of seminars teaching tattooers what he has learned along the way, when he's ready to "hang it up",

He explained how tattoo conventions have changed a lot since the time when he first began the convention scene. He said that back in the day you had to be invited to them. There were only a small number of booths (about 30) and you had to send the owner of the conventions a published article about yourself and wait to be invited. Now there are 300-400 booths and anyone

and everyone can buy a booth regardless of ability or skill level. Having only the top 30 artists in the country ensured you were always going to get an exceptional tattoo. Now, you never know what you will get because the qualifications to purchase a booth have loosened to the point of a complete lack of screening. Even if you've never done a tattoo in your life you can buy a booth and fool unsuspecting clients into getting butchered. It's ridiculous.

I had asked him how he feels about some artists calling themselves award-winning artists when they have attended smaller conventions that don't have the elite artists attending the shows, so there is less competition but they become award-winning artists. I also asked him the same question regarding his thoughts on Tattoo TV celebrities and "influencer" tattoo artists getting the same status as a reputable artists.

He said the distinction is monumental. He feels that there needs to be a way to label artists if they are a legend like Paul Booth, who is a giant among men or pioneers. Separating influencers and celebrity TV artists and identifying reputable artists from award-winning artists from established conventions is critical. He said customers have to do their due diligence to ensure they are getting an exceptional artist based on the quality of their work, the research is the client's responsibility, and it HARD to tell who's the real deal and who's a loser with a large Instagram account and no ability. He also said it's necessary for the industry to come up with a way to articulate that so that the public has a better understanding of who is who.

When I asked Brandon which is the best way these new potential artists should enter the industry, he responded that "100% DO A TATTOO APPRENTICESHIP. Tattoo schools are fake. I never hired a single person from a School, and I never will. You cannot learn to tattoo in 2 weeks or 90 days or whatever on fake skin. It's a money farm and a blight on the beauty of the lineage of tattooing". His lineage connects him directly to Philadelphia Eddie, Sailor Moses, and Fakir Musafar. The best part of tattooing is lost on someone who skips an apprenticeship. When his mentor died he was in the hospital holding his hand and he wouldn't have traded it for the world.
"Apprenticeship is the beginning and the most important part of what we do. Don't be a dummy, put in the late nights, come in early, and show that you deserve this thing we do. Or go be a f*cking plumber". He said most of the time people come in with a machine that they bought online or one of their parents gave to them because they thought their kid was a half-ass good artist. He requires them to leave the machine in the shop for at least a year. When he apprentices a person, he explains to them that there is more to tattooing than using the machine itself.

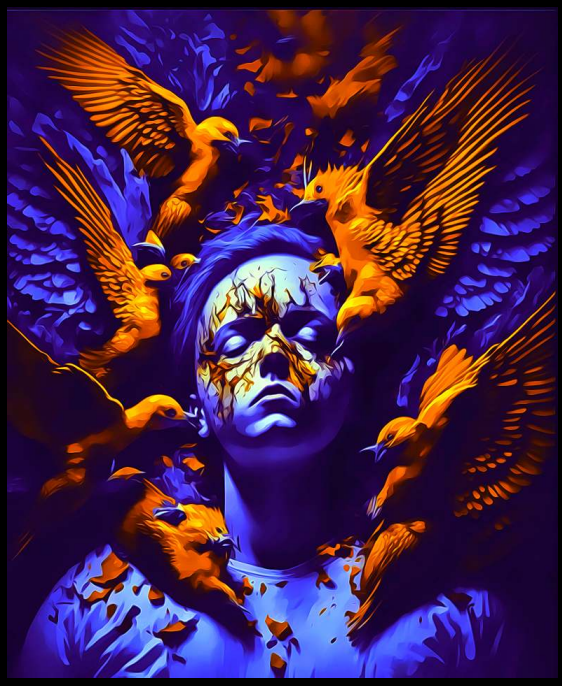
You must learn the ins and outs of the lifestyle because this is a career and life change. "'I learned to be accountable and I learned how to be a man during my apprenticeship. I learned not to blame others or look for excuses but to change obstacles into opportunities. I learned to be on time and prepared every day and to this day I still live based on all those things and so much more.
His opinions about tattoo schools pretty much align with most reputable artists in the industry, they aren't qualified enough to teach tattooing, especially to give people the idea the trade can be taught in a couple weeks. It's unrealistic to think you can learn a trade in that amount of time. They should also check out some seminars and streaming videos in addition to an apprenticeship. He also clarified that there aren't any reputable artists attached to any of the tattoo schools. Yet.

Did get a chance to ask Brandon which other mediums of art have you been dabbling with and as a true artist he elaborated he did. Of course he does do other forms of art. He's a true artist.

