

FRESHLY

INKED

**PAUL
ACKER**

**350+
TATTOOS**

PLUS:

**ORIGINAL
ARTWORK
FROM:**

**YANN
BLACK**

KHAN

**CARLOS
TORRES**

**SILVANO
FIATO**

**AMANDA
WACHOB**

MARCH 2013
DISPLAY UNTIL MARCH 26, 2013

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JUSTIN WEATHERHOLTZ

kingsavetattoo.com

Kings Avenue

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What year did you start tattooing? 1998.

Where did you apprentice? I did a formal apprenticeship for a year, meaning I learned drawing, cleaning, sterilization and shop etiquette, before actually tattooing. I was taught by Joe Johns at Wizards World of Tattoos, just outside of Reading, PA. I Worked there for 8 years and it's the only full time studio I worked at prior to Kings Avenue where I've been for the last 5 years.

How did you get into tattooing? I was very into art and music and after I got my third tattoo I finally had the nerve to come to Joe about doing a full apprenticeship. He said no but to keep bothering him if I want it in the future. I called and stopped in every week until he gave it to me.

Do you have any special training? I would

say that it was "special" now being that I did a real apprenticeship and it wasn't just given to me. I worked for it.

What conventions have you worked? Have you won any awards? What are some of your best convention memories? I have done quite a few conventions, especially in the first 2/3 of my tattoo career. It was the best way for me to see other artists work and to see new work. The Internet wasn't really quite as prominent as it is now. I've won quite a few awards, but I find them lame in the grand scheme of things. "Judging" art is kind of pointless if you ask me.

How do you describe your style? Describing my style has always been tough. I come from a shop that had a motto of, if it comes through the door, do it. Which looking back was terrifying at times but it made me well rounded and in turn made diversity a priority in my career. I



love doing most styles and themes. Women, Japanese, black and grey, religious, or anything that I can illustrate/ render.

What inspires you as an artist? Inspiration can come from anywhere for me. The most obvious being my fellow comrades at Kings Ave. It's pretty mind blowing when I step back and admire all the talent and hard working guys I'm around. It's really special here and I think that energy really comes through and speaks to clients and other artists who come through. But I could be looking at a painting, listening to music or just walking around the city and see things that could end up somehow in a drawing. I try to keep my eyes pretty open.

What sets you apart from other artists? I think being as diverse as possible is definitely something that sets me apart from most tattooers. It's so impressive when you see artists so prolific in one style, Japanese tattooers in par-

ticularly. But at the end of the day I like the diversity. And I admire that in other tattooers as well.

What other mediums do you work in? I have dabbled in a few other mediums, but usually use coquille and pencil, ink/ marker on paper and watercolor. I'm so busy drawing for clients; I don't get as much time as I'd like to do more art outside of tattooing.

What tattoo artist's do you admire most? There are so many fellow tattooers that I admire. Mike Rubendall was and still is one of my favorites, and Grez is so humbling to watch draw and tattoo and is so creative as well. Chris Conn, Grime, Chris O'Donnell, Ed Hardy, Greg Irons, Bob Tyrell, the Leu family,

What kind of tattoos do you look forward to doing? I always look forward to any client that comes to the appointment prepared, open minded and trusting of what I'll create for them.









