

ALEX DE PASE

INTERVIEW: ALEX PHOTOGRAPHY: ALEX DE PASE



Alex De Pase Tattoo
 Piazza Carpaccio, 17
 34073 GRADO (GO) ITALY
www.alexdepasetattoo.com
info@alexdepasetattoo.com

ALEX DE PASE

Alex De Pase excels at his chosen discipline; he doesn't just capture realism in his tattoos, he manages to find the very essence of each character and amplify it. His use of light is simply remarkable and it breathes the life and depth into his tattoos that affords them such resonance. Based in the harbour town of Grado in the Friuli region of Italy, De Pase's serene environment offers an idealistic setting for his work.

"I started tattooing at the age of 15. My desire to tattoo was born out of my great passion for drawing, which has accompanied me ever since I was a child. When I saw one of my friend's tattooed arms I was amazed, and I started constructing my first rough equipment using the plastic frame of Bic pens by melting their plastic and mounting a needle in place of the cartridge. This allowed me to conduct my first experiments via hand tattooing.

When I tried to make a line using this technique and I realised that the ink was trapped under the skin, I began tattooing whichever friend was prepared to risk it! The next step, which I am very proud of, was when I built my first tattoo machine with an electrical shaver (this passion of mine is still alive and kicking in me and I'm producing a new design line of tattoo machines). In a short time I succeeded in getting enough money to buy myself the necessary equipment. I opened my first shop in 1997; it was very

small but in 2004 I opened a larger one, my current shop."

Who was the person on the receiving end of the first tattoo that you drew?

I myself was my first guinea pig and this was not only my first tattoo as a tattooist, but also the first tattoo my skin ever saw! Having done it all by myself it was very tough, but customers started to flock in because I was one of the few tattooists in my area. All those many customers supported

my self-learning experience, and experience equals improvement. I have never done an apprenticeship, because at the time the tattoo artists I had turned to were withholding and very jealous of their secrets.

So it was the difficult path of self-discovery for you then!

Yes! My education was mainly built-up by studying drawing and painting literature. The tattoo technique was a journey undertaken alone, attempt-by-attempt. This process required much

more time but I'm not obliged to anybody! Nowadays, working side by side with an established artist is indispensable if you want to be someone because improvisation is not permitted anymore. And you can't leave out the artistic side of it being moved by the passion for tattoos only.

What about conventions; do you manage to work many?

I've worked in many tattoo conventions between Italy and Europe.

Conventions are an excellent window, a great way to meet and make yourself available to the public in different countries and a great opportunity to meet artist and friends with whom you can exchange interests and opinions. It is extremely rewarding to be seen by the same public who already know you and also the amazement of the people who had never heard about you is outstanding. As I said before, my relationship with other artists is a great thing from a personal and professional point of view. ➔

