

SHAWN BARBER PAINTINGS

Tattooed Self Portrait, Dragon Back Study (Tattoo by Jason Kundell)

oil on canvas, 18" x 36", 2024

A painting study of my tattooed back by the artist Jason Kundell. The focus is on the power, colors and linear aspect of Kundell's tattoo design.

Past Time of Signs

oil on panel, 30" x 24", 2024

In this homage to lettering and signage from the history of tattooing from around the world, era's gone by, overlapping and intertwined, tattoo is the destination.

- CHARLIE WAGNER, BOWERY, NYC, USA, 1920'S
- GEORGE BURCHETT, LONDON, ENGLAND, 1930
- MILDRED HULL, BOWERY, NYC, USA, 1935
- THE BOWERY, NYC, USA, 1942
- WILL SPIEGEL, HAMBURG, GERMANY, 1948
- LES SKUSE, BRISTOL, ENGLAND, 1950'S
- TUSCH-PETER, AARHUS, DENMARK, 1956
- MILTON ZEIS, USA
- BERT GRIMM, THE PIKE, LONG BEACH, USA
- LEEROY MINUGH, THE PIKE, LONG BEACH, USA
- BROOKLYN BLACKIE, CONEY ISLAND, 1961, USA
- LOS ANGELES TATTOO STUDIO, USA, 1970'S
- WEST COAST TATTOO STUDIO, USA, 1970'S
- LYLE TUTTLE TATTOO, SF, USA, 1976
- TATO JACK, COPENHAGEN, DENMARK, 1977
- SEATTLE TATTOO EMPORIUM, USA, 1981
- FELIX LEU, SWITZERLAND, 1980'S
- TIN-TIN TATOUAGES SHOP, PARIS, FR, 2000'S

Shamrock Social Club, Disassembled Still Life

oil on wood panel, 36" x 48", 2024

After 23 years in their iconic tattoo destination on the Sunset Strip in Los Angeles - California, Shamrock Social Club transitioned out of their physical location into an upscale private studio, a result of the ever-evolving shifts in the business of tattooing. A personal favorite space to visit, I compiled multiple artifacts from my experiences there to create this 'collaged' painting, composed (in effect) as a loose commentary on the past transitioning into the present.

Shamrock on Sunset

oil on panel, 36" x 24", 2023

A view from across the street into the frontage of Mark Mahoney's historical Shamrock Social Club on Sunset Blvd, 'Where the elite and the underground meet'. A living legend in the tattoo world, Mark Mahoney's classical style in fine-line black and grey single needle tattooing has contributed significantly to elevating the art form. As a pioneer in the tradition of black and grey tattooing, I wanted to embrace the neutral palette, with the exception of the glowing neon lights, attracting all walks of life into this sacred space.

Portrait of the Artist, Alex Binnie

oil on linen panel, 20" x 16", 2023

Enigmatic English tattooist, printmaker and painter, Alex Binnie. I referenced Alex' own painting by overlapping graphic elements over his torso, neck and background.

Phillip Larocca's Razzouk Foot Tattoo

oil on linen panel 10" x 8", 2022

While traveling with a group of artists and the Healing Ink charity throughout Israel in October, 2022. One of our stops was the oldest tattoo studio in the world, Razzouk Tattoo. Quite a few of us received tattoos from Razzouk's ancient and historical flash stamps. This is a painting of the Dallas, TX tattooist, Phil Larocca's foot.

Jerusalem in Light, Razzouk Tattoo Study

oil on linen panel, 12" x 9", 2024

Established in the 1300's, Razzouk Tattoo Studio in Jerusalem's Old City is likely the oldest in the world. A Coptic Christian family, the Razzouk family has been tattooing marks of faith on all walks of life for 700 years.

Razzouk Tattoo Family Heritage, 28 Generations

oil on linen, 24"x 24", 2023

This painting is a trompe l'oeil style painting, with a twist. A tradition at Razzouk Tattoo is getting tattooed by one their ancient stamps, some as old as 500 years. the overlaid design is from one of these archaic impressions. The four Razzouk family members displayed are Jiries Razzouk; Jacob, son of Jiries; Anton, son of Jacob; and Wassim, son of Anton.

Mike Dorsey's Masks

oil on linen, 24" x 48", 2023

Prolific artist and mad scientist, Mike Dorsey produces a broad range of Japanese inspired works, from large scale watercolor paintings to sculpted masks, all infused by Mike's wit and humor. This is a small glimpse into his working studio.

Malice and Mogwai

oil on canvas, 44" x 30", 2024

A formal portrait of punk Icon Malice Mcmunn with her baby dog Mogwai, amongst some of her cherished horror film relics.

Portrait of the Artist, Suluape Pili Mo'o

oil on linen, 24" x 16", 2024

Spiritual Polynesian tattooist Suluape Pili Mo'o', gave me the honor of photographing him for a painting, specifically showing the details of his hand made tattoo needles. This portrait is a study for a larger scale painting of the artist at work.

Dead Sea Stick and Poke (Nicholas Mudskipper tattooing Adam Vu)

oil on linen panel, 20" x 16" 2024

I was part of a group of tattoo artists that traveled to Israel in 2022 to for a charity event with 'Healing Ink' to tattoo soldiers of war and victims of terrorism. Craig Dershowitz and Ricky Matros, from the Healing Ink organization, shared the culture of Israel with the group, including a festive day at the Dead Sea where most of us gave and received hand poked tattoos from each other in the muddy waters to commemorate this momentous time. I had been friends with Adam prior to this adventure, and am now forever brother in arms with Adam and Nick because of this unforgettable experience.

Portrait of the Artist, Carlos Torres, 3 views

oil on linen, 16" x 32", 2023

Three views of the pioneering painterly tattooist and artist, Carlos Torres.

Past Time of Signs, Study 1

11" X 14", acrylic and oil on canvas panel, 2023

Portrait of the Artist, Shige (Shigenori Iwasaki) 9 views

Triptych, oil on canvas, 72" x 108" (3 panels)

Japanese virtuoso tattooist, Shigenori Iwasaki's body suit on display in nine views. The majority of work on his body tattooed by the enigmatic and influential master tattooist, Filip Leu.