

# Acme Print & Media

ACME Tattoo Company, Incorporated was established by Don and Tanika Nolan in 1988. They moved to a larger building just down the sidewalk at 1045 Arcade Street in 1990.

Giving rise to thousands of very complimentary word-of-mouth recommendations each year since opening, ACME Tattoo Company has also garnered an immense amount of positive print and electronic media. A small sample of the publication, press and television acclaim earned by Nolan and his ACME Tattoo Company includes:

- = April 19, 1975, Eugene Register-Guard newspaper: Oregon Life section article, with a photograph of D. Louis Nolan with his beautiful oil painting of two sun-hat-clad young women sipping wine. The painting, valued at \$575 at the time, was donated by Nolan for a fundraising auction; the results of which were to benefit the Eugene, Oregon chapter of Hadassah, a charitable organization that funds medical and education facilities in Israel for both Jews and Arabs. Due to its extreme quality, attention to Nolan's donated painting out-drew that given to then-better-known artists at the event. In gratitude for his generosity, Hadassah planted a tree in Israel with Nolan's name attached.
- = October 26, 1975, Eugene Register-Guard newspaper: Two page article, with six photos (by subsequent Pulitzer Prize winning photographer Brian Lanker) of Nolan's oil paintings and tattoo work.
- = October 20, 1976, Kitsap Journal (Seattle) newspaper: An article announcing Nolan's upcoming oil painting show at The Olympic Gallery, Bremerton, WA.
- = 1977, book *The Tattooist*, author Albert L. Morse, self-published, San Francisco, CA: Nolan receives prominent written inclusion therein.
- = 1979, book *Pushing Ink*, author Spider Webb, publisher Simon and Schuster: Nolan given credit alongside a photo of his tattoo work on the back of famed Chicago tattoo artist (now late) Cliff Raven. Uncredited photo of Nolan's extensive tattoo work on the back of his bodysuit client Michael Hensel.
- = 1979, book *Letters to Pepper*, author Cherie Hiser, begun by this nationally famous Portland, Oregon photographer and visual art instructor. The book, subtitled, "People so have tattoo work by Don Nolan of St. Paul, Minnesota," is to feature a series of diptych photographs of Nolan's clients taken while they were clothed and disrobed.
- = January 25, 1979, the *Columbian* newspaper (Oregon): Two page article, with seven photographs of Nolan's tattoo work, regarding the first place award given to Lynn Gray at the competition held at the NW American Tattoo Club's fourth convention, Houston, Texas. Mr. Gray wore only very minimal tattooing before he decided to receive a fully body suit from Nolan. In a sign of extreme devotion to both his own artwork and to his artist, Gray camped in a tent in Nolan's Bremerton, Washington backyard; building on his bodysuit eight hours per day, seven days per week, for nearly three solid months! The Japanese kanji on Mr. Gray's right arm tells the story of the process of acquiring this amazing tattoo bodysuit from Nolan.
- = January 31, 1979, *Los Angeles Times* newspaper: Photo of Lynn Gray, Nolan client and ale winner of the NW American Tattoo Club's convention competition, with the female winner of this contest.
- = (date unknown; otherwise unidentified Hudson's Bay, Canada) newspaper: Photo of Lynn Gray, with

mention of his placement at the NW American Tattoo Club's convention competition. Mention made of his planned upcoming appearance in People Magazine.

= February 7, 1979, West Seattle Herald newspaper: Two page article, with two photos of Nolan's tattoo work, regarding the second place award given to Doc Hardt at the competition held at the NW American Tattoo Club's fourth convention, Houston, Texas. The overwhelming majority of Mr. Hardt's tattoos were delivered to his skin by Nolan. Hardt helicoptered to Nolan's studio at the time in order to receive his tattoo work.

= June 2, 1979, NZ Listener newspaper (New Zealand): Full page article, with color photos of Nolan's tattoo work, regarding the art form. Nolan is mentioned by name twice.

= June 28, 1983, News-Press newspaper (Florida): Full page article, with two photos: Nolan framed by two large tattoos worn by his clients; and Nolan's ring-laden fingers and his tattoo machine at work on the willing skin of noted jeweler T.W.Green.