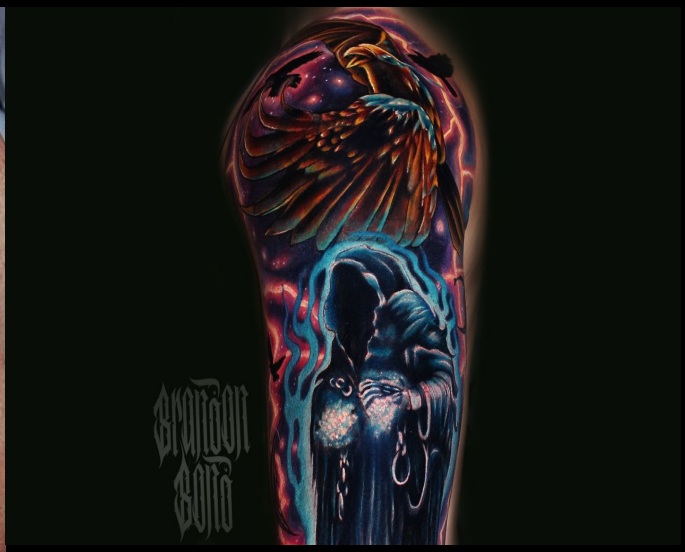
He let us know that he minored in sculpting and photography. And there have been thousands of art paintings that have come out of his shop in the past 20 years, but his main focus has always been tattooing. He said that before he retires, he wants to do the perfect piece, which he feels hasn't happened yet. I said to him that he is his worst critic. He responded by saying that "If you think you are good enough you aren't learning. You have to think that you can learn more as you go on". He is always trying to improve his tattoos. He explained he wants to "level up" one last time before he retires. He doesn't want to be an artist that has just plateaued and got wealthy and quit. He is fully dedicated to his craft. So much so he is always the first one in the studio and the last one out. Even on his days off he finds himself working on the art of upcoming tattoo appointments.

I also asked him how he feels about digital art or AI? He quickly responded with, "It's the future of what we do". He said it's fascinating how using that tool to perfect your tattoos brings another element into his work. So as he used the iPad to switch the direction of a face and use a certain light source and angle helps him perfect his reference work. But he has directed AI to create a certain piece and feels there is always a dark vibe to the work. Artificial intelligence is innately evil and it shows in every piece of work he tattoos from it. He has to work hard in directing the AI not to put such a morbid spin on it. But either way the work you can do digitally and with AI is amazing. Reference imagery has never been so good, so fast and so incredible as through the use of AI.

Brandon Bond AI Designs / NFT



Brandon
Bond


Brandon
Bond

Brandon
Bond

Brandon
Bond
BRANDONBOND11
OSEPULIDOTATTOO

Another question for him, as a father of a 10-year-old boy, is if his son is following in his footsteps.

He assured me that Remington gained both his parents' talents in art (his mother is a tattooer as well) but he is also great at math. The numbers he works with in his head are fascinating and amazing to watch. Brandon said he was never good at math. It wasn't his thing. I also asked if he would want his son to enter the tattoo world. He responded that he would never say no but he wouldn't encourage it because the tattoo industry isn't heading in a good direction, and it is a really hard way to make a living these days. Besides, his math and science skills can lead him in another direction.

What is the relationship with the love of your life like? He said his new wife Brynn Bond and he had been trying to get married for years. Due to the pandemic, the wedding wasn't possible along with his mother's illness. He said finally, they pulled up to his mom's house on Perdido Key Florida and delivered that wedding like a pizza.

They wrote their own vows and got married over FaceTime with another tattooer and constant guest artist at "All or Nothing Tattoo" named Justin Leifeste from TX. It was really important for him to have his mother at the ceremony. Brynn is part of the All or Nothing team but is also now part of the Bond Family forever. She helps run the shop, gets all the supplies, prepares the entire payroll bi-weekly for the bookkeepers and the accounting firm, and places all the orders as well as running the front desk and helping Brandon so that he can focus more on art than babysitting his staff. Brynn is on top of everything so much that he wishes he could have 11 of her. She is hard-working and helps to ensure the shop runs smoothly. He also pointed out that she has no tattoos. Brynn actually does tattoo removal. She is more a part of the medical side of tattooing. The last thing he wants to look at when he comes home from 30 years of nonstop tattooing is more tattoos, so her "naked skin is appealing to him as it is rare and pale and perfect."

I must say it was really exhilarating to hear about Brandon Bond's never-ending enthusiasm for his tattooing journey and his love of it. We hope to see him attend more conventions in the future and I intend on going up to his shop soon and giving an official Tattoo View Podcast interview and getting tattooed by him.

