



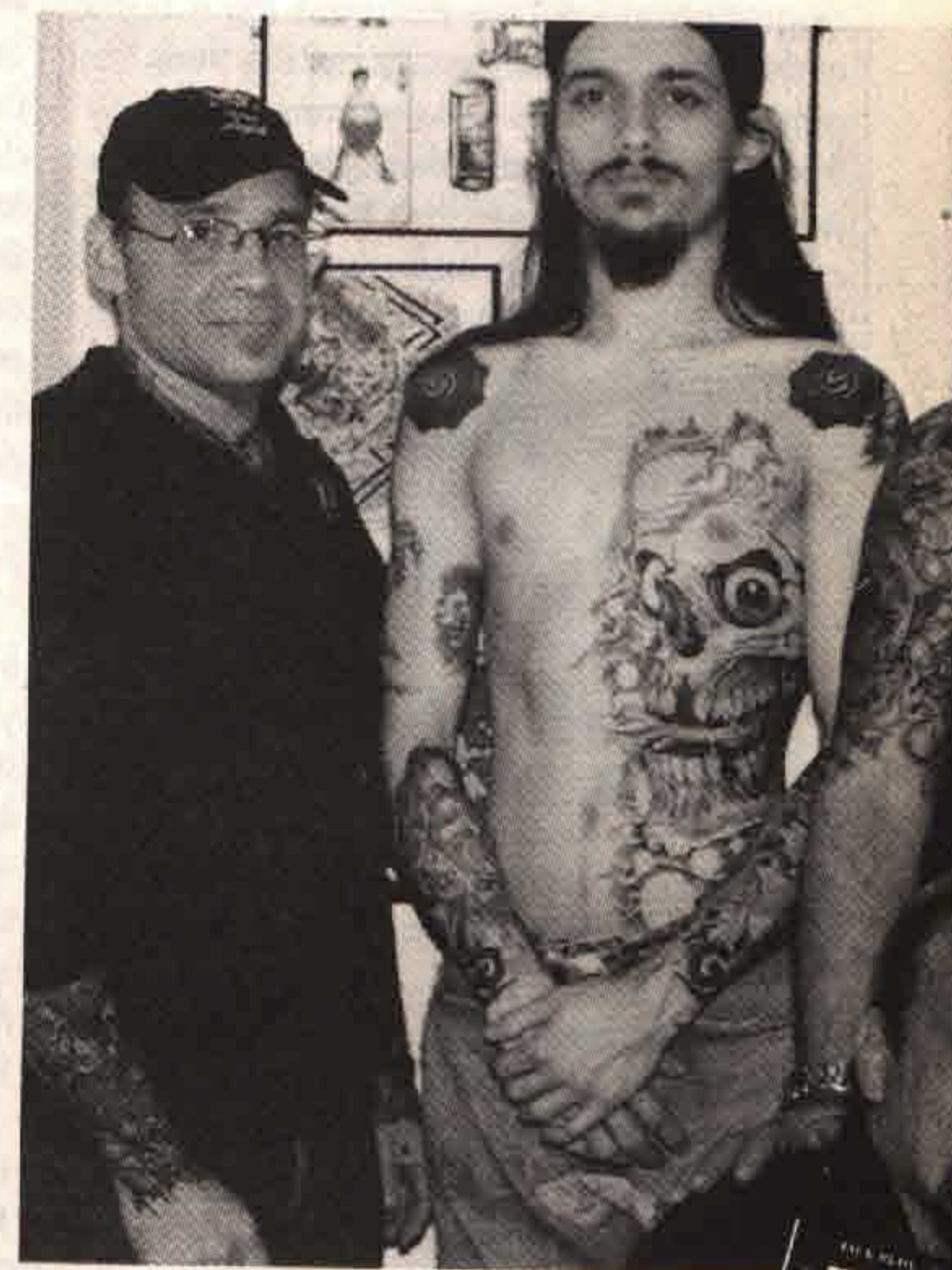
PSYCHEDELIC TATTOO FLASH SHOW

Tattooing is a practice that has been around for a long, long time; anthropological evidence shows that tattooing is indeed one of man's earliest forms of creative expression. Like other primary art forms such as music and painting, tattooing spans the globe, and has been practiced to some degree in just about every major culture.

With the advancement of technology and the subsequent far reaching encroachment of western culture and its post-technological values, many primitive societies have become all but extinct and, in the process, some of mankind's most important artistic traditions have degenerated to the status of tourist attractions and "Ripley's Believe It Or Not" cultural curiosities.

In the U.S.A. tattooing has long been a popular folk art with its own rich and varied history and traditions. In the last 20 years or so the art has experienced a true renaissance of popularity with the emergence of a loose group of very talented professionals with fine arts training who have entered the field.

Tattoo art was celebrated this summer at New York's Psychedelic Solution Gallery. The group show highlighted the flash designs of a number of incredible artists, including The Leu Family, Jonathan and Vera Shaw, Paul Jeffries, Dave Lum, Jack Rudy, Mike Malone, Spider Webb, Hanky Panky, Dick Warsocki, Brian Everett, Dave Shore and many others. Also on display were tattoo designs created by Robert Williams and



Joe Coleman and other artists who work in mediums other than skin. The show's opening, preceded by a party for the artists and their friends sponsored by the gallery and Tattoo Revue, was packed with people who came to meet the artists, see their work and, perhaps, even find that perfect tattoo. The show was curated by Jonathan Shaw. Most of the artists whose work appeared in this show are on the cutting edge of modern tattooing. And, in the context of tattooing's belated acceptance as an important art form, it is safe to say that many of these artists and the images they create will have had no small influence on art trends in the years to come; so called "folk arts" have always expressed and reflected the popular sentiments of their time and modern tattooing draws from richly diverse, cross cultural, historical, mystical and creative sources, weaving a chaotic tapestry of apocalyptic mythological totemic images, voodoo hoodoo breathing graffiti against the sterile cold metal and concrete backdrop of today's computerized turn of the millennium world.

It seemed only fitting that a show of tattoo designs on paper by a group of artists who work on human canvass should be presented here in New York...where tattooing has been banned since 1961. What the people who viewed the show saw were examples of a *prohibited art*, the art of the underground. Outsider art and shades of urban tribalism. Art that gets under your skin. Tattoo Flash.



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