

The background features large, bold, black letters 'Still' in a serif font. The 'S' is on the left, 't' is in the upper middle, 'l' is in the middle, and 'if' is in the lower right. The letters are partially cut off by the edges of the frame.

Still life
Vol: 01

Alex Reinke
Ant The Elder
Simon Erl
Rhiannon Jones
Chad Koeplinger
Mike Skattum

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My name's Ed Crooks and I've been getting tattooed on and off for about 18 years. I've been tattooed all over the place from the UK to Sweden, Japan, Latvia and Norway (to name just a few) and by some amazing artists at amazing shops, as well as at some not so amazing, quite shitty shops.

I basically thought of this idea when I started working in the tattoo industry in a London shop. It was originally going to me and another tattoo buddy contributing to it, but he couldn't be bothered in the end. I got on with it and interviewed Chad Koeplinger which I featured on my blog DroidxRage. Next was

Alex Reinke and then later I went on to interview friends, Simon Erl and Ant The Elder, after taking a shop floor job at the amazing Sang Bleu in Dalston. I really wanted the content to be about things I like that I know a lot of tattooists can identify with but don't necessarily talk about often in magazines or online interviews, like Japanese folklore and traditions, The Straight Edge, records, food and other nonsense. I also wanted to touch on one of my favourite hobbies, which is toy collecting (Japanese vintage, to be exact).

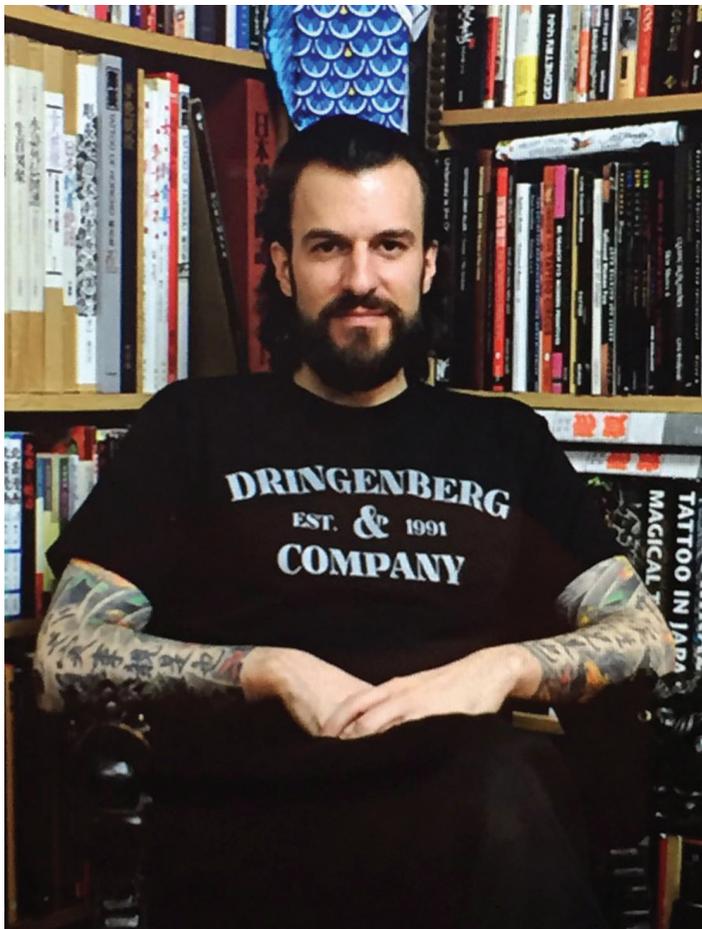
Mike Skattum is someone who I have followed for a while on Instagram. He has an awesome toy collection and tattoo collection.

The idea behind having Rhiannon was that she's hard as nails when getting belly tats, she's vegan, and she's a hardcore chick with a lot of interesting stuff to shout about. Some of the interviews were conducted a couple of years ago due to work and other commitments, but they have not been altered as to keep them in

the original format... going back to update stuff can just make things run even later.

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ALEX REINKE HORIKITSUNE

Alex Reinke is a German tattoo artist that specialises in Japanese Irezumi. He owns a private Japanese style appointment only shop In London.

Hi Alex, you just got back from the Athens Tattoo convention- how was that? Greece is not somewhere I'd instantly link to tattoo culture, how is it there? Especially with their current economic situation.

I love Greece. It's one of the last free places on this planet and its changing at a crazy pace to be just like any other country. They're all interchangeable with their H&M Starbucks etc. The Greek people get tattooed quite a lot these days, I was very busy. The economic situation is fatal, that's for sure. I cut my hourly rates in half to make ends meet for them. I love the people, the weather, the chaos and the food.

What is your tattoo background, like when and where did you start etc? What inspired you in to tattooing.

I tattoo 21 years this year. I got interested in Japan first, then tattoos quite early in life around 12. It never left me ever since. I only really liked the Japanese tattoo approach. To this day I think it's the most accomplished style. They are perfectionists. No

wonder it's called tattooing for adults. :-) Inspiration came from movies and my martial arts training. I was drawing daily from an early age. When Japanese designs were introduced into my life I was obsessed drawing these. I started tattooing in my last year of six form. In my father's surgery after he went home evenings.

Would you say you're personal tattoo style is influenced by one or more artists?

Of course it is. Influenced especially by my former Japanese master. Who has thought me a great deal. Nowadays I still focus on the old Japanese Ukiyo-e masters and painters. But contemporary artists in our business are interesting as well. Like Mike the Athens, Ivan Szasi, Mick of Zurich, Ichibay and some of my former masters ex students and many more.

What first sparked your interest in Japanese tattoos?

My family history and the martial arts training was the initial trigger. I found myself in that. I was a troubled boy.

This made me settle a great deal. The accompanying movies did the rest:-)

With you being well versed in such things, would you like to give us a brief look into the history of Irezumi?

Well it was in the hands of the firemen mostly and very popular with the first westerners coming to Japan in early Meiji period. Then it was forbidden in order to clean up Japan to be more presentable to the western world, in late Meiji period for about 50 years until 1948 where tattooing was again legalized with the still ongoing occupation of Japan by the US. Unfortunately the tradition went completely underground and was only practiced by the Japanese Mafia- the Yakuza.

The name Yakuza is a just combination of numbers, with which one loses in a certain traditional Japanese gambling game. It basically means- worthless. Which is a quiet charming name to give oneself being a Mafiosi. I like that a lot about Japan. It's Very typical ➤

Japanese understatement, modesty and extremely unique in the world of usually big headed criminals or people.