Written by: Frankie Scorpion

@brandonbond11
@aontattoo

@brandonbond
@aontattoo

AONatl

INKVASION MEDIA

NOW HIRING:

Interns & Paid Staff

Booth Girl

Video Host

Media Team

Digital Staff

Drone Handlers

Submit to:

staff@inkvasionmag.com

INKVASION MAGAZINE

SUBMIT YOUR TATTOO ARTWORK

- ORIGINAL ARTWORK
- Send in your Bio
- Tell us your story

MUST BE A LICENSED TATTOO ARTIST

submissions@inkvasionmagazine.com

Inked2gether.com
Tattoo Dating Site
Presents:

Casting Calls

The Tattoo Dating Game

The Tattoo Dating Game TV Show Pilot

Send in video LOVE bio!

INKED2GETHER.DATING@GMAIL.COM

Sign up for Contest info: *TattooSocialite@gmail.com*

INKVASION MAGAZINE

MODEL SEARCH

We select models from every tattoo convention location we attend.

Become:

- Tattoo Convention Event Spokes Model
- Digital Queen Contest
- Issue Centerfold
- Tattoo Socialite of the Year!

- must be over 18
- must be tattooed

Inclusive Tattoo Model Search

Anthony Medina

@anthonymedinaart

Gunner Quispe

@gunnarquispe

RedBear Owner of N8V Ink

@redbearn8vink

Loco Owner of Dharma Tattoo

@locodharma

Lemon Wolfe

@think.lemon.ink

Mercedes Bravo

@bravotattooart

Urban Roots
Rooted in Art Section

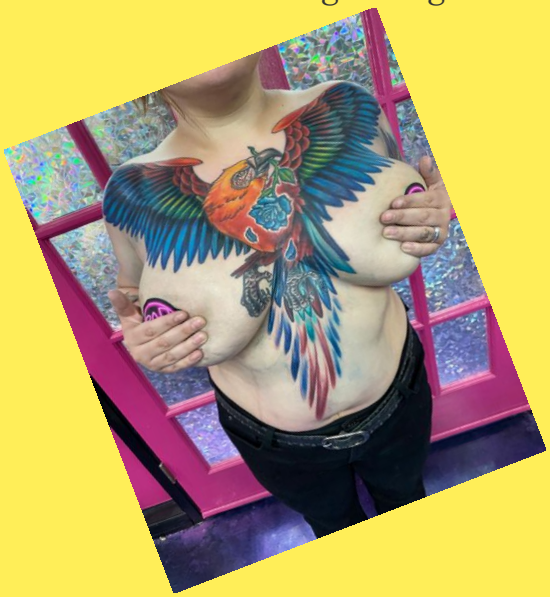
Robbie Ripoll Ink Master contestant, owner of Rad Ink Tattoo and Piercing in Melbourne, FL, and founder of The Rad Movement.

Chico: How did you get into tattooing?

Robbie: Well, I got into tattooing at a very young age because my father was a tattoo artist. I started my informal apprenticeship when I was 12 years old. I have been tattooing since I was 16 as a “professional”. My Father came here from Cuba with no formal education; but had art naturally in his blood. I was a young kid and watching my dad's tattoo made me fall in love with it.

Chico: What makes tattooing special to you?

Robbie: The fact that I can facilitate healing with clients on a deep spiritual level due to the fact that we have an intense energy transfer when you're sitting down tattooing someone. The in-depth lengthy conversations we can go through and the fact that the act of tattooing requires us to go into our client's brains and extract their thoughts and turn them into a picture. So because we’re so good at doing that I feel like it's very easy to give love and guidance and facilitate healing during a tattoo.



Because a lot of people who get tattooed use it as a form of pain therapy and I think that's beautiful. And I am honored to be a part of everyone's healing journey.

Chico: What is the Rad Movement and why did you start the rad movement?

Robbie: Well, the Rad Movement is the motivational platform that I developed shortly when I got off of ink master. I was in a very dark and depressed state and I secretly wanted to kill myself and was ashamed to talk about it. My silence made me realize I wasn't the only one that felt this way.

So one day I googled “how to be happy” and I found a bunch of motivational speakers and business people that were really just talking about similar things to what I was going through or had gone through and different things. But they talked about how to persevere and how to make it through. And I just kind of went down the rabbit hole of learning about myself and my mental wellness and it made me realize that something that it was something that I had been called to do but in my own way. I embodied all this motivational content and personal wellness and I eventually turned it into motivation for people who like the word fuck. It's the easiest way to describe the Rad Movement. It's a positive mindset, its motivation, and its love for all who are here and prefer a message with a harsher edge.

