

LA Unscripted | January 17th, 2023

From hot spots and hidden gems to lots of local flavor It's your guide to L A the unscripted way And tonight we're getting inked Hello everyone I'm Da De Welcome to L A and scripted from the broken art tattoo parlor in Atwater Village as we take a colorful look at the art of ink Now if you live in so it's hard to find someone who doesn't have at least one tattoo I'll tell you about mine coming up But first let's reveal the shop and the man known for the cover I've been tattooing since 1994 now So coming up on 28 years I shock myself all the time I'm like wow ok It's I still got it swan I started tattooing because my wife she was getting tattooed from her cousin who was in prison and he had this homemade tattoo machine made from a toothbrush and a guitar stringing and a walkman motor And I just show up and he's doing a little bit of work on my wife and I was just like so like intrigued by this that I immediately went to radio shack and bought all the parts and made my own and I opened up the first broken art tattoo in Salinas California And that was in 2001 when I first opened up the first broken art When something's broken you wanna you wanna fix it you wanna make it better you wanna improve on it And basically it's just a reminder every day to to keep trying something new and don't rest on your Laurels toc was auditioning artists and they kept contacting me to do this That was America's worst tattoos It was a really great experience I loved the show because it was about helping people people live with these things on them that if they don't like it they wake up every day feeling depressed and sad about their what they've done to their body and being able to like change that and give them something that they can be excited about that they feel is beautiful That's that's why I really really love doing cover up tattoos People who get tattoos aren't just one kind of a person They there are some people who just love going in and getting getting what the artist wants to do And there's some people who nope I've been thinking about this for three years you know and this is exactly what I want down to The every line's gotta be particularly done So Ben Affleck contacted me a few years ago and by the end of the conversation he lets me know that we're gonna be tattooing his entire back with a phoenix to kind of represent the transition of his life and his work and his art he was very determined It wasn't supposed to be for anybody but himself But he knew eventually it was going to get out there So the world had an opinion about his tattoo and it wasn't for the world it was for him to represent his journey It was very inspiring working with him to see that level

of determination But people who just have an opinion about what some a list or should be doing with their bodies they just need to shut up It was a really cool experience to tattoo my daughter for sure Um When she came of age it's a pretty amazing thing to be able to pass on to your child The special thing about tattooing is that it's a challenge for the individual to do something to themselves And at the end they get this piece of art to help represent who they are inside that they don't have to always go around explaining the themselves you know how they feel about certain things they can wear right there I love mom and the world knows I have the best crew here I mean I'm really fortunate most of them have been here with me for nearly 15 years We got um four of us five of us including me but we're lucky to have like real L a natives that are just here playing their trade and putting the best art they can on their clients and the art of the tattoo isn't just a man's world Head over to Long Beach for some female artistry from the one and only carry barber at a shop that's earned the distinctive title Oldest in America right there Hold it a little still My name is Kerry Barba and I'm the owner of Auto Limits Tattoo here in Long Beach California the oldest tattoo shop in the nation Second oldest in the world I've been tattooing for 43 years Some of our collection here at Outer Limits And we have lots of tattoo machines and memorabilia Most of these machines were either made by or used by artists who worked in the pike area or this particular shop here It's been running all through both wars and we're very proud of our location All the tattoo shops you used to see had every inch as much as they could cover filled in tattoo flesh And it was called Les because when you'd walk in it was like bam flesh So this is what our studio looked like in 19 seventies So there used to be a port here in Long Beach a naval port and the military guys would all come into port and no one had visited other countries And so the tattoo artist started catching on here and they opened tattoo stops here in the port city of Long Beach we pulled down a wall found this safe right behind the wall still have not opened this safe And we plan to do that to see what's inside on the 100 year anniversary of the shop So in 27 we're gonna open this thing and see what's in there Being a a female tattoo artist in this industry has been a little difficult when I started in 1979 I didn't think about it I didn't think this is a male dominated industry but it definitely was one gentleman famous says I ain't getting tattooed by no chick And I said OK well then here's your choices you know go ahead and choose and then he goes no but I want this work I said well then you gotta have a chick do it It is that simple The other thing we found was this cash register stuck on \$5 You can see how much

