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Still Life



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# FOREWORD

Welcome to issue #2 of Still Life Tattoo Zine.

It seems like an age since we put out issue #1, and in that time I've been tattooed again by Ganji in Japan, as well as having a big piece done by Dan Sin on his Euro tour.

With that said, I wanted to continue to feature tattooists I truly admire and appreciate.

Ed Crooks  
[droidxrage@gmail.com](mailto:droidxrage@gmail.com)





RUBY QUILTE

# RUBY QUILTER

**Hi Ruby, what's up? How was NYC? What did you get up to over there?**  
Hey! NY was amazing, as always! I had a little hiatus from London, I find I get a rush of creativity and inspiration coming home. I have some great friends over there, so it's nice to catch up, get tattooed, get inspired. This trip I picked up a tattoo from my friend Joe Chatt, he did a skull on my arm, it's killer!

**Where did your interest for tattooing come from, and when did you first see or come into contact with tattoos?**

My first interaction with tattoos was watching my mum get tattooed when I was about 9 or 10. I went with her to get it done, she had some

tribal on her lower back. I remember it was in quite a dark room, in a little shop in our town. I don't think it's there anymore. No one in my family is heavily tattooed, in fact my Mum may be the only member of my family who has tattoos. I started getting them quite young, I think I was 15 or 16 when I got my first tattoo.

**So you work at Sang Bleu now, but where did it all start for you?**

I did my apprenticeship with Joe Spaven at Scarlet Rose Tattoo. The shop is in a small town, and it was just Joe tattooing at the time. He didn't want to commit to an apprentice right away, so I was going in there and drawing/ hanging out. Until he eventually agreed to teach me ➤



“ I think women have to deal with certain elements to social media men don't. No one thinks twice if a man posts a picture of himself

to tattoo. It was an amazing couple of years with him at that shop. We recently worked the Brighton Convention together which was a fun throw back!

*Was drawing/painting something you have always done or been interested in?*

Yeah I used to paint a lot in oils, and do a lot of portraits. And drawing for a hobby. Tattooing totally changed my approach to drawing, there are certain constraints to tattooing which cannot help but creep into your natural drawing style! Sometimes it's hard to shake that and totally draw freely.

” *How do you think Sang Bleu is different from other shops you have worked in?*

Firstly it's a massive team, right now there's 14 of us. It's the biggest team I've been part of, which makes for a great energy in the shop. Sang Bleu is incredibly progressive in its approach to tattooing, and Maxime has always pushed us to do more and take tattooing into new directions. He puts

a lot of time and energy into making the shop the best it can be, and this is infectious. You want to keep things fresh and try and keep up with him!

*I've heard people liken your work to a couple of other very well known tattooists in London, but you're really doing your own thing, maybe your work has some similarities but over all I'd say your work is very easily recognizable as your own, where do you get most of your inspiration from and how would you describe your tattoos?*

That's interesting. I mean it's tattooing you are hardly reinventing the wheel. We are all tattooing because we like looking at tattoos. And if you are a tattooer you are drawing reference from people who came way before you. My approach to this is, is that with how tattooing is now, with Instagram and tattooing having more mainstream exposure, you are belonging to part of a movement, I circulate customers with a few other tattooers who do something similar and I like that. I like tattooing. As long as my customers are happy with what



I do, then that should really be all that's important. I would say I tend to lean more towards the style of fine line black and grey. I draw what I'm into. I think recently it's become more of a 'fantasy' style, referencing a lot of 80's/90's flash. I look at a lot of Jack Rudy and Kari Barba flash, as well as old comics and fantasy artists.

***What do you think the differences are from being a woman than a man in the tattoo industry?***

I get asked this question quite a lot, I think there's so many different factors and so many right and wrong things to say. I think women have to deal with certain elements to social media men don't. No one thinks twice if a man posts a picture of himself, I think women have more to consider and think about. Tattooing really is progressive, and I think women are choosing to tattoo because you are responsible for yourself. You get out of it what you put in, there's no patriarchal system to battle with. I think this aspect of it is subconsciously appealing for women who tattoo, you are seen

no differently to a male tattooer, it's just about making good tattoos and doing the best job you can.

