

Special edition

Tattoo

Editorial

Drawing on the skin...

In another special edition, Ilustrar Magazine brings you a theme that has long been reserved for us and that we hold dear: tattoos.

One of the oldest forms of expression, humans have practiced tattooing for various reasons since prehistoric times, but only recently has tattooing become part of society.

And with its acceptance came diverse artists and different styles, adapting to the needs and tastes of each client. Thus, the old basic sailor tattoos gave way to true works of art fixed on the skin.

For this edition, we have selected a large group of artists who are quite representative of this diversity of techniques and with truly surprising styles, far removed from the traditional skulls and dragons.

And you, do you have any tattoos?



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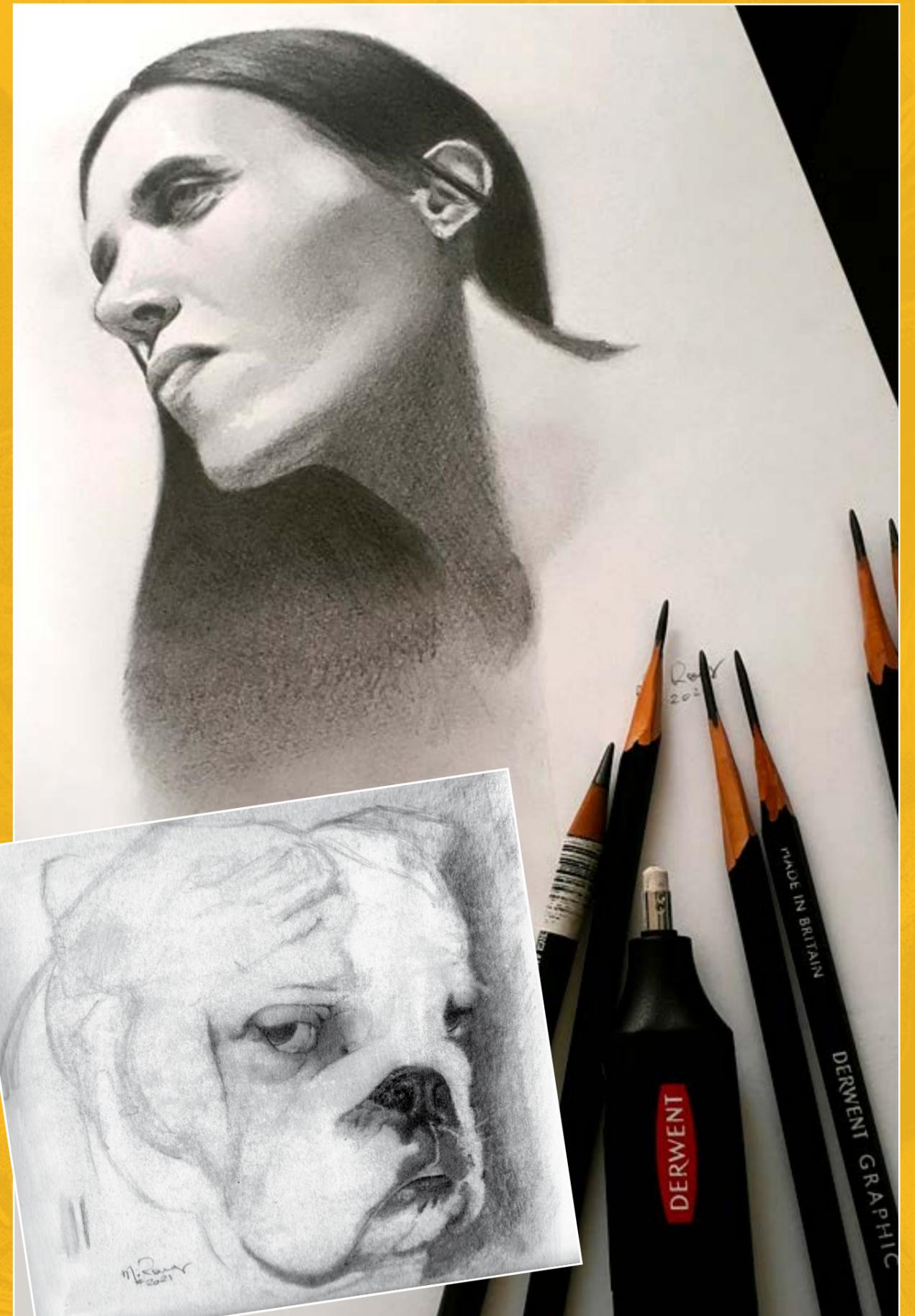
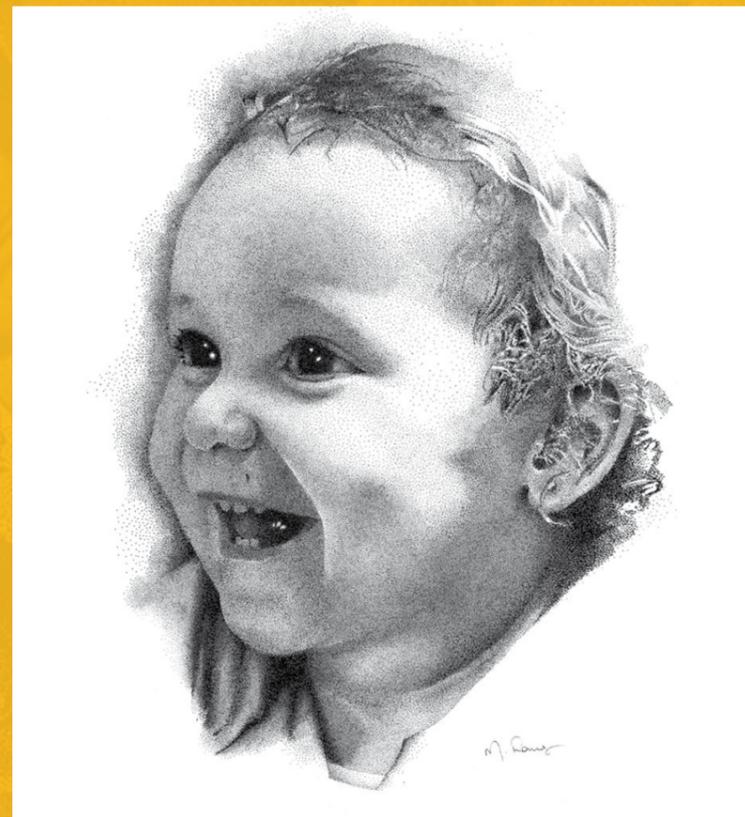
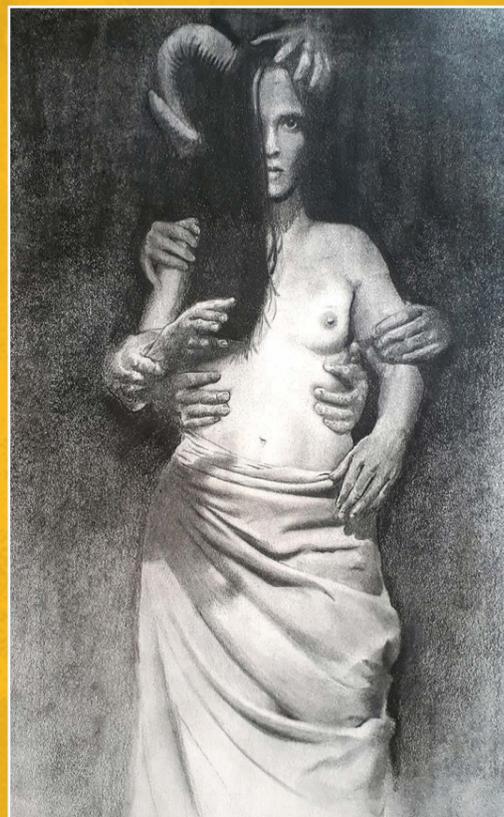
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Special edition

Tattoo

In this special edition, Illustrar Magazine presents one of the oldest forms of artistic expression: tattooing. But, as always, we try to avoid the obvious, so we've brought together a selection of styles, techniques, and trends that are far from the usual, featuring 28 artists from 15 different countries.

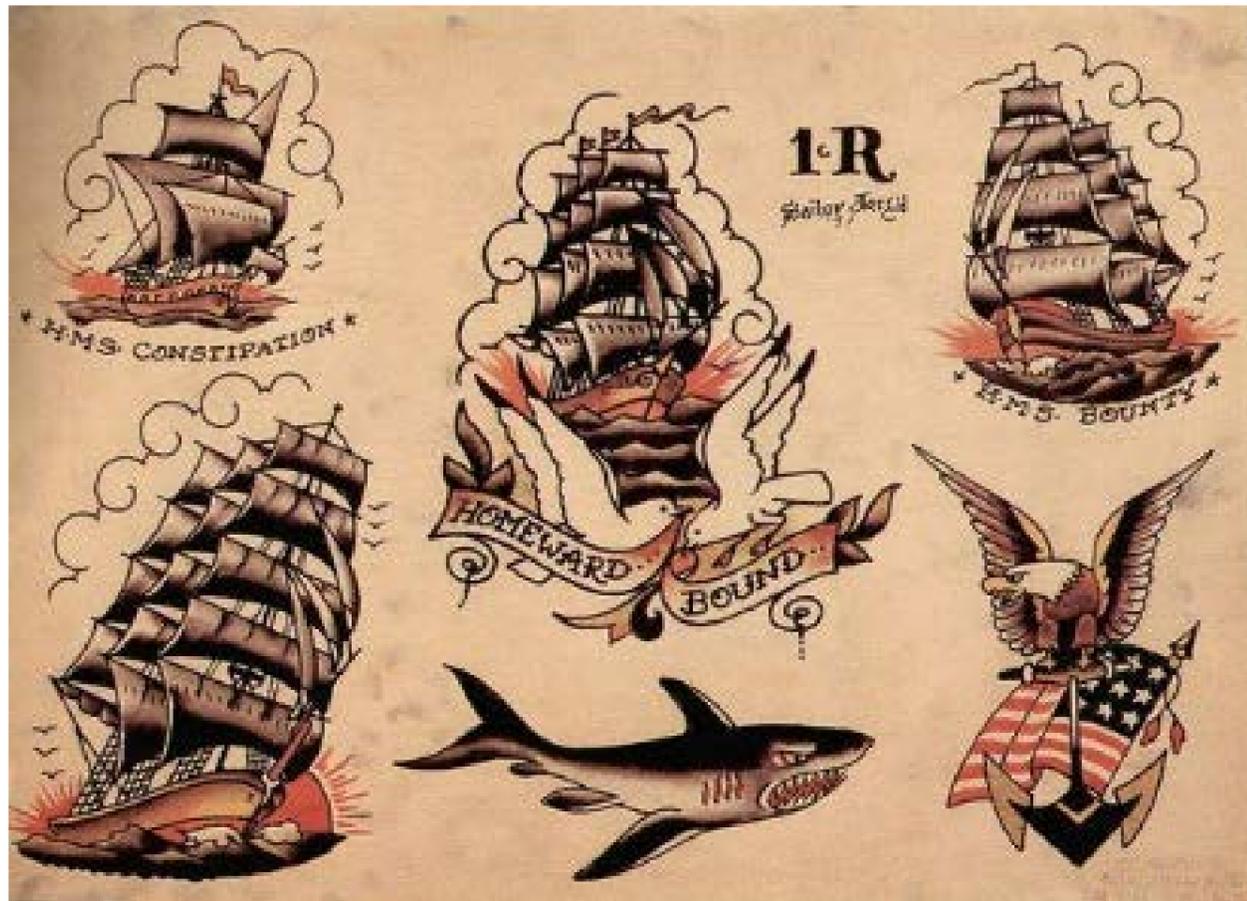
Tattooing is one of the most intimate and, at the same time, most public artistic languages that exist. Unlike a painting hanging on a wall or a sculpture installed in a square, art on the skin breathes, ages, and moves with the body that houses it. There is a unique beauty in this encounter between ink and skin: each stroke follows muscles, curves, scars, and personal stories. The skin ceases to be merely a surface and becomes a narrative, a territory where memory, identity, and desire are permanently engraved.

Over the last few decades, tattooing has vigorously expanded its aesthetic boundaries. From meticulous realism to minimalist fine lines, from traditional solid colors to graphic blackwork, from delicate pointillism to monumental oriental compositions, styles multiply like constantly reinventing artistic movements. Each technique carries a cultural heritage, a work ethic, and a particular way of handling ink and composition. The tattoo studio today is also an atelier, a laboratory, and a space for visual research.

But it is in the relationship between tattoo artist and tattooed person that this art gains depth. It's not just about executing a design: it's about translating expectations, listening to silences, understanding symbolism. The tattoo artist's style, their line work, their palette, their aesthetic approach, directly dialogues with the personality and history of the person who chooses to mark their own skin. When there is harmony, the tattoo ceases to be a mere illustration and becomes an extension of the person themselves, almost as if it had always belonged to that body.

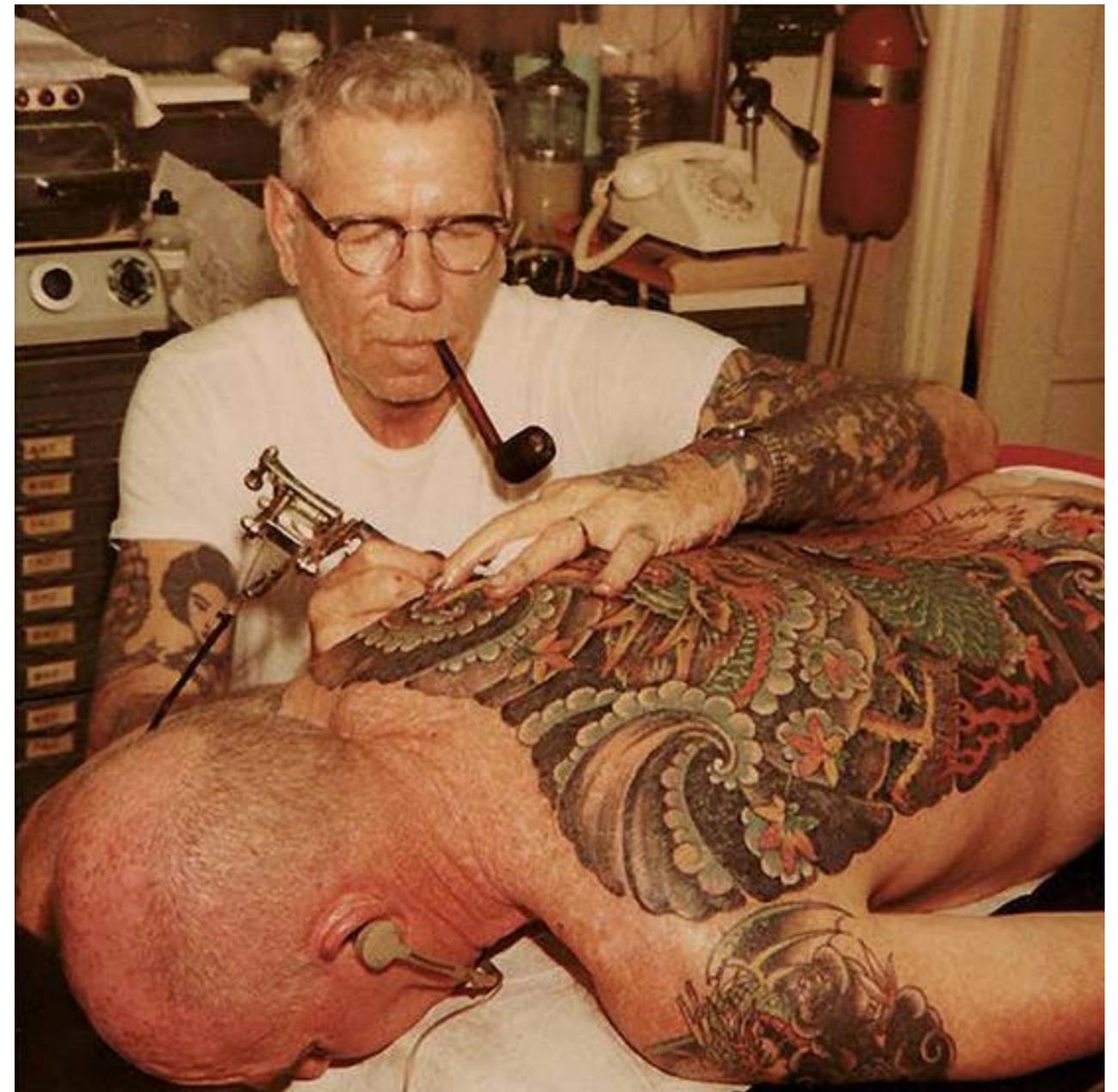
In an era marked by ephemeral images and endless scrolling through social media, tattooing demands permanence. It requires decision, trust, and surrender. Perhaps that's why it's so intense: because it unites technique and sensitivity, artist and client, project and experience. On the skin, art is not merely contemplated, it is inhabited. And it is in this silent pact between the creator and the bearer that the tattoo reaffirms its strength as one of the most vibrant and human expressions of our time.







7a



7b

HORIYOSHI III



Photo: Wikipedia

© Horiyoshi III

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8a



It's impossible to talk about traditional tattooing without mentioning Horiyoshi III, as he represents Japanese tradition and the understanding of how tattooing can become a living cultural heritage.

Born Yoshihito Nakano in 1946 in Yokohama, Japan, he built a career marked by discipline, aesthetic devotion, and reverence for the masters who preceded him. His artistic name carries a legacy: by assuming the title "Horiyoshi," he became the third in a respected lineage of tattoo artists, committed to preserving and expanding the tradition of irezumi, the traditional art of Japanese tattooing.

With ancestral roots, irezumi involves techniques such as tebori (hand-made), symbolizing protection, social status, and resistance, historically also



associated with groups like the Yakuza.

At age 11, Nakano was already fascinated by the images of tattooed warriors depicted in Edo period prints. This youthful obsession led him, years later, to seek formal training with Horiyoshi II. The process was rigorous. Before wielding the needle, he dedicated himself to basic tasks, careful observation, and meticulous study of drawing... a path that reaffirms the almost artisanal logic of traditional Japanese training.

Upon inheriting the name Horiyoshi III, he consolidated himself as a guardian and renewer of a centuries-old aesthetic.

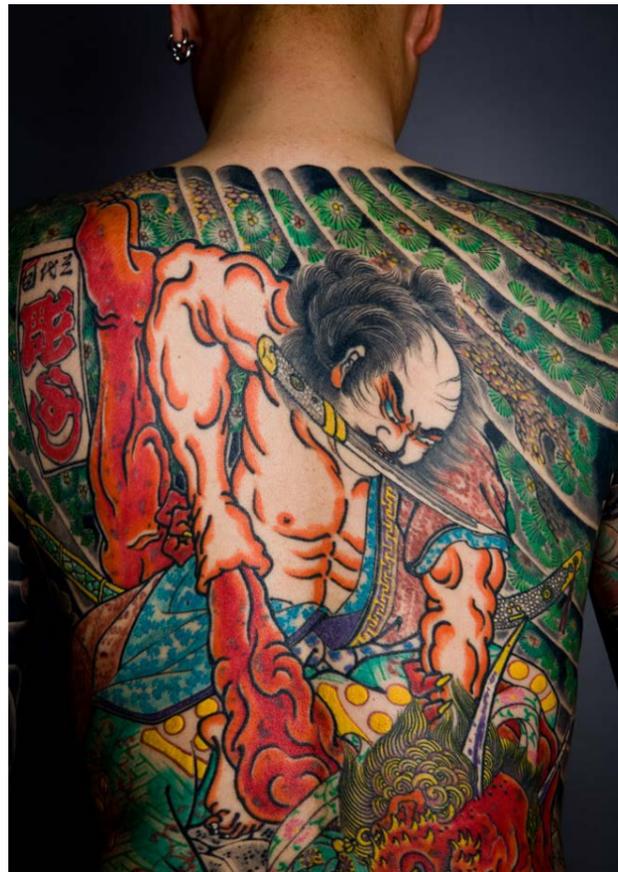
His work is marked by mastery of tebori, a manual technique in which ink is applied with hand-manipulated rods and needles, producing subtle gradations and a unique chromatic depth. Dragons, koi fish, tigers, cherry blossoms, and mythological characters come to life in compositions that occupy large areas of the body, forming true narrative panels.

Each piece is conceived as a harmonious whole, respecting anatomy, movement, and symbolism—fundamental principles of Japanese tradition.

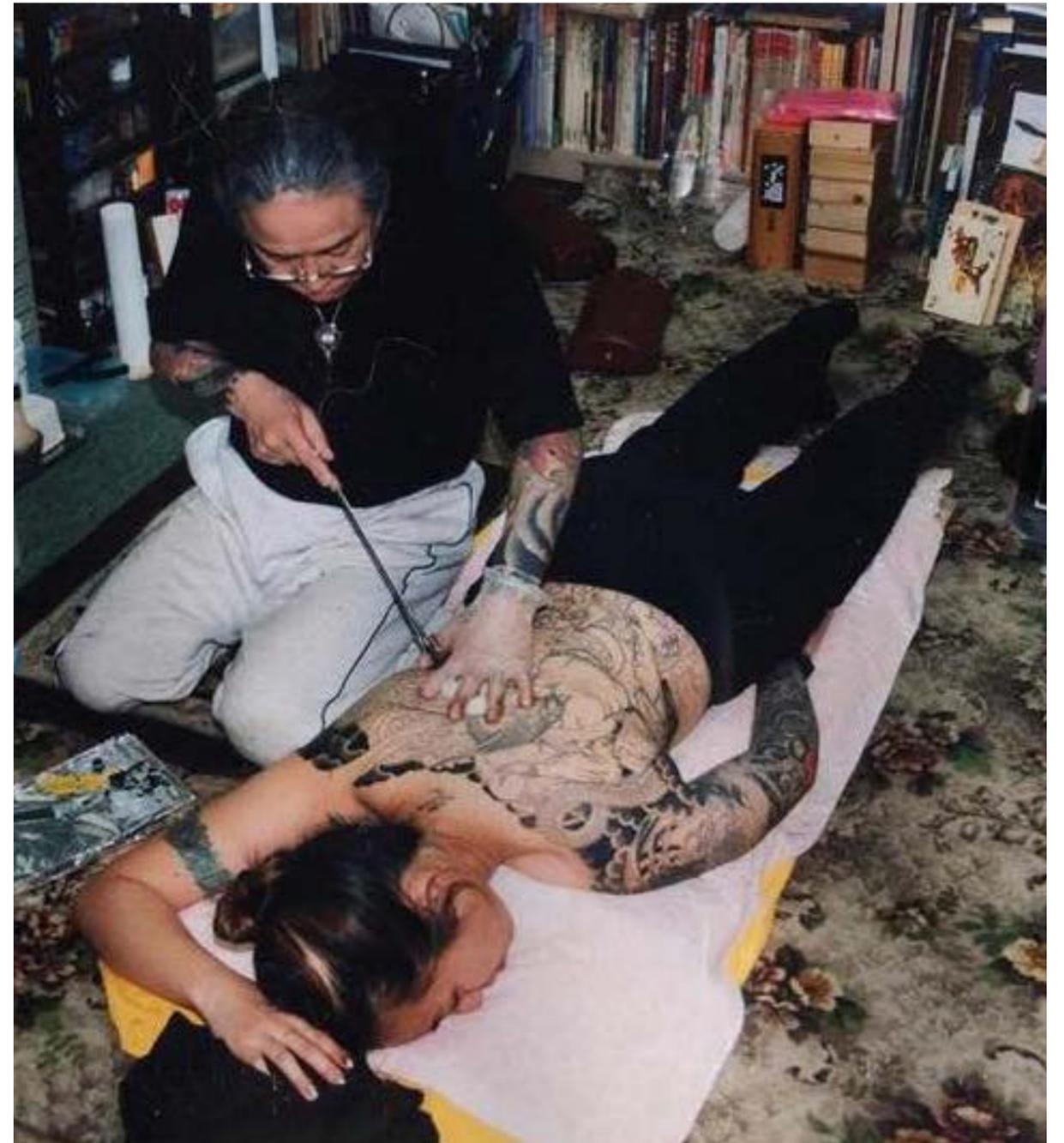
In a country where tattooing still faces social stigmas historically associated with marginality, Horiyoshi III has become a paradoxical figure: simultaneously a guardian of a marginalized art and an internationally admired cultural ambassador. His work helped broaden the recognition of irezumi as a legitimate form of artistic expression, bringing collectors, researchers, and artists closer to the symbolic universe that inhabits tattooed skin.