tattoos used to cost We operate a pretty busy studio We run 13 tattoo artists Usually at a time every artist is complete unique amongst themselves in their style because you get to see all these walks of life different kinds of people coming in all the time getting to see what the other person is getting and the energy is really good This plaque tells about the history of our shop This came from the Natural History Museum L A and we're really excited to have that on their wall If you want to come in and read it I am known most for octopus tattoos I do a lot of octopus tattoos and then I got to do a silicone arm that was hanging in the Natural History Museum L A Uh They did an exhibition called Tattoo So everybody who went to the museum then called and said I want an octopus I want an octopus So I have been doing octopus probably 2 to 3 times a week for at least five years Now I used to get so much flak when I was started out in the business because I didn't have a lot of visible tattoos But over the time I started getting more and more tattoos But I kind of waited until my kids had grown up I have two kids and I would you know be in school with them And problem is people instantly judged me But over time we can see that everybody wears tattoos all different walks of life all types of people wear tattoos and it doesn't mean you're bad It just means you're trying to set yourself apart express yourself So the first tattoo pin was actually invented in 18 91 and clearly they've changed dramatically since then That's for sure like this one here Now let's check out another ink spot that made our list I considered art now is becoming more of a culture thing Everybody wants to get into it So I was named after Keith Hernandez I had a lot of Giants players from um OBJ I did also this tattoo for Evan Ingram who played for the New York Giants And it's it's so much cooler when you see it on TV as well You see them catching a ball in slow motion You're like that's my work Once you get one player of the team a few players in that same locker room will see your work And then from there the the ball just keep rolling When you see them in person you also realize they have a soft side They also have a sweet side These guys are funny These guys that also have a family they're just like every one of us you become a part of life So you get to know who they are You know you need to see their real life behind the cameras I don't tattoo just to get the money I tattooed to get my art out there I consider it as it's just like an art painting on the wall but it's on you for coming up All reveal what part of me is tattooed No it's not what you think and will be another legend of ink Welcome back to L A scripted Everyone I'm de at the broken art tattoo shop and at water You know it's hard to find an on in patch of skin on the people who work here But can you spot

the tattoo on me And no it's not one of those on the lower back I've done a lot of dares I am most excited about this one Usually I'm nervous This one I'm excited I am so excited and I'm so happy Did you dare to do your eats today with me Oh of course You're the expert I'm so happy Thank you What do we do Now let's go to my magic room So I know that we're going to do your lips today So I want you to kind of like tell me what you want me there Great question So all my whole life I've always had a lot of really blue in my lips So I've always wanted to kind of cancel out some of that blue and I'm no young spring chicken these days and I feel like my lips Thank you But I feel like my lips have faded over the years too and I don't have that natural color anymore OK So when we get older we're losing a lot of the color on the vermilion border So that's why a lot of people are coming and say oh you know what My lips getting thinner why it's happening and it's like uh oh now I more need filler and some people don't want to do that So uh they still have more lips It's just because the vermilion border faded they think it's it's so thin Are you seeing a greater interest in this now because nobody can wear lipstick anymore because of the constant mask Absolutely I prefer to have uh my lips done permanently and I can be comfortable any time in the shower and under this mask it's amazing and it's not really like a lipstick I will always say it's a lip blush A lip blush That's the perfect way to say it Oh yeah Lips for days Let's go It is time for my Dana dare lip tattoo How do you feel That's not bad Wow I have an upper lip now it was a really big insecurity of mine because when I would smile I would lose that top lip and now I feel like I still have it when I smile So that's why it looked weird I think before unbelievable another day to dare down more to go I absolutely loved this Dare I am ready for more Send a man Come on You guys give me a day Dare coming up a legend They call Mr Cartoon and the one guy the Dodgers all go to for in Welcome back to a unscripted I'm de from the broken art tattoo shop and at water time not to be another California native who's in Snoop Dogg Eminem Dr Dre and countless others He's such a legend that he's also the star of his own Netflix documentary If you ain't got tatted by cartoon you ain't got no ta I'm Mr Cartoon and you're watching L A review when I look back and I'm thinking you know what what impact did I make in L A or what did I do here You know I probably contributed something to making tattoo in high end Uh When I got in a lot of the tattoos they weren't making what they deserve Man I had been a professional artist already so I knew what commercial projects paid and tattooing is way harder than those jobs and tattooing was one third of the money And I was like man if I do