***Where would you say you draw the most inspiration from?***

At the moment I'm looking at a lot of 70's fantasy art. But I buy a lot of books, and try and keep my references fresh and take inspiration from as much as possible.

***What differences have you experienced from when you started tattooing to now, in the industry, shops or whatever?***

That tattooing is incredibly over saturated. There is this new wave of sub standard tattooing that is being labelled 'avant-garde' and 'revolutionary' with the intention to make a DIY looking tattoo. When I first started tattooing it was about making something perfect for your customer, with a knowledge of tattooing behind it. It seems that isn't important anymore. You can tattoo from your house and have a bunch of Instagram followers and then that's your career sorted. Hopefully over ➤



“  
I've been tattooed by some great tattooers,  
last year I got tattooed by Nathan Kostechko”

time this part of tattooing will fall away and the focus will be back onto making something great for your customer.

**Who are some of the artists you have been tattooed by personally, and what style do you usually like to get on your self?**

I've been tattooed by some great tattooers, last year I got tattooed by Nathan Kostechko, which was an amazing experience, he's one of my favourite tattooers. I got my neck tattooed by Zac Scheinbaum too, at the London convention. I started a large project with Claudia De Sabe, and I got tattooed by the incredible George Bone. I've been tattooed by Ross K Jones, Austin Maples, Norm, Tati Compton, Javier Betancourt. I have a lot of colour work, I started getting colour when I began getting

tattooed, and kept that look going.

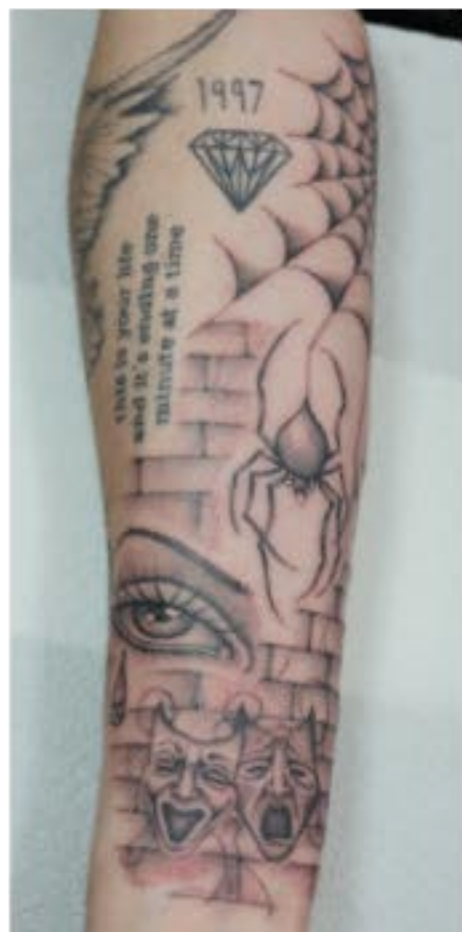
**Who do you think we should be looking out for in tattoo world in 2018?**

One of my favourite tattooers, Olly Furze, in Devon. Everything he does is crazy, I hope to make tattoos that good one day.

**Any guest spots or anything we should know about?**

My best friend Jack Watts and I are guesting at LTW in Barcelona in a couple of weeks. I hope to do more conventions this year. Last year I worked the London tattoo convention. Which was a huge deal for me, and a great show to be part of.

**Thanks for your time see you soon.**  
THANK YOU!!!



In 1998, with a willing of elevate the art and to help to make the tattoo scene more popular in Osaka, Masa, Horitomo (State of Grace) and more friends got together and created Three Tides Tattoo.

Mutsuo joined one month after and became one of its original members.