More than a technical master, Horiyoshi III is a visual storyteller. His biography reveals not only the trajectory of a talented individual, but the persistence of a tradition that resists time and social conventions. In each stroke, the memory of centuries pulsates; in each tattooed body, the continuity of an art that transforms pain into beauty and skin into eternity is inscribed.

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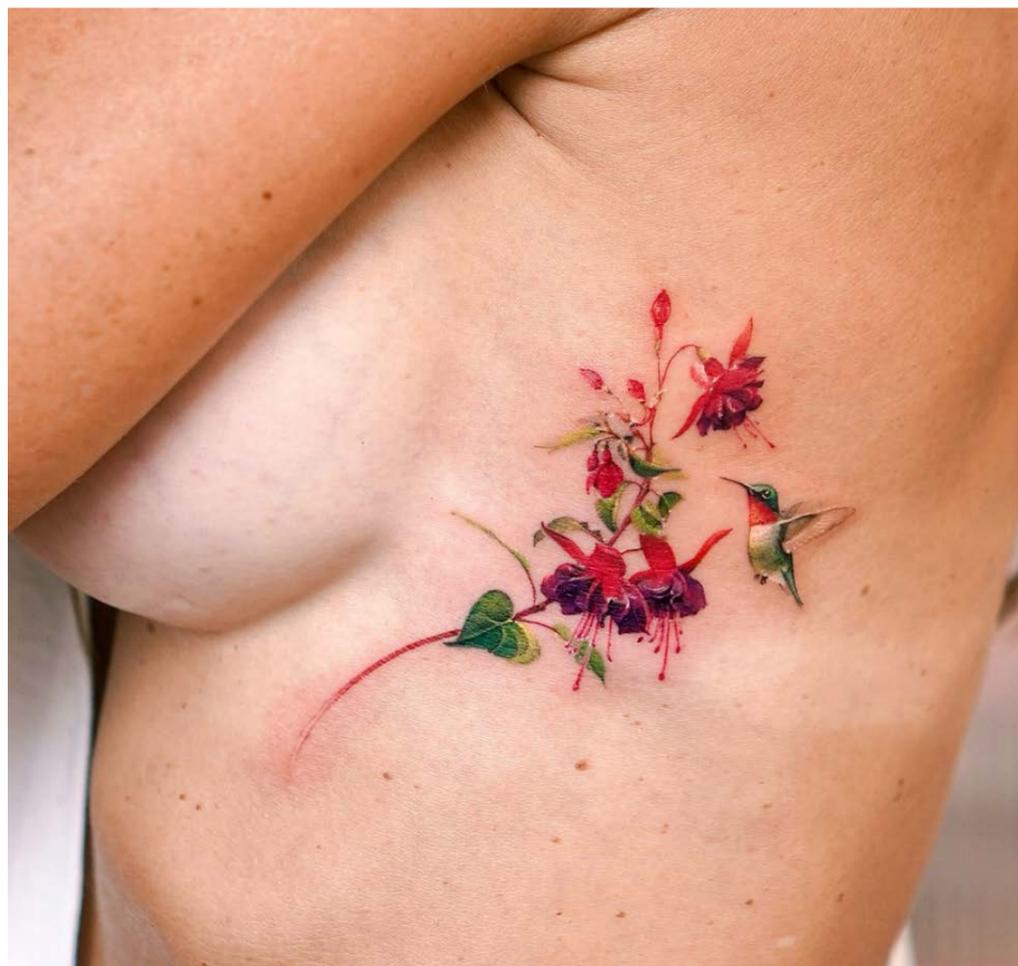


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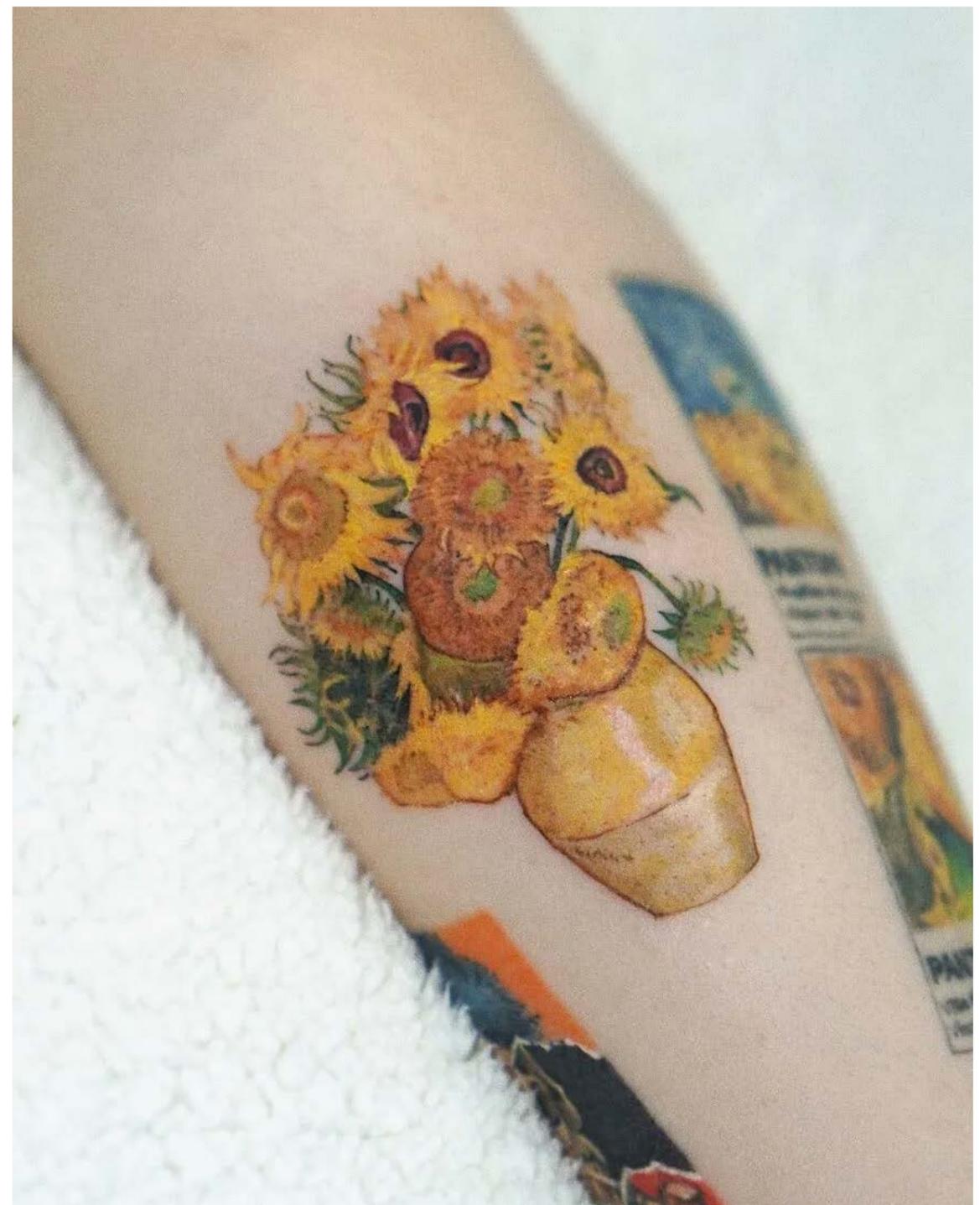
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12b

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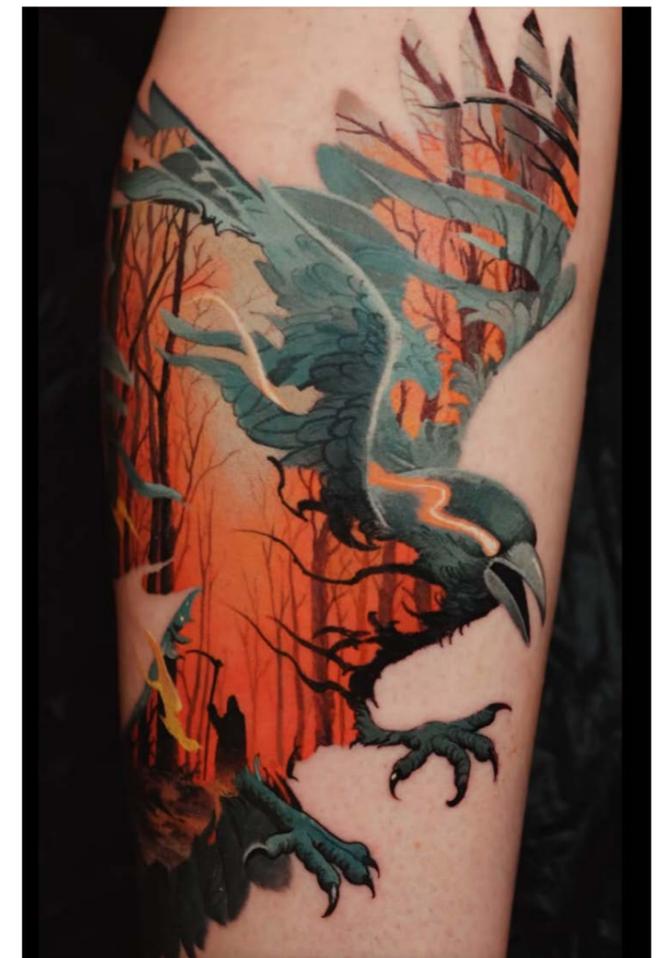
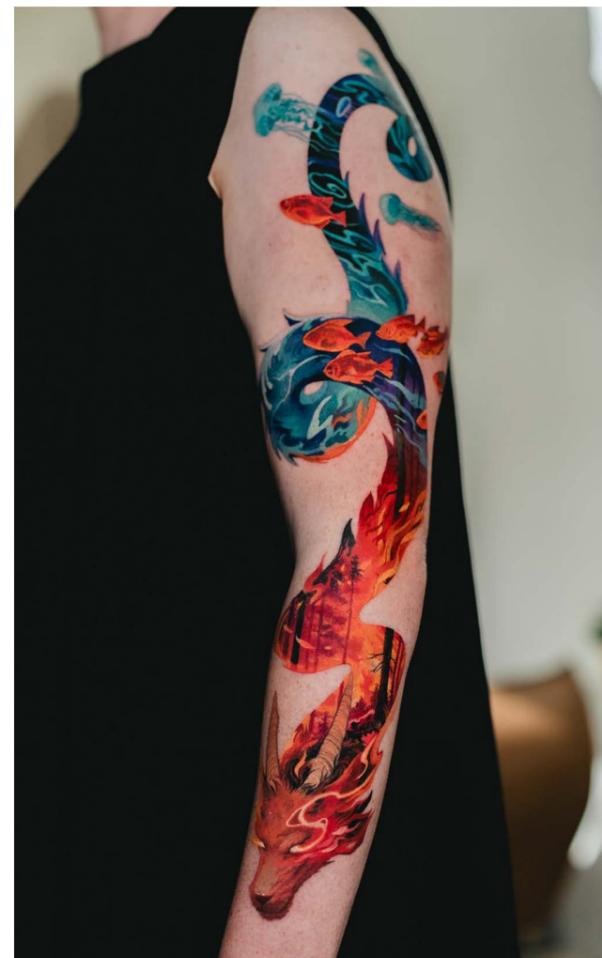
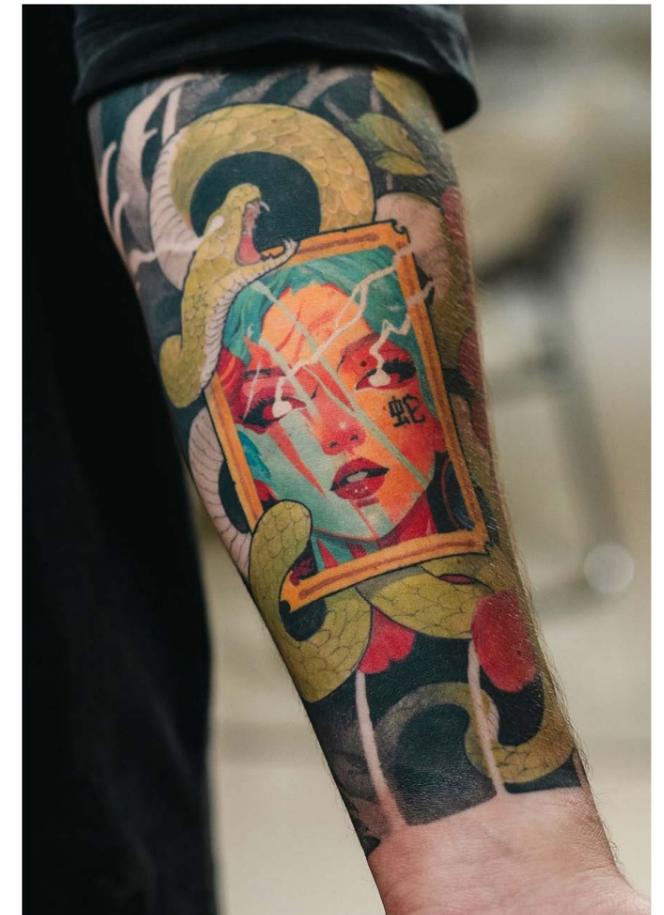
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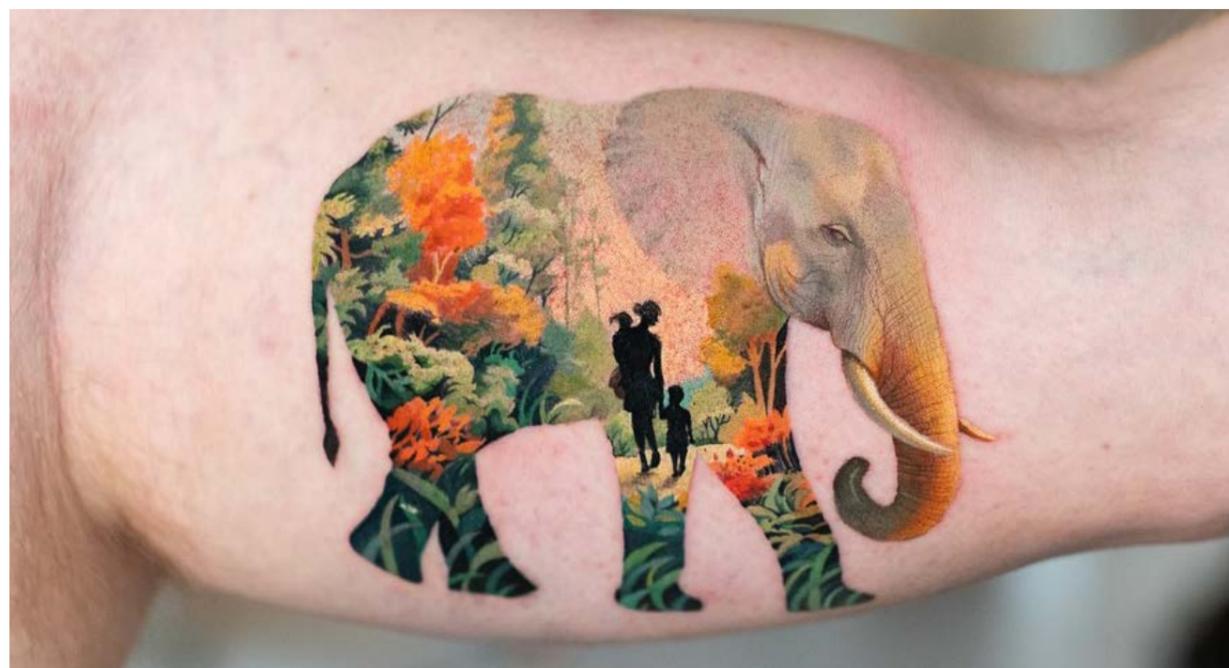
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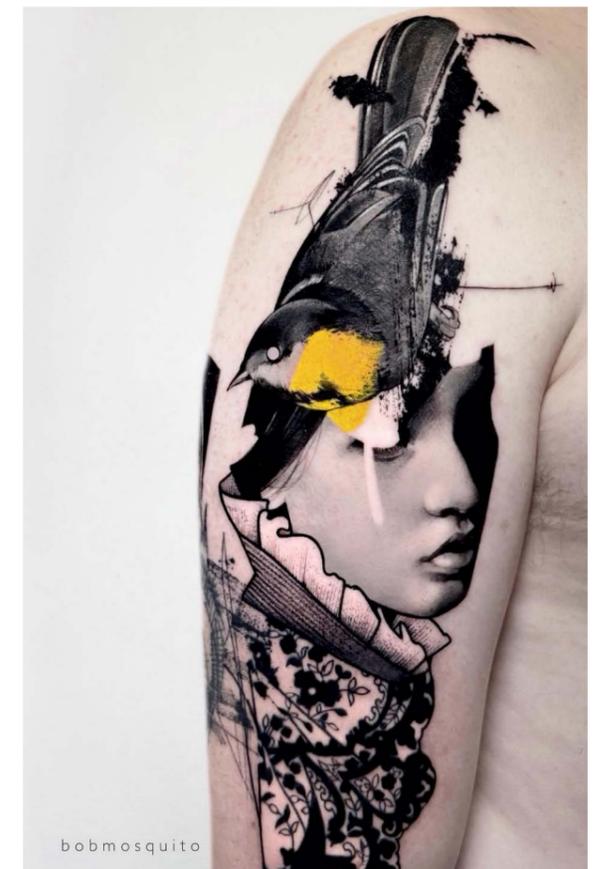
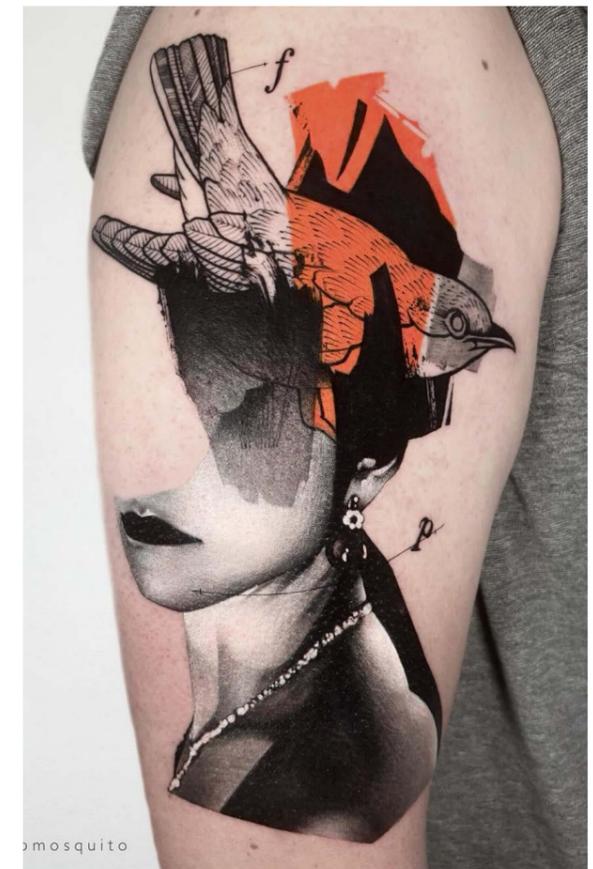
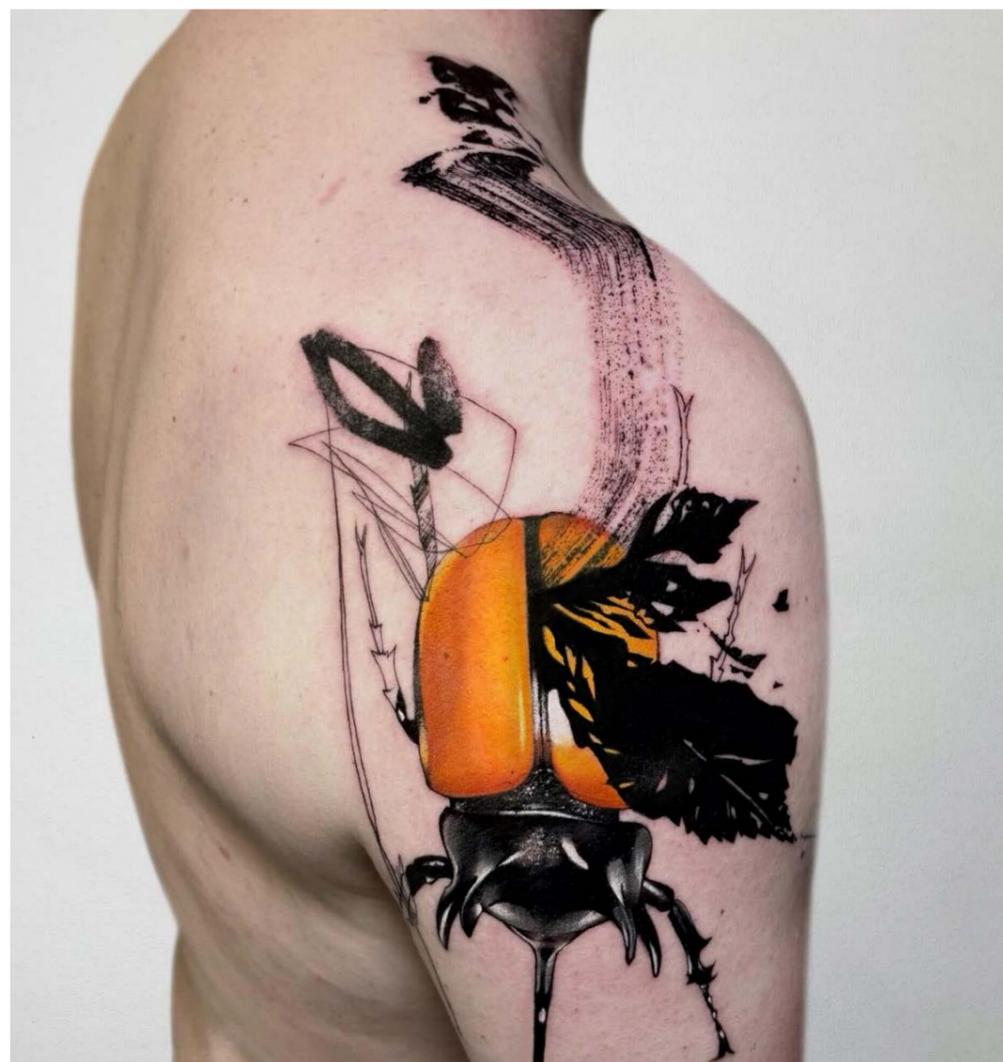
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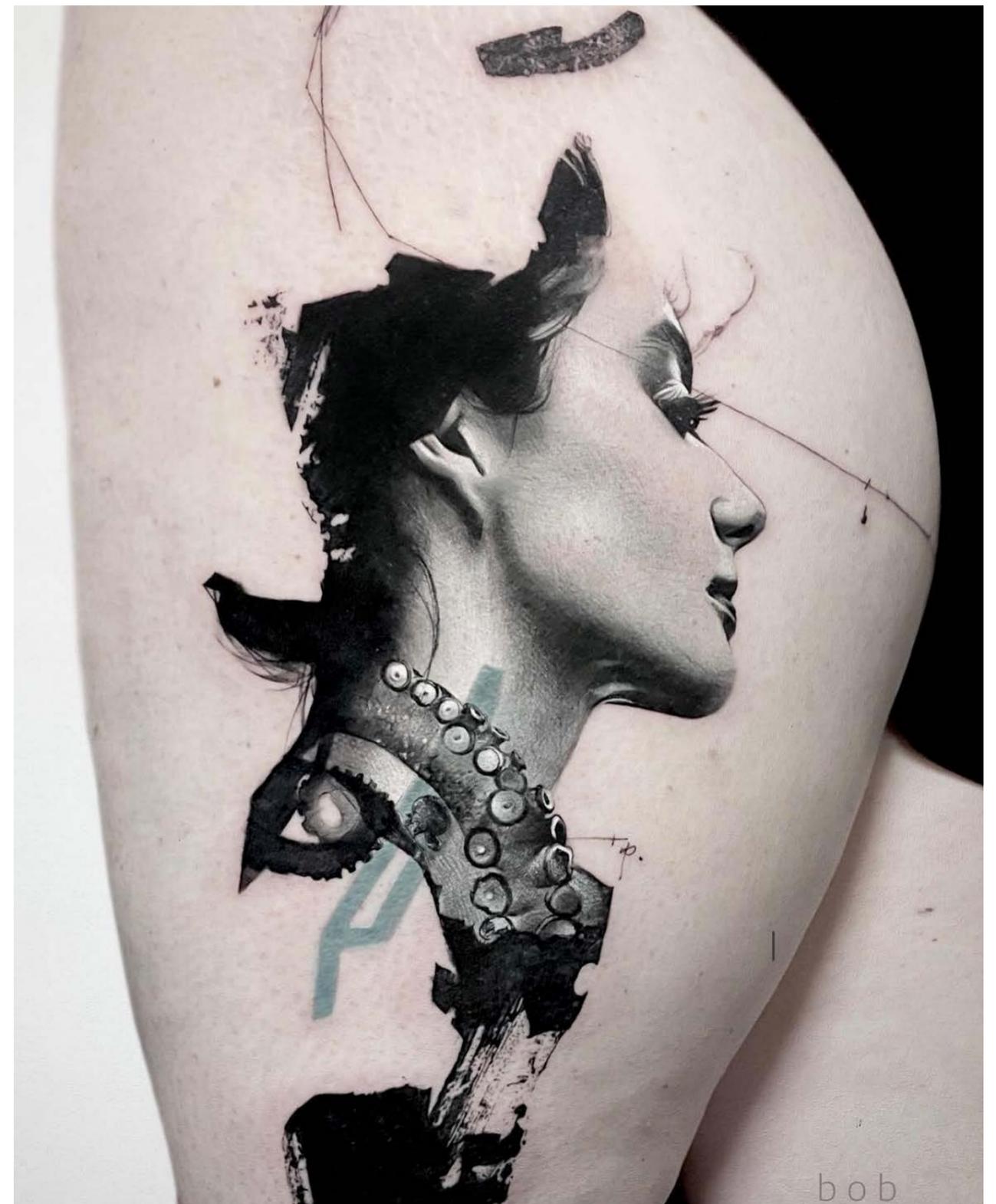
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18b

