

Rona Green
I love fish + chips

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Port Jackson Press Centre for Australian Printmaking

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 MONASH University

Rona Green is currently undertaking a Master of Fine Arts
at the Faculty of Art & Design, Monash University

above: *Hud and Mugsy* 2008 linocut, watercolour & ink 60 cm x 90 cm edition 6

front: *Chips* 2008 linocut, watercolour & ink 112 cm x 76 cm edition 13

back: *Theodor* 2008 linocut, watercolour & ink 76 cm x 56 cm edition 23

I LOVE FISH + CHIPS

Tattoos document a path travelled, the inky narrative offers the keen observer remarkable insight into the subject's demography and proclivity.

Criminal record is reflected openly in the unique markings of the Russian thief. As tattooing is prohibited in Russian prisons, the applicator is most commonly a "Sputnik" improvised from a clockwork shaving machine. Just as inventive is the ink, a concoction of boot soles and urine. Fortunately asparagus isn't likely to be making an appearance on the Zone menu.

Like the ink, the imagery isn't sanitised either, the cat burglar's credentials are on display in an easy-to-read pictorial resume. Every facet of their underworld status is recorded, even failure to make good on debts following unfortunate turns of events in disagreeable card games. Contrary to the popular belief of permanency, the illustrative credentials are forcibly removed if ever found to be fraudulent. With hands being the prominent showcase of affiliation, the non-accidental loss of a digit is common.

Tattoos aren't just limited to prison fodder, good news incidentally for the punter not wanting another being's urine permanently etched into their skin. The iconography need not be as regimented either, the commercial tattoo designs, the flash, are translated from wall to skin, port to port, from skin back to wall. Like traditional folk songs this graphic game of Chinese whispers contours the vernacular with its reflections of the familiar, the exotic and the familiar exotic. And does the process of getting a tattoo hurt? Well of course it does. However the pain is intrinsic to the tough look, even consumer quasi toughness comes at a cost.

Whilst ear tattooing is routine among many contemporary domesticated groupings such as purebreds and eunuchs, there are also historic accounts of beasts sporting tattoos. Renowned tattooist Sailor Jerry Collins of Hawaii is purported to have tattooed the phrase "Aloha" across his pet chimpanzee's posterior (naturally the master craftsman capitalised on the prevenient letter "O"). Animal liberators fear not as the tattoo was almost certainly by Romeo's own request! According to legend the cheeky ape quite enjoyed bestowing the Hawaiian greeting upon clientele entering Sailor Jerry's esteemed tattoo parlour.

Walk, hop or fly into any tattoo parlour and inquire about the mythical "I love fish and chips" textual forehead motif. Most know the legend and some may even claim they've actually seen it. For everyone else a linoleum impression of the elusive bearer has at last been captured for public exhibition. The skullduggery is displayed without pretense, with hints of both sorrow and pride. Do lagomorphs even eat fish and chips, let alone love them? Most commonly not, though it's quite feasible that this particular specimen's gargantuan proportion could have been achieved on such a diet. Case in point is his markings, suggestive that he doesn't survive merely on water, lettuce and carrots. Ever pondered the origin of the "buck's night"? Forget what you see in nature documentaries, come nightfall it's booze, cigarettes and a fast doe for any buck bouncing the mean streets.

So light up a smoke, crack open a can and trundle on down to the show. Don't be scared, just keep your head pulled in and the affiliates of the illustrated fraternity won't bite. Whether you love tattoos or not, I sincerely hope that at one time or another you've experienced love for fish and chips.

Aaron McLoughlin

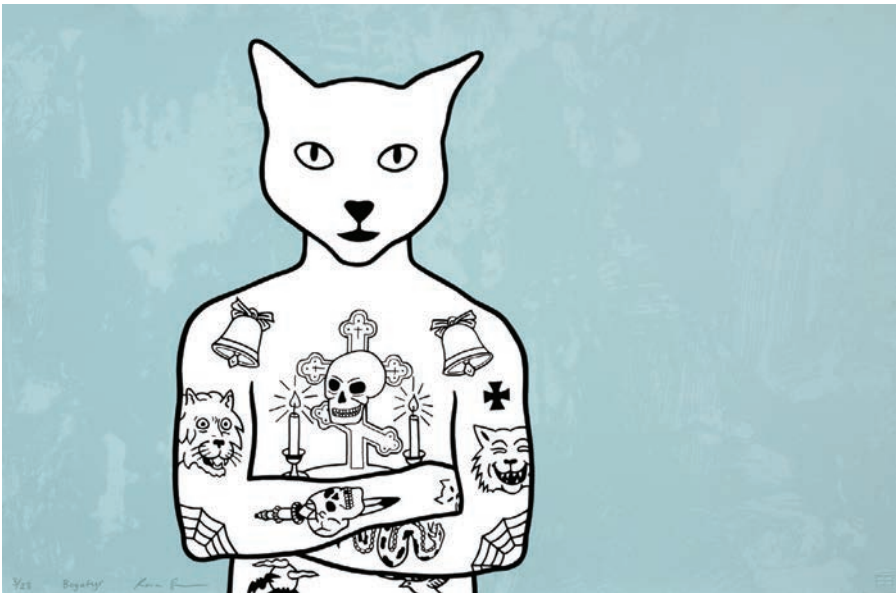
Fellow illustrated man and lecturer in Animation and Interactive Media at RMIT University