= 1984, book Tattoo Time: Music and Sea Tattoos, author Ed Hardy, publisher Ernie Carafa, New Jersey: Nolan receives written credit for the beautiful Shrimp and Waves tattoo on client Tia's back.

= 1988, book Marks of Civilization, editor Arnold Rubin, publisher Regents of the University of California: Scholarly, superbly researched and thorough, this book lists Nolan amongst the six artists in the first "tattoo renaissance." Nolan, as well as fellow ground-breakers Cliff Raven, Zeke Owens, Lyle Tuttle, Ed Hardy and Spider Webb, are widely championed for their successful efforts to literally transform both the artistic performance and public perception of tattooing. Nolan is one of the mere half dozen courageous individuals who by their experimentation and devotion to creating art, have set the stage for all tattoo artists to follow!

= April 23, 1989, St. Paul Pioneer Press Dispatch newspaper: Two page article, with three photographs of Nolan at work. The article by Ben Chanco details the work that Nolan has put into decorating multiple award-winner Peggi Hurley. Illuminated is the devotion and trust that Nolan's thousands of clients place in his hands. Ms. Hurley is mentioned for the 100 hours over a six-year span that she collaborated with Nolan on her extensive and beautiful body art. No stencils were utilized in the process of receiving Ms. Hurley's Nolan-created tattoo work; a true rarity in this day of mass production and unimaginative imitative embellishment! The article further quotes favorably several of Nolan's clients who are as devoted to the man as to his wondrous art.

= -----1989, KSTP television: "Twin Cities Live" program episode topic of tattooing and tattooed people features footage of Nolan's version of a scene from The Hobbit stories. The proud wearer of the artwork explains on-air that the whole-back tattoo took twenty-one hours to complete over nine sessions. Such is the devotion that Nolan's true artwork engenders in his thousands of clients.

= October 22, 1990, book Guinness Book of Records, 1991 edition, publisher Guinness Publishing, Ltd. Facts on File, Inc., NY: Most heavily tattooed woman title is credited to Krystyne Kolorful of Canada, with 95 percent tattoo body coverage. Nolan was her primary tattoo artist.

= March 21, 1992, Minneapolis Star Tribune newspaper: Nolan's clients, wrote Rosalind Bentley, "fly in from around the world for custom dermagraphics." Of the talented artists at ACME Tattoo Company, Bentley wrote, "Nolan is the Michelangelo of the group: Some of his customers have body art that has taken years to complete."

= November 1992, KTCA television: "Arts on 2" subjects Nolan and one of his bodysuit tattooed clients featured extensively. Brief vignettes from the show reportedly rotate as television station publicity segments

for years thereafter. As publicity for the original program, KTCA produced brochures, a giant poster for the station's lobby, and placemats for two prominent restaurants – one of which was located within the Walker Art Museum, Minneapolis. Each of these publications featured Nolan's bodysuit client as the subject.

= 1992, book *The Illustrated Woman*, author William De Michele, publisher Proteus Press, Inc., NY: Three pages of credited photographs of Nolan's tattoo work. Included in this volume are photos of Nolan's art on the person of 1986 National Tattoo Association "Best Tattooed Woman" Peggi Schwartz (now Hurley).

= 1992, *Itchin' For Ink* magazine, vol.1, number 2: Cover photo of bodysuit client wearing Nolan's amazing work; three interior pages of text and photos regarding Nolan.

= 1992, *Itchin' For Ink* magazine, vol. 1, number 3: Results of the Sea of Blue tattoo convention competition published; with ACME taking seven of sixteen first place trophies; Nolan's work garnering best men's large, women's large, men's extensive, and traditional tattoos.

= 1992, *Itchin' For Ink* magazine, vol. 1, number 4: An interior photo of the magazine publisher, Deanna Shurb, being tattooed by Nolan; the accompanying text: "My favorite tattoo artist is, of course, the person applying the tattoo. Any questions?" Nolan's bodysuit client Willie Snyder exhibits a photo of primarily Nolan work along with the list "65 Questions" most-frequently asked regarding his tattoos. A nice photo of Nolan's tattoo work upon a client's hips is placed on the inside back cover; the image of one of two photos of Nolan's work made into postcards by Shurb for sale at the time.