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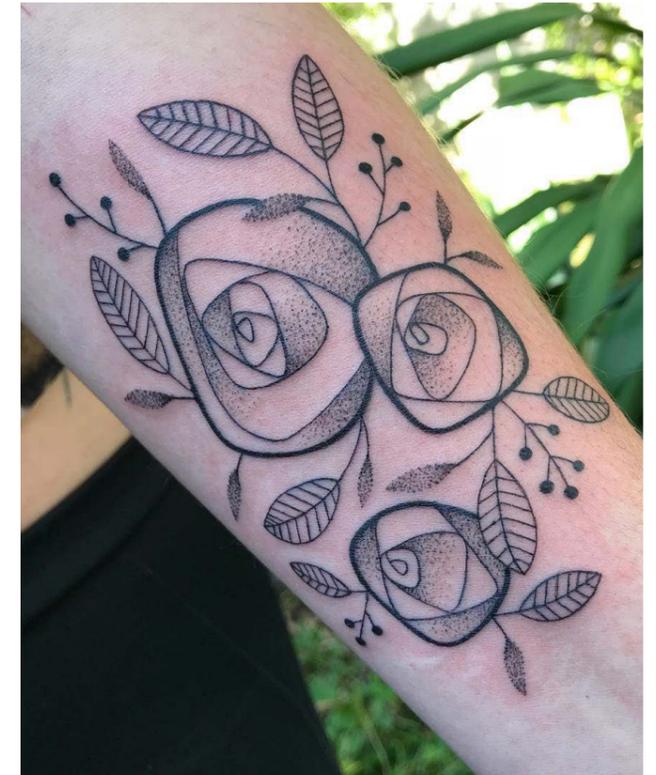


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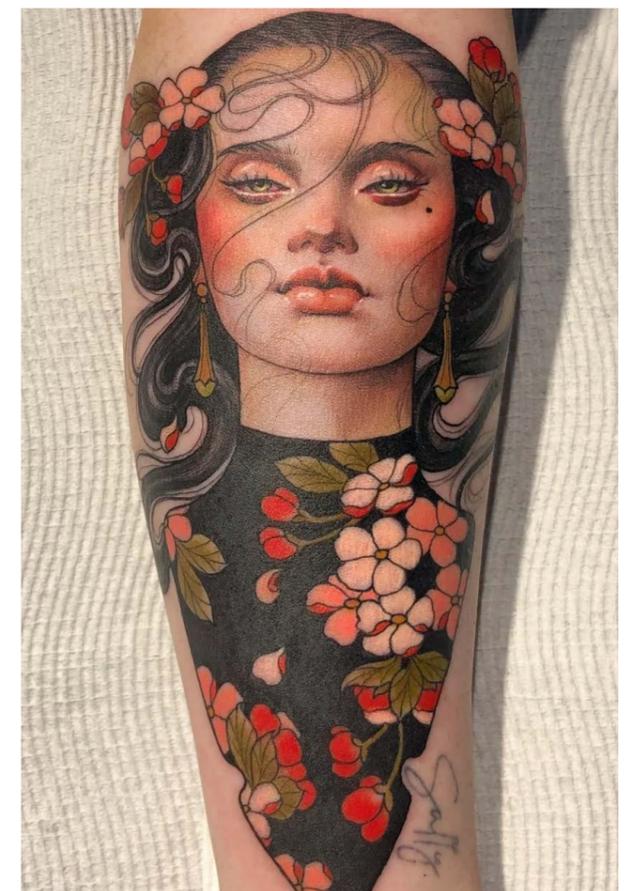
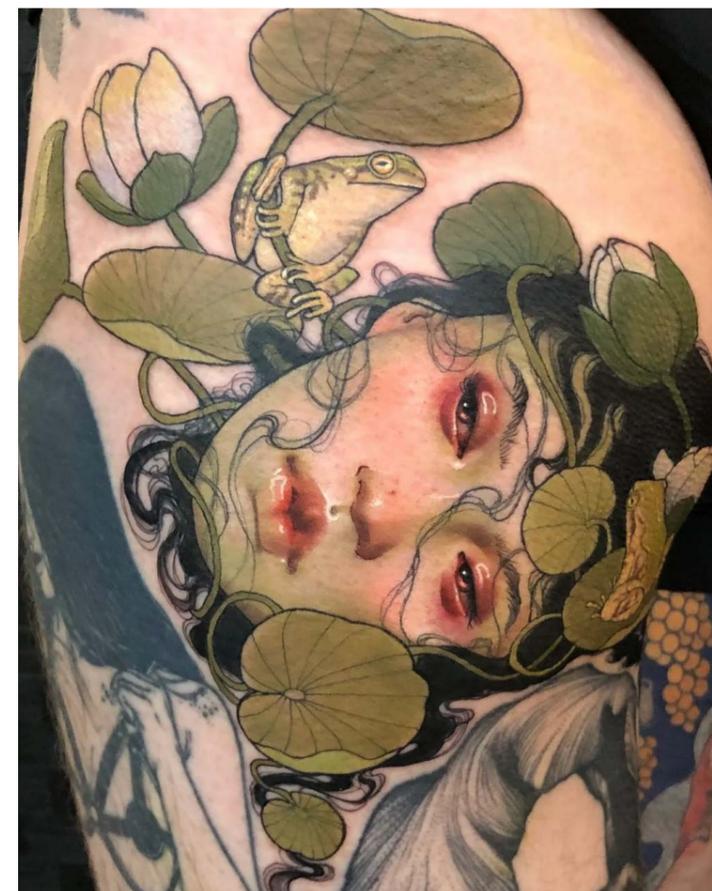


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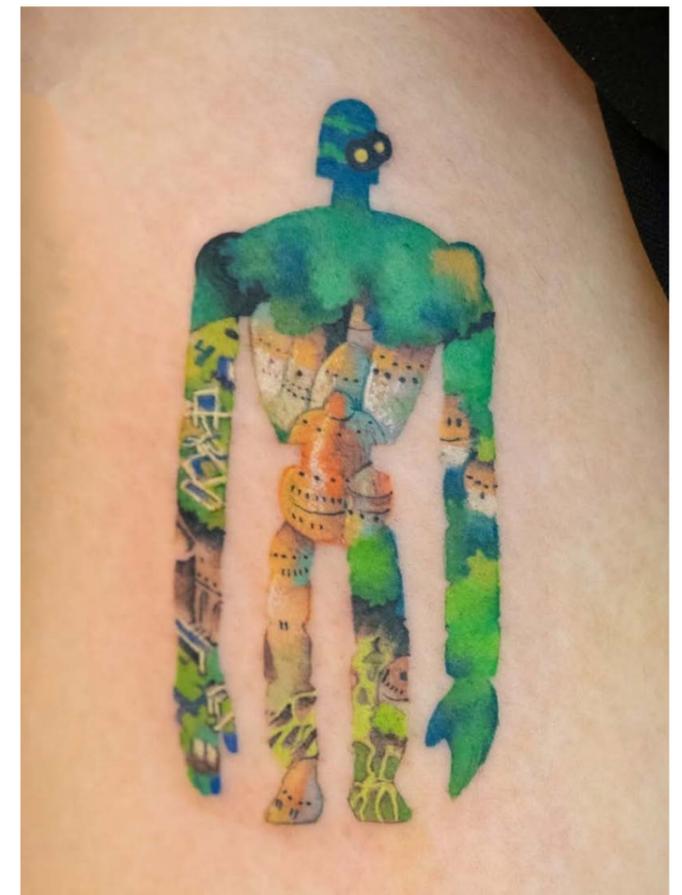


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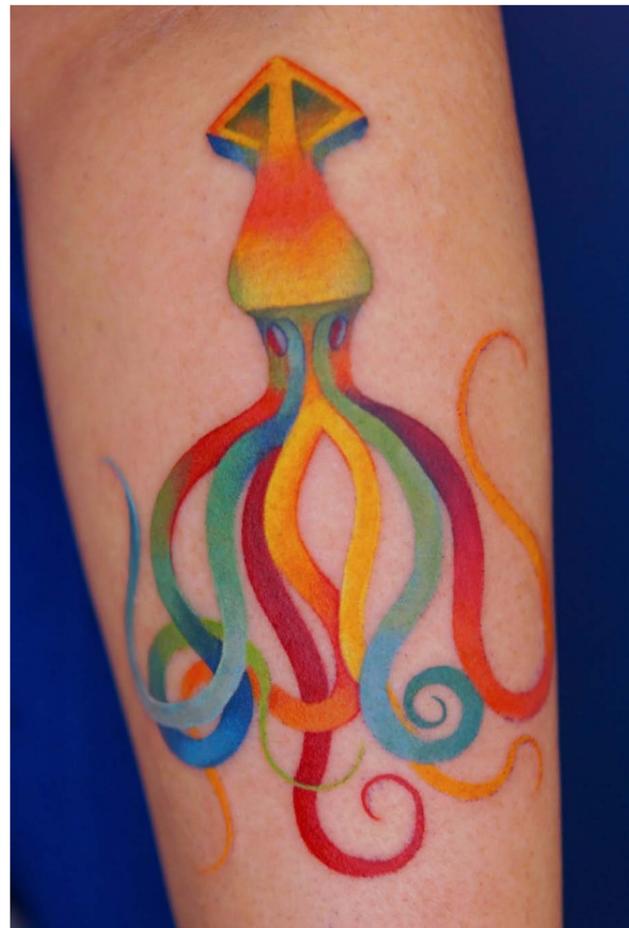
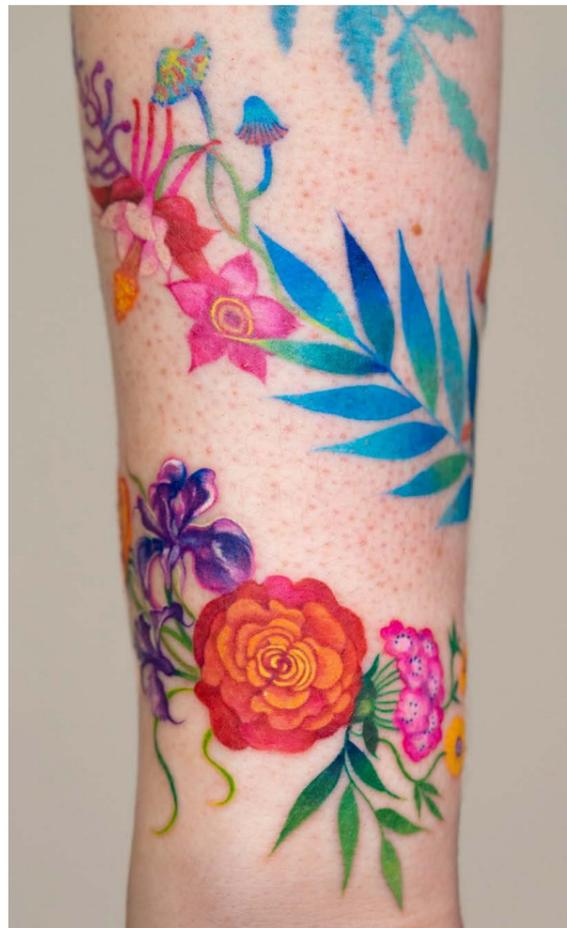
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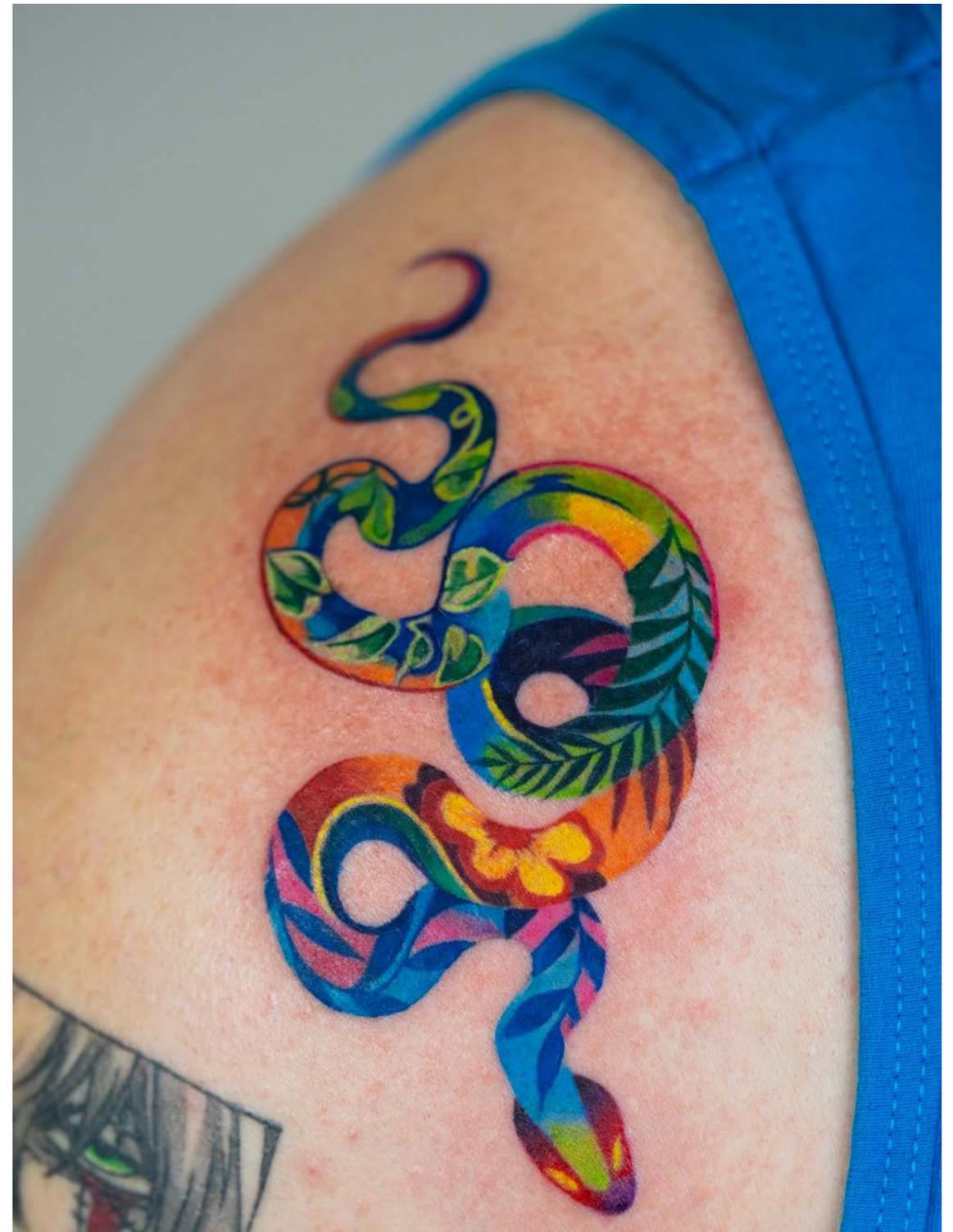
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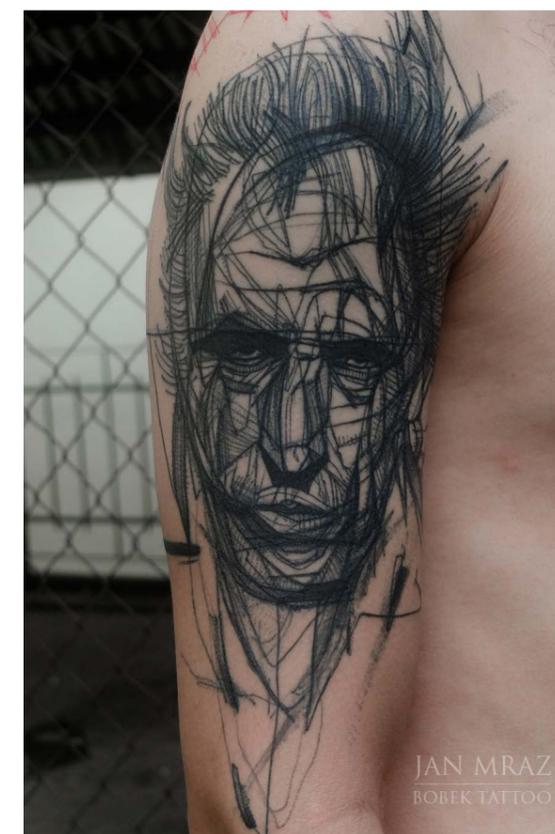
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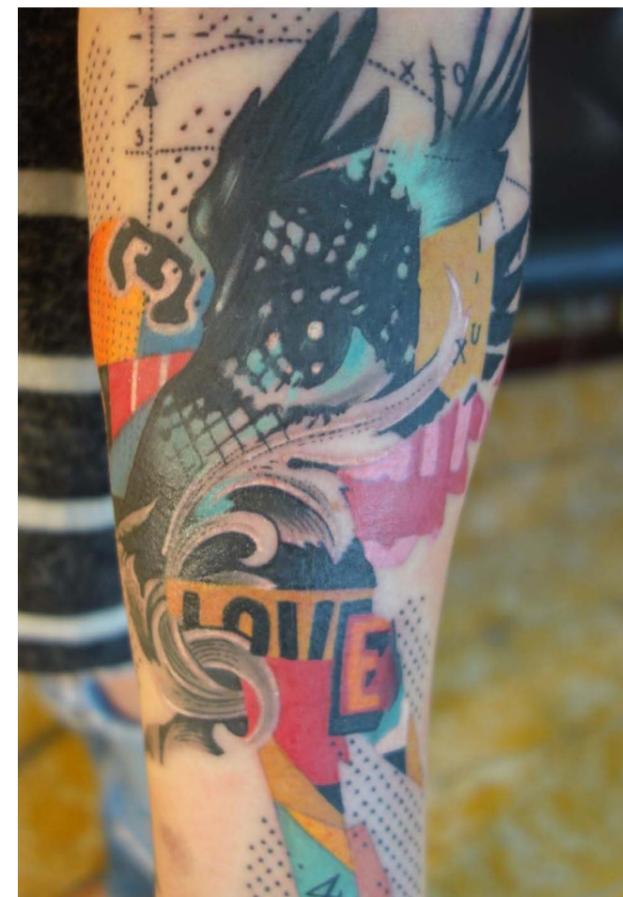
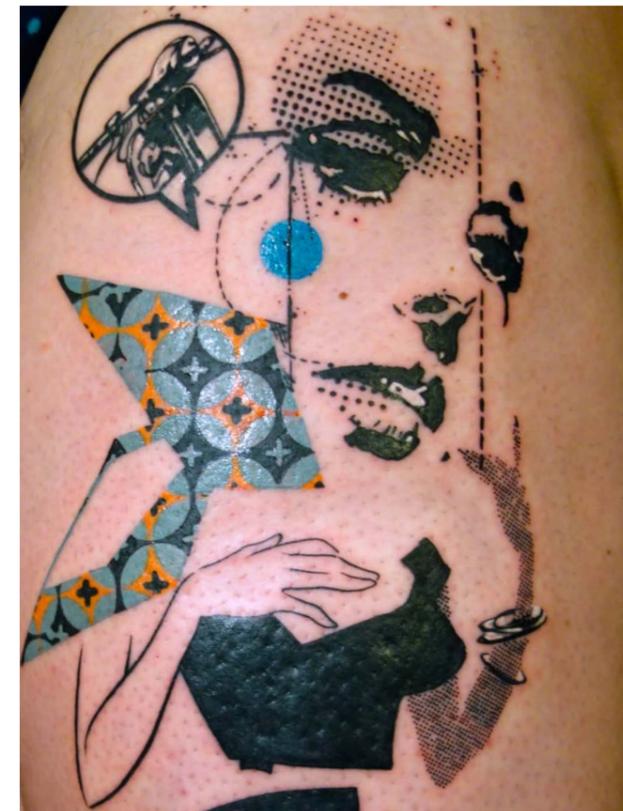


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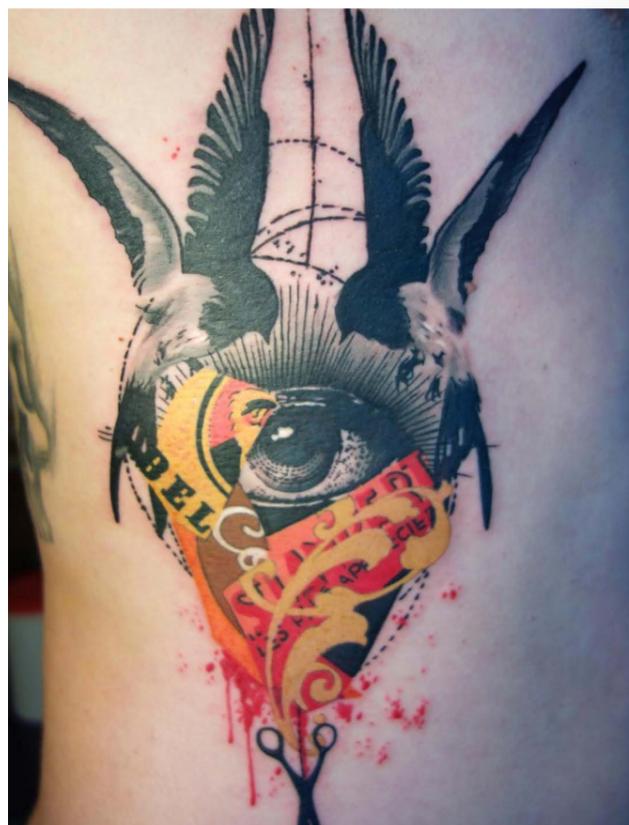
26b

