

Featured Artist

Tattooing At:

GRACELAND TATTOO
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ADAM

LAURICELLA

Dave Muller: How long have you been tattooing for, and how did you get into the business?

Adam Lauricella: I began tattooing in July of 2001. I had been getting tattooed quite a bit and just like many people who get hooked, I was putting all of my extra cash toward getting tattooed. If I had the money, I was getting work done. At that time I was at a crossroads in my life and looking for a career change, actually, I was looking for a career period. Coming from a background in theatre arts, I needed to be sure I was making a living as an artist. The change in gears seemed natural, I felt "it was now or never" and began looking for an apprenticeship. I started by asking the artist who had been working on me, the great Chris Chisholm from Aces High in Newburg, NY; he has since gone on to work at Halo Tattoo in Syracuse. Unfortunately, he didn't offer me a spot at his studio, so I kept looking around the area, finally finding a studio that was willing to take on an apprentice and so began the process. The apprenticeship was mediocre at best. I had to do the usual shop tasks, but in hindsight I don't think there was a real effort on the part of my mentor to teach me the correct way. Some people are teachers and some are not, that's just the way it is. I found the bulk of my learning came from getting tattooed, although I'm still learning, everyday.

Dave Muller: How would you best describe your style?

Adam Lauricella: I would say I'm a well-rounded tattoo artist. I like to adapt to what is being asked of me. I think that's what comes from working in a custom studio trying to appeal to the community as a whole. I consider my work to be "clean" if that makes any sense.

Dave Muller: What do you think sets you apart as a tattoo artist?

Adam Lauricella: One thing that separates me from some is my willingness to work closely with the client to make their experience in my shop a good one. In doing that, I have learned that it can take a lot out of you, but it's just the way I think it should be done. I think my body of work stands out on the whole because there is a lot of variety. I try to be prepared to do what is asked of me, and do it well. Maybe someday I will only take on projects that I choose, but for now this works just fine.

Dave Muller: Are there any other types of art that you create?

Adam Lauricella: I just got into oil painting, and I have a new interest in photography. Tattooing has been my main form of artistic expression, but I'm finding that I need more.

Dave Muller: I've heard that you've switched from the traditional coil machines and started using the Neumas. Why did you switch?

Adam Lauricella: I think Carson Hill has some way been able to improve on a timeless design. I think the machines run much smoother, since there is no modulation in the electrical current, they stay consistent. They are also significantly lighter than the coils. Most importantly for me, they are fully autoclavable. Now, I can autoclave my machines in between each client. There is no concern for cross contamination. They may not be for everybody, as every artist or craftsman has his or her favorite tools. My toolbox is full of neuma2 and neuma Hybrids. Carson's machines can be found on his website www.neumatattoo.com.

Dave Muller: How did you first get interested in tattoos?

Adam Lauricella: I'm not sure. I've been fascinated with them since I was a little kid. I remember getting "Cracker Jacks" pretty much for the fake tattoo, and if it was some junkie wanna-be toy it was a bummer. I even used to make my own transfers with loose leaf paper and crayola markers. It's unexplainable but I just like tattoo art. My favorite GI Joe was Gun Ho. I swear it's because he had that huge eagle, globe, and anchor tattooed on his chest. Now of course, it's much more than that.

Dave Muller: What do you see in your future?

Adam Lauricella: Kids probably, but from a professional standpoint, I'd like to turn Graceland Tattoos into a hub for guest artists. The Hudson Valley is a great place, with a lot of cool things to do and see for those artists who may be traveling from other parts of the country. Plus, we're only an hour and twenty minute train ride from NYC. In any artists are reading this and would like to do a guest spot, check out the studio by going to www.gracelandtattoo.com or by visiting myspace.com/gracelandtattoo.

Written by: Dave Muller
Photos courtesy of: Adam Lauricella