In Japan the tattoo tradition was being kept alive by the Yakuza until the 1990ies. Then it became more mainstream, but the current trouble with tattooing in Japan shows it still has the stigma and bad reputation even though it established itself publicly in the past 30 years! The officials have, typically for the Japanese government, no problem to simply shut everything down they don't understand or like. In this case they want to clean up Japan again for the upcoming Olympics 2020! Can't believe they didn't learn a thing in the past 100 years.

Now they shut tattoo shops down and ask for a doctors license of the artist. Ridiculous. But typical. They don't give a shit about the people's lives they destroy. All our colleagues and friends. We need to support as good as we can with their 'safe tattooing in Japan' campaign for

example. Problem is as well That even if tattooing is going underground again in Japan, the Yakuza has been weakened in a way never before seen.

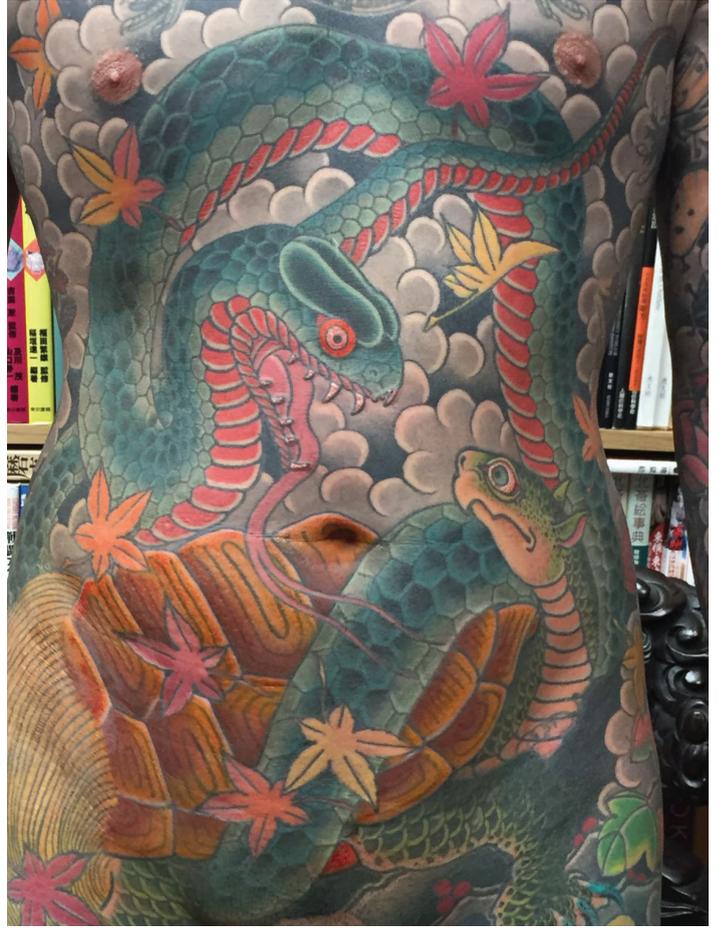
And they struggle to keep themselves going right now. I think tattooing will really struggle over there for a long time. Very sad. It's such an amazing and necessary part of their culture. Just to keep the balance its crucial to have it around.

Can you go back and tell us a bit about your personal history with Japan from the start? Could you also spread some light on your Tattoo name and where it came from?

Well my last name is Reinke which is an old German name for fox. I have a family tree dating back to 1420 and a family crest with 2 foxes in it. The name 'the carving fox' (Horikitsune) was a no brainer. I thought I needed to give up that name after some modern day social media troubles, but i figured out I didn't have to and I decided to actually keep it in the end. ➤

“ Japan shows it still has the stigma and bad reputation even though it established itself publicly in the past 30 years!

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My personal history or family related history with Japan goes back quiet far. My great grand aunt Mother Mayer, was a head nun of the sacred heart order. Something like the Jesuits for women as far as I know. She first went to Japan in 1910 from London (funny enough) to Yokohama by ship, to open the first sacred heart monastery in Japan of which she was the abbess. She then founded the first all girl elite school under the motto: 'Big You - small I', in 1923 in Obayashi, of which she was the headmistress until her death in 1955.

During her time she taught many girls, one of them was to become princess chi chi bu. This is the woman who married the emperors brother prince chichibu, second in line to the throne. I have a photo of him bowing to her grave in Japan. The school still exists. Even more where founded all over Japan. She was very successful with her endeavors. Which is probably down to the fact that German and Japanese values are quiet similar. I felt very much at home over there.

By the way, Mother Mayers brother was the Jesuit priest Pater Rupert Mayer who resided and preached in Munich. He was beatified by pope John Paul the 2nd in the mid 1980ies for his resistance against Hitler. He was put into prison by the Nazis during the war. They couldn't kill him for then he would have become a martyr to his many followers. So the church had to put him into a small room in their monastery walls. Basically His own people messed with him. He died preaching on the chancel late 1945 after the war was over. They say the whole ordeal broke his heart. In any way I've drifted a bit away from our subject. Fact is they both would probably turn in their graves knowing I converted to Buddhism to become a lay monk of Rinzai Zen.

Nevertheless The old letters, postcards, the bit of Japanese art and the stamps we had from my great-aunts packages, she sent to my great grand parents back in the day, definitely played a part in my interest in that country.

I went to Japan first time 1991. Have to thank my dad for taking me. I was able to experience a Japan then that was lost shortly after that period. It was so different just amazing! I decided to get my bodysuit with 14, very much to the dismay of my doctor parents. Back then tattooing wasn't what it was today. Even when I started in 1995 everyone thought I'd end up living under the bridge. Even I wasn't too confident I'd go anywhere with it, but for some reason it was what I had to do. The way tattooing has changed and how mainstream it has become wasn't something anyone could have known back then. In a way I miss that time.

I took the risk to follow my heart against many peoples wishes. I risked it all really. And that usually is the necessary condition for some form of success. Not that I would say I'm any where near successful. Let's not forget I'm only in my second decade slowly going towards third. In Japanese terms I'm nowhere yet. After 30 years it gets interesting. Then a certain master ship has established >

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They couldn't kill him for then he would have become a martyr to his many followers. So the church had to put him into a small room in their monastery walls.

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itself. In a time when everyone wants to be someone right now, trying to cut out the becoming part, this Japanese system of education can be very frustrating for people. I love it however, it keeps me grounded and inspired. I came to my former master in 1997 and he took me on in 1999 as far as I remember the decision was made in a black cab in London (funny enough). I was a so called satellite apprentice, flying back and forth twice each year, all these years, until summer 2015. Then all changed, and sadly I will have to complete the rest of my path alone. The only real constant in life - change. :-)

You do lots of amazing big work, but do you get lots of people starting off small and then getting the taste to go big or do they know what they want straight away with regards to big pieces?