Chico: When did you start to manage your own mental health?

Robbie: I started to manage my mental health when I realized it was a problem but even more so when I realized I could. Growing up you kind of just expect that you can pull yourself out of things, that you can't change your mind and you can't change your situation. But once I realized that my mental health and wellness was something I could manage and improve I really got deep into it. It really started when someone on Facebook recommended the book "The Celestine Prophecy". It changed my brain on thinking outside of myself as far as spirituality goes and really connecting to myself on a deeper level. When I realized I could heal myself from the pain of the past, from the pain of my childhood, the pain of divorce, and the pain of life I realized "this is such a beautiful thing why don't I do this more and why don't I manage my shit better?" I realized if I could manage my shit I could help other people manage their shit. There's a giant sea of people in the tattoo world who don't get the help that we need because we are too proud to seek help or we just don't know we are allowed or that there's an option to better our mental wellness.

Chico: What lights your fire inside or outside of the shop?

are Robbie: For me, the things that light my fire outside of the shop are- I love making resin artwork and just making artwork that isn't really stuck in any parameters. My family really lights me up. They are the reason why I do what I do and have always been but now as I get older I realize they're more important and spending time with them is even more valuable than making lots of money to go and do cool things with them. Driving my classic Cadillac always gives me wild fun joy. I wakeboard regularly and as a one-legged man that's really cool to do because I didn't know that I was going to be able to continue to do all the things I used to do before I lost my leg. And going to the gym regularly; it's like my church; my sanctuary. It's a place I can go and just really work out some shit.

Chico: Ok Robbie, last question. Since I know you on a personal level and I've seen some of your ups and downs; I have to ask what was harder: Ink Master, divorce, or losing your leg?

Robbie: The funny thing is they all had a general theme, which was loss disappointment, and inability to change the situation. It was just changing how I reacted to it. Losing my leg was the hardest but most rewarding on the other side. Ink Master and divorce are very close in pain but the payoff from Ink Master was probably way better. And the divorce; I'd call that one actually harder than Ink Master. But less rewarding except for the fact that I was freed from a bad situation twice. But all three taught me how to keep moving forward and they all had their blessings in disguise and they are all a part of what makes me who I am.

Written by: Chico Cortez from Marked 4 Life

@ROBBIERIPOLL
@RADINKFLORIDA

Tattoo Artist & Model Taylor DeMers

Taylor is the owner of Forever in Ink tattoo studio in Sebring, Florida. She is a mother of a beautiful little girl. The daughter of an amazing mother who helps her run her shop. Taylor is also a model. She is a very talented artist at the young age of 23. She flourishes each day.

She loves to go for runs in the morning and maintain a happy healthy life. She is funny and charismatic. My opinion is she can be the industry's next "IT GIRL".

Written by:
Frankie Scorpion

@Tay_staytatted

Historic 1912 Hoover House

Historic 1912 Hoover House
This Enchanting, Historic Mansion holds the key to a memorable getaway in Waynesboro, Pa.

Historically Haunted, former Assisted Living Facility. Book your stay at The Hoover today! 717-521-7465
Where Haunted History Lives Forever

Anna Bridges

Tattoo Model & Body Piercer

Tell us how you got into the tattoo industry.

I was in Clarksville Tennessee in a dead-end marriage and my friend suggested I get an apprenticeship at a local tattoo shop. I went the next day and got an apprenticeship at Red Five in Clarkesville, where I found my new home with Tarkik Thomas.

Tell us how modeling came about?

Modeling came out of a need to advertise myself and it's grown into this amazing adventure that I truly love.

Give us your thoughts on the tattoo industry as a whole?

The industry as whole is incredible and exciting. Adventurous and addictive as well. It has grown by leaps and bounds over the last decades. So many people care about where it's going and where it's been. So many new talented artists. We couldn't be here without the legends that paved the way. Now we are mainstreamed and it has become epic.

Any words of wisdom or advice for women starting out in tattooing and or modeling?

Stay humble. Don't listen to the hate and remember to be safe and watch for the red flags. MAKE MAGIC! As an artist make sure the client is the most important player in the industry. Without them, who would we tattoo or pierce?

Have you had to overcome any demons along the way?

I have had many demons over the years as most of us do. I tend to joke that I never overcame them a lot. I have learned to embrace them and befriend them. Now we play nicely together. But on a serious note, many challenges have come up along the way but we just have to move on and persevere through the hard times. They make us who we are today. NEVER REGRET THEM. I don't know about you but I love me as me and with all the flaws and imperfections. I am me. I am perfect. I am THE VOODOO DOLL!