Three Tides Tattoo was a very new concept in Japan. The tattoo designs were not necessarily Japanese traditional designs, but American Traditional or Black and Grey single needle designs, were also available.

This flexibility of designs, allowed to young people to have a wide approach to the tattoo culture without having to travel overseas.

One year after, it was organized 1999 Tokyo Tattoo Convention. Having so many local and foreigner artists at the same time in one place, was a "groundbreaking thing" in Japan, allowing a new communication network between Japanese and foreigners artists.

After that, many artists were invited to make guest work around Japan. Through the years, Three Tides Tattoo was fortunate of having as guest artists such as (with no particular order) Chris Garver, Chris Trevino, Adrian Lee, Analog Crew, Yutaro, and many other talented artists that we had the pleasure to meet along the way.

20 years after its opening, Three Tides Tattoo studios are currently located in Osaka and Tokyo in which are working Mutsuo, Nami, Horihiro, Ganji, Azusa, Horitatsu and Ichibay (who often travels around the world).





“

Three Tides Tattoo was a very new concept in Japan. The tattoo designs were not necessarily Japanese traditional designs, but American Traditional or Black and Grey single needle designs, were also available.

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Something different this time... as a couple and individually, the talent between Claudia And Yutaro is world class. I have had the privilege of being tattooed by the highly talented Yutaro and he is one of the nicest guys around. Together they do Decoboco Creatives.

# CLAUDIA DE SABE & YUTARO SAKAI

**Hi Guys are you well? So lets start... when and where did you two meet?**  
Hey Ed! Thanks for having us.

I think we met in person around 2013? 2012? In San Francisco at skull and sword. Claudia was traveling and she came to visit at the shop.

**When did you get married?**  
We got married in September of 2015

**What made you settle on living in London with you both being from different countries ( Italy & Japan)?**  
Claudia was living in London for Long time already and we thought England maybe was a good place to start family.

**C:** I didn't want to move too far from my own family in Italy.

**Claudia, can you tell me about your first exposure to tattoos? What's your earliest memory?**  
I've always been into punk and hard core music, so I was exposed to tattoos through music culture... then I went to a tattoo convention in Bologna in '94 or '95, and that was it... I wanted to get tattooed!

**And Yutaro?**  
Growing up in japan, I didn't see real tattoo in town at all in 70's. I only started seen them on television on many different shows. (History, comedy and gangster show etc) First seen real tattoos was in 90's ➤

in tokyo hanging with Japanese bikers.

**Growing up In Tokyo you must have been exposed to all sorts of rad shit, were you a fan of alternative cultures? Skateboarding, Punk Etc?**

I was mainly into California speed metal and biker stuff in 80's

**Yutaro, where did you start tattooing and when?**

I did my first tattoo in tokyo in '95

**Claudla, tattoos/tattoo culture has always been more accessible in Europe than in Japan, but how did you find yourself drawn to the culture?**

I used to play in a couple of bands in my teens and I was into the music scene...few of my friends had tattoos and one of them, Crez, already had a shop and did most of those tattoos. He really shaped what good tattoos are for most of us. He was doing custom western traditional and large Japanese work already....we are talking of end of the 90s in Italy, so pretty ahead of times! Crez, his

wife Maneki Stefy and I are still good friends.

**Was painting and art in general something you have been doing from a young age?**

Yes I always loved drawing....I wasn't always good at it at it, but I'm pretty stubborn and I generally don't give up until I reached a level that satisfies me.

**Were you aware of any tattoo shops when you were growing up?**

Aside from Crez' shop, adrenalink, in Venezia, I knew of a tattooer called Bonjo that used to work in a tattoo shop which name I cannot remember and had all Giger art and skulls inside.... I got my nose pierced there ahah! I wasn't fully aware of what was going on in tattooing until a few years later...and names like Amanda Toy, Rudy Fritch, Mo Coppoletta, Bruno Todisco, Rino Valente, Pinker, Horigianca, were the big Italian names culturing my interest.