Most people that come to me know what they want. Which is good. Japanese tattooing lives of big scale, kick ass designs. Balanced size and harmonic positioning working with the clients body is key. Starting

small is usually not the best in the overall look later. It's up to the expert Tattooer to advise and guide the client accordingly. Even if it means to refuse work.

Lots of tattoo guys and girls travel while tattooing, is that something you are still interested in now you have a child?

I loved the travel-tattoo period in my life! But now that child number 2 is here it's basically close to impossible. Other colleagues with kids might disagree, but for my family and our agreements and splitting of duties i have cut down on travels tremendously. It's just to keep everyone at home sane really. And i missed so much already, they grow up so quickly. I rather wait a while with the travels, or take the family with.

Where have been some of your most interesting travel experiences? And what are some of your favourite places/shops to tattoo outside of the UK?

I tattooed in quiet a few places in

my career. Lots of different and great shops. I don't want to start naming and forgetting one.

Are there any tattooists that we should know about right now?

Social media will guide you. What can I possible say that is news anymore?

What do you think of tattooing in 2016?

Let's hope it explodes and all goes underground again.

You also have a publication company... tell us a bit about that?

It's sadly scrapped. My business Partner had different plans and I'm not fit to continue by myself. We have a sale on whatever is left soon.

When and how did you decide to start collecting Vintage Star Wars figures?

Haha.. It was all I played with as a kid. I had a lot of figures and built a case for them when I was 20 years old and the hype kinda came back. Just this year the hype got out of hand and I got back into collecting the few figures I ➤



missed. I thought it were a few. Turns out I bought nearly as many as I had previously. Mental. Expensive plastic nowadays. But I'm a collector. Of pretty much anything that interests me. Never with the goal of investing Etc. Just for fun.

Are any of them in your current collect from your childhood?

Before all. Now half.

What comes first for you- the movie or the toy line? I was always toy line first, but I know most were movie.

I had the toys first. Wasn't allowed to see the film until later. Too young. Back then people cared about kids minds. Now I saw Star Wars crazy dads take their 4year olds to the new Star Wars. Which is IN-FUCKING-SANE!!! I saw the little ones cry their eyes out! That damage went beyond a bad nights sleep. I read a lot about screen time and Child's brain development. It's part of our, more or less alternative, old school life style. A psychologist friend of mine diagnosed me as a conservative-

anarchist the other day. Wow whatever that means.. Anyway it's scary what screens do to kids brains. Ours get 2 hours a month, except for travel time And only stuff for their age.

What are some of your favourite pieces?

Dude I love em all. I got into making some custom figures this year and made the ones I thought were necessary. I mean the ones Kenner failed to produce for some crazy reason! It's not that hard but a bit of a shame to destroy 2 or sometimes 3 vintage figures to get one custom one. But it has to be top quality. So no new parts allowed. It's a great hobby and i think I kinda like those a bit more than the originals even.

Did you find some of the variants very difficult to get hold of and where and how have you acquired most of your collection?

Yes some variants are super hard to get, and crazy money! Months of research online and I've been ripped off big time twice (!) too. Gotta watch it. ➤

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Do you have a grail piece your on the hunt for? Or do you feel your collection is complete?

I'm complete mate. It's done and dusted. I get obsessed, hardcore and then it's over. It's gotta be done like that otherwise too many projects unfinished in my life.

What other interests do you have hobby wise?

My work, tattoo world stuff in general, collecting, books, Meditation, my kids, reading, Photography, painting, DIY at

home, motorbikes and all that comes with it.

What are your music tastes?

In my calmer period only classical music Beethoven, Vivaldi Etc. Nowadays I'm back into metal. Especially instrumental rock though. Like Jakob, my sleeping karma, monkey 3, Russian circles Etc.

Thank you very much for taking time out to do this, anything else you would like to add?

Thank you buddy. Good luck with it all. Be yourself always and trust in the power of the force. :-)

Oh and see you at the Star Wars connection in London in July?! I'm there Sunday! Dressed up as obi wan of course. At least I'll try haha..

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ANT THE ELDER

Hey Ant what's up man? First off do you wanna tell us where your from etc? (name, place of growing up)

Ant The Elder, born in Provence in France, and moved around a bit as a kid with my family, always in south of France though. I then went to Lyon to study, and after graduating relocated to London UK. ➤



Your back in Berlin right now right? Where do you work there and what do you have going on?

I work at AKA over there. After almost 7 years in London, and the realization of the state of the political climate in the UK, a change of scenery was needed.

We are just settling down, and (re) learning how to live a more relaxed life where days off are a thing!

How do you find Berlin as a city?

As I describe it to many people I talk about this with; Berlin has the excitement without the stress. It's the right balance of buzzing and calm.

It does not have the pretension of London, and lacks some of what only a city solely centered around money can offer but in counterpart allows for a much better quality of life.

It's also very central and well connected, with two international airports, which suits me just fine. I just love it so much, and I would

have ended up here 15 years earlier if things would have worked out differently.

Do you attend many Hardcore or Metal shows over there?

I have not been to any gig in a long time. The last one I went to in Berlin was actually before I even moved here, and it was Phurpa - so more ritualistic music than hardcore.

How did you first become aware of Punk & Hardcore?

Funnily enough Berlin was a stepping stone for me. I was first here on a school trip when I was a teenager (school exchange, pen pals type of situation). I had kept in touch with my pen pal then, and came back a year or two later (my sense of time is pretty warped).

One evening while walking around, coming back from one of those metal/rock club night things, we passed a bar, from which I heard some two tone reggae coming through. We went down and in this tiny little cave were a dozen



skinheads - skanking and moon stomping to some ska tunes.

I enjoyed the whole thing very much. That was my first encounter with a group of original skinheads. We only stayed a little, as that wasn't really my friends thing at the time, and I managed to grab a flyer for a big festival happening at the weekend.

The flyer was this crazy illustration of a big house, and a huge list of bands, activities, talks, workshops etc, for a place called Koepi. I wanted to go so bad, so we did! And that's the first squat I stepped foot in.

The madness of the space, that was celebrating I believe their 10 years anniversary, was magic. And that's when I discovered what was the definition of punk in my eyes.

There were 4 different music venues, one with a straight forward gutter punk gig, another one with a more doom/crust/hardcore gig, the canteen - catering all vegan food, and serving you against any donation >



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you’d feel like giving or could afford - had a folk acoustic show going on, and the basement was a queer disco!