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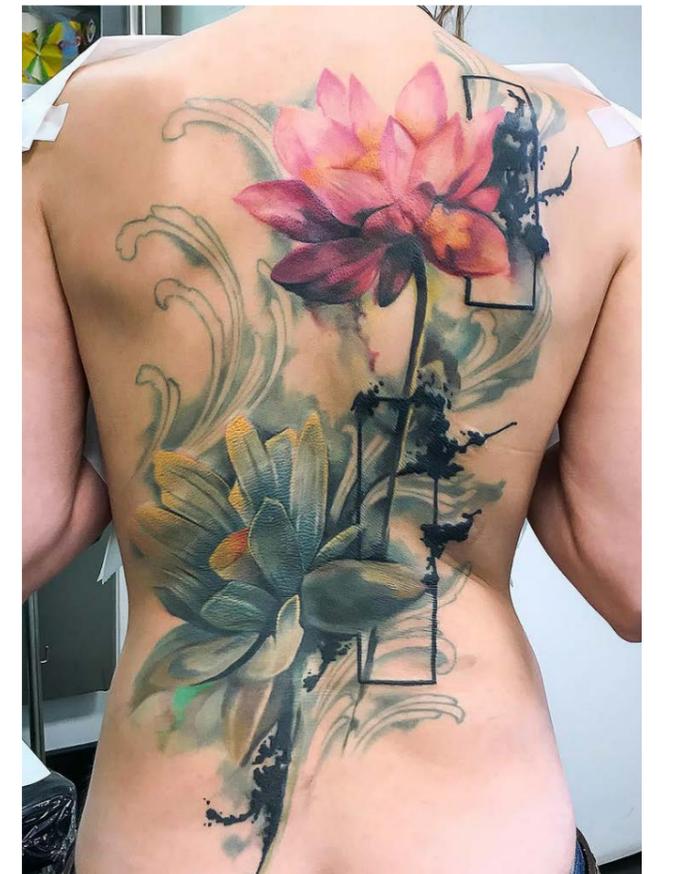
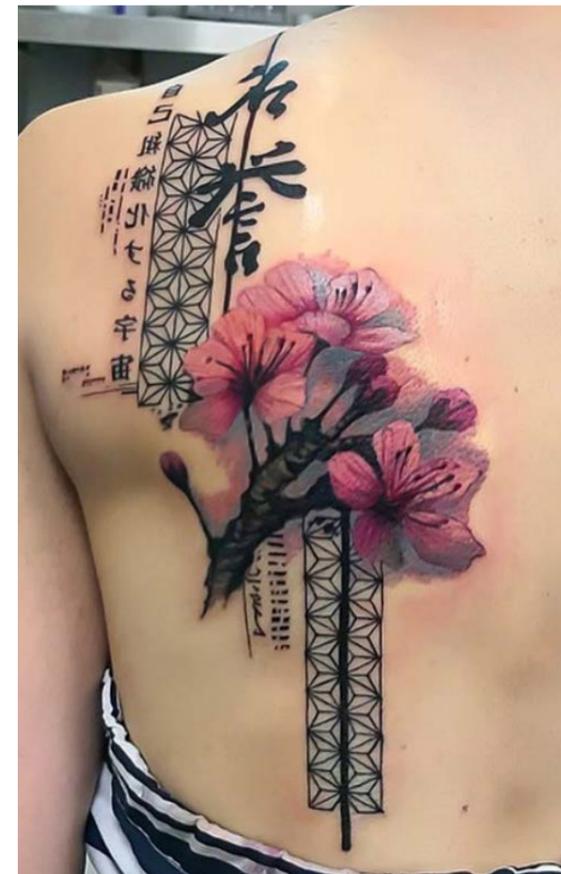
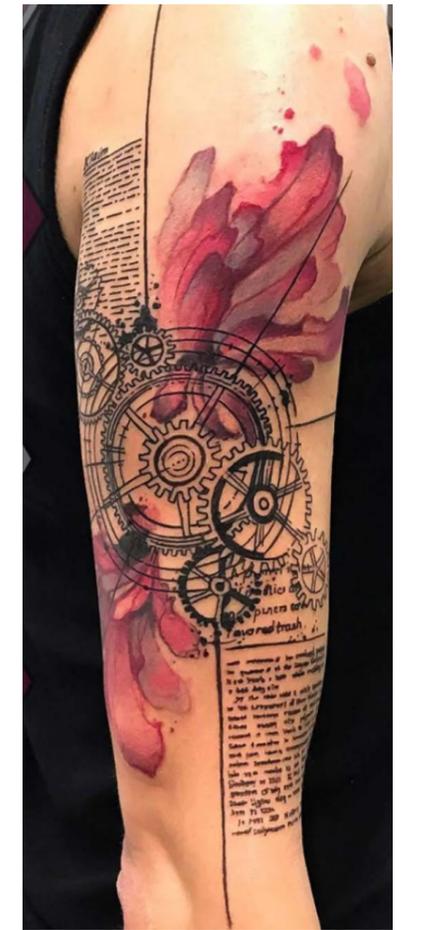
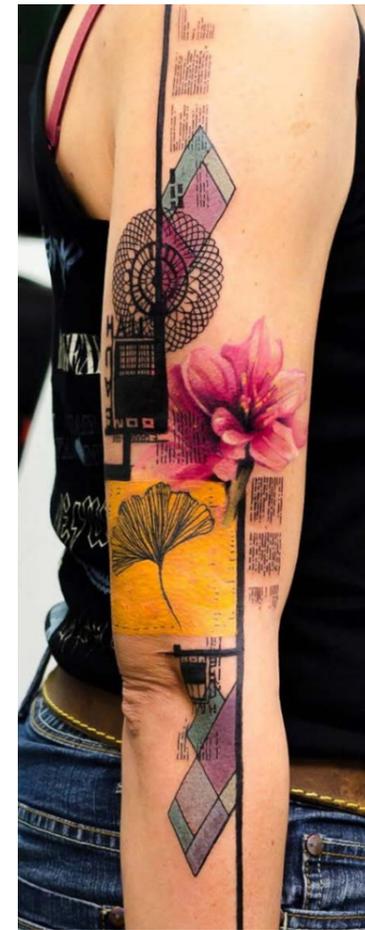
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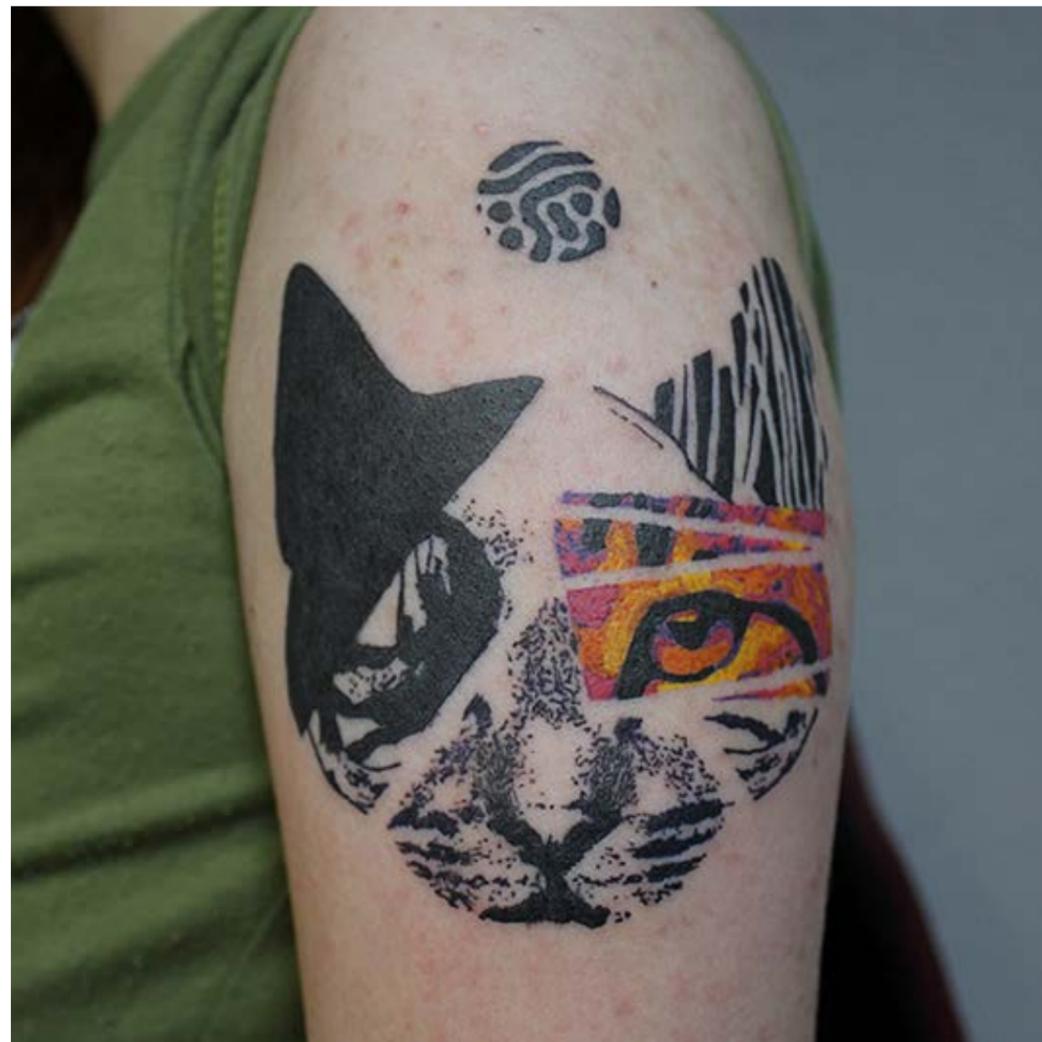


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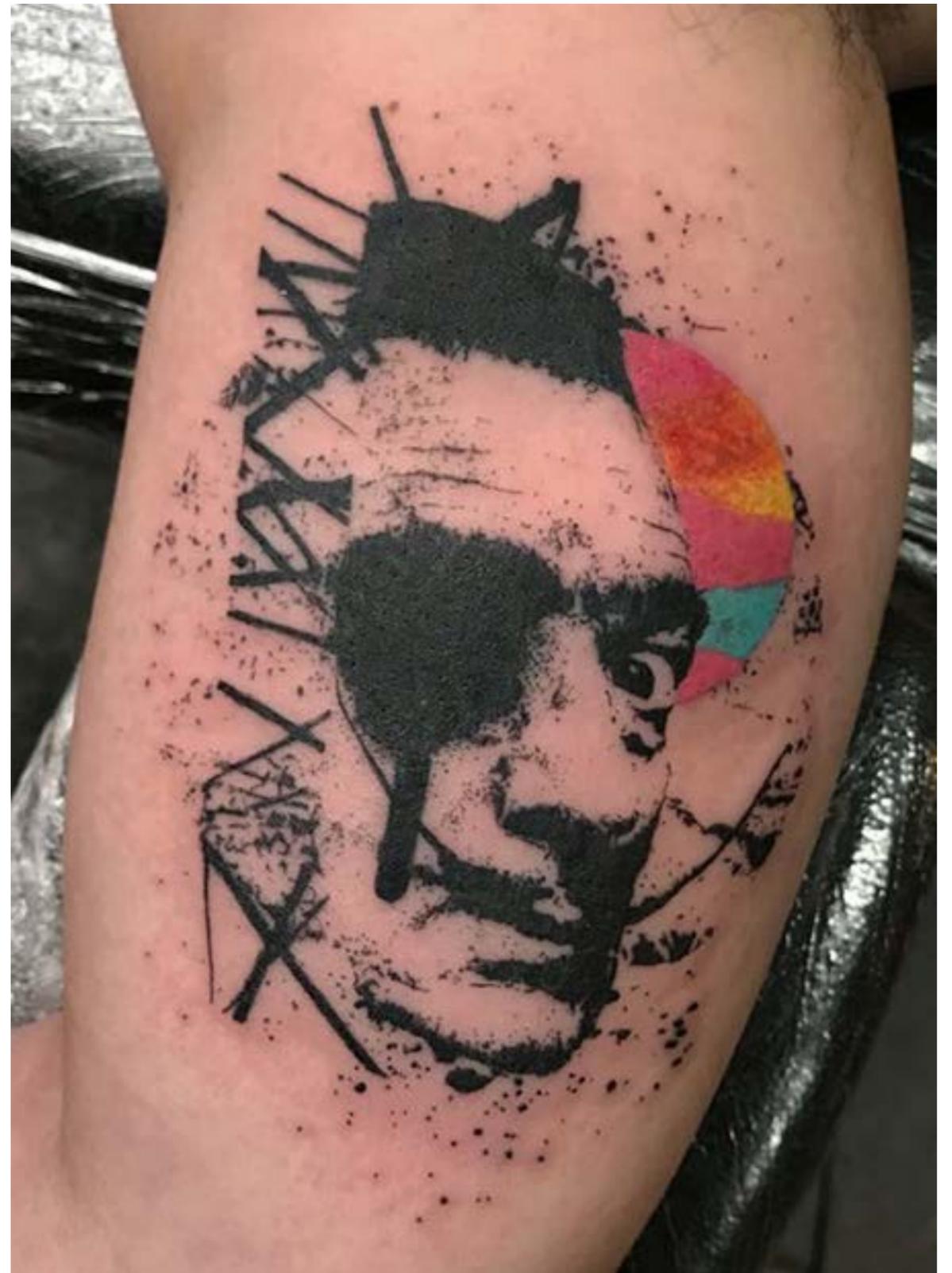
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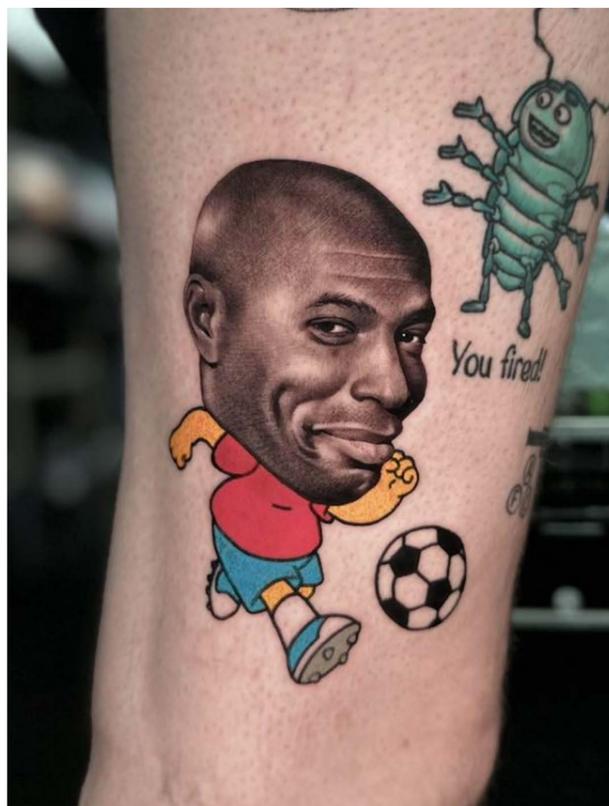


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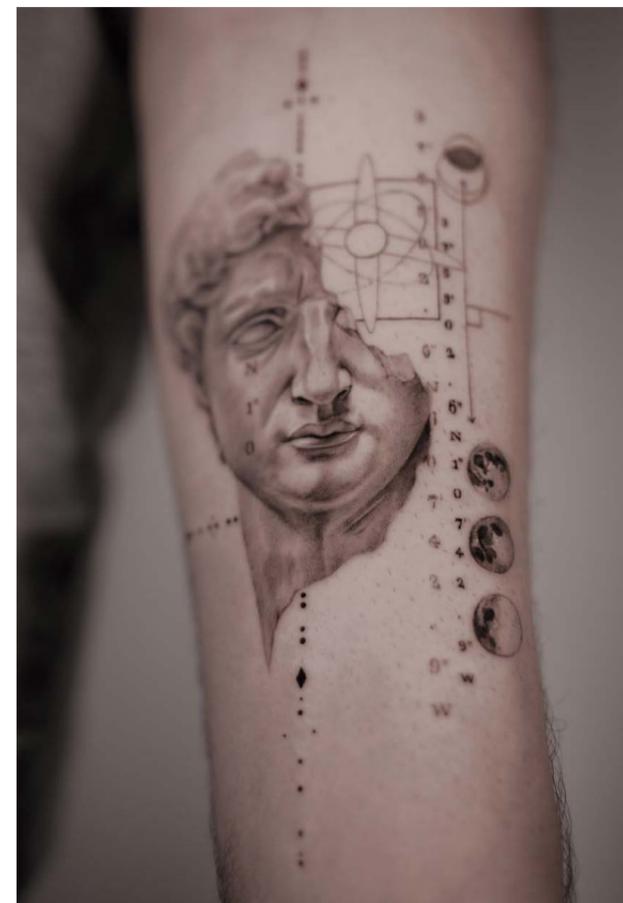
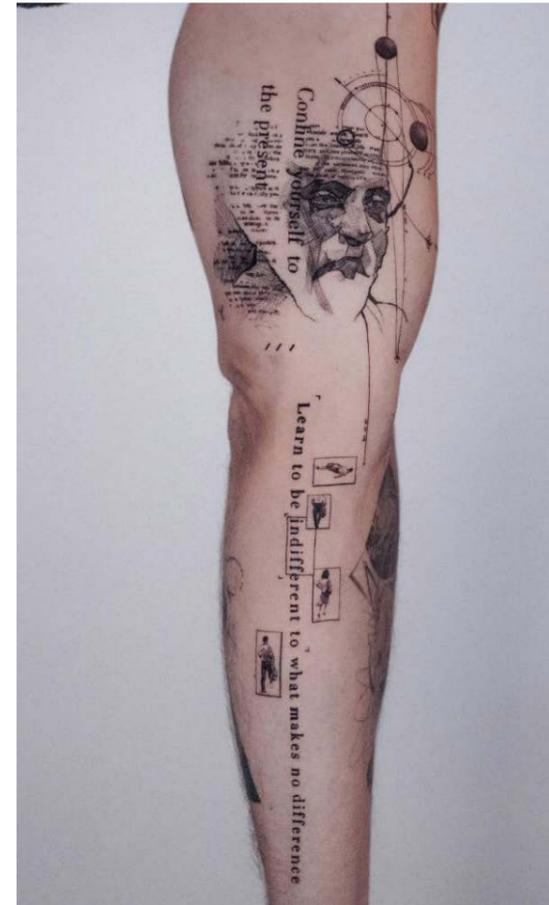


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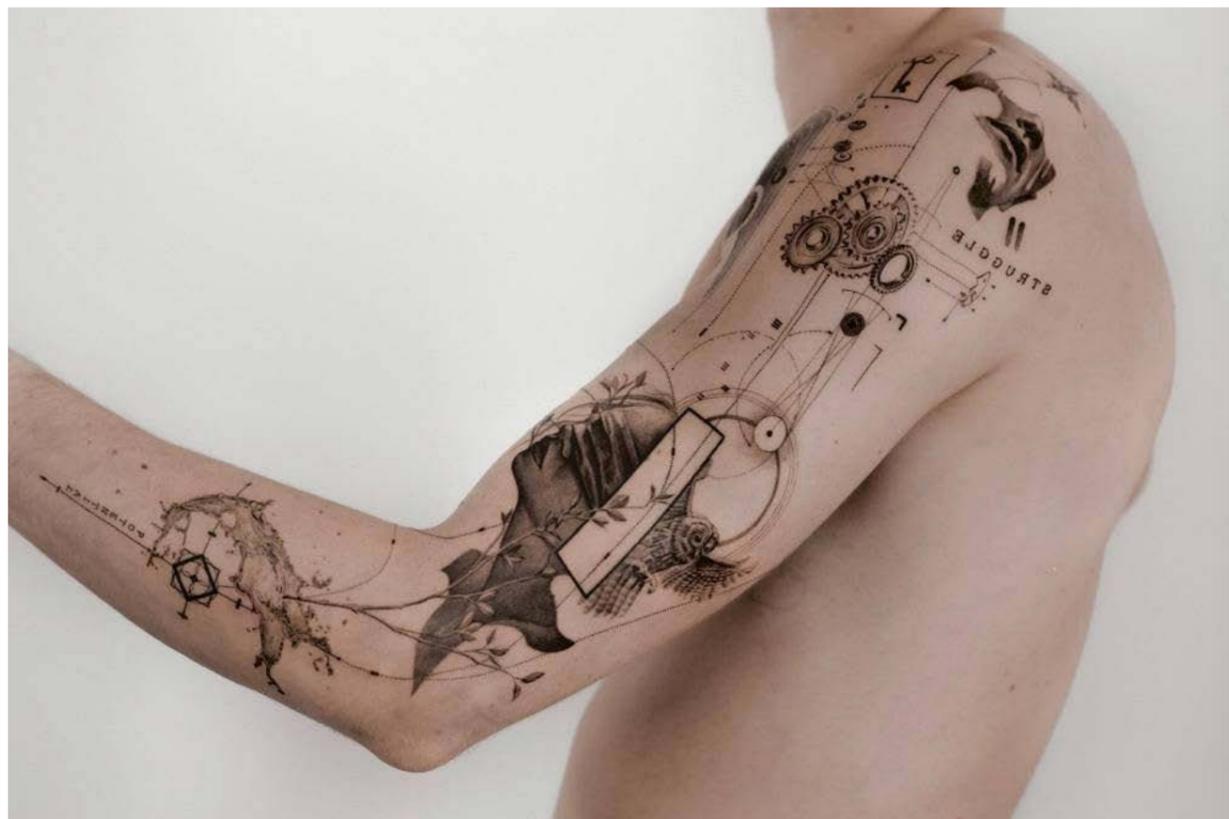
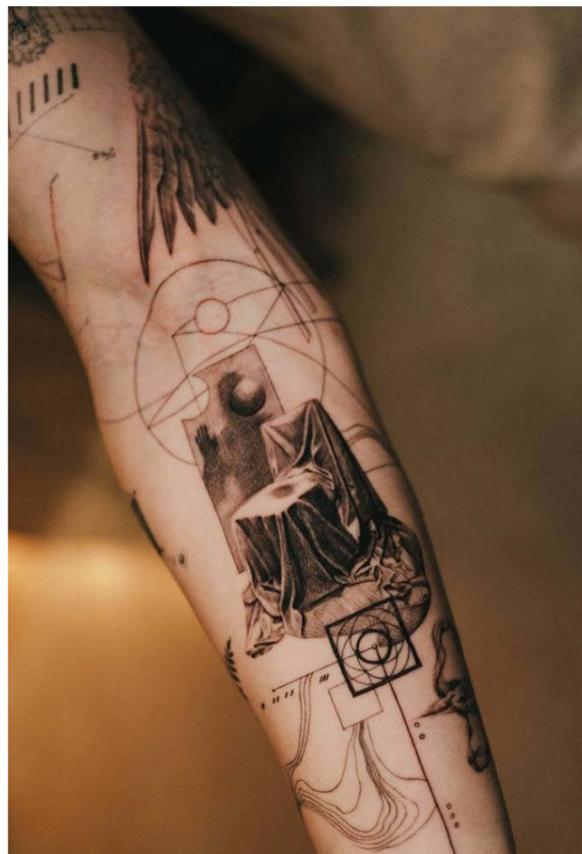
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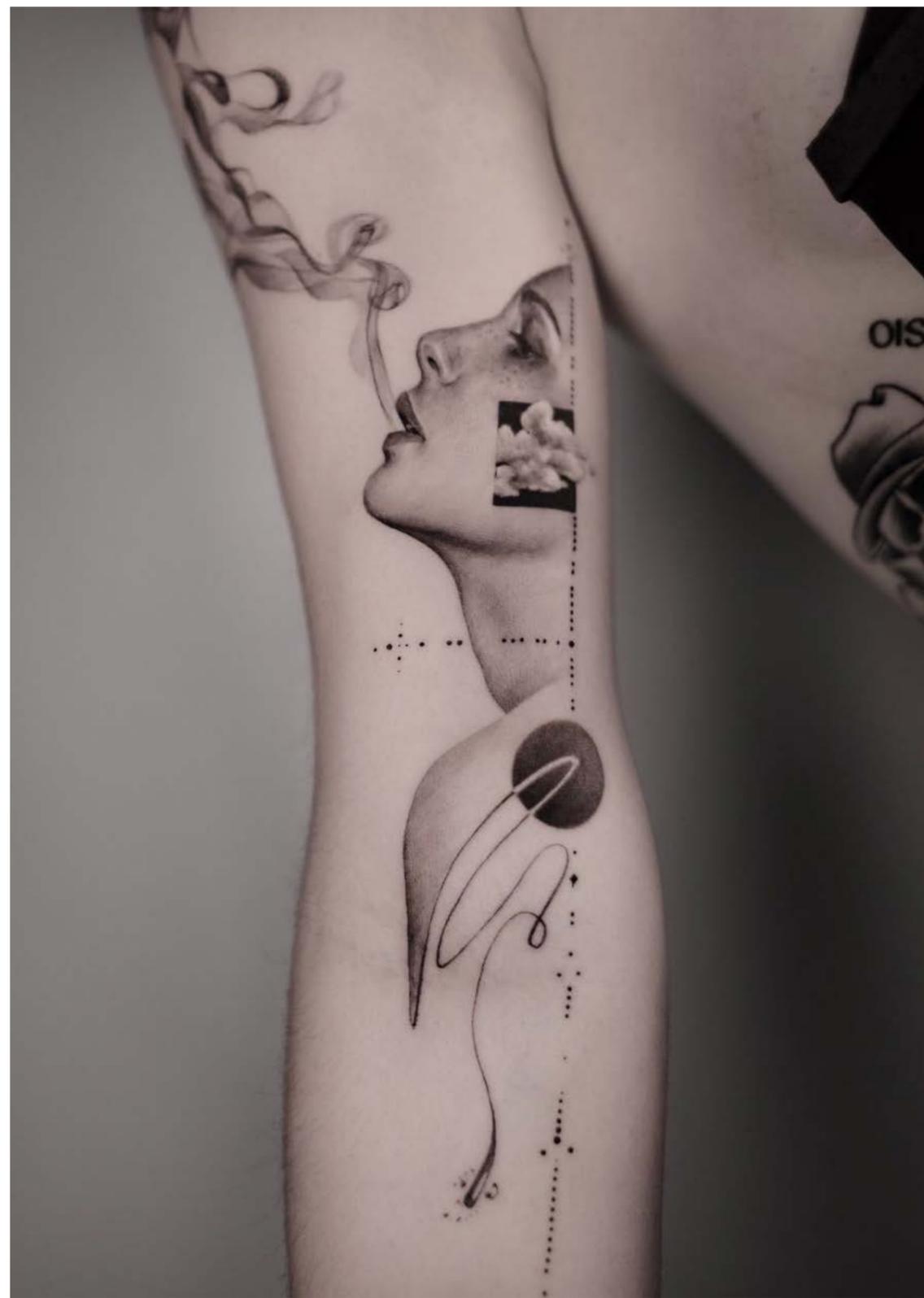
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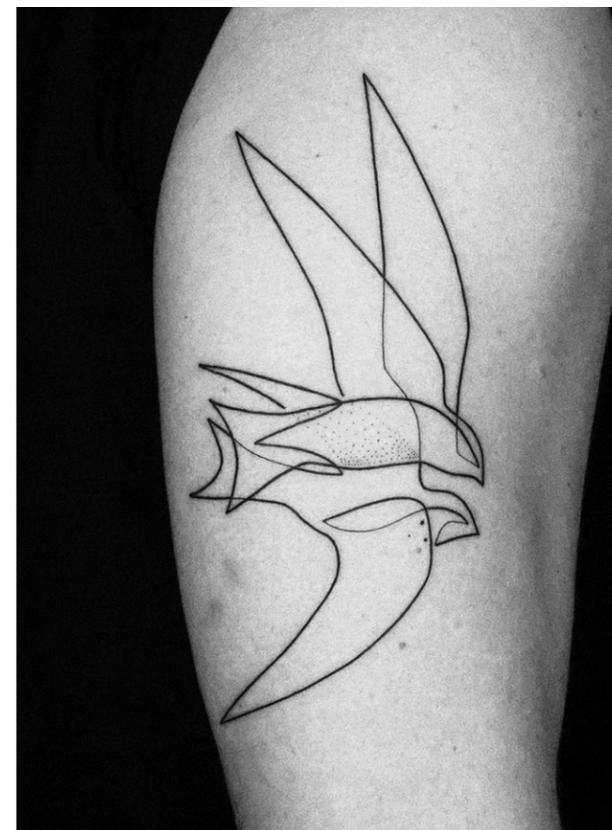
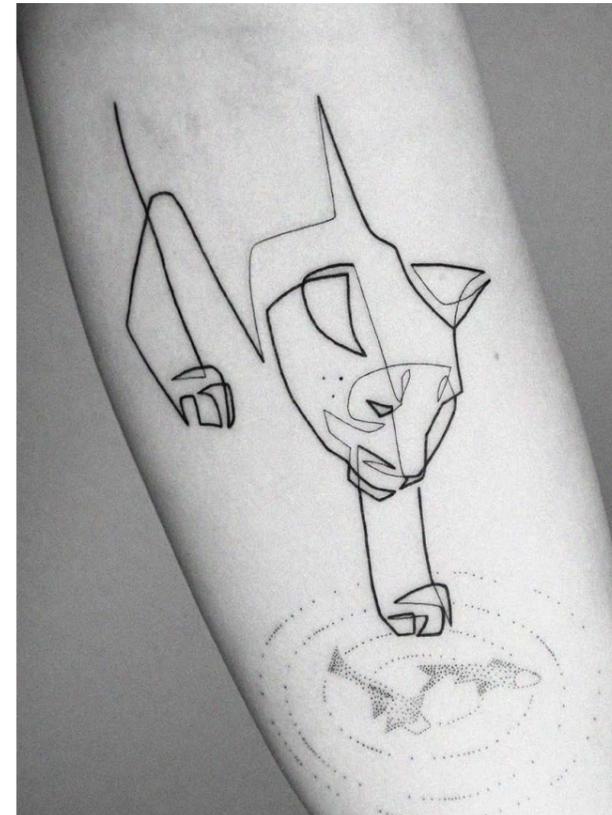