= December 1993, KSTP television: The station's "Good Company" program highlights Nolan and ACME Tattoo Company.

= April 1994, KSTP television: Re-broadcast of "Good Company" feature on Nolan and his shop.

= November 28, 1994, *East Side Review* (St. Paul): Article on area business successes Nolan and ACME Tattoo Company.

= -----1994, KMSP television: Nolan, tattooing on-camera, speaks of the process and exactitude required in applying a proper ACME Tattoo Company tattoo: the thematic research executed by his clients and himself; the longevity of his personal pursuit; and the permanence that results from successful communication and collaborative effort with clients. As an example, extensive footage is shown of a devoted client who had been highly honored to receive tattoo work from Nolan for over a dozen years. This client, wearing a Nolan-created bodysuit, won many Best Extensive awards at major tattoo convention contests. (Well into 2008, the tattoo master continues to work magic upon the flesh of this honored client; twenty-seven years after their first hand-shake and application on uniquely beautiful art by Nolan.)

= 1995, book *Pierced Hearts and True Love, a Century of Drawing for Tattoos*, publisher The Drawing Center and Hardy Marks Publications, Honolulu: Nolan is given credit as a member of "a small, but dedicated corps of avant-garde tattooists who radically changed the art form." Included with additional text is a full-page ink and color pencil drawing and a 1981 tattoo-in-the-planning which Nolan custom designed for an eventual bodysuit client.

= February 15, 1995: Time-lased video taped documentation captures the start of a whole-chest tattoo created through-out much of the year. The images, beginning with Nolan's initial outlines, comprise mountain lions, dall sheep, rock cliffs, and trees under a big sky. The on-going documentation, filmed session by session, in a year which marked Nolan's fortieth year of exceptional tattooing, concludes with the client decorated suitably to the task of winning several tattoo convention competitions for Best Extensive Tattoo.

- = March 1995, American Iron magazine: Full page article, with two photos, regarding world-renowned tattoo artist Don Nolan's FXR motorcycle featuring pinstriping by Roy Mason and painting by Dave Perewitz. Nolan's tattooing upon Mr. Perewitz' arms and shoulders is mentioned. The article introduces readers to ACME Tattoo Company by name. It is therein noted that Nolan began riding motorcycles in 1954, one year before he picked up a tattoo machine.
  
- = October 1, 1995, Green Bay Press-Gazette newspaper: Two page article regarding the 10th annual International Tattoo Convention. The article opens with the name of one of the Nolan bodysuit competitors present at the event, and devotes the next five and a half column inches to describing this person's amazing largely-aquatic-themed body art, and their motivation for obtaining their tattoo work from Nolan. The article devotes a further three and a half column inches to describing both the beautiful flora and tropical animal-themed bodysuit of another Nolan client and her considered thoughts about finding a true artist to perform her work.
  
- = October 1995, MTV Music Video Awards: Video of Nolan's ACME Tattoo Company as part of larger coverage of the 10th annual International Tattoo Convention held in Green Bay, Wisconsin.
  
- = November 1995, Campus Scope: Video documentation of Nolan and his ACME Tattoo Company as the world continued to benefit from Nolan's masterful artwork forty years after he first picked up a tattoo machine. Nolan states that "Tattoos are a symbol of the (individual) person...another medium where the canvas walks around." The video editors remind viewers that "Don Nolan is considered to be one of the top five tattooists in the world."
  
- = February 1996, East Side Globe (St. Paul) newspaper: Article by Annette Wertz details the contributions of Nolan and ACME Tattoo Company to Arcade Street.
  
- = September 23, 1996, The Oregonian newspaper: Article, with large credited photo of Nolan's work upon the back of nationally-known photographer Cherie Hiser, Nolan's client and biographer.
  
- = 1996, book Secrets, editor Linney Stovall, publisher Blue Heron publishing, Inc., OR: Nolan's tattoo work, as photographed by the noted Cherie Hiser, featured upon the front and back cover; as well as on eight interior pages. Nolan client Peggi Schwartz is the primary model.
  