Aside from all this, there was a talk upstairs on how to sabotage nuclear waste /uranium transportation trains and a DIY screen printing workshop.

From that day on, Punk for me was more about the politics than just a musical genre. And that’s how I feel I

discovered it, despite listening to my parents The Clash record being one of my earliest musical memories.

What are some of the first shows you went to?

The first shows I went to were with my parents. I remember going to this big festival organized by the local Communist Party every year. That was wild. The crowd was quite a mix of locals, old activists, drunk teens,



families. And the bill would have all sorts of musical genres going on one after the other, but overall it was quite chaotic and punk rock in many ways.

Did The Straight Edge find you straight away or did it come in time with finding out more about the movement?

I was certainly not a teetotal turned straight edge. Around the age of 13 I started to experiment with intoxicating myself. Living in the south of France might be picturesque but when you long for a city life it is quite boring.

I had a go at most things I could get my hands on, and after moving to Lyon I gave up my architecture studies and spent most of my days/ time getting drunk. By myself or socially it didn't matter to me. I have never been addicted to any of the other drugs I tried or used, but booze was different.

After some kind of epiphany I just gave it all up at once, from one day

to the next. And as I was entering the local DIY scene at the time, my newly found friends started to label me straight edge, although I had no idea what it was all about.

I eventually learned about it, and out of practicality embraced it, and even claimed it at times.

How is the straight edge right for you?

Over the past few years, I have been moving away a bit from the punk/ hardcore scene and by consequence felt like claiming straight edge was not fitting to my current life. I remain sober and drug free though, and that's something I had to work on more or less over the years.

I cut out drugs from my life over 10 years ago, and even though I've questioned it at times, seeing the damage they have done to my close friends - and knowing my own inclinations - I am regularly dipping back into an Edge mindset. It keeps me mentally sane and politically coherent. And it is just healthier. ➤

What are some of your favourite Hardcore & Punk bands, and top 3 HC records?

As I said before punk for me is more about an attitude. I am not the one that always knew absolutely the last record out or even names of most bands/records.

Nonetheless, this changes at times, but I guess I should list the ones I got tattoos based on, one of them being Passion Armee, an obscure Lyon based new wave/post punk squatters band.

Their lyrics and music still resonates with me, and I wish there were better quality records of their music. I got two quotes tattooed from their two record discography.

Minor threat is another band I go back to from time to time, and I enjoy the music of. Out of Step will always be exhilarating .

Finally, I find Shelters Mantra album has an energizing effect and makes me happy.

Are you into electronic music at all?

I am into some yeah. Being in Berlin, it is hard to avoid it, but I have to admit that I have experienced the best sound system of my life in Berghain, and I do believe that you do not need to like techno, or be a sound nerd to enjoy it.

Let's move on to tattooing, when did and how did you start tattooing?

I started experimenting with tattooing shortly after moving to London in 2010. At the time I was helping out my friend Kali to set up his studio Never Say Die! in Croydon, South of London.

He did not want an apprentice, but he let me play around, purchase supplies, use the space and try out things on friends (and friends of friends). My friend Vlado sold me my first machine and power pack (both of which I still own).

I was also studying Fine Arts at the time and dabbled in Performance Art, using tattooing in this context as well,

as a mark making tool, rather than an adornment method.

I eventually got a call from Maxime (Buschi Plescia/MXM) who wanted to open Sang Bleu and needed help to do so, which is when things got more serious for me. After being a shop manager of some sorts, and then his PA, we went through a semi-formal apprenticeship.

What kind of stuff were you tattooing at the begging?

At first I had this idea that I wanted to master line work and eventually would go on to learn shading. I was in a studio, but had no strong guidance, just a few tips given by various tattooist friends .

I was influenced by the French style/arty type of things and was going towards an illustrative, graphic style - even though I could not draw for shit.

Did painting etc come naturally to you?

It did not. Still to this day I have only ever done a handful of paintings.

How would you say your style has evolved, and how would you describe your style of tattooing to someone present day?

I eventually discovered the work of Maxime and Duncan X, and realized that all this cool etching I had in the antique books I owned, the fine art elements we grow up surrounded by in Europe, were ready made tattoo flash.

I started to collect references and translate them into tattoos, and eventually added shading to my pieces, mixing up techniques, subject matter, compositions etc.

I do not know how to actually label my work, but I like the idea of calling it "European traditional" since it is mostly based on geographically concentrated visual elements and emulating techniques of print making that was born in Central Europe.

You were one of the original artists at Sang Bleu how was it right at the begging? ➤



One day I got a call from Max, asking me if I would be down to help him out opening a studio.

He would pay me to do so, and as a newly graduated (again) individual I was well happy to walk away from my veggie burger job at Borough Market to work full time in an industry I was much more into.

He had found a space, which I got to check out and discovered a real nice loft style flat in east London. The aim was to have a private space.

The first few weeks in the apartment were dedicated to setting up the furniture, and making sure all was ready for Max to tattoo in when he would be back from NYC.

Our first other resident was Philip Yarnell. And after existing for just a few weeks, we were already getting lots of attention.

We had only been working in this spot for a couple of months before the admin headaches got the best

of us, and pushed us to look for a commercial space. We found the Dalston lane spot then, and even though it was way too big for the team we had at the time, the space had the potential of being virtually anything we wanted to be.

We got the lease, and shared the space with the fashion label Cottweiler, as we had more than enough space for us on one floor.

Then the team grew, with Damien joining soon after his first guest spot with us, then a few people came in and went.

I was attempting to manage the studio, be Maximes PA, tattoo a bit, run around... I pretty much lived in the studio for a year!

We had to move the studio around a few times, running a pop up in Selfridges and one in LA. We moved furniture around every week, if not every day! We've changed the whole layout so many times it's now come back full circle!



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Well Sang Bleu London and AKA Berlin have a special place in my heart. I really enjoy working in both of those places

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What are some of your favourite shops and countries to work in?

Well Sang Bleu London and AKA Berlin have a special place in my heart. I really enjoy working in both of those places. Despite being so very different on many levels, they also bear a lot of resemblance.

You are vegan too so I guess being in Berlin right now is great for food no?

Berlin is pretty sweet. Veganism is widespread here. There's vegan supermarkets, Michelin-quality gourmet vegan restaurants, vegan döner shop, etc. Being vegan is

always easy, but here it is also very comfortable.

Where are some of the best places to eat over there?

My favorite restaurant in Europe is here and is called Lucky Leek. This is on the gastro end of the spectrum and the food and service never disappoint.

And in London?

In London Fed by Water is a favorite. I used to eat there daily at some point, and they even catered my wedding.