36a



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37a

37b

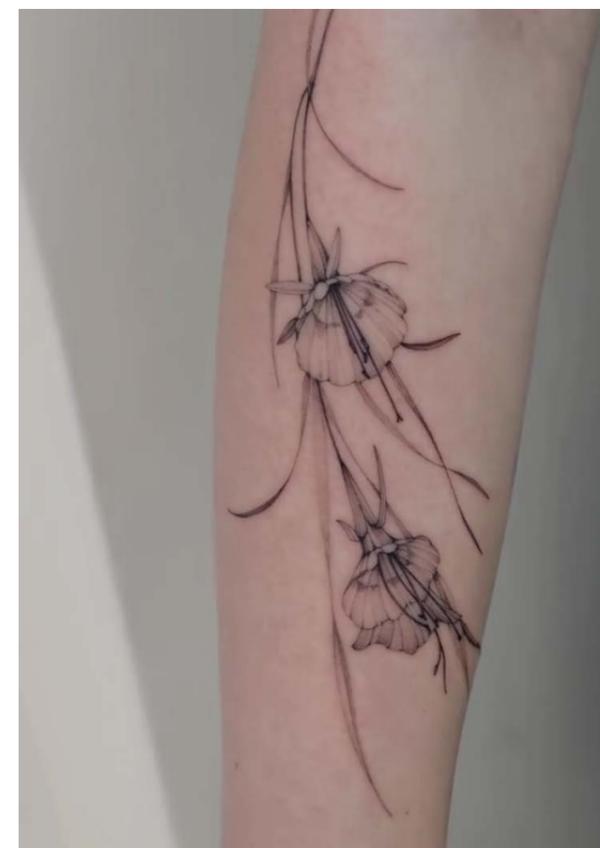
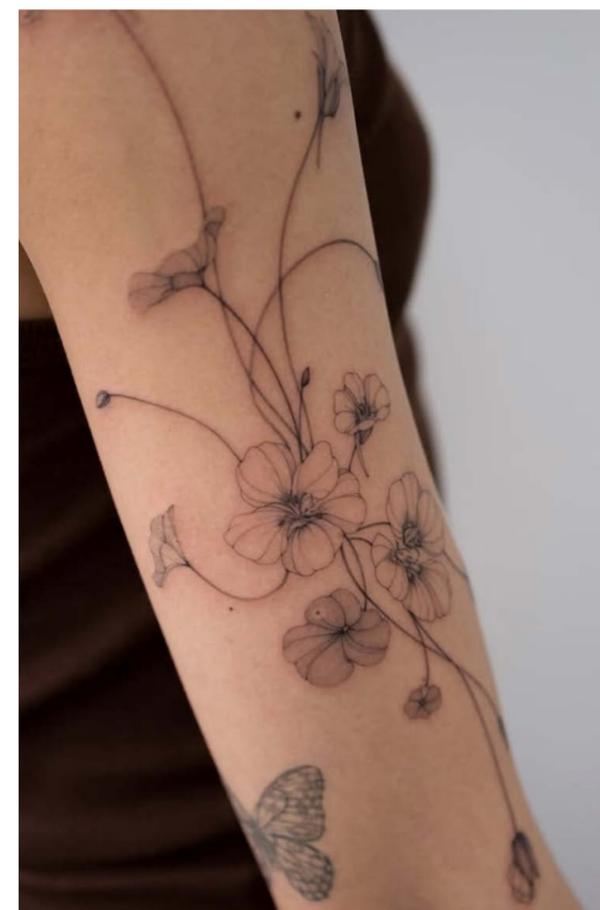


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NADIA ANDRIU

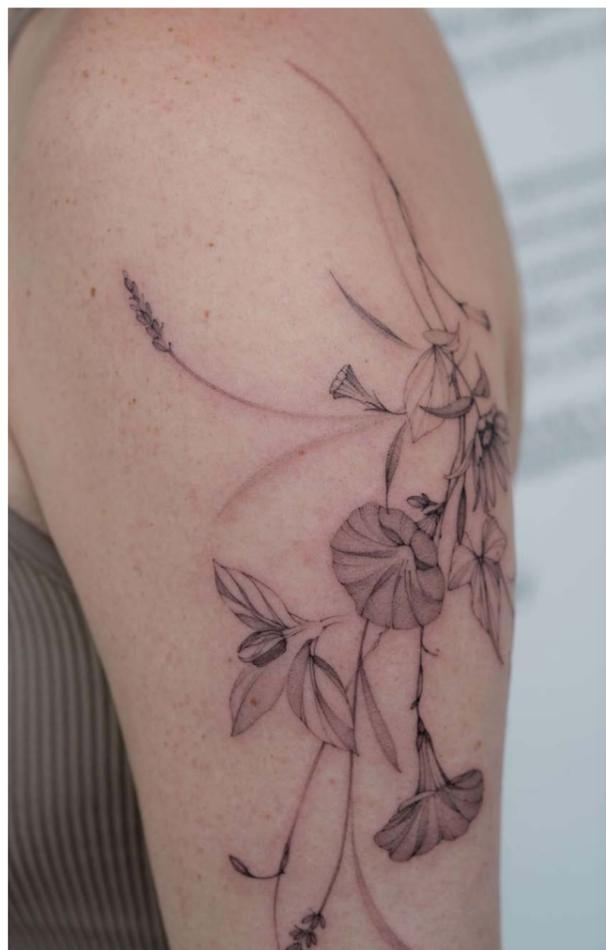
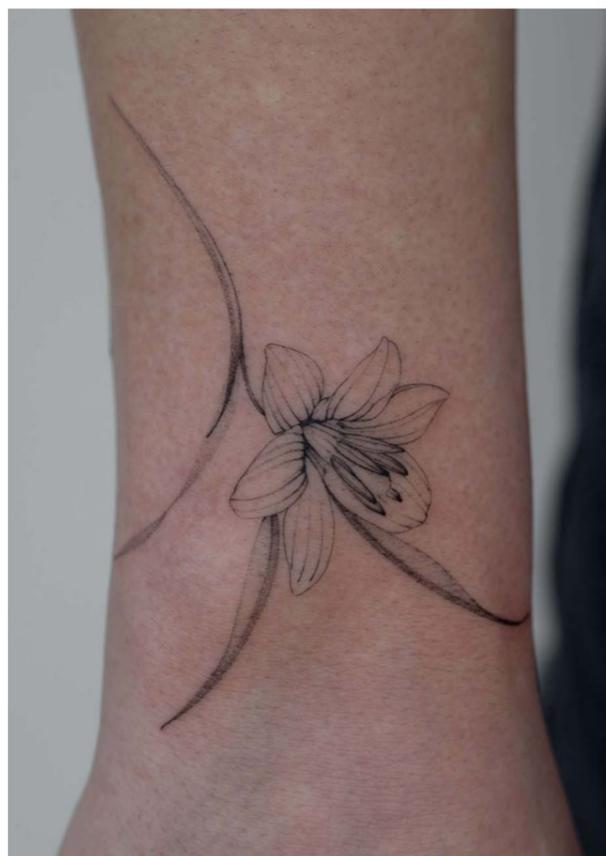


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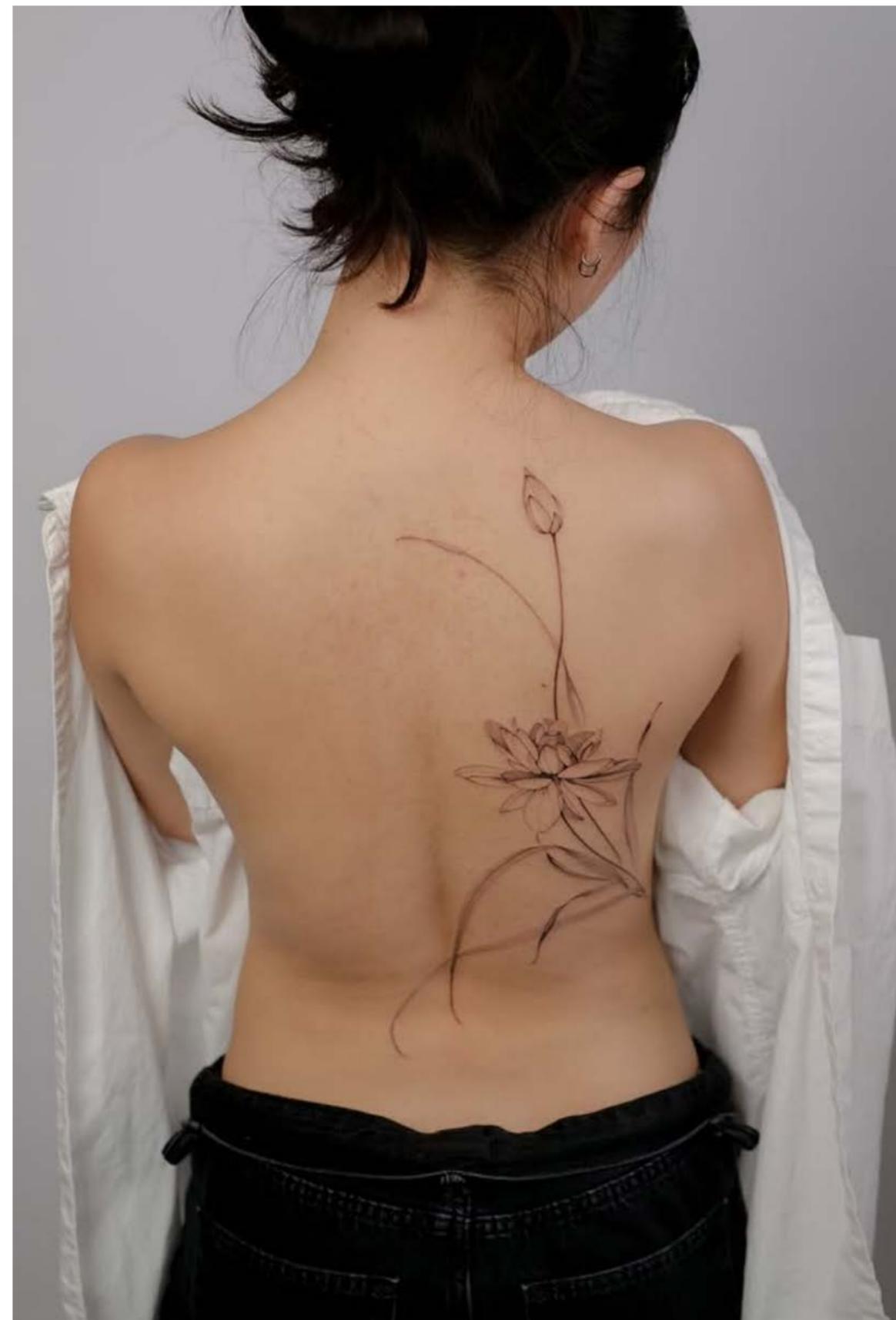
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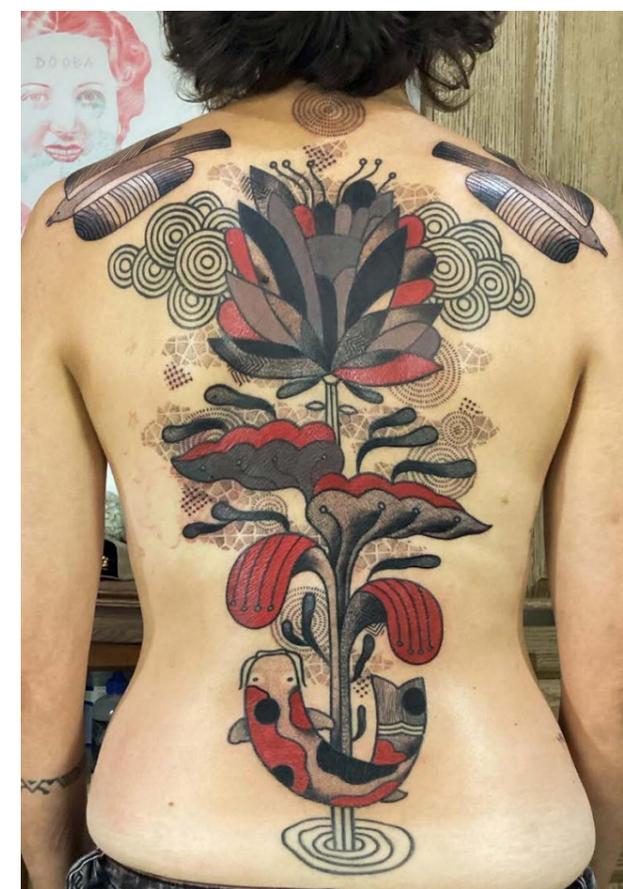
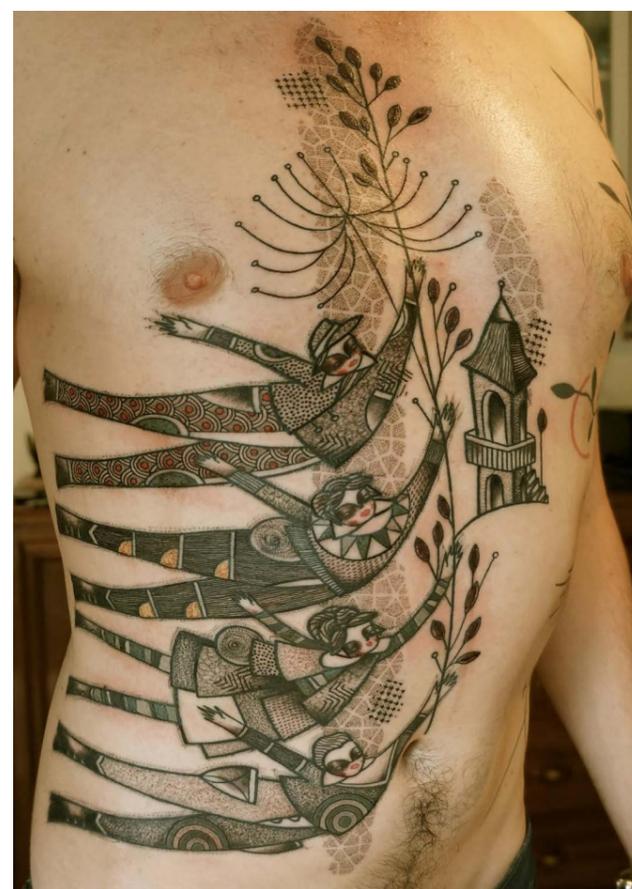


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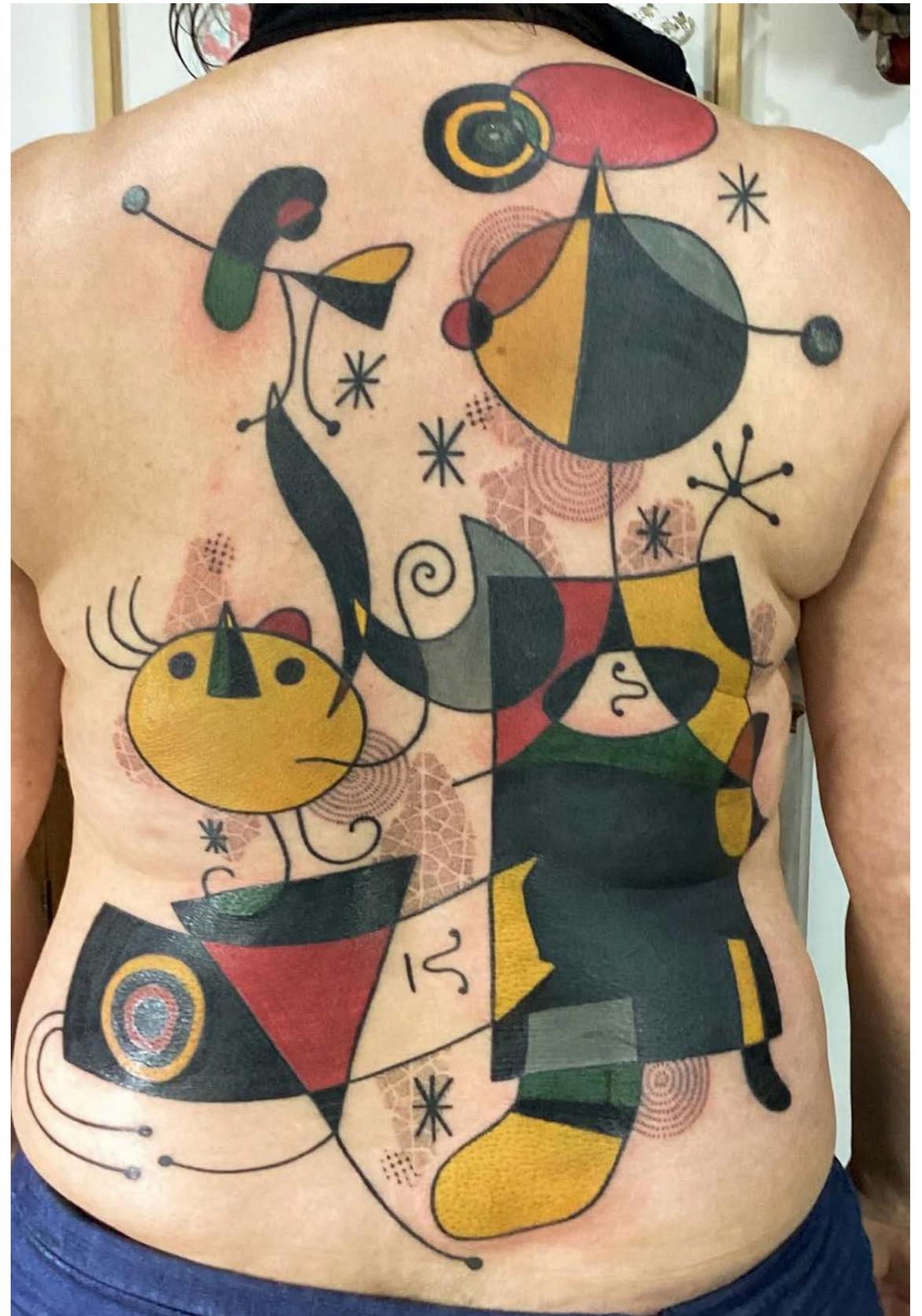
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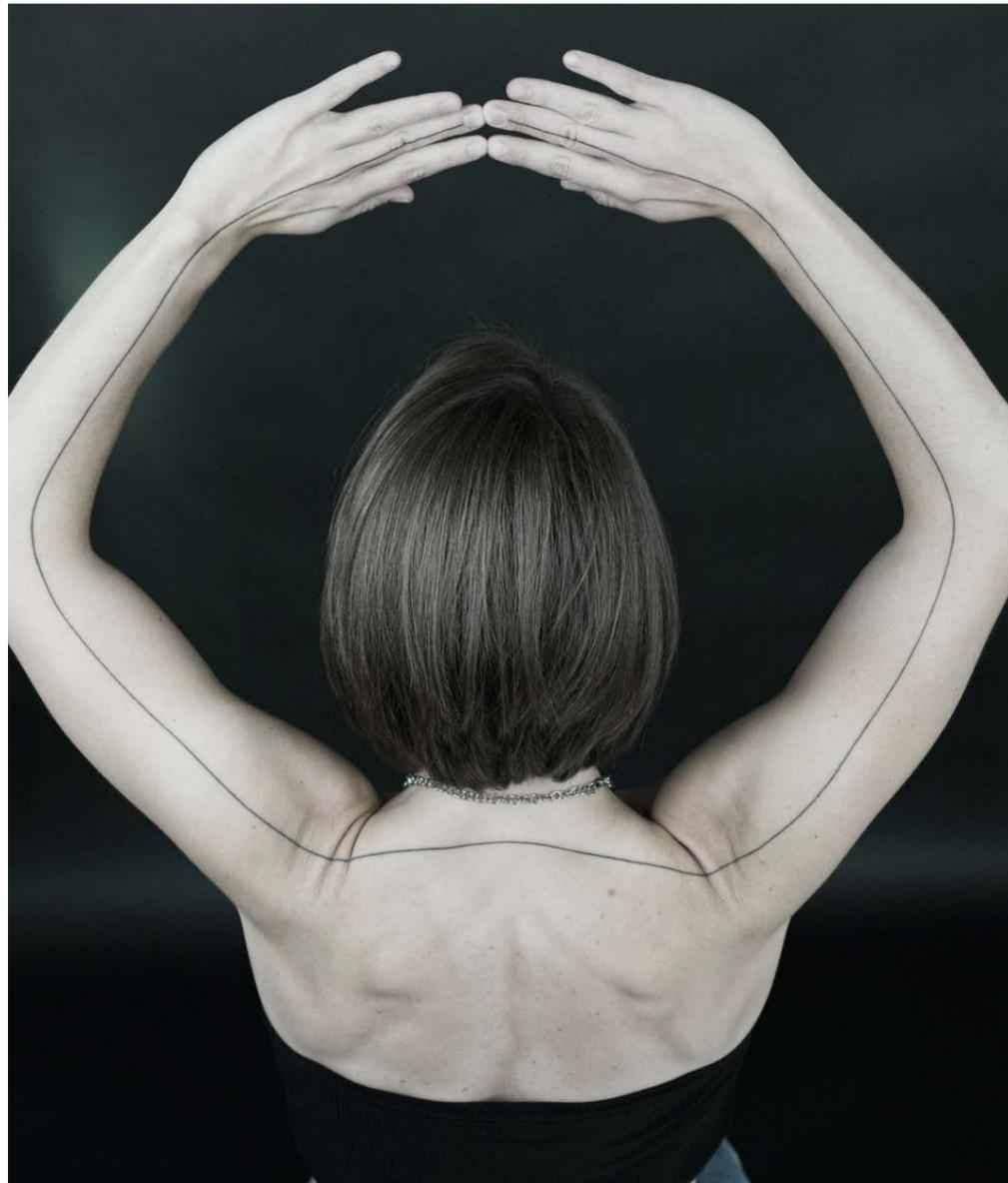