Written by: Chris Potts

@voodoo_dollll

Gratitude Tattoo Supply

Add body text

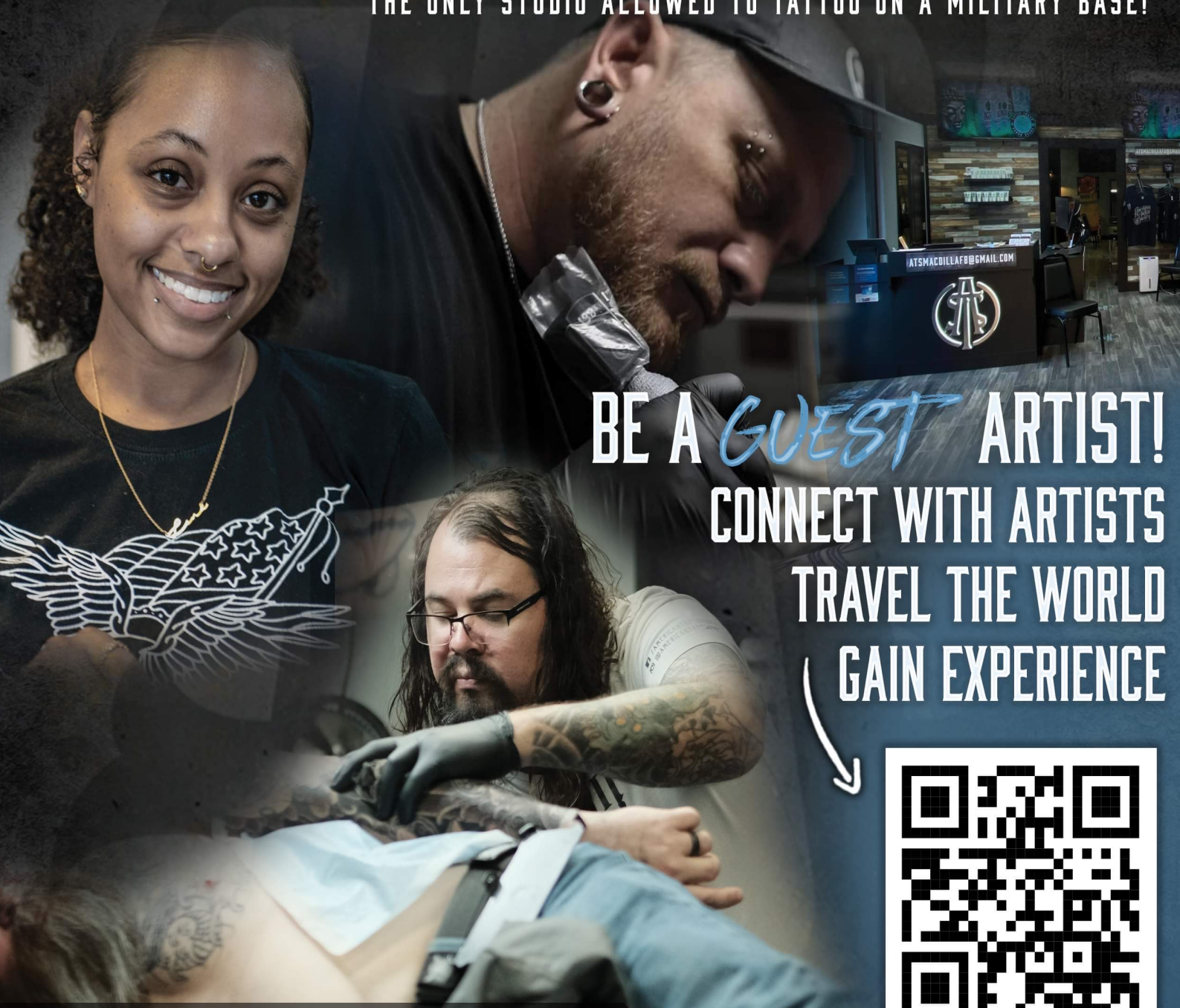
412-889-0798

310 Lysle Blvd

McKeesport PA

AMERICAN TATTOO SOCIETY

THE ONLY STUDIO ALLOWED TO TATTOO ON A MILITARY BASE!



BE A *GUEST* ARTIST!