What are your plans for tattooing

where will you be in the next couple of months?

I am planning a few trips, in and outside Europe. But would also like to stay a bit more sedentary for the winter in Berlin, to focus on side projects. However any time I say that I end up booking another trip, so let's see.

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SIMON ERL

Yo Si what's up man? Where you at?

Hi! Just chilling in the sun up in the grim north.

Let's go back to when you first discovered HC fill us in man.

I always loved heavier music than all my pals in school. I got into the normal stuff like nirvana and then smashing pumpkins and rage against the machine. The clear political agenda of rage resonated with me. I loved that a band so heavy and angry could be singing about such important stuff.

That led me on to finding on about earth crisis. All this crazy heavy music and they were singing about real shit not about fantasy stuff like a lot of the metal stuff I was hearing. I would check out some slayer and other metal records because the artwork was ➤





always great but the music was just fast and I didn't find it heavy, I needed that chug or that breakdown. So that's why hardcore was it for me.

Straight Edge and Veganism came almost immediately for you right? Wanna shed some more light on that, which records gripped you etc?

I bought a straight edge shirt at the first show I went to. Not really knowing much about it but i was sure I wanted to be part of this new world that had just opened up in front of me. Buying records and reading every word printed on every sleeve brought me to veganism and other kind of social ideals and struggles. The records that really opened my eyes or gave me the anger to switch to a vegan lifestyle were: earth crisis- all out war (obviously), reprisal- boundless human stupidity, Arkangel- prayer upon deaf ears and One king down- blood lust revenge.

You get to tattoo a lot of people in Hardcore and so many people

come to you for Edge tats, that must make you feel awesome?

Yea it really was like a whole new world opening up for me. Like a secret that was hidden from the normies and jerks at high school. To me it was all one big sandwich- straight edge, hardcore, veganism, tattoos. I didn't really separate all those things. I remember being confused when I picked up a Skarhead CD, Kings At Crime and they were singing about drugs and shit.

Only then did I realise there were so many more layers to hardcore. I started apprenticing at a tattoo shop a few years after going to shows. Obviously I was crap at tattooing and drawing but because I was part of that scene I was lucky to be able to have a target audience already. I did bad tattoos on punks and hardcore kids. And I still do haha. I owe a lot of my tattooing career to that scene.

What have been some of your favourite Edge & HC tats?

I love doing X's on hands. I'll always do those for free because I commend

anyone going for that '90s look. "Straight edge" in old English and X's all day. I love doing it all.

What are your top 3 HC bands of all time?

Oh man that's an unfair question...: Inside Out
Crown of Thornz
Vegan Reich

And top 3 records?

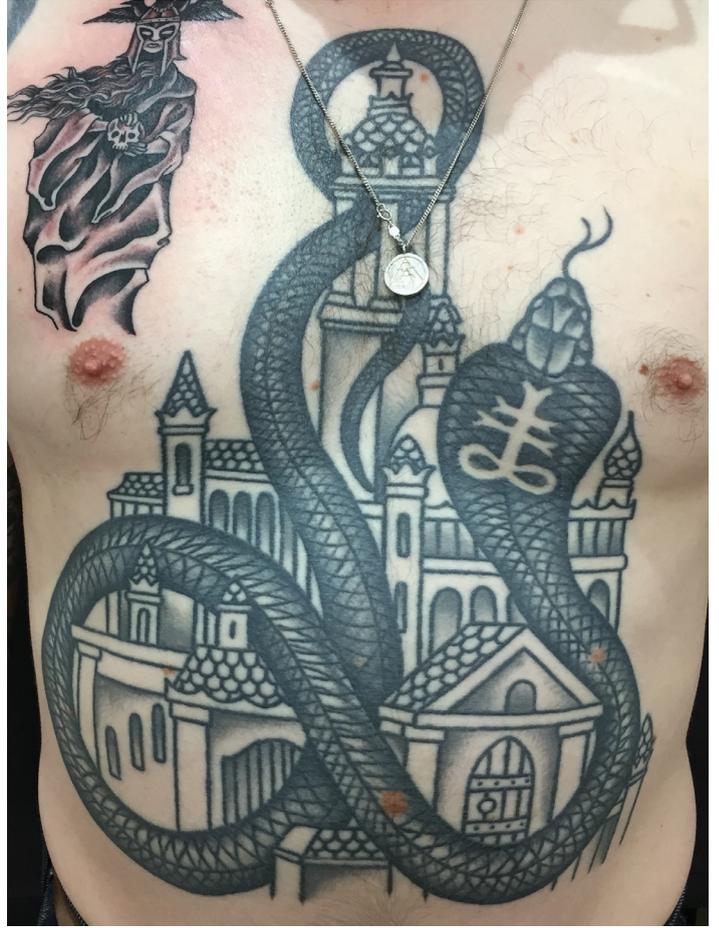
One King Down - Bloodlust Revenge
Ringworm - The Promise
Coming of the New Messiah - split with Brothers Keeper (only the Messiah side!)

How big is your record collection these days?

It's only just starting. I'm on a buying ban at the moment so can only trade for tattoos or paintings hahaha.

You have a real love from Metal when did this all start?

Remember that feeling of going to your first few hardcore shows? The excitement, the nervousness, the element of danger?! I love that





feeling. Sadly after years and years of shows that got lost. It all became safe and familiar. I was wanting something scarier, something nastier. So that pushed me to hardcore bands like Integrity and Ringworm etc. Even those weren't scary enough after a while so that's when I got into metal. I never liked Slayer or Metallica (not even the earlier records) I got more interested in stoner metal and doom. That got boring real quick but led me on to gnarlier stuff.

What metal bands are great right now?

I'm loving a lot of this new wave of American death metal. Blood Incantation, Irkalian Oracle, Venenum, Shataan, Akatharsia, Beketh Nexemuh, Wulkanaz, Berserk, Memnon Sa.... so many haha

What have been the 3 shows you have enjoyed the most in the last year?

I saw Ash Borer and Vanum a few weeks back in Scotland and both bands really impressed me (and I already had high expectations). There

were hardly any people there and it was so good!

Saw Mayhem they were boring but dragged into sunlight although they are pretty cheesy they are always great live.

Higher Power are always great too, those kids are rad and they are for real.

What do you think gives hardcore longevity?

I think it has a relatively short life span in almost peoples lives but throughout time I think it has longevity because it's "real" to a lot of kids at a certain age. It's pretty safe to say every teenager at some point feels displaced or disappointed with the mainstream so if hardcore is around and available they will relate to it. That's how it keeps going. Sadly I think a lot of hardcore becomes irrelevant as you get older. I no longer need a social circle to identify with and I also find it hard to related to lyrics that someone half my age is yelling about his/her opinions (mostly

pretty safe and black and white).