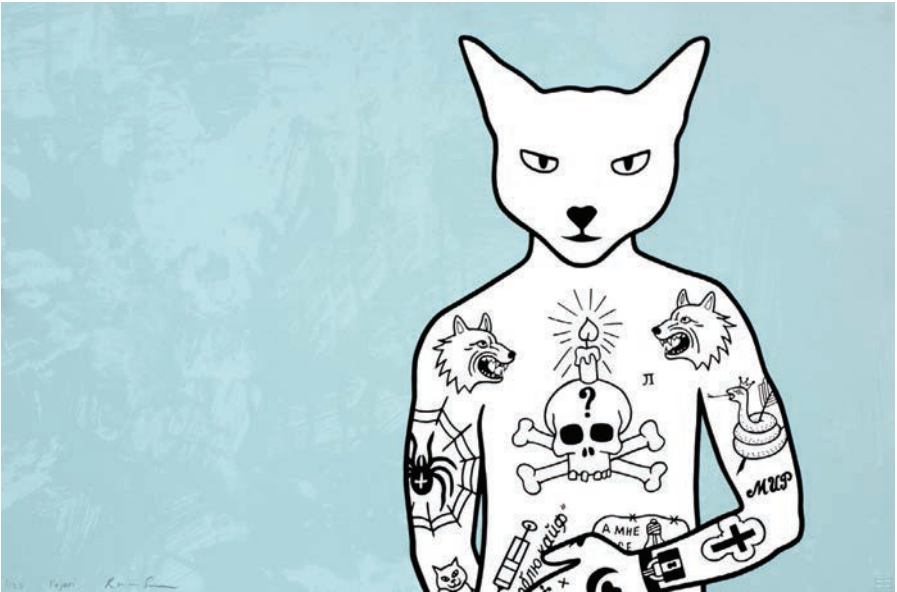
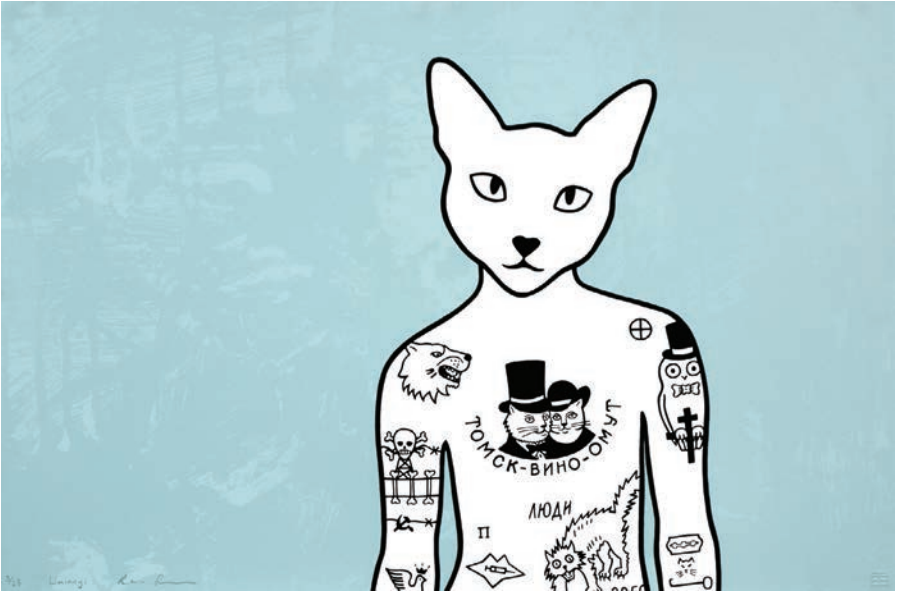
Sergey 2008 linocut & intaglio 76 cm x 57 cm edition 30
printed by Kylie White and Yuho Imura, Port Jackson Press Australia



Leonid 2008 linocut & intaglio 76 cm x 57 cm edition 30
printed by Kylie White and Yuho Imura, Port Jackson Press Australia



above: *Bogatyr* 2008 screenprint 38 cm x 57 cm edition 23
below: *Knyazhna* 2008 screenprint 38 cm x 57 cm edition 23
printed by Rebecca Mayo, The Dolls House Studio



above: *Liminyi* 2008 screenprint 38 cm x 57 cm edition 23
below: *Pajari* 2008 screenprint 38 cm x 57 cm edition 23
printed by Rebecca Mayo, The Dolls House Studio