CONNECT WITH ARTISTS
TRAVEL THE WORLD
GAIN EXPERIENCE

HIT US UP ONLINE @ATSRECRUITMENT
WWW.AMERICANTATTOOSOCIETY.COM

FAYETTEVILLE NC - JACKSONVILLE NC - LAS VEGAS NV - TAMPA FL - EL PASO TX
FAIRFIELD CA - COLUMBUS GA - DAYTON OH - DESTIN FL - CHARLESTON SC

Fashion Blog

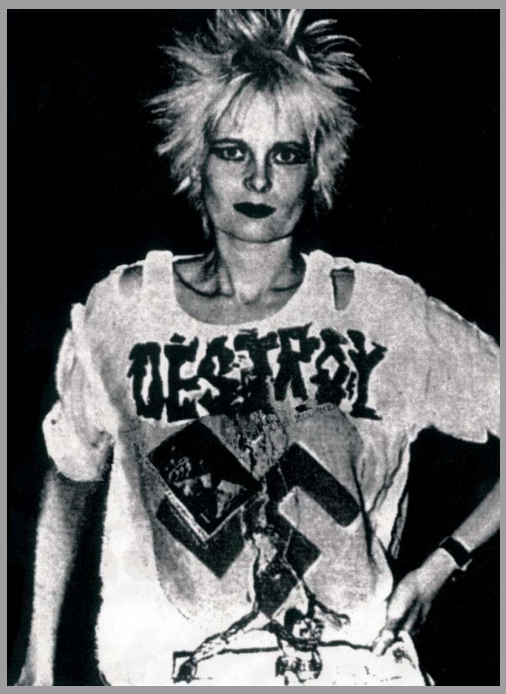
By: Jeanette McManus

@jeanmarli

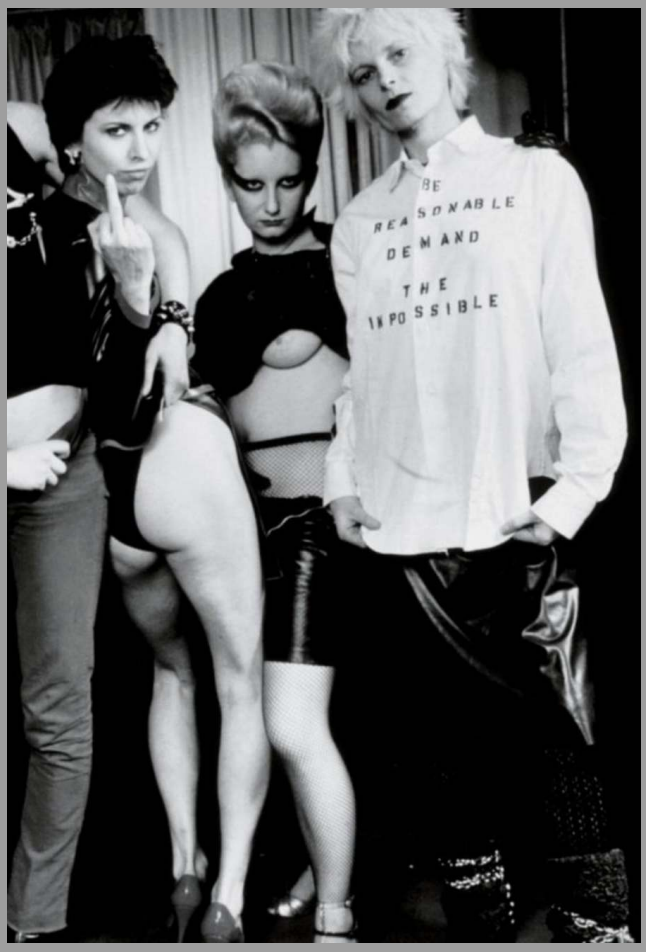
Vivienne Westwood- April 41'- December 22'

With 2022 coming to an end, the fashion community lost a punk pioneer icon. One of the first designers to make "punk" and "grunge" chic. The queen of plaid herself, Vivienne Westwood was taken too soon.

The British powerhouse was known worldwide for her in your -face activist attitude. Along with her big personality came bigger fashion pieces. Utilizing: sexually explicit images, leather, and lots of print styles- Vivienne will forever be known as a punk icon.



(Photographer unknown)



(David Dagley/Rex USA)

(Michel Euler/AP)

Sex, Drugs & Rock n Roll... and Tattooing

Rock and roll and tattoos go together like... well like rock and roll goes with sex and drugs. But just like some rock stars have no tattoos (Alice Cooper for example. He's scared of needles)more and more musicians are finding sobriety. And for those that are into tattoos, a sobriety tattoo can be a meaningful way to commemorate that part of their life.

It's interesting that most of the things we still think of as stereotypes of rock and roll really only existed for a short period of time in a relatively small percentage of musicians. The first tattooed rock star didn't even exist until about 1970. That's when Janis Joplin got two tattoos - a design on her wrist and a heart on her chest - making her among the first celebrities of any type who had tattoos. Rock stars like Ozzy Osbourne had some tattoos in the 70s - including the infamous O-Z-Z-Y on his knuckles, which he said was his first tattoo at 16 and also one of the only ones he was sober enough to remember getting - but he didn't get heavily tattooed until later. It was in the 1980s that the reputation for rock stars having tattoos really took hold. And it was in the mid-80s that a young punk rocker named Mike Ness first got sober.