You grow up and realise life isn't that black and white and the "struggle" isn't solved by simply being vegan or being straight edge. However it has impacted and shaped who I am and how I live, even how I run my business. And I think THAT is when hardcore is special and important.

When you can take what you've learnt and make it matter in the "real" world. It's easy to be "hardcore" at hardcore shows or when you only socialise in your small circle but if you can carry that in the "real" world and out of it's safe context without selling out that's when I think it really is something special.

How would you describe your taste in Hardcore?

Juvenile, angry, righteous.

Best Vegan restaurant in London & Leeds?

Tough one. I think vegan food in those places is pretty appalling Best vegan food sadly isn't done

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When you can take what you've learnt and make it matter in the "real" world.

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at vegan places. Vegans suffer from a "that's good enough" mentality where as a restaurant that has vegan options they tend to make sure they are really good.

Dark arts/I will kill again in London has the best vegan options for sure.

Anything else you want to add?

New projects or anything?
Just working on a bunch of new paintings and trying to stay busy tattooing. Musical I can't offer anything to anyone so I gotta stick to drawing pictures for record covers and shirts haha

RHIANNON JONES

Hi Rhiannon can you tell us a bit about yourself (name age where you live etc)

My name's Rhiannon Jones, I turn 21 on 2nd August, I live in Orpington but am in East London almost every day for work and university.

What are you currently up to? (Work uni) whatever?

I start my final year of uni in September, I study Fine Art at London Met where my practice currently surrounds conceptual sculpture. This is right near the pub I work in as a barmaid.

When did you first find Hardcore?

I got really into Descendents when I was 14, not hardcore but it lead to me checking out and occasionally listening to Bad Brains and Cro Mags. My music taste stayed very much indie rock orientated 'til a couple mates started taking me to hardcore shows every now and then when I was like 17, I'm a late bloomer haha.

What was the First Hardcore band you fell in love with?

Probably Earth Crisis! When I first listened to them the way they

approached animal cruelty and it's repercussions in their lyrics really stuck with me, like they don't fuck about they're just upfront about it. Also this was the same kinda time Higher Power released the Demo 2015 which I thought was sick too.

What was the first show you went to?

My memory is terrible but I definitely remember World Weary's first London show at Luna being one of the first gigs I went to 'cause I was still 17 and they were such a good band. I remember seeing Proven when I first started going to shows too, they played Unicorn in Camden a few weeks ago and it's always a great atmosphere when they play.

Who kills it in hardcore right now in your opinion?

Ahh I'm gonna forget loads haha,

Grove Street Families and Venom Prison playing Download Festival looked mad, it's cool seeing bands progress like that. Guilt Trip just played their first London headline show, went to the London date of their tour with Easy Money and it was really fun.

Speaking of US bands Jesus Piece are coming to the UK soon which will be really sick to see, plus I've only just started listening to xElegyx and am so pissed I didn't check them out earlier. War Master and Blood Eagle are two fairly new bands that I'm really into at the moment, well Blood Eagle is metal but both killing it and definitely worth listening to.

How was *Outbreak Fest* and what were the highlights for you?

Outbreak was such a good time!! Breakdown played a surprise set at the Temple of Boom pre-show which everyone went totally mental for, the Saturday was the first time I'd seen Fury live so that was great and Sunday was the first time I'd seen Chamber. The biggest highlight for >





me had to be Cro-Mags oh my God I don't think I've ever been more happy during a set than then haha. Obviously it was also just really nice to spend time with mates from different parts of the UK that otherwise I rarely get to see.

When did you become vegan and what made you take that direction?

I became completely vegan on 7th August 2015 days after turning 19, and was vegetarian for a few years before that. I became veggie for health at like 16/17 as a last resort to coping with an eating disorder that I'd struggled with for years. For me, the sense of control was a big part of my bulimia so by going vegetarian I still controlled what I ate but in a different, non harmful way if that makes sense? It was only about a year after I'd been in recovery that I looked into the animal aspect of vegetarianism which I really began researching. That combined with conversations with vegan mates in hardcore lead me to becoming vegan I think.

Do you cook a lot for yourself, what stuff do you like to cook/ bake?

Yes! I try to get at least 10 of my 5-a-day so lots of smoothies and healthy meals with loads of vegetables and spices like burritos, stir fry's, curry etc. Houmous is something I just sit and eat with a load of veggies, and most days I have avocado toast for breakfast like a real basic bitch. This is balanced out by all the vegan junk food I eat though, I make vegan mac 'n cheese a lot and vegan fried chicken from Temple of Hackney is ridiculously good. I sometimes make or bake really sweet treats to take with me when I get tattooed to keep me from feeling faint and to give to whoever I'm being tattooed by haha.

Your super into being body positive where did that Interest stem from?

Even after recovery I still really struggled with adjusting how I looked at my body and accepting that this is how it looks at my natural, healthy weight. I began looking on

social media at other ED survivors posting about self love and how taking photos of their body was a form of MH self care and aided with their body acceptance, so that's what I started to do. I think tattoos really helped with this actually, for example my stomach was always something I hated and was self conscious about but now it's my favourite part of my body! This is 'cause when I look at my torso in the mirror now I admire the beautiful work tattooed on it instead of focusing on how my body looks that day. It worked the opposite way for my stretch marks though, I used to want tattoos to cover all of them and the big birthmark I have on my left hip but now I'm more body positive I want that area untouched, hence why the panther is on my right.

By talking to people about body positivity it's just sharing my experiences with mental health and body confidence issues in the hope other people will be influenced by it like how I was. Obviously I still really struggle with mental health and my appearance but I handle it better

now. I've made some good friends through us talking openly about MH, sharing stories and all becoming supportive of each other, catching up over a pint etc.

Tell us a bit about the book you have just been in?

Carly Tyrell photographs gigs, portraits and tours with bands, and for her final university project she photographed women in the UK hardcore scene which resulted in her book 'UKHC Women'. I actually got to look through the book 'cause she brought it to Outbreak, and seeing women from all over the UK documented by such a talented photographer was so impressive and heartwarming, I'm really thankful to have been featured in it. You can view the photographs on her website www.carlytyrell.co.uk/ukhc-women. She just got back from touring with Linkin Park too which is such a well deserved achievement.

What was your first introduction to the tattoo scene, like when did you first think you wanted to start ➤

getting tattooed?

