

Kian Forreal



Location Innervision, Sydney, Aus

Website Innervisiontattoo.com.au



How did you start tattooing?

In Toronto with Crazy Ace, a 70s and 80s legend and one of the original bad motherfuckers of American tattooing.

What do you specialise in?

West coast-style script and trad Jap.

Is there a typical Australian style?

Each city seems to have its own thing going on. Up the east coast it tends to be more 90s-style tattooing, such as black and grey, faces and demons. In Sydney, people seem to have slightly more mature tastes.

What advice would you offer?

Do your homework. Getting something put onto your skin for your whole life is an intimate and serious undertaking. There are countless great artists with online websites and portfolios, and ten-fold more crappy tattoo artists with the same. Learn to tell the difference between an OK tattoo and a great tattoo.

Did you know?
The word 'tattoo' is thought to originate from *tatau*, which is Tahitian for 'to mark'.



Max Tattoo



Location Bangkok, Thailand

Website Maxtattoobangkok.com



How did you start in tattooing?

By getting a traditional dragon tattoo in Singapore aged 15. I started my own shop in Bangkok in 2002, and I now have seven tattooists working here.

What style of tattoo do you do?

Oriental designs, and I also enjoy freehand work.

Typical clients?

Swedish and English, many of whom are tourists who come to Thailand to get tattooed. We also get celebrities from Taiwan, Thailand and Hong Kong.

Have you had any unusual requests?

Lots of weird sexual stuff! But we try hard to give clients what they want.

What would you say to budding tattooists?

Draw lots, because that's the most important part of your art. And trust your imagination.



Colin Dale



Location Copenhagen, Denmark

Website Tattoo.dk



What do you specialise in?

I do a lot of historical and neo-Nordic designs - traditional ones as well as my own interpretations.

Is there a Scandinavian style?

We do 'rock art' such as stick men with giant phalluses, which comes from the Scandinavian Copper Age 5,000 years ago. It was a ritual or medicinal practice in those days. I like that philosophy.

Ever had a tattoo disaster?

When I started Eskimo sewing it didn't look too good. For this method you take a reindeer tendon, coat it in soot, and stitch it through the skin using a bone needle. When the tendon's pulled out it leaves a line. But this style died out by the 1800s.

What advice would you give?

Explore your culture and don't grab onto a symbol that doesn't mean anything to you.

PHOTO: JOHN HARTE



Horimyo



Location Saitama, Japan

Website 13project.com



What do you specialise in?

I do tebori, where needles are manually inserted. There are few tebori artists left in Japan - most people use machines these days.

How did you start tattooing?

It took four years of wanting to do it before I took the plunge. It was a big decision to make. Most Japanese tattoos are in a yakuza style, and to be an artist often meant becoming a gangster, which I'm not. I don't have any yakuza clients.

Who's your typical client?

Everyone from company directors, workers and truckers. It creates a trusting, intimate atmosphere.

What's your favourite tattoo you've done?

One client let me do whatever I wanted over his entire body. That was fantastic. **B**



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