





Over the years I have run into numerous talented artists from different styles, backgrounds, and many different parts of the world. I've been in the business since 1995. It's something I sincerely love and believe in; I live and breathe tattooing. It's brought so much to my life and opened my eyes to a world that I could never have imagined. It challenges me every day.

My experience in tattooing has led me to see that the tattoo industry is forever evolving, with some incredible talent surfacing each and every day.

In this issue I will be acting as the guest editor. Together, Freshly Inked and I collaborated on a project where I handpicked a group of 12 tattooers who are on the rise and are advancing the art form. I really believe in each artist selected, and in my opinion these are some of the premiere tattooers to look out for in the industry today. They have been consistently gaining momentum over the years. Some of them have been tattooing for a long period of time, have the abilities of a world-class artist, and have been, in a sense, possibly undiscovered. Others haven't been tattooing very long at all, but have managed to rapidly excel at a very high level. These are the types of tattooers that shed a positive light on the industry.

With styles ranging from traditional Japanese to American traditional to new school and even reaching biomechanics, the artists presented here were selected for a specific tattoo genre that I feel they excel most in. It's amazing to see how each artist's style can be so different, and yet all of them possess a commonality: They are passionate about what they do. Each one is creating out of the love for tattooing. It's something special to see this process in the works; it's authentic. They have a vision, a purpose.

It's my pleasure to share this group of gifted tattooers with you, and hopefully you'll have the same enjoyment viewing their tattoos as I do.

Thank you.