As soon as I became aware of tattoos as a kid I was into the idea of them, because I didn't grow up around any tattooed people whatsoever it caught my attention. I just remember being instantly more interested in a person if they had tattoos, strangers, famous people, tv characters, whatever. I knew by my early teens that it was something I wanted to do, other than a few drunk stick'n pokes with mates I didn't get anything done 'til I was over 18 though, two days after my birthday.

You have mostly Black and dark tattoos tell us a bit about them, a lot are done by Simon erl no?

The style I most prefer for myself is very dark, thick lined traditional-ish tattoos, I think because of how solid and timeless they are. Even the few I have with colour are very dark shades and still like 70% black and grey, I think brightly coloured tattoos and different styles look beautiful on other people, it just doesn't suit me.

I started getting tattooed by Simon



about a year and a half ago, most recently working on my stomach/torso. A lot of the stuff I've wanted to have tattooed are things he does often like reapers, dragons, devils etc so there was no doubt he's the perfect artist for it. I'm very grateful for the time and work I have from him.

Who else have you been tattooed by?

After Simon the artist who has tattooed me the most is Konkas, a friend who has since moved to Barcelona, I got a lot of black and grey traditional stuff from him in South East and in Brighton. Dave Condon tattooed a sunflower on my shin with the coolest skull inside the vase and I'd like to get more stuff from him. I also recently got my first properly done stick 'n poke from Patrick (known as european.son.420 on instagram) which was a really lovely experience, he captured some Erykah Badu lyrics on my leg perfectly.

Who do you want to get tattooed by in the future?

I love the floral work of Claudia De

Sabe, especially her chrysanthemums which I think could soften my look a bit haha. I'm definitely planning to book in a few things with Fidget I'm just so indecisive about what and where, definitely one of her trademark drowning ladies as well though. The style that Cezilia Hjelt tattoos animals and mythical creatures is so sick, really dark tones so I'd love to get something from her.

Everything that Jemma Jones tattoos is perfect to me, especially the women and lil' cherubs. Alexis Hepburn is an artist I've followed for ages, the week she visited London last year was the exact same days I was on holiday so I was gutted I missed her 'cause her style is really special. I've just realised these are all women which reminds me I also plan on booking in with Harriet Heath, the potted plants she does are adorable and I love the drag queen tattoos she's been doing recently. There's loads more I'll have forgotten but I'm only just turning 21 this summer so I have plenty of time!

Will you be at the London convention?

I don't know 'cause I've never actually been to one! I'd love to but I'm an impulse buyer so will need to make sure I can afford a couple walk-up spaces from artists I like before buying a ticket haha. I'll check out who's going and maybe pop in for one of the days.

How would you describe your image?

I'd say quite minimal and simple even though I might not look it to some, my favourite colour is beige which is so fucking boring but I love it haha.

I'm into streetwear but even then I don't wear really eye-catching stuff, never branch out further than black, white, gold and nudey neutral tones. No big patterns apart from the occasional bit of camo.

Maybe my tattoos make up for my clothes not being very bold and bright haha. This is just what I prefer at the moment though, might change!



CHAD KOEPLINGER

Chad Koeplinger is a well known tattoo artist with a taste for Hardcore, travel and good food amongst, a host of other stuff- a man after my own heart. I wanted to do something new and have a look at some other aspects of the scene and fans of.



Hi Chad how's things bro? Where are you right now? Yo!

I am in Paris right now but off for a pretty crazy trip, we are going to Sweden, Italy, Greece, China, North Korea, Spain, and Norway this time around.....

So when did you first discover Hardcore? What were some of the first bands you heard?

I was ten.... I was pen pals with amery smith who was the first drummer from suicidal tendencies... I dont

even know how that happened, but anyway, he made me a mix tape, with thrash songs on one side, and punk and hardcore songs on the other... I never even listened to the trash side! I fell in love with minor threat, bad religion, black flag especially....this was 28 years ago!

What bands really did it for you in the early days?

Like I said minor threat, black flag and the misfits... but I also got the revelation "the way it is" comp tape

when it came out, and I loved every band on that, I played it till it broke, hahahahah

What was the first show you went to? Who was on the bill and where was it?

Flint michigan, 1991... shows were hard to know about back then, I lived far from detroit, and even flint seemed far, it was 30 miles away... but my parents weren't supportive, and i had no way to get there.....so finally by 1991 I got to go see civil ➤



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Honestly I never thought about how any one else felt about hardcore but myself

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disobedience in flint, I have no idea who they played with, but it was amazing, I got my nose broken 30 seconds into the first song of the first band, i was hooked!!!

I love how on one of the tattoo age parts with Smith Street they have the Integrity skull as flash and one of the guys says ppl have just picked it off before unknowing, that's so rad. Have you done many HC tattoo's or HC inspired tattoos over the years? What are some of the most memorable?

Yeah man, I love that... I have done a few, but not that many actually...

I remember seeing that you attended one of the COS reunion shows in the last couple of years-how was it? Have you seen many of the other crucial & old Rev bands ie; Bold, Insted etc?

Yeah man, that show was amazing... I have loved that band since I was a little kid, so seeing them was really great and kind of emotional for me, also seeing the first judge reunion

show... those bands meant so much to me my whole life, and to finally get the chance to see them was like a dream come true, I dont care what the circumstances were, I have heard so many haters, but honestly I never thought about how any one else felt about hardcore but myself, meaning i dont care if the people that sang the song 25 years ago still believe in it or live like that or not, it still meant something to me... even if I dont still believe in it either!

Do you collect records now or have you in the past? What was some of the gold in your collection if so?

I did have a small collection, i was always pretty poor, so whatever records i had when i was young it was a small miracle i had them at all.... I just started collecting again last year, I was trying to resist, im such a collector of shit by nature, I went way overboard right away.... but still, I dont think i have anything too crazy, I have a yot posi numbers record that I think they only made a small amount of... ➤

What would you say your all time top five Hardcore bands are?

Judge, chain of strength, gorilla biscuits, minor threat, slapshot,

What was the last Hardcore show you went to?

This is hardcore 2015... took my kid and her boyfriend too, wanted them to see the real thing, ahahah

I know you're big on good food, so what and where are some of your favourite places to eat worldwide?

Tokyo, paris, Montreal, New York, Thailand and vietnam...

Who are your top five favourite chefs worldwide?

Chris flint, Antonio park, Aitor Zabala, Hiroki Yoshitake



What would you say your main inspirations are in terms of your tattooing style?

Traveling... all the weird shit you see out there man... also Ed Hardy

You travel tons, but where are some of your favourite countries to go and tattoo?

Italy! also Colombia, and Nepal.....