Ness is the lead singer and guitar player of the legendary Southern California punk band Social Distortion. He battled serious problems with alcohol and heroin beginning at age 12. But in 1985at age 23 he quit for good. He told the OC Register in 2019 that he hit his "emotional rock bottom a little bit earlier than a lot of people" and he got sober just in time to change the course of his life. He also said that the first thing he did after playing his first show sober was going to get a tattoo. The tattoos he chose after getting sober were spider webs on his elbows. He said his friends told him they looked like prison tats. But, as Ness told Tattoo Artist magazine in 2011, "it was almost like...I still wanted to look like a dope-fiend." Ness didn't just turn his life around but the fortunes of his band as well. By 1990 Social Distortion entered the Billboard charts and had a gold record.

Mike Ness' spider web tattoos have a pretty abstract connection to his sobriety, but some musicians with sobriety tattoos have been more literal. Jason Isbell, the Grammy-Award-winning singer-songwriter and former Drive By-Truckers guitarist, got sober in 2012. In February of 2022he made a post on Twitter showing off a new tattoo he got to celebrate 10 years of sobriety. He got ten tally marks on his right forearm. Someone on Twitter asked him how he did it. "The luck of having good people around me," he replied. And he said it helped that he started spending his money on guitars instead of drugs. Isbell won Grammys for both Best Americana Album and Best American Roots song in 2016 and 2020.

Another musician who celebrated a sobriety milestone with a tattoo was Florence Welch from the band Florence + the Machine. She got a number 3 on her finger after 3 years of sobriety. Florence said that she used to drink before every performance and that partying seemed like it was part of her personality. But she was able to get sober in 2014. In addition to the meaning of the number, the finger she got the tattoo on was also significant. She got the tattoo on her left ring finger. A finger, she explained on Instagram, which was "broken during a drunken fight". Luckily the drunken fight was with a wall (and she said don't worry the wall was fine). But it serves as a nice metaphorical reminder that the biggest enemy in the battle against addiction can often be yourself. Her first album after getting sober was 2015's How Big, How Blue, How Beautiful which debuted at number 1 on the Billboard charts, went Gold, and was nominated for 5 Grammys.

For some musicians it isn't enough to have just one tattoo commemorating their sobriety. A lifelong battle sometimes requires multiple tattoos. That is the case for singer and former Disney Channel star Demi Lovato. Demi has been public (even singing on record) about her fight against addiction and relapsing. She had been sober for six years when she relapsed in 2018 leading to an overdose. Luckily she survived and got clean again. In 2019 she got the word "Survivor" tattooed on her neck and a rose on her finger. Both have been speculated to be about her sobriety. On her back, she has a piece done by tattoo artist Alessandro Cappozi of an angel with black wings being pulled up by three doves, "representing a rebirth of spirit." She has the word "Faith" under her elbow on her right arm, a tattoo she got with another girl she met while in treatment, and next to it 12 birds which represent the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. She has the words "Stay" on one wrist and "Strong" on the other - the first tattoos she got after her first stint in rehab. She also has the word "Free" written on her finger. A number of people on her team - including her manager, assistant, security, and hairdresser - all got the same tattoo in solidarity. Lovato's most recent album, 2022's Holy Fvck cracked the top 10 Billboard charts in the US and UK.

Society's attitude towards tattoos has definitely progressed from the days when they were associated with just drug addicts and rock stars. More and more people are realizing that tattoos are sacred, important, and personal. Tattoos can be like songs in that way. Like the best songs can uplift and inspire us, tattoos can be symbols of hope, inspiration, and freedom. And for the musicians that have gotten sober they can be a powerful symbol of what they have overcome.

Written by: Patrick Hicks

@patrickhicks82

AI (Artificial Intelligence) Article

Exploring the History and Cultural Significance of Tattoos: A Look at the Ancient Art Form and Its Impact on Modern Society.

Tattoos have a rich history and cultural significance that spans centuries and continents. From ancient civilizations to modern society, tattoos have been used for a variety of purposes, including spiritual and religious rituals, social status, and self-expression. In this article, we will explore the history and cultural significance of tattoos, taking a look at the ancient art form and its impact on modern society.

The origins of tattoos can be traced back to ancient civilizations such as the Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans. Tattoos were often used for religious and spiritual purposes, with the ancient Egyptians using them to mark the passage of life and death. In ancient Greece and Rome, tattoos were also used to mark criminals and slaves. The art of tattooing was also practiced in ancient China, Japan, and Polynesia, where tattoos were used as a form of protection against evil spirits.