**Yutaro- what Tattoo shops do you remember?**

There is a tattoo shop in tokyo

where I was hanging out. It was even before scratch addiction in harajyuku opened.

**Why do you think there is such a large community of Italian tattooers in London?**

... cause Italy sucks?!? Ahahahahaha! I'm just kidding, kinda....work wise, customers wise, Italians tends to be super picky and controlling, and their skin is sooo tanned! You have to win them over but then they will be faithful to you forever! When you come to England first of all, there's a walk in culture, which in Italy was never big, secondly but most importantly customers are for the large part very respectful and trusting of the tattooer... you hardly have to explain or convince them that what you are saying is the best option.... and they have lovely pale skin.

**Claudla - how would you describe your tattoo's?**

No idea ! I'm really not objective towards what I do...I try to make my customer happy, do something that ➤

“Italians tends to be super picky and controlling, and their skin is sooo tanned! You have to win them over but then they will be faithful to you forever!”



hopefully will look great also in a few years times and won't look dated, and be a bit original to stand out against thousands of tattooers...I guess!

**Who are some of the tattooers you draw the most inspiration from and even look up to?**

Claudia- I think the tattooer I look up to the most is Grime. I always loved his wild style, it's sooo unique...I love the whole artistic package...he has a supreme taste, and excels in every medium or styles he decides to tackle...he is a beast, pure power and pure genius...plus his ethics are incredible. He is not a sell out, he makes his reality he doesn't rely on tv shows and other bs to defy or make his 'success'.

And also RG, from invisible NYC... like Grime he is fucking incredible in everything he does...any style, any medium...and he is the nicest guy, I love to hang out at the shop when he tattoos till 3 in the morning and watch him free hand, and tattoo...his work is timeless yet original...it has the Rg look...supreme taste...even the

posts he makes on ig are stunning... he creates pure beauty. You know when people say never meet your heroes?! Well I met mine and I was not disappointed, but enriched. Yutaro - I have been tattooed in japan a few times and always notice that Japanese tattooists have excellent line weight compared to a lot of western tattooers, even ones that do Japanese tattoos, why do you think this is?

I think Japanese artists/artisans cares about small details for quality of their art work. I think line weight is one of details that they care about.

**Where are both of your favourite shops to tattoo outside of London?**

Yutaro- skull and sword  
Claudia- skull and sword experience was amazing, invisible Nyc, 7th son, two cranes in Umea.

**How do you both find tattooing at other shops you're not normally used to?**

Yutaro-I think it's lots of fun working with different people and learn new

stuff from them.

Claudia: i love it and it's so important...it's sharing and being exposed to new ideas, techniques and styles...you should finished a guest spot and feel pumped and full of energy afterwards...

**And which are your favourite conventlons?**

Yutaro :London and paris.  
Claudia : London, Paris, Bay Area and Pagoda

**Tell us a bit about Decoboco, when did you start it, etc? Anything new on the horizon?**

We started in 2016.  
DecoBoco creatives is our product line for many different outlets. We want to create something that our customer can enjoy at home, and that enhance their life style.  
Claudia: yeah...it's hard to do everything...I think DecoBoco needs a third figure that can keep us going.... at the moment I take care of the production part also, and if I'm too busy that stops....so I think we aren't even close to what we want to do... ➤





in the future hopefully we will get there!!!

**Yutaro - How did you end up tattooing in the states?**

It is very long story and I will need whole separate interview to just tell that story ;)

**And how was it working with Grime?**

It was just incredible. He has made my tattooing career. Without him, I wouldn't be where I am today. I owe him life that I know the deepest in my heart, and I am very thankful for his friendship even after I left the states.

**How long did you stay at Skull and Sword? Did you work anywhere else over there? Did you work at Primal Urge?**

I worked with grime from 2004 to end of 2015 until when I left states.