anything I'm gonna change that I'm gonna give the artist in LA a raise you know growing up in L A I've been inspired by so many different people so many different ethnicities and we all kind of borrow from each other I take this experience and the tattoos and all the street culture and that's the heaviest influence in my art Hey I might be doing something for say vans or Levi's or some major company But in my head I'm a you know 16 year old kid going down the 10 freeway reading graffiti on the wall So I still keep that with me when you do a documentary on your own life It's it's really weird man because it's almost like therapy where you gotta go over the same things or things from your childhood or you know cool moments embarrassing moments uh everything gets brought up you know because you want to be honest and you wanna try to put as much out there as possible My partner Esteban Oriol is half of the documentary about him as a photographer in L A capturing this culture everything cartoon did Esteban was there capturing the whole culture low rider culture tattoo culture People are gonna try to explain L A culture They're gonna do their best to explain it to the masses So why not us You know why not us be in that position And we'll say you know what We're gonna do it our way out of our lens out of our eyes and doing it more for other homies other artists and other peers of mine I I'm kind of doing it for them You know this whole studio I'm in I I seen it before it manifested I sketched it 10 times here in Santa Monica It's where Hollywood meets the water We're in my private studio I'm partners in a barbershop called Master Deluxe We built this place to kind of be a one on one type of environment This is where we make people's lives a little bit better You know they walk in one way they leave better tattoo and fresh fade Being that I'm 51 years old I'm not gonna be tattooing forever You know what I mean You're only as good as your last project You gotta stay on top you gotta be cutting edge You you you works gotta be dope Bottom line You know what I'm saying Like New York City may be considered the birthplace of modern tattooing but it's at Dodgers Stadium here in so where we found the birth of a local tattooing hero Yes So it's gonna be here and then uh the shading uh I connected with the skyline that way it can look like every everything is just one piece The first time that I did a tattoo it was about uh 13 years ago when I did the first tattoo I just felt like man that's that's cool You know I could put my art on someone You know I was actually born in uh uh Michoacan Mexico came over here when I was eight We grew up right here in Pomona It was a little bit rough I got into a tattooing industry I never even nobody in my family had uh their own business I remember I tried to apply for jobs around the

tattoo shops around the area and nobody would give me a job I was just like I'm just gonna open my own shop My name is Jose Guyoza I own a killer tattoos My true passion is doing dire tattoos I'm about to reveal the championship ring I became a big Dodger fan I started decorating the shop with a lot of Do B customers started seeing that we love the Dodgers So they started coming asking for Dodger tattoos and I've done from just a little L A logo all the way to uh the whole Dodger Stadium About eight years ago I did a Dodger Stadium on uh one of my friends on the side of the head That one was super detail I remember I finished like at three in the morning I posted it on social media and right away it just went viral It blew up I wanted the stadium with some with the piece of L A because it it's just it's home I didn't grow up in L A but it just Dodgers is home to me I saw his Dodger work and I knew he was the guy who had to do my tattoo I'm hoping I get to tattoo a Dodger player That's uh I haven't tattooed no MLB players yet Hopefully I get to tattoo one and that's like uh my dream right now So we're gonna add my dog's name to the Daisy that I have on my arm because I'm willing to take a needle for L A unscripted Cleopatra Inc is a European based tattoo company We are actually the biggest tattoo company in the world We operate in 68 other locations in nine other countries This is the first location in the United States This is like the kid tattoos that you get Not a kid tattoo Santa Monica didn't ever have any tattoo places So I think we changed the game This one's not going to wash up we create our designs on ipad application called procreate You can actually visualize what we're designing for you on your body before having the tattoo So it's really easy for a client to visualize what they're going to end up having So it's a revolutionizing thing too I think Does that hurt a little bit but not really I mean I'm kind of used to it now already initiated nine academies back in Europe We train tattoo artists and we train designers If a student is super talented we give them internships for the students that uh finishes the courses with a high grade We also promise them to work in any Cleopatra branch in the world We're gonna initiate the Cleopatra Inc Academy here in later this winter and it's gonna last three months I think the tattoos should have a meaning It should tell something about you something about your life something that's related to you Hey if anybody's ever questioned my commitment to this show I'm gonna show you how committed I am to L A unscripted and that is all the tattoo time we have for tonight Thanks to Mr Swan and broken our tattoo We'll see you next time everyone Good night