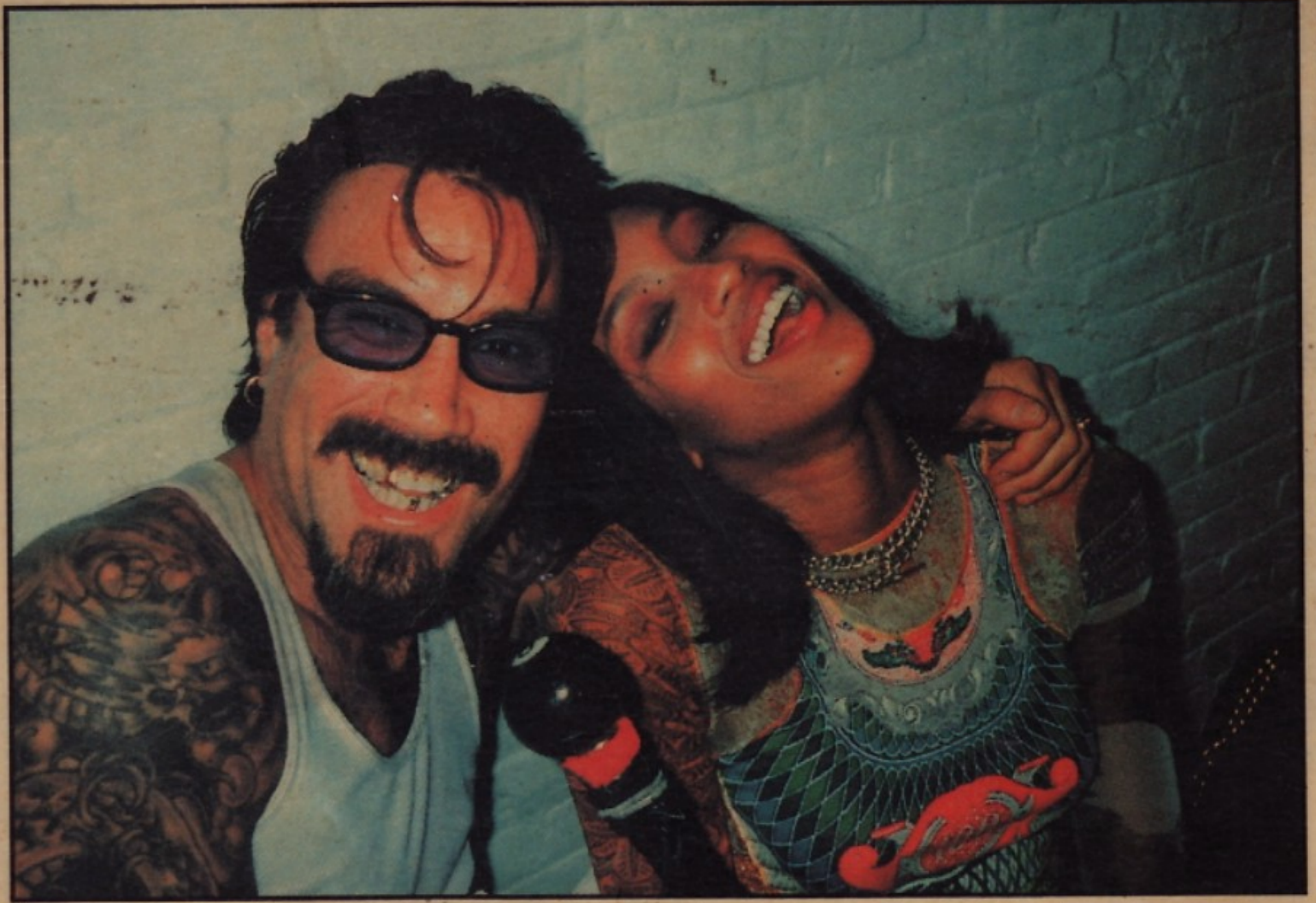


AFTER A FASHION

While tattooing has often crossed paths with mainstream fashion trends over the years, never before has popular interest in the ancient art been at such an all-time high.

Leading fashion designers like **Gianni Versacci**, **Jean-Paul Gaultier** and **Betsey Johnson**, to name only a few, have regularly borrowed inspiration from tattoo shop walls for their collections, while some of the world's top fashion models, such as **Stephanie Seymour** and **Nikki Taylor**, have also caught the tattoo fever lately. Others, like overnight sensation **Jenny Shimizu**,



have gone so far as to flaunt fairly heavy tattoo coverage, making their skin art a sort of personal trademark with surprisingly little detriment to their modeling careers in what has traditionally been a largely conservative profession, tattoo-wise.

In New York, recently for the spring fashion season, mega-supermodels **Kate Moss** and **Naomi Campbell** took time off from the runways to mug for the roving paparazzi with their heavily tattooed friend and tattooist, *ITA* Managing Editor **Jonathan Shaw**.

And while these photographs may not grace

the pages of *Vogue* or *Harper's Bazaar* any time soon, it's just one more signpost along the road of tattooing's journey into mainstream sensibilities worldwide.

For the occasion, Naomi sported an obviously tattoo-inspired skin-tight creation by Gaultier, while her pal Kate took a graceful step further, stopping by Manhattan's Fun City tattoo studio to have Shaw add a permanent piece to her wardrobe.

Suffice it to say that this classy lass now *literally* wears her heart on her sleeve, proving, again, that tattoo is a fashion that doesn't fade.