I worked in second part of primal urge. Which was 2007-2009

**Did you get tattooed much in the states? Who by?**

I mostly got tattooed by grime and

Marcus Pacheco. And of course many others.

Yutaro, do you think mentality will change towards tattooing in Japan in the near future or stay the same? I really hope it will change. But it may not be possible. I really can not predict what's gonna happen.

And how would you go about finding out or getting tattooed by someone in a private studio in Japan? Are there business cards placed around? I think many of them have Instagram and can reach them on there? I have never done it that way so I couldn't tell you exactly.

**Tell us a bit about your IG name Warriorism?**

Warrior/ tattoo warrior is nick name which grime and other friends gave me back in around 2005-2006

I grew up in martial arts since I was little child and always appreciate warrior spirits.

Knowing that spirit has been helping me so much to come far in my life

journey. Warriorism represents the spirit of warrior which I strive towards.

**Claudla, you two paint together often- do you find you feed off each other when painting, drawing brainstorming etc?**

We draw and paint next to each other everyday...we are generally plugged in some device so we are in our little world (we don't have a weirdly symbiotic relationship! We need me time too) but as soon as I have a doubt, or need to vocalise an uncertainty on my painting or drawing, I tap his shoulder and we have a chat... I... it's amazing to have someone to bounce off ideas with...to me is necessary.

I could not have a husband I couldn't share art with...and we are mature enough to understand what the other person is doing and give suggestions that are relevant in the style we are trying to execute... also, we are not insecure with each other and we can say 'I'm not feeling this one, don't look right' or whatever, and there are no tears or

resentment afterwards. One's success is the other's motivation....we are so well balanced in that way.

**When did you actually start tattooing, Claudia? And when did you realise this was something you were very good at?**

I started in 2004 in my living room in Italy, yes I was once a kitchen wizard... after a failed apprenticeship! I still don't think I'm particularly good at it, people tells me so....it's always been that way.

I found myself in the best shops and I still don't know how it happened or what's special about what I do, I just do what I can trying to get as closed as possible to an aesthetic that I like.... that's all I know!

**What was the first tattoo you did and which shop did you work in?**

The first tattoo not on myself, was on a dear graffiti friend of mine, it was a script in his underarm....what the fuck was I thinking?!? Hand made needles and shitty machines...could have been way worse I guess, but it wasn't

good either!

**What are some of your favourite artists?**

Grime, Rg, Zac scheinbaum, rose hardy, Chris Cohn, warriorism, ichibay, ganji, Chris Garver, Horitoshi, horitsukikage aka Shad, Doryu, Chris Brand, Horihiro, Isaac Frankfujen, Marie sena, Teide, Lynn Akura, Alix Ge....and so many others that probably I'm forgetting half of them...

**Do you guys both or individually collect anything? Wood block prints, antiques or anything?**

Yutaro-nothing any more. I used to collect lots of stuff. Older I'm getting, i like to have my place simpler and simpler.

Claudia I used to keep all my trainers..I've been wearing Cortez for years..I love destroyed trainers not new boxed ones fuck that, I was never able to throw them away, they have been where I have been... and the more ink stains they have the better.... I hate having too much stuff too tho....nothing is important

enough to become something I need to care for in that way...got no brain space for that.

**What aspect of tattooing do you both find most difficult?**

Yutaro- all of it :)  
Claudia: SAme

**Claudia, what do you most love about tattooing?**

Drawing the design in my head and seeing it finished and part of the person....everything else in between is pain, sweat and tears!

**You do a lot of collaboration tattoos, how do you both find it working so close together?**

We LOVE making collaboration tattoos. This is one of our missions to represent gender equality in the craft and having the most powerful joint force together or separate.

We always welcomes joint projects :)  
Claudia: what yutaro said...and as I said, we are mature enough to put ego and artistic ego aside when in need to achieve the perfect balance...

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One of our missions to represent gender equality in the craft and having the most powerful joint force together

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it's amazing...then we have to find the rhythm when working on the skin... but that's a 5-7 minutes effort, and then we are gold..