In the early days of tattooing, the process was a painful and time-consuming one. Tattoos were typically done by hand, using a needle made of bone or metal to puncture the skin and apply ink. Asa result, tattoos were typically only found in the upper class or those who could afford to endure the pain of the process.

In the 19th century, the invention of the electric tattoo machine revolutionized the art of tattooing, making it more accessible to the general public. This led to an increase in the popularity of tattoos, with sailors, soldiers, and other travelers being some of the first to adopt the art form. Tattoos also began to be used as a form of self-expression, with people getting tattoos that represented their interests, beliefs, and experiences.

Today, tattoos have become a mainstream form of self-expression and art. They are no longer just for sailors and soldiers, but for people of all ages, genders, and backgrounds. Tattoos have also become more accepted in society, with many employers now allowing employees to have visible tattoos.

However, tattoos are still not without their controversies. Some people view tattoos as a form of self-expression, while others see them as a form of rebellion or deviance. There are also concerns about the safety and health risks associated with tattoos, as well as the potential for regret down the road.

Despite these controversies, tattoos continue to be an important part of modern culture. They have played a significant role in shaping our history and continue to shape our identity as individuals. Tattoos have also played a significant role in shaping our culture and will continue to do so in the future.

Tattoos are a fascinating and ancient art form, with a rich history and cultural significance. From ancient civilizations to modern society, tattoos have been used for a variety of purposes, including spiritual and religious rituals, social status, and self-expression. As we continue to evolve as a society, tattoos will continue to be an important part of our culture and our identity.

In conclusion, tattoos are an ancient art form that has played a significant role in shaping our history and culture. From its early days as a painful and time-consuming process to its current status as a mainstream form of self-expression, tattoos have come a long way. They continue to be an important part of modern society and will continue to shape our culture and our identity as individuals in the future.

Written by: AI

InkVasion Magazine

@inkvasion_magazine
@inkvasionmagazine
@inkvasionmagazine
InkVasion Magazine

www.inkvasionmagazine.com

Tattoo View Podcast

(Launching in May)

@tattooviewpodcast
@frankiescorpion
@tattooviewpodcast2
Tattoo View Talk Show

INKED2GETHER Dating Site
(Launching in June)

Stay Tune for our TV Show Pilot
Casting Calls for
"The Tattoo Dating Game"

@inked2gether.datingsite
@inked2gether
@inked2getherdating
Inked2gether Dating Site
www.inked2gether.com

Music & Food Review Podcast

Rockstars cooking their fav foods. Celebrity cook-offs for charity.

InkVasion Media Owned by:
Jim Miller / Chris Potts / Frankie Scorpion

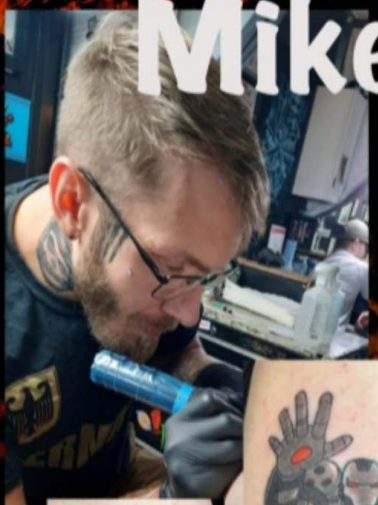
International Spokesmodel:
Former Miss Ink America: Hawk Marquardt

Come join us in our InkVasion Tattoo Tour

msha.ke/inkvasionmedia

Add body text

KNUCKLES & NEEDLES TATTOO



356 Market st
Sunbury Pa
17801

Preserve and Celebrate Our History

TATTOO HERITAGE PROJECT
501(C)(3)

The creation of the first tattoo history art museum in the United States is a monumental effort that requires significant resources and support from individuals and organizations alike. Tattooing has a rich cultural and historical significance, and the establishment of a museum dedicated to its history and art would be a valuable addition to the country's cultural landscape.

Donating to the Tattoo Heritage Project is a crucial step towards preserving this art form and educating the public on its significance.

The museum would provide a platform for the public to learn about the history and evolution of tattooing, and how it has impacted various cultures and societies throughout history. It would also showcase the intricate artistry and techniques used by tattoo artists, providing a deeper understanding of the art form beyond its aesthetic appeal.

By donating to THP, you will play a role in promoting and preserving our beloved form of artistic expression that has often been stigmatized in the past. Preserve and celebrate our history.

Donate Today at
TattooHeritageProject.org