Where are some of your favourite shops to tattoo in?

Smith street tattoo, tattoo paradise, tattoo faction, great lakes tattoo, congress street tattoo, tattoo mania, hunter and fox, chapel tattoo, frith street, grimm reaper, ladies and gentleman, captured, three tides tattoo, lifetime tattoo, rock of ages, invictus, infamous, hobos.....and more im sure!

What would you say the tattoo industry looks like in 2016 with shops popping up all over the place?

Grimm.....

So what made you give up the

travel/Hilton life to start your own shop?

Hahaha, I got a little tired of packing and unpacking constantly... also my health was suffering a bit from being on the road constantly, and I needed to get that sorted out... also man, I thought having a small space to tattoo out of would be fun, and having more prep time with drawings would be nice, ahahahh

And the location, did you know you wanted to settle in Nashville?

I always felt an affinity for nashville, and my brother, who also tattoos moved here, so it just seemed like the right place for me... i've met so many life changing amazing people here, it is home now, and I havent had one of those in a long long time

What do you think you miss most of that travel life?

My friends from around the world, I love you and miss you

Thanks for your time dude and take care!

Thank you bro!!!!!!





**MICHAEL
SKATTUM**

First up introduce yourself (where your from etc)

I'm Michael Skattum, Draculazer on Instagram, I'm 29 and live in Brooklyn New York.

How did you get into illustration?

I went to art school for painting and printmaking, but didn't really do anything after I graduated because I played in a band for a few years. Once I stopped being in the band, I kind of just fell into making ends meet by doing a bunch of little freelance stuff here and there. Everything kind of snowballed and I just draw most of the day when I'm not working other jobs.

Your style is mega horror/Melt/Zombie in my opinion which is killer what's your background with horror and what made you go with that style?

I've been a horror maniac since I was little, my dad let me watch Alien when I was in first grade and I had nightmares afterward. As I got older my older brother introduced me to stuff like nightmare on elm street, evil dead, stuff like that. Growing up in the

90s allowed me access to a lot of the movies that I still love today.

Tell us about some of your favourite pieces.

Besides my toy stuff, I've been fortunate enough to do some rad things with really cool people. Recently I've done a few risograph zines with friends, Snail Farm put out one called "Asteroid Walkers" and Floss Editions put out one called "Trash Collector." A little while back I got to make a latex monster mask with my friends company called From Beyond. And more recently I've just made some pogs, which is a trippy blast from the past because I used to hoard those things when I was a kid.

Tells us a bit about the sofubi toys you make, and what sparked your interest in them?

I've been collecting action figures since day one, both my dad and my brother are collectors, so I just followed them. I was buying "urban vinyl" stuff when I was 16, and I had fallen into the pit of Japanese monster toys around

that time as well, and never looked back. Japan has an insane wealth of history with toys, and I feel like I'm finding new stuff and learning about weird shows every day.

In terms of making my own, my friend Chad of Monsterworship Toys had approached me a while ago to do a small figure, and everything just built up off of that. Since then I have self produced some resin stuff, had toys produced in Japan, China, and the UK as well.

What's the process to making sofubi toys?

It all depends on what method or factory you are having your toy made, but it usually is structured around a design, turnaround drawings, sculpt in either traditional means or 3D, then a wax copy is made, it is then electroplated, and you have an iron mold made that you can pour your vinyl into.

Other methods can be as straightforward as having a figure sculpted, then making a rubber mold 





and casting it in resin.

The whole fun of toys and making them is that there is an endless possibility, and usually a factory that will be best suited for your needs.

Is there another party involved?

Right now I have toys being produced by 3 different people, toys in Japan are being produced by Monsterworship, I have a handful of figures being made in China by Gums Productions, and my friend Niall aka TruTek casts do some rubber toys for me in the UK.

You're heavily tattooed when did you start collecting?

I got my first tattoo when I was 18, and I've just been chipping away at my body ever since.

Do you have any involvement in the tattoo industry, I know you told me before you did something with Liam sparkes?

Right now I'm covering desk shifts at Flyrite Tattoo in Brooklyn. My friend Fernando Lions hooked me up with the job, he is also tattooing a giant devil on my back based on an old Ralph >



Johnstone design. Fernando rules. I worked the Barcelona convention with Liam a while ago, but I've been getting tattooed by him whenever he comes to America. I think I got my first tattoo from him the first time he came to NYC, way back in like 2009 or something.

What kind of tattoo style do you move towards?

Mostly traditional, some weirdo stuff, yokai and yurei, recently I've been getting a lot of black tattoos because I went overboard with color when I was getting tattooed early on.

Who have you been tattooed by?

I guess notable tattooers would be Chad Koeplinger, I've got a couple from Dan Santoro, Liam Sparkes has done a ton on me, Rotor in Barcelona, Deno Jr, Jeremy Ross Armstrong. I was also lucky enough to get a tattoo from Go Scumboy while I was in Japan recently, he's an amazing artist all around and really cool dude.

Anyone you're real interested in getting tattooed by?

I really want to get tattooed by Dr

Lakra, also I would love to snag something from Kiku here in New York City.

Let's move onto your toy collecting what's the main line you focus on?

I guess right now I just focus on horror oriented toys, bootlegs or otherwise. I usually just buy anything that I'm drawn to, whether it's for inspiration or I just like the subject matter. Lots of yokai toys and weird demons.

What's your grail piece you're looking for?

I would really like to track down the Ma-Ba Zombies playset with the devil toy, they're very astronomically priced right now though, as there seems to have been an explosion of interest in the Ma-Ba Zombies line.

What do you have already that is your most treasured?

Either my completed set of Ma-Ba Zombies, or my two vintage Nitto yokai toys. They're both from 1968 and dripping with character and are just really neat from a historical standpoint. I only have the Hitotsume Kozou and the Abura Sumashi, I'd really like to

track down the others but they are pretty scarce, and usually expensive when they pop up.

Top 3 shops for toys and oddities in Japan?

Drodd in Koenji is the best shop ever, lots of horror and bootleg toys.

Characters/ Third Uncle in a Tokyo suburb is like a museum of the most amazing vintage toys ever, it's great just to look at all of the pristine toys from the 60s/70s

Cosmo Knight Alpha in Ekoda is also a really great store, the owner makes toys under the monicker Longneck, and he has a ton of his toys in the window, as well as a nice set up of vintage toys as well.

What music interests do you have?

It's all over the place. I really like synthesized New Age music, sci-fi and horror scores, City Hunter, the Lemonheads, Clan of Xymox, I guess just a bunch of random stuff.

Freddy or Jason?

Freddy forever.



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