**Would you both not want to try living and tattooing in Japan or Italy for a while?**

yutaro- no. Japan is a great place to visit for me.

Claudia....definitely not Japan...things are too weird for tattooing right now and I feel like I'm too big, loud and western to fit in the society there... Italy....sometimes I fantasise about it...when we decide to slow down maybe....I'd love to spend more time in nature and we are going to have a

family soon, so maybe... I don't know... life is so much cheaper there, less hustle...who knows!

**How would you both describe Seven Doors to someone who has never been there before?**

Seven doors tattoo is one of most ego free tattoo shop. Every one works here is super friendly and we all have something to offer. Please come visit us :)

Claudia: it's the first shop where there's no ego conflict of any kind... we all ask each other and encourage each other...it's definitely a nice environment, fun, ego and macho free..





# CORY MICHAEL PRIVITERA



***Yo Cory how have the toy shows been recently? You got some cool new skizz out?***

Shows here in Japan have been great! Right now there's a huge surge of consumer interest all around Asia in buying // collecting Japanese vinyl so shows the past year or so have been crazier than usual. Unlike the last sofubi bubble we had which was focused on larger "grotesque" toys, this current boom seems to mainly be focused on smaller, cuter toys which has worked for my design model of "cute cheap toys". Right now the most popular guys I make are the Shakoki Dogu and the Alvin (not cute whatsoever) so I'm focusing on doing various colourways of them for all events I am selling at.

***Ok, let's go back- tell us how you ended up living in Japan? (all the stuff you told me)***

After 10 years of being in the U.S. Army I felt like I was missing out on the chance to do anything creative with my life before I was 30 so I decided to pack up and head to Japan in hopes of somehow slowly

working my way into the Japanese Soft Vinyl scene with my first trio of toys that I had created prototypes for: Avalon the ghost hat, Obakekoban the ghost coin, and Monochochin the ghost lantern. I had noticed that the person I had decided to use as a producer, Velocitron AKA Ricky Wilson, had recently relocated his studio so I offered to help him with setting up his new place. Instead of him taking me up on my offer though I was given an alternative decision when he asked me if I was interested in becoming his assistant. Obviously I said yes and that's why I'm here today despite me branching off on my own these last 2 years.

***What lead you to even think about starting to get involved in sofubi?***

I used to collect a ton of different soft vinyl toys such as Real X Head, Secret Base, and Sunguts. I kept thinking about how cool it would be to be doing what they were, making their ideas into toys that people could buy and enjoy for years. It also didn't seem impossible so I figured there was nothing to lose in at least ➤



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Most of my work is for clients looking to get toys produced here in Japan, but I try and design a new toy every two months or so for my own line.

”

trying to produce a toy of my own creation.

***When did you get your own workshop?***

About 2 years ago.

***Tell us a bit about your shop.***

It's a bit of a mess, but a comfortable place where I do wax for, paint, assemble, and sculpt all of toys as well as fairly large client base.

***What projects are you working on right now?***

Most of my work is for clients looking to get toys produced here in Japan, but I try and design a new toy every two months or so for my own line. Right now I'm working on Smol Son, a small Kappa figure as well as Box Oni which is an incredibly simplistic Japanese demon. Hopefully everyone will love them as much as I do!

***What (if any) vintage lines do you collect?***

I collect a lot of random Japanese vintage stuff such as Neclos,

Bomberman B-Daman, and Mashin Hero Wataru, but my absolute favourite thing to hoard are old 80s // 90s video game figures and keshi which for whatever reason aren't super popular. Pretty much any video game that was "successful" here had a keshi, candy toy, or figure released back in the 80s // 90s some of which I'm still discovering. I recently found an amazing series of small, two-part, Japanese made Tamagotchi soft vinyl minis that are fully painted and come in every variety of form that the old characters could take in the game. They were super cheap, like 200 - 400¥ each in box too which was fantastic. I have about 8 of them now, but I'm tormented in knowing that there are so many more that I am missing and may never find. Such is the story for collecting any vintage toy I guess.