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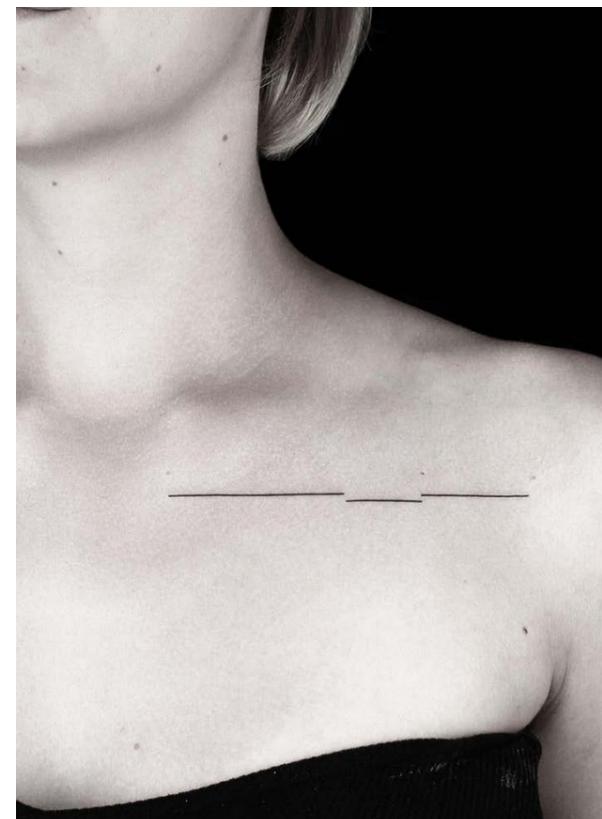
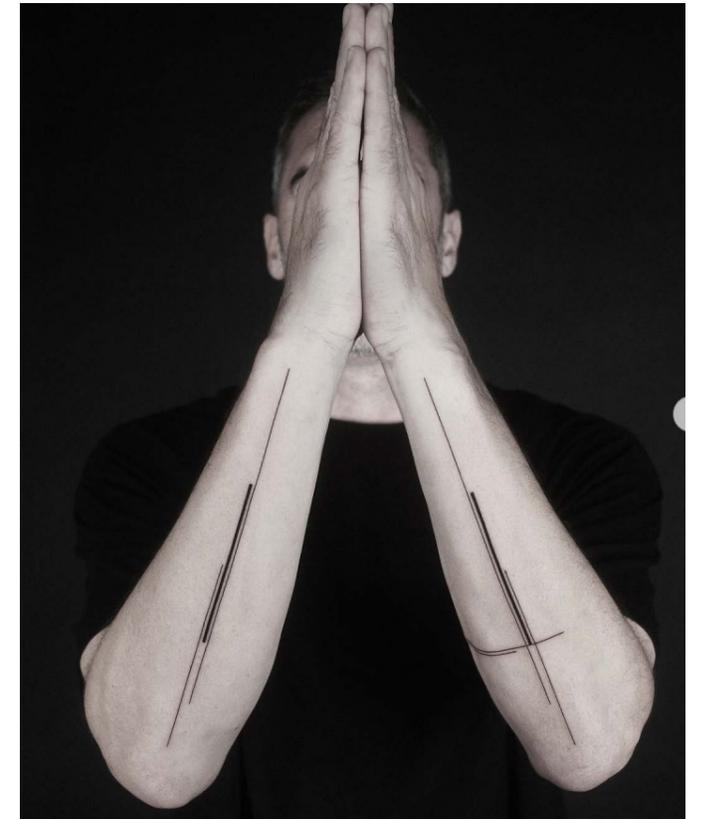


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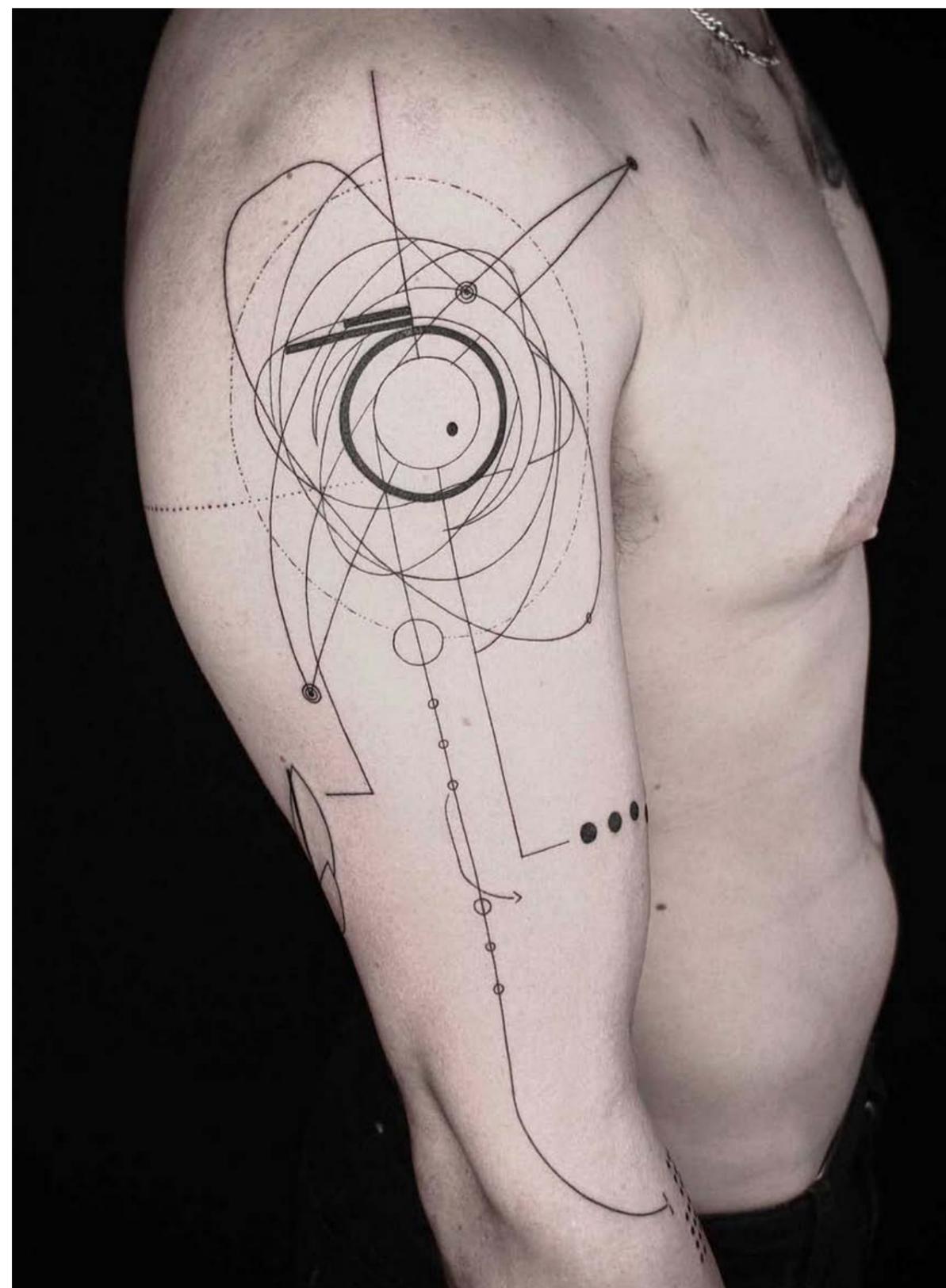
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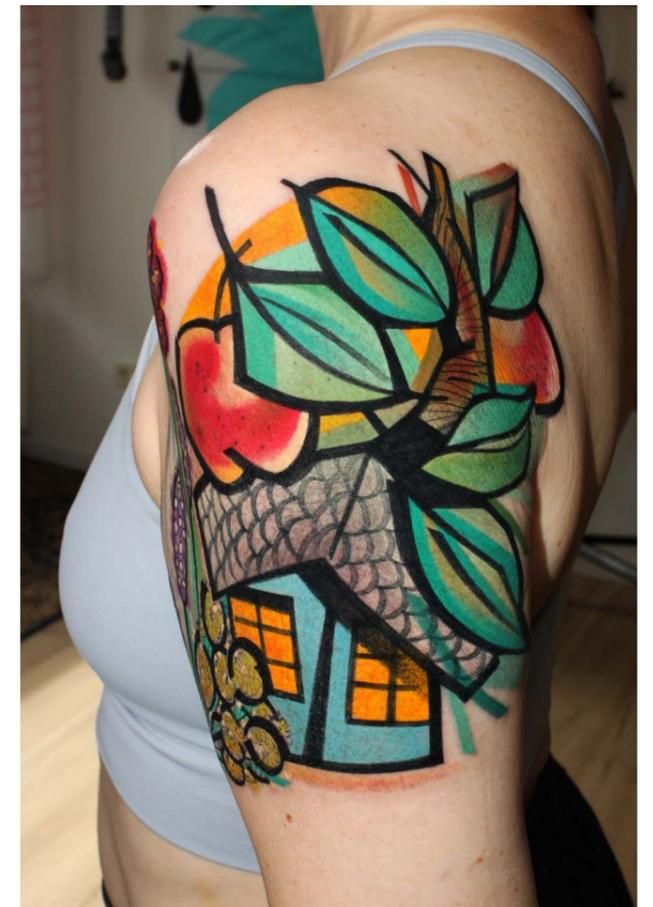
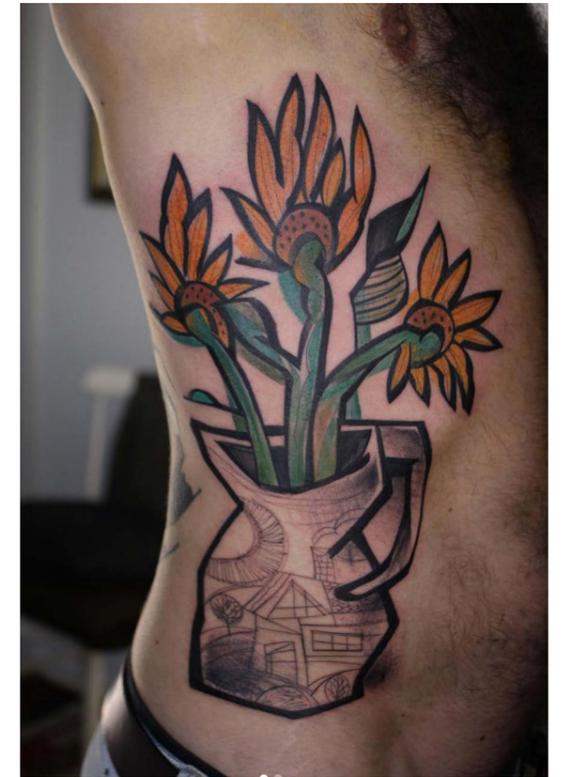


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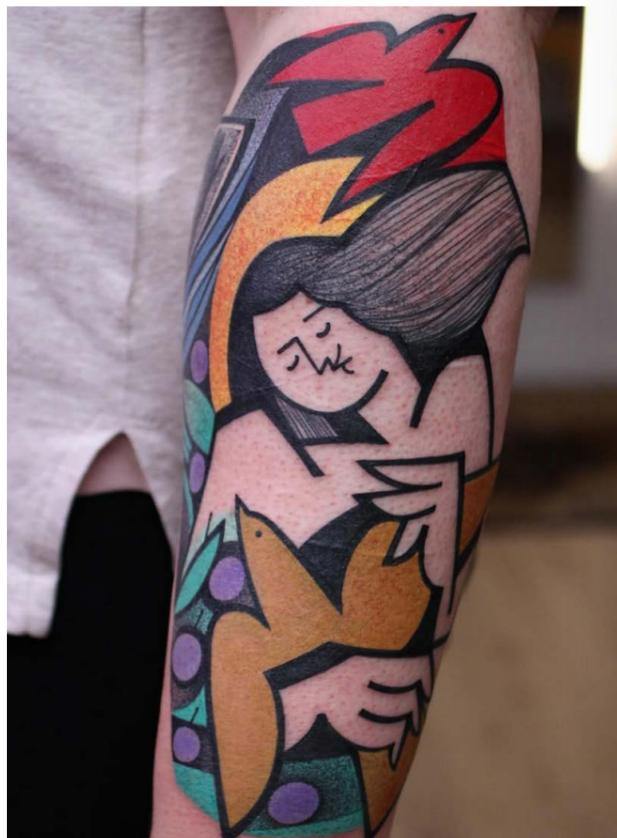
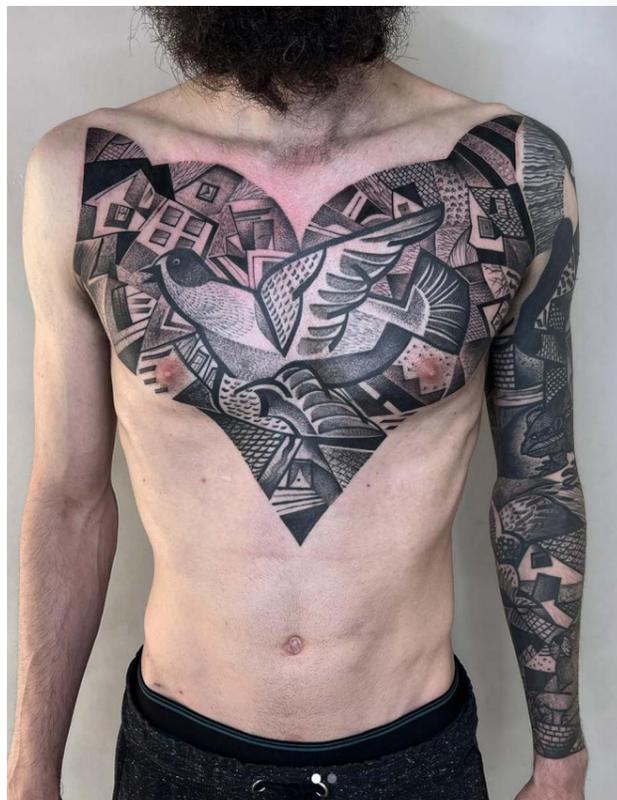
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Peter Aurisch

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peteraurisch@yahoo.de
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45a

45b

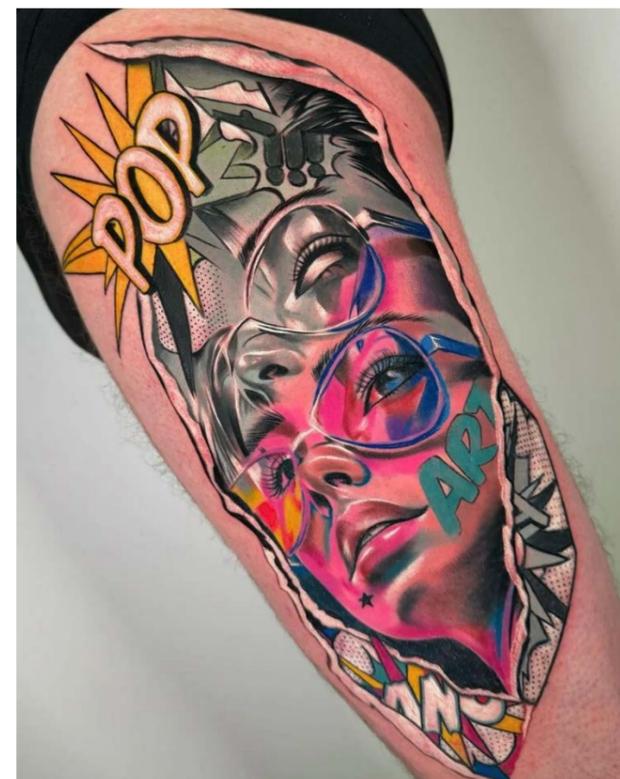
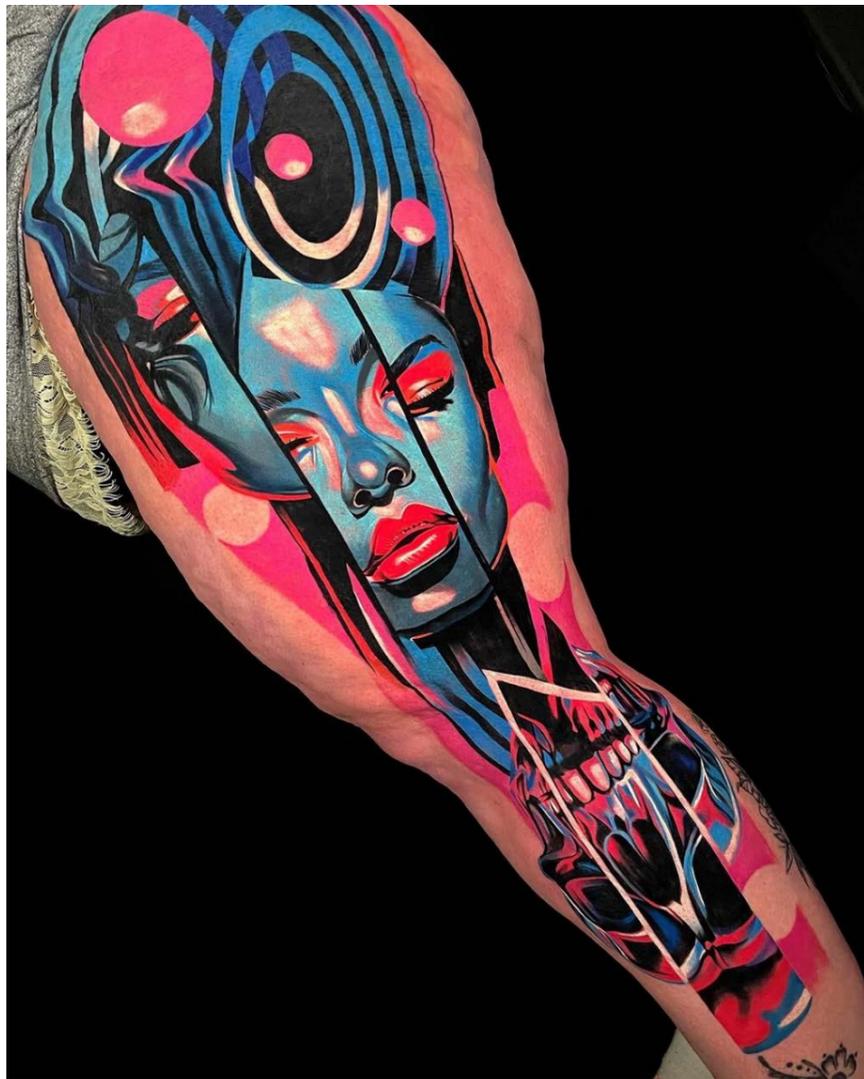


46a



46b

RAKHEE SHAH



Rakhee Shah

London / England

rakhee.artist@gmail.com

https://www.tattoodo.com/artists/rakhee_shah



48a



48b

RK (CRYBABYRICECAKE)



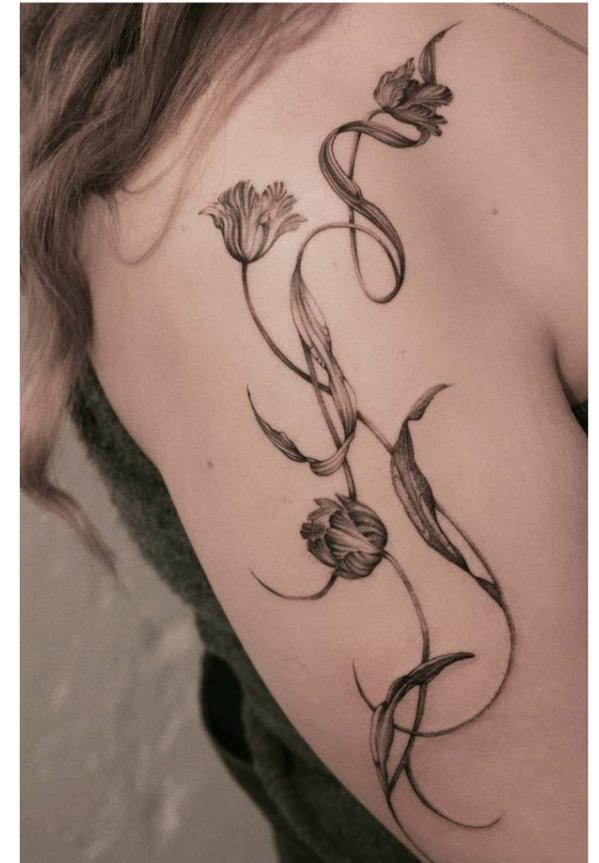
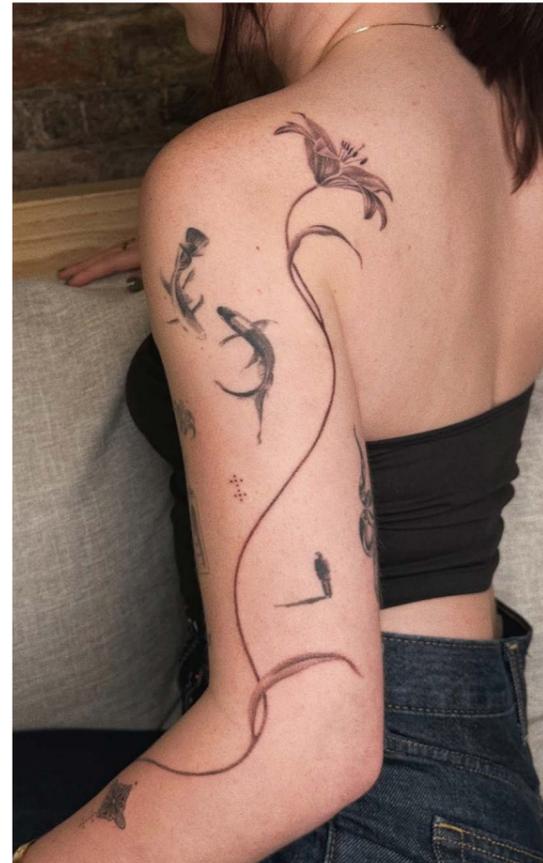
RK