- = -----1998, Bikes and Spikes magazine: Two page article entitled Hon Nolan, kin Artistry, with two photos of Nolan's amazing wildlife scene tattoos on a couple who are long-time clients and may-time tattoo convention contest winners. Three additional photos feature Nolan with his beautiful Dave Perewitz bike. A final photo shows his cartoon rendition of Tiger Pig. A subtle flash-worthy drawing by Nolan of an angel and iris in commemoration underlie the printed text of the two page article.
  
- = November 1999, KSTC television: Nolan, an ACME Tattoo Company artist, and the artist's wife interviewed for a news segment regarding the 2000 United States presidential election debacle and the American democratic process.
  
- = November 10, 1999, WCCO television: "Dimension" segment titled "Body of Art" displays the beautiful, extensive tattoo work of Nolan as worn by five clients. While mentioning that Nolan had been pursuing his unique art since the 1950's, the co-anchor of the evening news interviews a registered nurse, who as a repeat client, was receiving on-camera an additional tattoo from Nolan. The news reporter commented favorably upon her perception of the bright colors present within the nurse's new tattoo.
  
- = August 12, 2000, KSTP television: Minnesota Vikings football pre-game coverage included interviews with

ACME Tattoo Company personnel regarding interest among football fans in sports-oriented tattoos.

= (late)August 2000, WCCO television: Partial re-broadcast of the November 10, 1999 "Dimension" segment featuring Nolan and company; delivered as information on tattooed patrons of the Minnesota State Fair.

= September 2000, St. Paul Pioneer Press-Dispatch newspaper: Article and photographs of a female scientist receiving her first tattoo via the skilled and experienced hands of Nolan.

= September 24, 2000, KMSP television: ACME Tattoo Company is highlighted for its diligent and civic-minded efforts to propose legislation limiting tattoo application only to adults within the jurisdictional boundaries of the State of Minnesota.

= October 22, 2000, St. Paul Pioneer Press newspaper: Two page Express section cover article, with four photographs of Nolan's tattoo work.

= -----2000, KSTP television: News segment pertaining to the efforts of Don and Tanika Nolan of ACME Tattoo Company, Inc. to convince the Minnesota Legislature and Governor of the wisdom of limiting tattoo application to those who are over the age of 18. The segment mentions the great popularity of Nolan and displays images of the bright, clean exterior of ACME Tattoo Company.

= September 19, 2001, KSTP and KSTC television: An ACME Tattoo Company artist is interviewed and shown tattooing on-camera; the topic of the news segment is clients of ACME Tattoo Company who seek to permanently commemorate tin ink their American patriotism and respect for those who lost their lives in the attacks of September 11, 2001.

= Late September/early November 2001, St. Paul Pioneer Press newspaper; Article with photo of a couple whom each received patriotic tattoos from Nolan in commemoration of America's sacrifice on September 11, 2001 and bravery in recovery.

= November 2, 2001, The Aquin (St. Thomas University, St. Paul, MN) newspaper: Full page article entitled Under the Needle, with a prominent photo of an ACME Tattoo Co. artist at work carefully creating wearable warm art on a client.

= November 6, 2001, Star Tribune (Minneapolis) newspaper: Article, with three photos, of a couple tattooed by Nolan as evidence of their patriotism and reverence for their country following the attacks upon America on September 11, 2001.

= December 18, 2001 (?), WCCO television: On-camera tattooing by an ACME tattoo Company artist of a client who traveled repeatedly from Las Vegas to St. Paul for continuing tattoo work due to the principled proficiency practiced there. The satisfied and loyal client stated that the work at ACME representing "the best in the country."

The safe tattooing procedures utilized at ACME Tattoo Company – such as single-use/disposable needles and ink wells - were highlighted during this news segment. Nolan, credited and on-camera, aptly states, "The public wants to know that they can come and feel safe, and not get anything except for a tattoo." The news report highlighted the diligent efforts of Don and Tanika Nolan to enact in the immediately past Minnesota legislative session more stringent regulatory control over access to the tattoo process by minors. The report indicated that, unfortunately, the Legislative bill strongly supported by the Nolans failed to advance by the close of the political session.

= December 31, 2001, East Side Review (St. Paul) newspaper: As a lead to the issue entitled An East Side Year in Review, an above the fold cover photograph of Nolan tattooing a client, while the caption names Nolan, ACME Tattoo Company and his efforts to change Minnesota law to exclude minors from receiving tattoos. Elsewhere upon the page a description is given in greater detail regarding the legislative bill put up for consideration in March of that year.