***Give us a bit of history on the Dogu and why you decided to make a sculpt of it?***

The Shakoki Dogu is the most iconic variant of "Dogu" earthenware ➤





toys that were made thousands of years ago during Japan's Jomon Period. They got international notice around the time Chariots of the Gods came out where it was suggested that they might be ancient Japanese depictions of aliens visiting earth. I've always been obsessed with their

weird design since I first saw them as a child and decided to hire someone to produce a sculpt for me that I could make into a toy.

**What's the small dude you did with him recently about?**

The Rare Boy is a small Dogu //

Haniwa hybrid that was designed and 3D sculpted by American Artist Mush Buh. They do a lot of really bizarre 2D // 3D designs and also have a fairly strange social media presence which is 80% their original work and 20% surrealist humour. We discovered each other on Twitter and decided to work together on something due to a mutual appreciation of each others strange creativity.

**What are some other toy makers you work with?**

I do most every show here in Japan with my friend SQDBLSTR who is a newer maker in the scene. Around the world though I've worked with Hints and Spices and Tovi of Australia, Death Cat Toys, Michael Skattum, Mutant Vinyl Hardcore, and Rampage Toys of America, TRU:TEK of the United Kingdom, and Uh-Oh Toys over in China. There's people making all over the world and I'm excited to work with new people.

**You work in a sofubi factory pulling vinyl, right? How is that and how did you score that job?**



“ The best thing about it is that I can run my figures at the same time for free to ensure that I never have a shortage of stock. ”

Getting pulls of your toy here takes forever. Japanese production is slow and sometimes you can't guarantee that you'll have stock for an event unless you put in the order months before or called in a favour at the factory. I wanted to eliminate this headache so I asked the full-timer at the factory if he could teach me how to run the shop. The owner of the factory then asked if I could come in a few times a week to help get out client orders. I am there about 2 days a week and focus almost exclusively on trying to knock out the Western maker backlog that has built up over

the years, but the best thing about it is that I can run my figures at the same time for free to ensure that I never have a shortage of stock.

**What are your future toy plans/projects?**

Articulation and accessories are something that I never really dabbled in with my earlier designs, but I'm currently working on making my newer figures something that you can actually pose and enjoy as opposed to just having movement at a neck or body joint. Expect to see more interesting designs in 2018!

# STEVE MORANTE

**Hi Steve, how are you now? I understand you have been ill recently?**

I'm all good now thanks mate! But Yeah I had pneumonia and fluid on the outside of my lung. My lung had collapsed a few years back so I was a little worried. But it's all good now.

**How was Paris convention dude?**

Mate I loved it! Tattooed all weekend

and got to hang out with some great friends!! Super stoked for next year

**And you won first place at the tattoo collective in London, right? What was that for and how was the weekend there?**

That was a fun weekend, I love doing conventions with the guys from my studio, we always have a good time!! I was stoked I picked up first place for

two sleeves I'd worked on and my bro Arran Burton from my studio picked up 3rd place in the same category!

**Last year I saw you there on the Sunday and that was the busiest day, was it busy all weekend this year, and what were some highlights?**

I thought it was busy because we were all working but I spoke to a >



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If I'm honest it isn't always about making money!! I like working conventions because you get to see friends you don't always have the time to see and meeting new people that are in the same business.

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couple of friends who said it was slower this year. But dude, if I'm honest it isn't always about making money!! I like working conventions because you get to see friends you don't always have the time to see and meeting new people that are in the same business.

**So let's go back...when did you start tattooing? Where are you from and where did you grow up?**  
Going back?? Damn!! Now I'm gonna show my age!! I know I look 25 but I

started tattooing when I was 17 so that was 23 years ago now!! Shiiiiit!!!