New York / USA

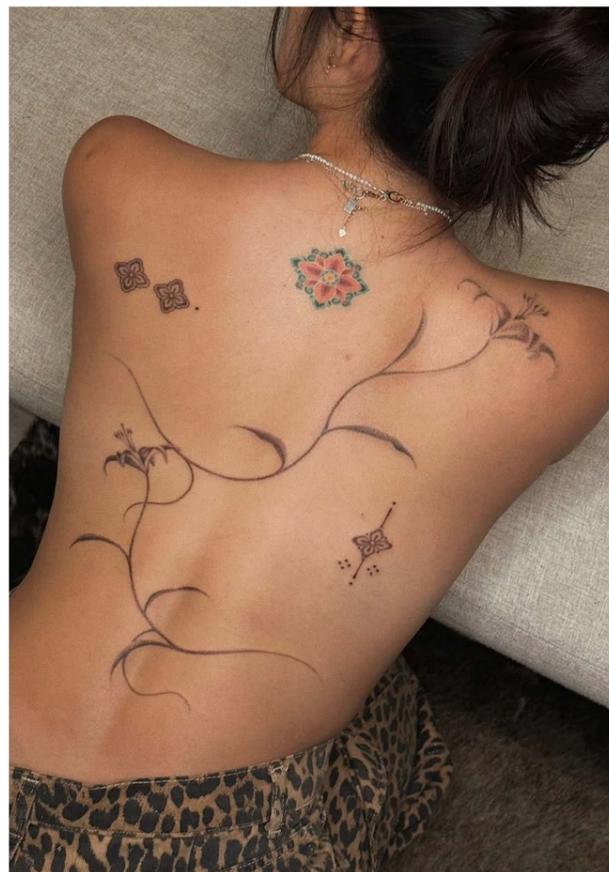
crybabyricecake@gmail.com

[instagram: crybabyricecake](https://www.instagram.com/crybabyricecake)

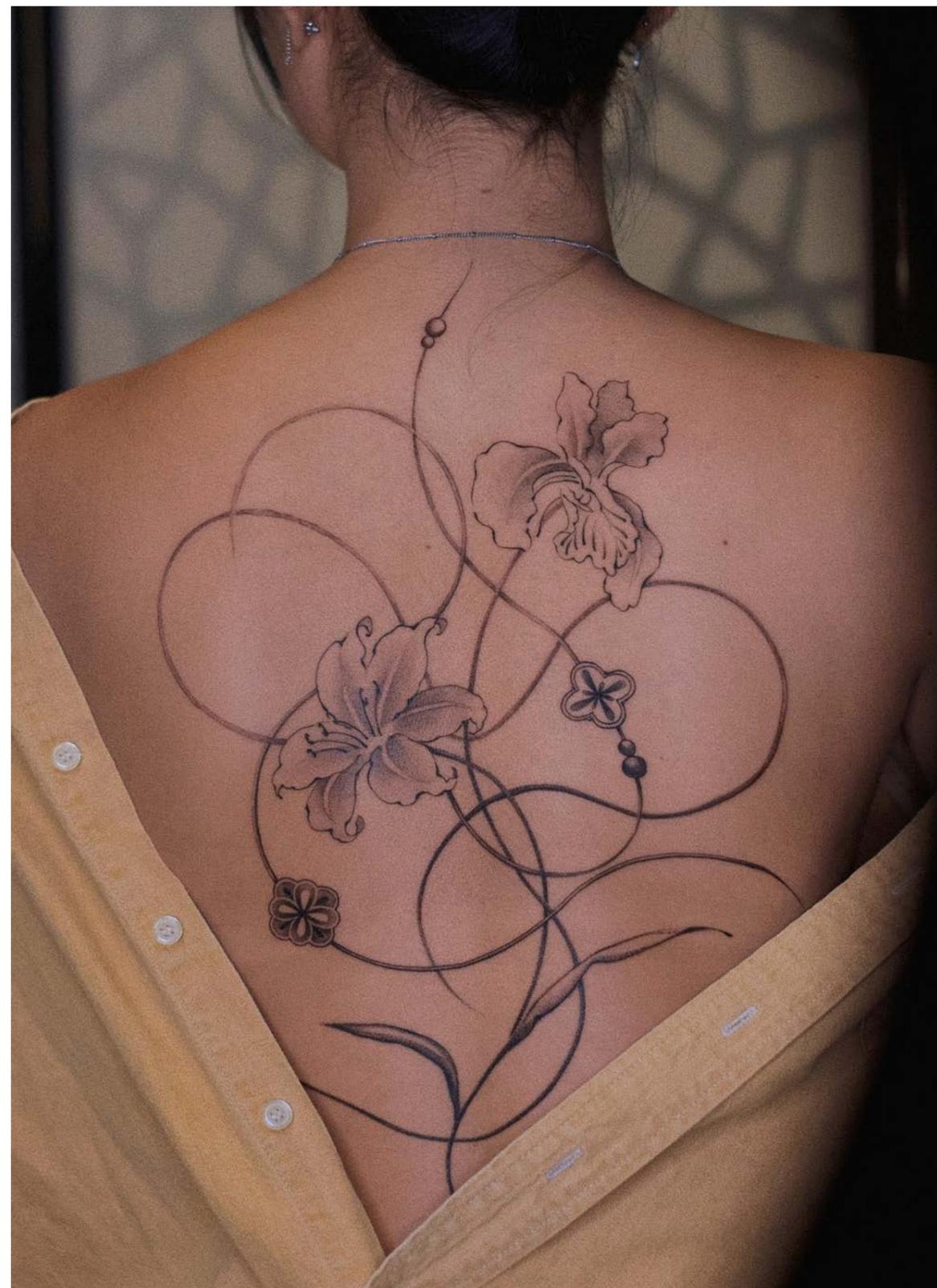
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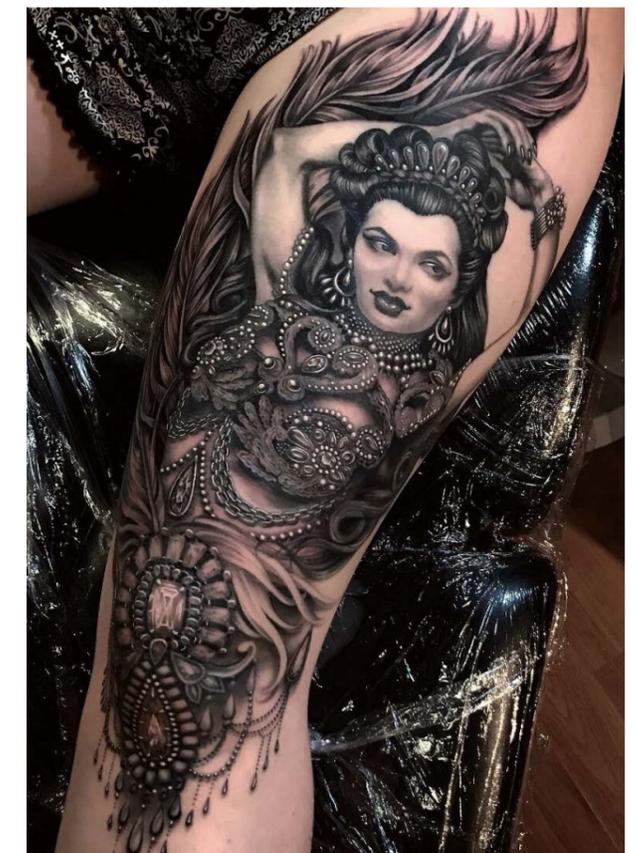
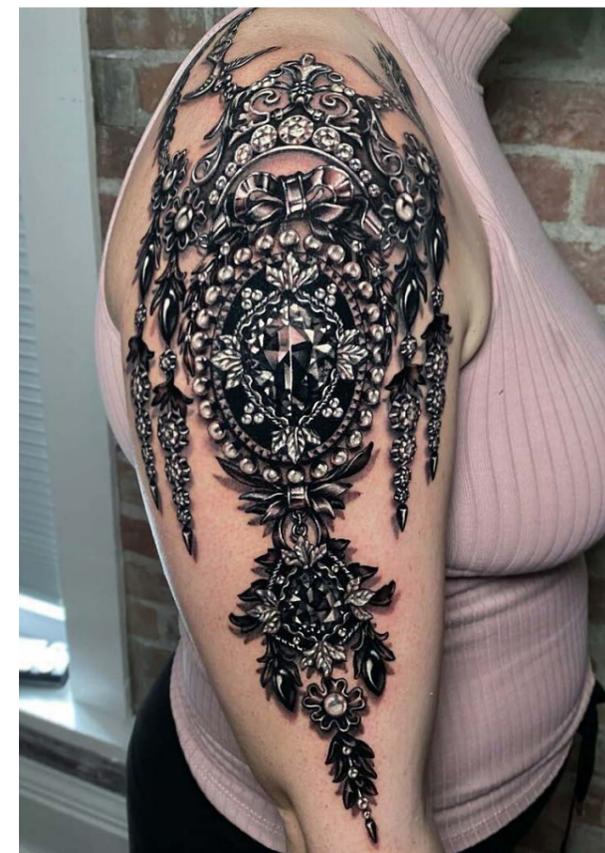
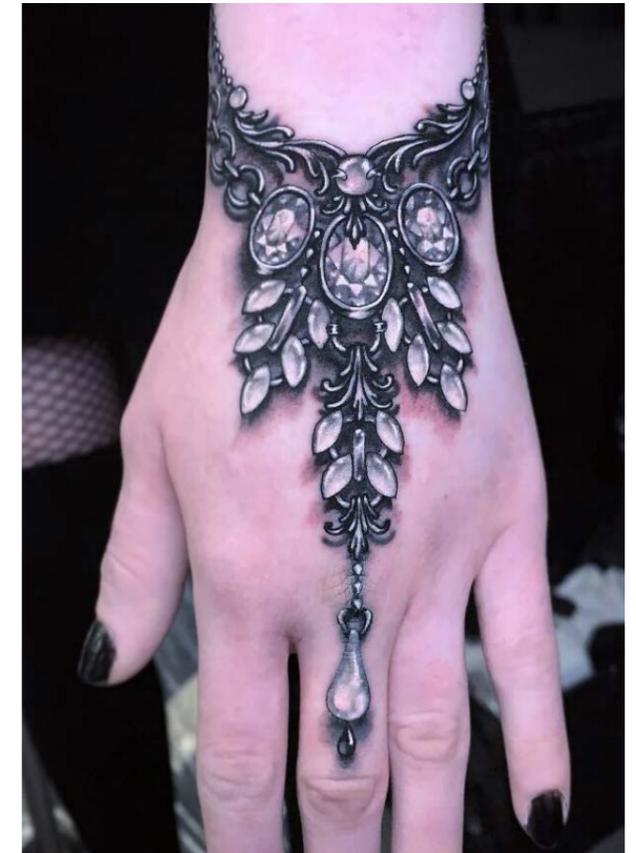
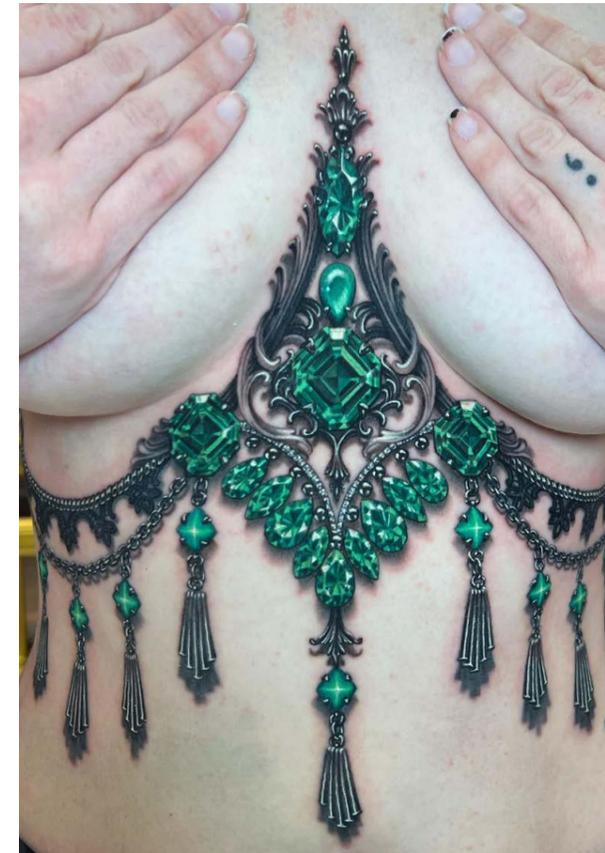
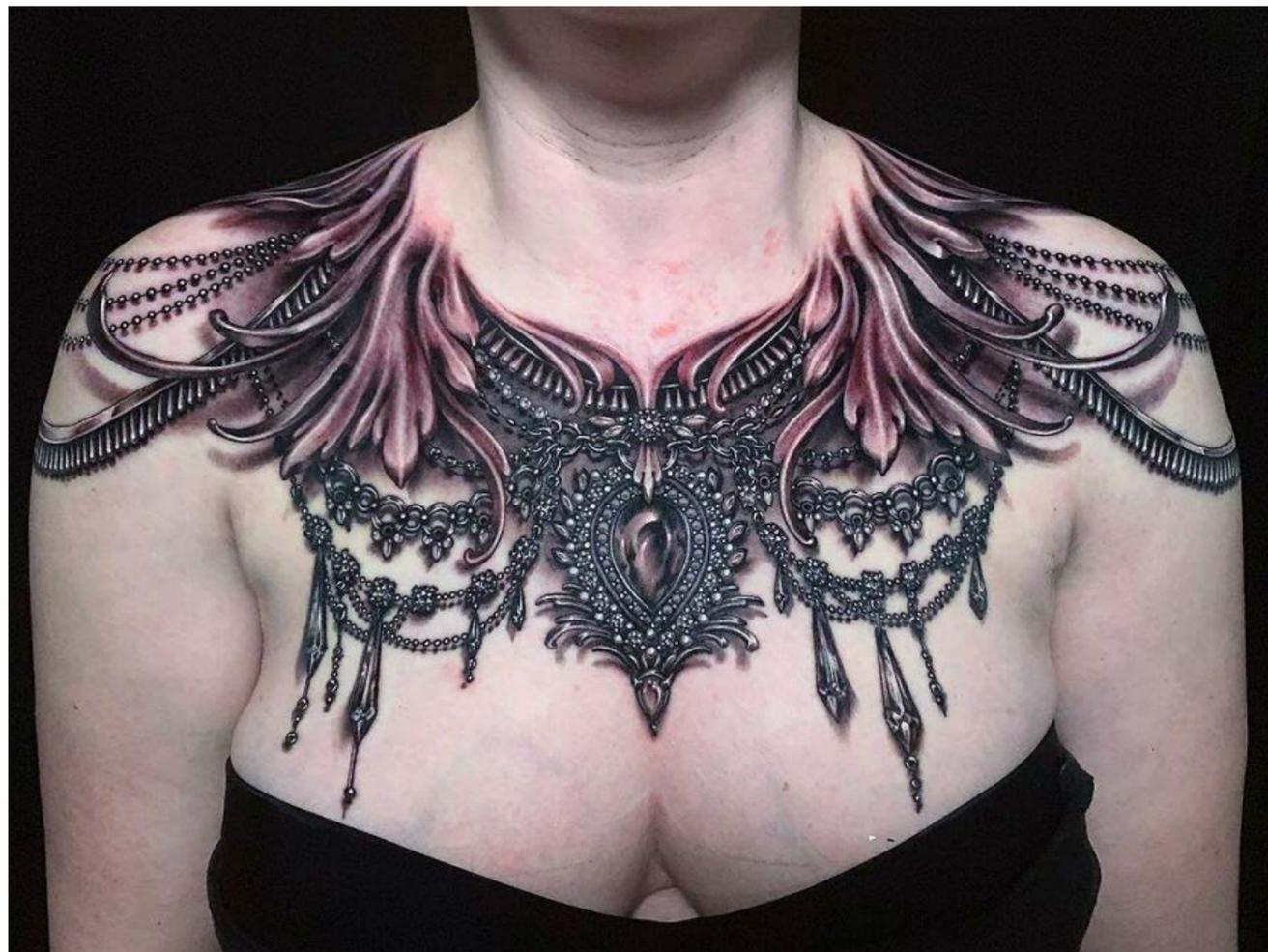


50a



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RYAN ASHLEY



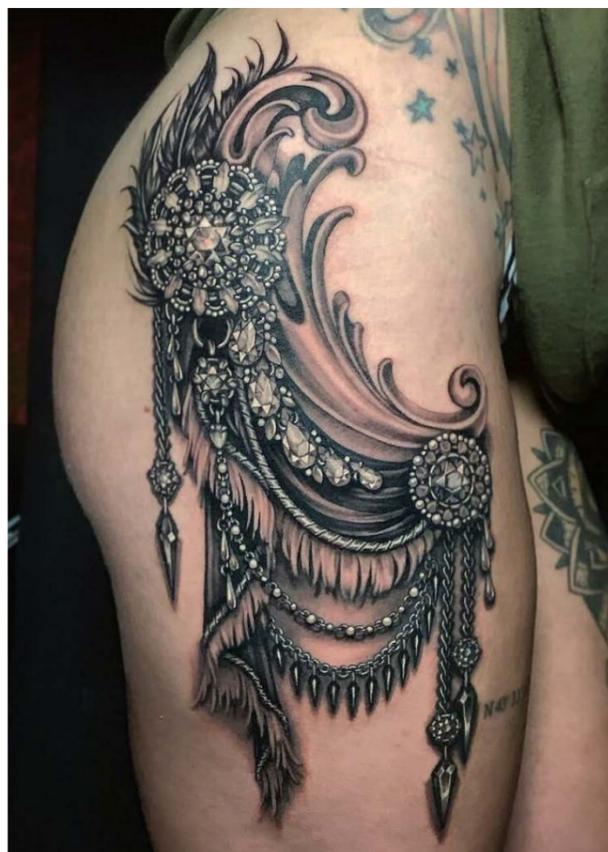
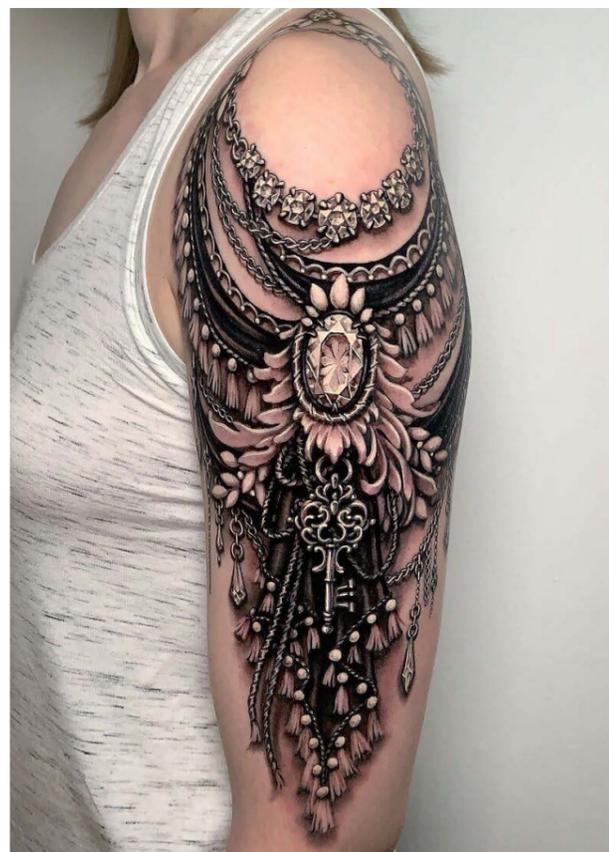
Ryan Ashley

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nadiatattooer@gmail.com

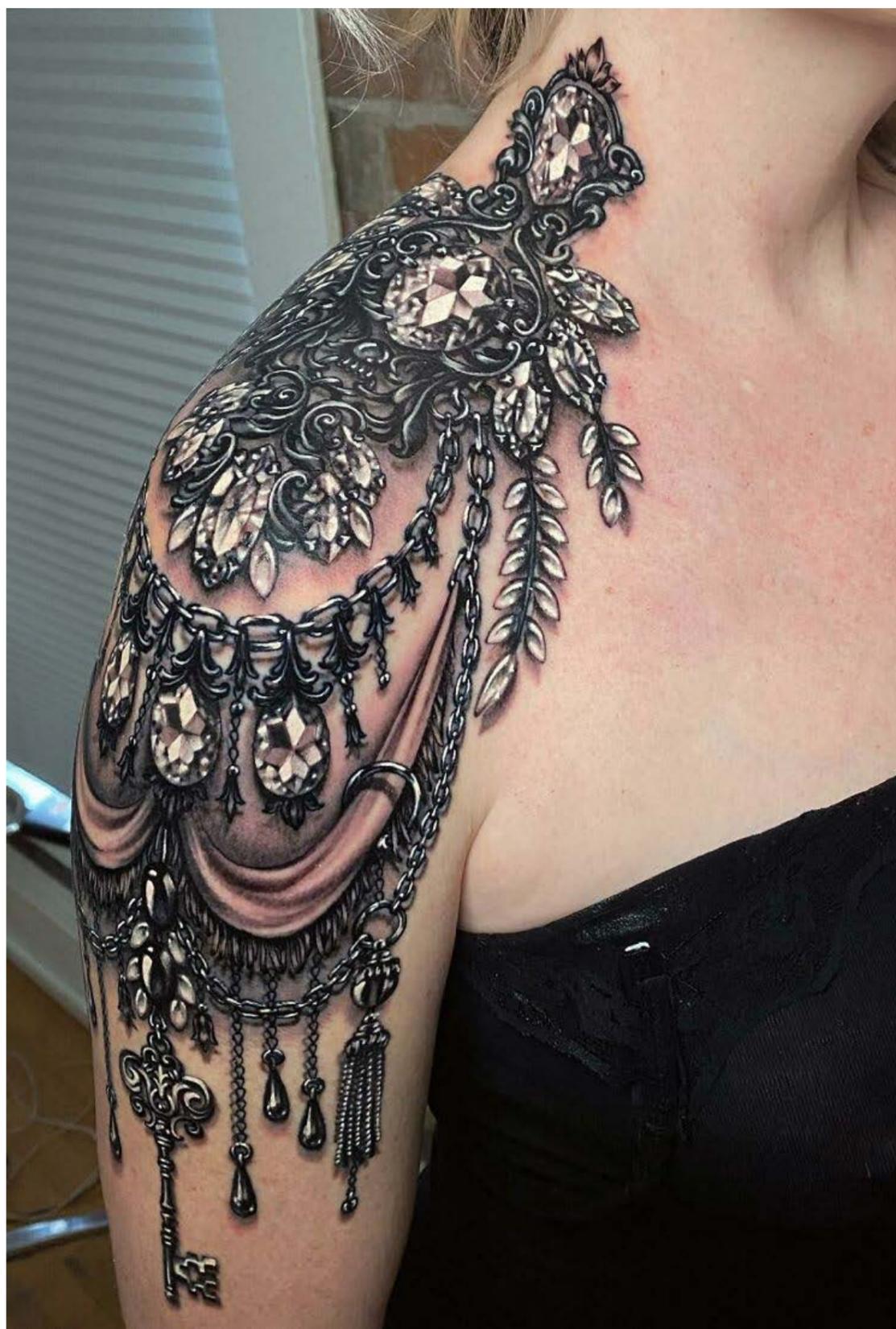
[instagram: ryanashleymalarkey](#)