=January 8, 2002, WCCO television: Don and Tanika Nolan of ACME Tattoo Company mentioned as tattoo safety resources by the president of the Alliance of Professional Tattooists (APT) during a news segment regarding proper procedures for hygienic application of body decoration.

= November 2002, Skin & Ink magazine: Article subtitled Tattoo Tour Minneapolis 2002 regarding the Crowe & Dwyer-promoted tattoo convention held in that city. The author, Bob Baxter, indicated in the article that he was especially interested in meeting Don Nolan; whom he referred to as a “great seminal artist” and “legend of the (tattoo) game.” Baxter writes that he had been informed by Krystyne Kolorful that Nolan had performed the extensive early work that helped spur Krystyne’s successful bid for acknowledgement by the Guinness Book of World Records as The World’s Most Tattooed Woman. Baxter was most impressed by his conversation with Nolan, citing both his good nature and his “rock star” appeal. Baxter indicated that he looked forward to visiting ACME Tattoo Co. in St. Paul to again converse with this true master. A photo of the legend, with the caption, “The Infamous Don Nolan”, appears with the article.

= 2004, book 24/7 Minnesota, authors Rick Smolan and David Elliot Cohen, publisher DK Publishing, Inc., NY: This book, a compilation of photographs taken in Minnesota during a specified period of time, features a full page photo of a Nolan client with his Virgin Mary tattoo. The tattoo subject is very satisfied with the twelve hours required to accomplish his fine work of religious artwork. The caption that accompanies the photograph mentions ACME Tattoo Company, Nolan and Lucy the dog, the ACME Tattoo Co. shop mascot.

= May 2005, CRAVE Magazine: In an interview with veteran Texas tattoo artist Richard Stell, subject is asked about “idols who most influenced” him; replying, “Early on, the only good stuff I saw back then was Ed Hardy and Cliff Raven and Don Nolan. Go to a tattoo convention and ask the young guys if they know who Don Nolan is and you’ll get a lot of “don’t knows’.” He adds, “I still like to look at all that stuff. I think that a lot of that ‘70’s Hardy-Raven-Nolan stuff is totally relevant today.”

= March 2005, Custom Rodder magazine: Full page cartoon displaying Nolan’s custom chopped and pickle green-painted Chevy Sedan Delivery with his wife Tanika in the passenger seat and their tiny dog Lucy nearby, amidst other custom cars and their proud owners.

= February 1, 2007, FOX Sports Network television: Vikings Weekly show aired footage of the tattooing by Nolan on January 29, 2007 of Minnesota Vikings football center Matt Birk with his daughter’s name on his arm.

= February 10, 2007, KARE television: Human interest segment focusing upon the brother of a United States soldier killed in action in Iraq on December 2, 2006. Nolan’s client chose to tattoo into his back a permanent ink likeness of his brother; indicating that in this way – among others – they would remain together always.

= August 2007, Skin & Ink magazine: Legendary Inksters and Dirty Tricksters article by Carmen Forquor, with historical footnotes by (tattoo historian) C.W. Eldridge, mentions Don Nolan very prominently and positively on the first page in both the body of the article and in the footnotes. Eldridge’s footnotes list Nolan as “one of the greatest tattooists America has ever produced.” They state that Nolan and his half-brother began tattooing in 1955; that Nolan, (along with Ed Hardy and the late, great Cliff Raven), were the preeminent tattoo artists during the 1970’s; and that Nolan’s work was readily discernible. A photo from the 1980’s graces page five, featuring Nolan seated with fellow tattoo pioneers Bob Shaw and Paul Rogers.

= July 2008, Skin & Ink magazine: Tattoo Treasures With Dana Brunson, a wonderful full-page article of great insight and sensitivity by the Cincinnati stalwart regarding his generous, wise and humorous friend, Nolan. Highly recommended reading!

= September 2008, Skin & Ink magazine: An article on Larry Shaw repeatedly remarks on his high respect for Don Nolan, whom he credits, among others, as being a teacher to him of his art.