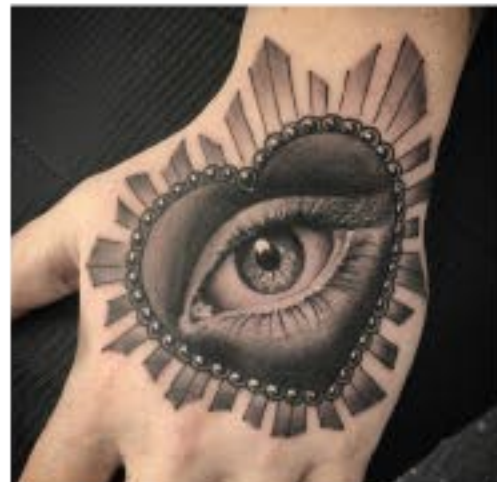
**Am I right in saying you used to do MMA?**

I've always been into martial arts, I started around 11 years old doing Muay Thai then down the line started Brazilian jiu jitsu. I'd seen mma a long time before it was on tv here. I used to watch Pride from Japan in a ring with different styles of fighter and almost no rules it just blew my mind. I fell in love with it. I think that comes

from the gypsy side of my family hahaha.

**Who are your biggest tattoo inspirations?**

Man! My biggest? I could be here all day!! There's so many for so many different reasons. Guys like Lal Hardy and George Bone because I'd always see their tattoos as I was growing up and I knew this is what I wanted to do! Jason Saga, Henning, Alex Reinke, Mike Rubendall, Horiyoshi, Horitoshi, Filip Lou. Hahahaha I'm done!! so ➤



many people have inspired me it's impossible to say them all.

***When did you open Fudoshin?***

Jen and I opened Fudoshin about 4 years ago but it feels like it's been in the making forever. Right now, I have a great team of guys and it truly feels like my extended family.

***Who have you had and who's there st present?***

Residents in the studio are myself, Dean Middleditch, Myles Vear, Matt Charles and Arran Burton. We have David Barday, Tom Grosz, Big Sleeps, Edgar Aguirre, Jorge Rosales as regular guests and we've had Big Meas, Stef Bastian, Stigma, Sim Abbott, Nikita Sofine guest too. Looking forward to many more to come.

***Your Japanese Star Wars tattoos are mind blowing... I take it your a big Star Wars fan? What made you decide to start doing them and putting them together with Edo and folklore type imagery?***

I've always loved star wars and most >



70s and 80s movies really! I like to add things in when I can. it's not something people always ask for so I tried drawing more of a Japanese mix to entice people into getting some Star Wars characters from me.

**What's the main style you focus on?**

I mainly draw or paint Japanese style but I tattoo both Japanese and black and grey because I'm a Tattooer that come from working in a walk in studio so for me I'm just happy tattooing. I don't think any of them are easier I think it's always a challenge to try to do the best you can in anything, I'm my biggest critic, and always feel I can do better. I even

hate all my answers to this interview right now hahahaha

**Do you travel much for tattooing?**

I have done and I want to travel more. I love working with different Tattooer's, I always come away with new ideas and techniques. It's great!! Working in different environments is always inspirational

**Do you travel much for tattooing?**

It's in the works! We're getting a good group of guys together and traveling around Japan for a month or so!! Cant wait...

**You have a new book out, right? Tell us a bit about it, content etc?**

Yeah I have a sketch book out with @gentlemans.tattooflash but I'm working on a new one with AI that I'm super stoked about! Still Japanese related. I'm also working on some e-books with Miki Vialetto which should be out soon!!!!

**What can we expect from you in the near future?**

Expect loads of new guests at Fudoshin tattoos so keep an eye out!! I'm hoping to travel a whole lot more and paint as much as I can! Originals will be available;) and hopefully a gallery too

**Thanks for your time dude.**

Anytime mate! Thank you.

“

I love working with different Tattooer's, I always come away with new ideas and techniques. It's great!! Working in different environments is always inspirational

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