51a

51b



52a



52b

T.A.N. TATTOO



T.A.N. Tattoo

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[instagram: tan_tattoo](#)

53a

53b



54a



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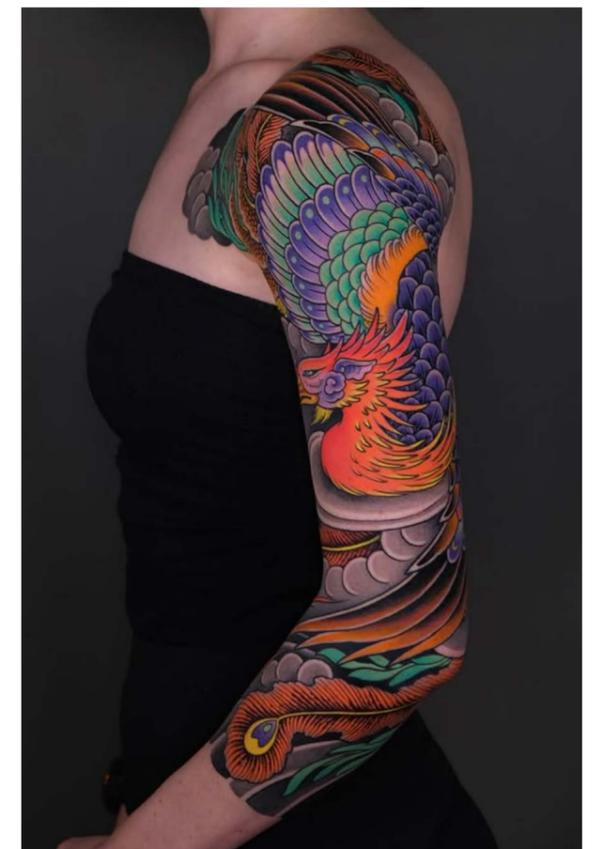
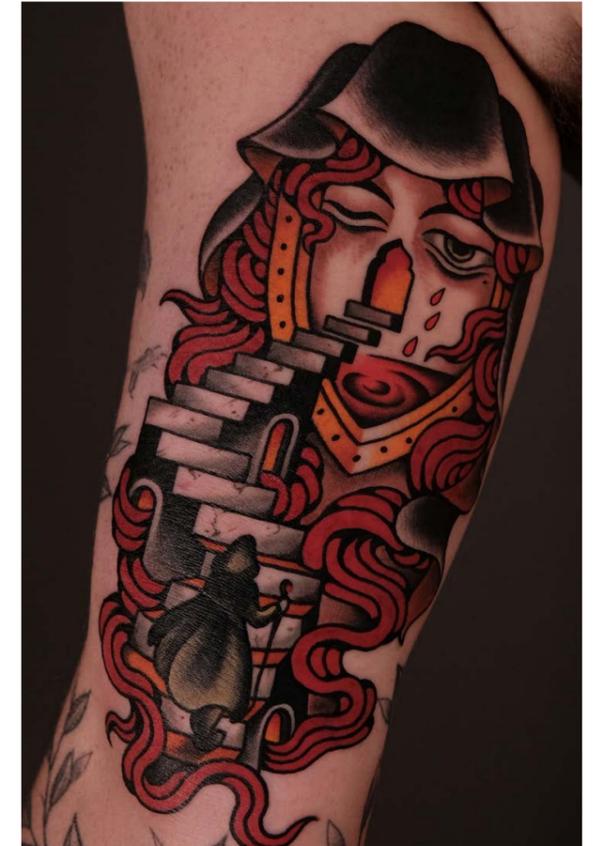
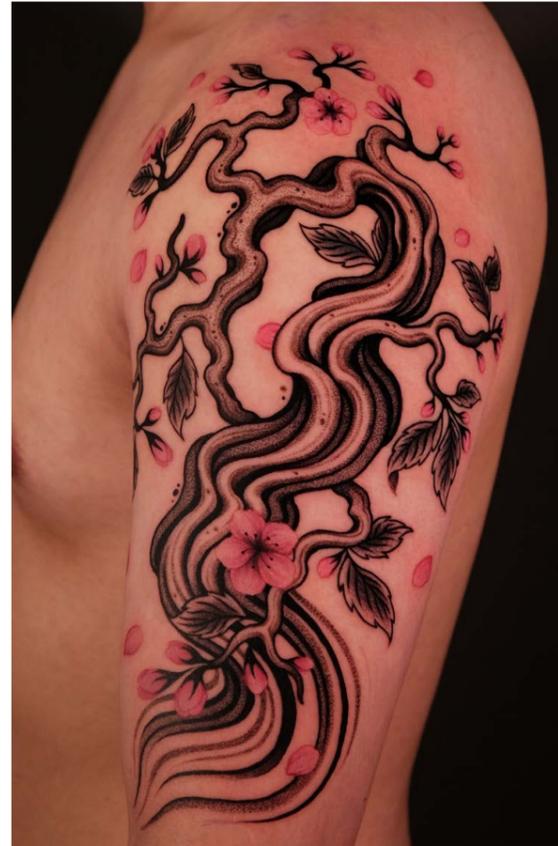
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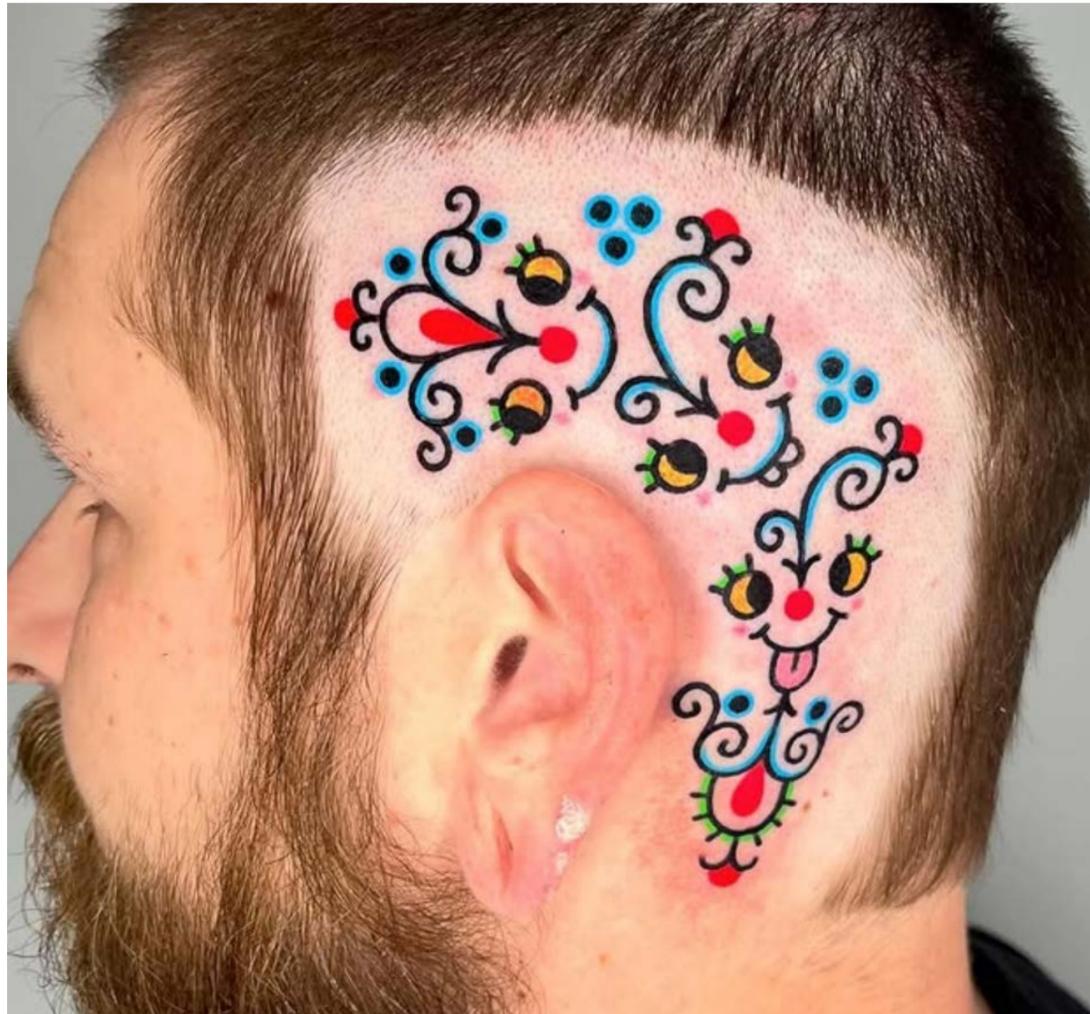


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WINSTON THE WHALE



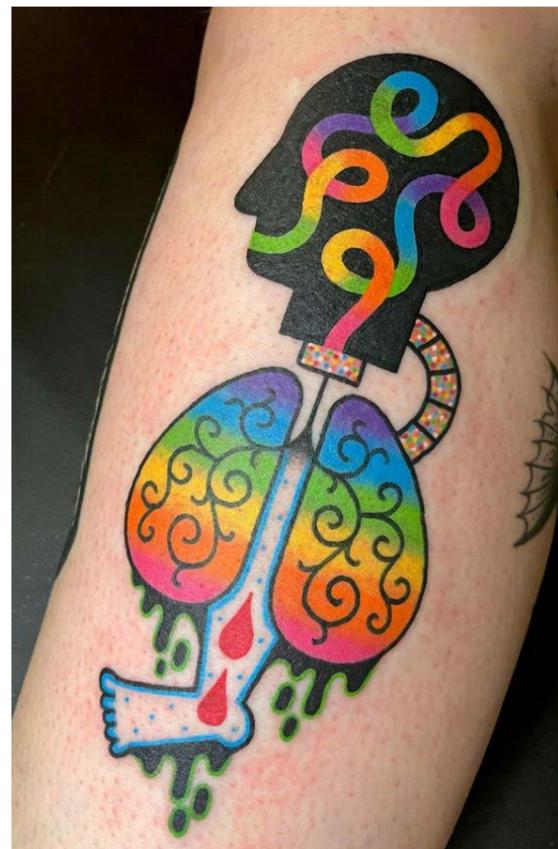
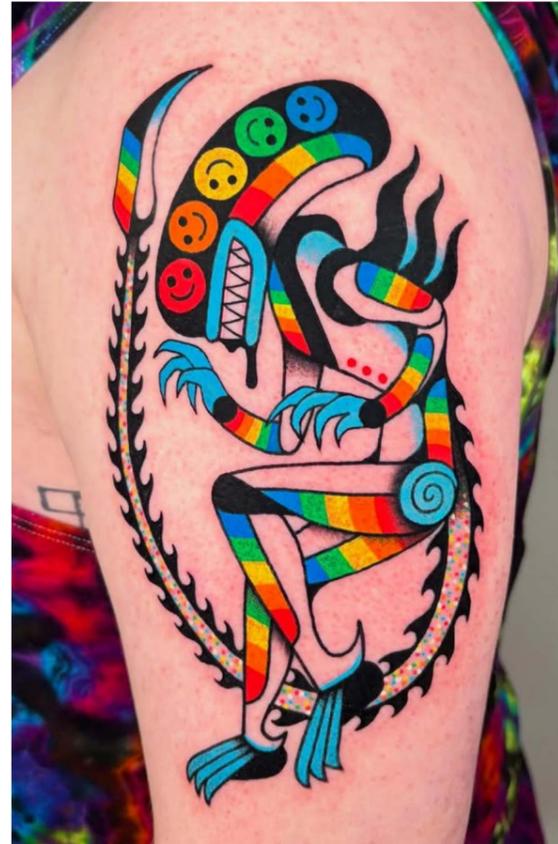
Winston The Whale

Portland / USA

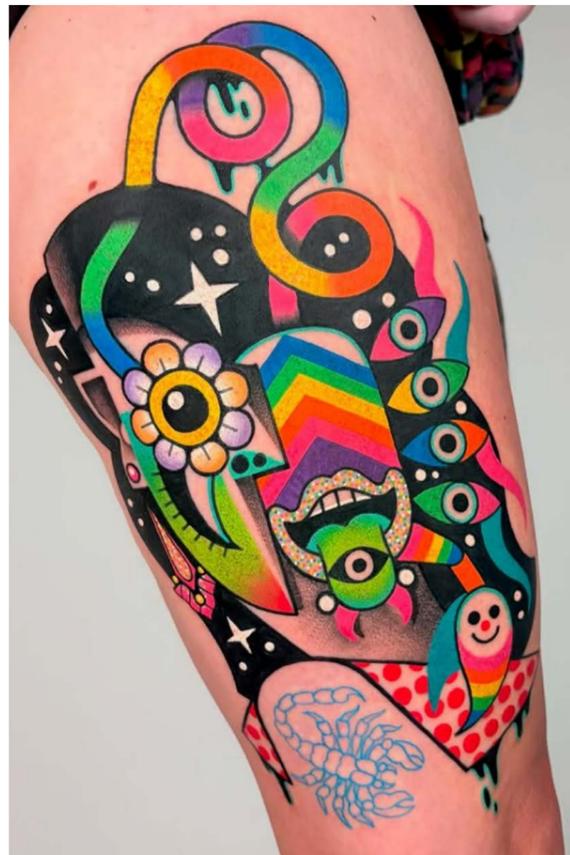
winstonthewhaletattoo@gmail.com

[instagram: winstonthewhale](#)

57a



57b



58a



58b

FREDÃO OLIVEIRA



© Fredão Oliveira

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San Francisco / USA
fredaoart@gmail.com

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59a

59b

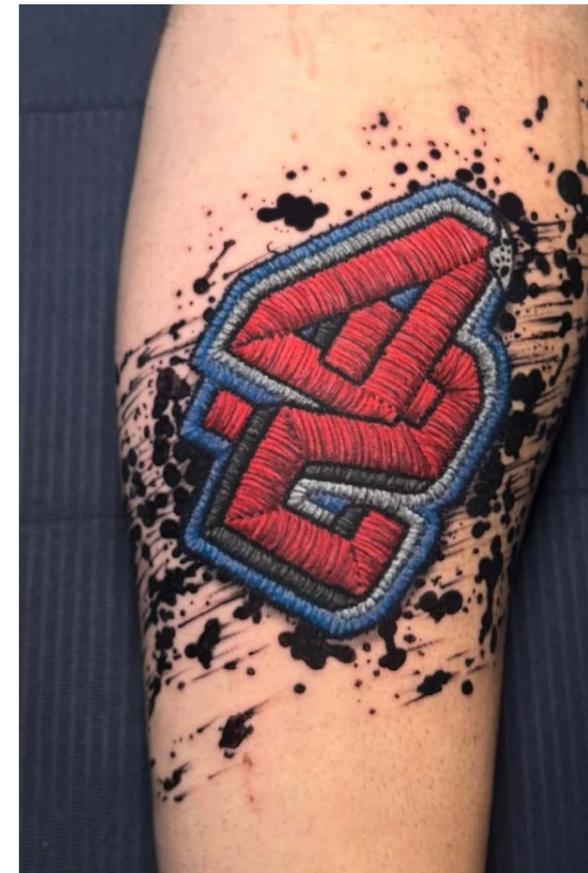


60a



60b

EDUARDO LOZANO



Eduardo Lozano

São Paulo / Brazil

dudatattoosappointment@gmail.com

instagram: dudalozanotattoo



60a



60b

PAINTING THE WRAPPING



Robin Eley is not only a spectacular Australian hyperrealist painter, he also faithfully reproduces well-known works of art, but with a peculiarity: he



reproduces the works in an almost photographic way, as if they were wrapped in plastic. [instagram: robineleyartis](#)

THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA WITH FABRICS



The ocean floor is the inspiration for the work of Japanese artist **Mariko Kusumoto**.

She primarily uses a combination of translucent fabrics to recreate the reef environment, creating an almost surreal sensation:

[instagram: marikokusumoto](#)

POP-UP BOOKS



It's well worth getting to know the work of Chinese-American artist **Colette Fu**: she's a photographer, book artist, and paper engineer known for creating pop-up books, especially on a large scale, from her photographs.

One of her works (the one in the photo) is gigantic and even requires a crank to open, it's so big:

<https://www.colettefu.com>

DIGITALIZED MAGAZINES

The **Internet Archive** website is a non-profit digital library that preserves the history of the internet and digital cultural artifacts, storing billions of web pages, audiobooks, videos, and software for free.

One of its sections houses **The Magazine Rack**, a collection of digitized magazines and periodicals from any era, available for consultation.

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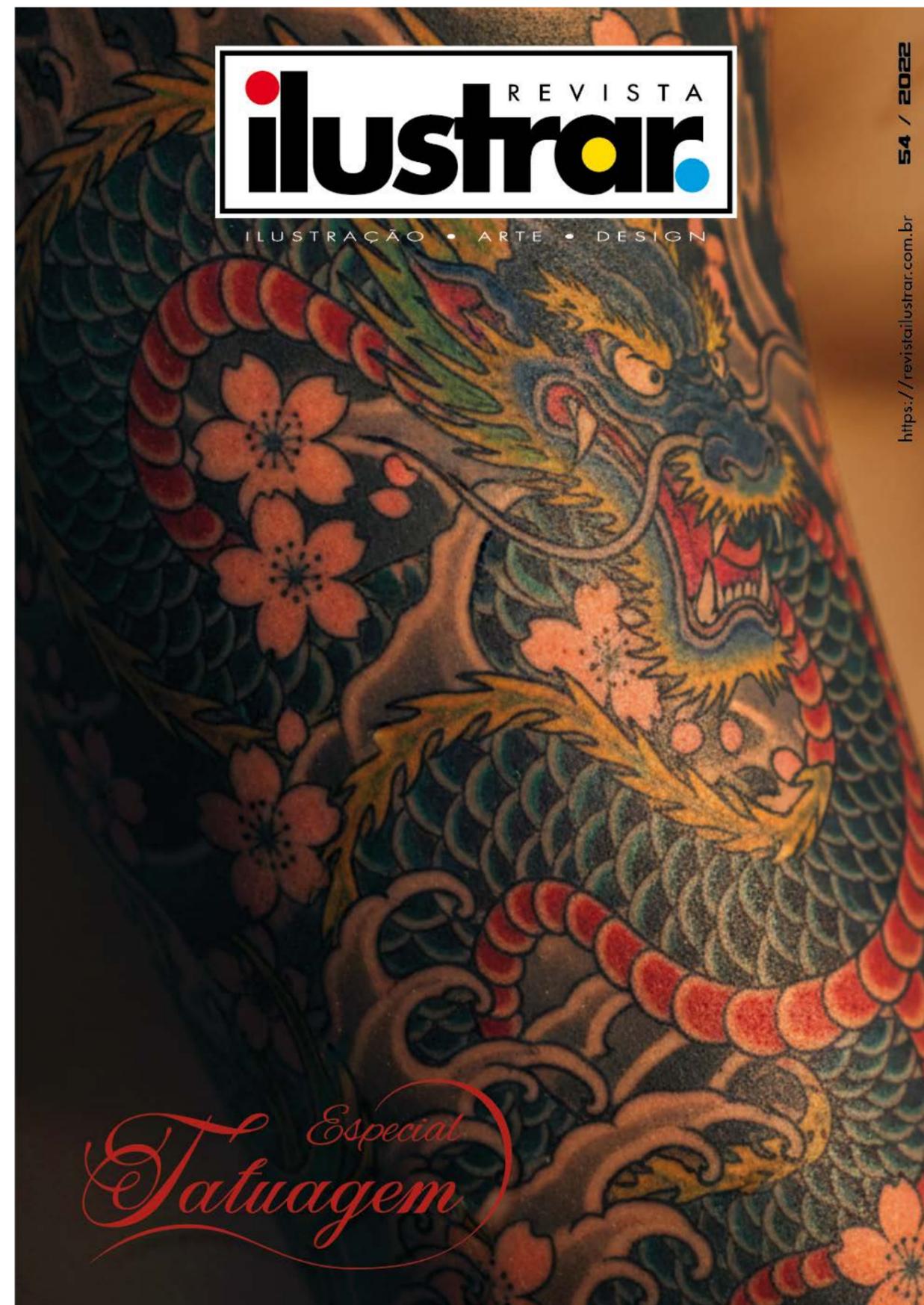
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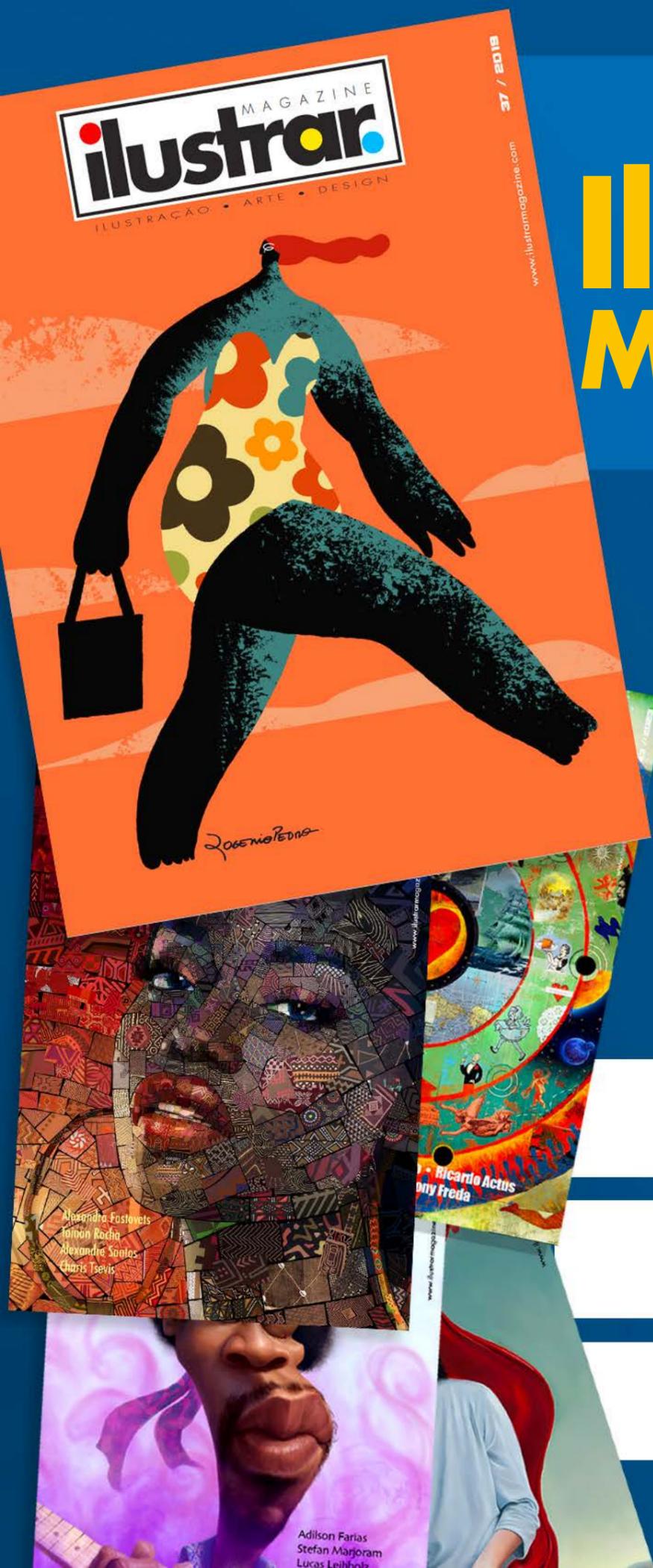
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