

SPACE ALIENS, BAD MOTHERS AND GUNS!

The Magazine

ISSUE No. 5

WINTERCON
NEW YORK COME AND SCIENCE EXPO

**SALTY
SANTA**

**IVAN
TATTOO**

**THE ALIEN
AMONGST
US**

**COSPLAYER
OF THE
MONTH**

DERAVILLE SISTERS

#SABMG



SPACE ALIENS, BAD MOTHERS AND GUNS!



FROM THE EDITOR

WinterCon arrived like a blizzard in New York City for two days at the World Resorts Casino! All of the excitement of fans, cosplayers, artists, exhibitors and guest speakers made this one an AMAZING convention. Our second time in attendance, this year's event was even better than last year's. So much talent in the room, there was little room for banalities. We met Clifford Evan, who showed us a side of Santa that we may have never thought about.

Then there was Ivan Estevez also known as Kami Artist, a super talented artist with a passion for tattooing. AHRC NYC was in the house with their artists who have a knack for drawing and telling some amazing original stories. This WinterCon brought also brought the one and only Sean Astin (you'll remember him as Samwise "Sam" Gamgee in the Lord of the Ring Trilogy). Check out our convention feature for a full account of the all the excitement. In #SABMG News go in the mind of our character "Tracey" from "Heavy Burden" in Volume 2 of "Space Aliens, Bad Mothers and Guns". What was she thinking? Want the full story? It's available at Amazon.com. Who is The Alien Amongst Us and what does it want? We bring you another sneak peak along with this month's Cosplayer of the Month, Agnes Cruz!

So hang on tight and enjoy the ride! It's another space ship we've never driven before and we cannot wait to see the stops we visit and majestic beings we'll meet along the way! As always, we welcome your feedback on anything we do. Email us at deraville.sisters@gmail.com or DM us on Instagram @spacealiensbadmothersguns OR @SABMGOfficial. We look forward to hearing from you all! Thanks for stopping by!

A.C. DeRaville & Sonise Lumbaca

WinterCon 2018: New York Comic and Sci-Fi Expo



By A.C. DeRaville , Photo Credits: A.C. DeRaville

So, this was our second year exhibiting in Artist Alley at WinterCon 2018, located at the Resorts World Casino in NYC and we have to say it was even better than last year! The crowd seemed larger, the panels and guest speakers were exciting and there were even more eye-catching cosplayers met by eager fans and press for photo ops. There was the group of “Spidermen,” very sleek, fit and graceful as they stopped to pose for diehard Spider-Verse enthusiasts, the troop from “Army of Darkness,” Chewbacca and many other well clad cosplayers. We ran into some previous artists like @infernalblossom (Instagram) and made friends with new ones. We'd like to divulge all of the details but there's just not enough time. Here's what excited us most about this year's event.

SEAN ASTIN

Let's start with SEAN ASTIN! This guy seemed more excited to be on stage and speak to the audience than we were to see him. He cracked quite a few jokes so it took almost 10 minutes before the on-stage interview began. To be quite honest I was so excited to see him when he finally walked out to sit with the moderator that I only remember that huge smile on his face.

As with most Cons, there are a lot of celebs that also offer photo ops. As Sean made his way to his photo exhibit after his talk, the cutest thing happened with some especially cute children. (Con't)



Arlen Schumer Resorts World Casino, NYC

But who could not notice these adorable special ability cosplayers running around on their pediatric crutches? They had to be no more than 4 years old. They were so excited just to be in cosplay, going about the convention floor and chasing each other. Sean immediately showered them with all of his attention. We all stood watching with "isn't that cute" smiles, as he engaged the children. I'd imagine some of us still crushing on "Bobby Newby" from *Stranger Things* or "Mikey" from *The Goonies*, may have been a little jealous.

WinterCons are a little more personal in the sense that it isn't as packed as San Diego Comic-Con with its super long lines and welcomed chaos, as our guest contributor, Brian Friedman from previous issues will point out. So it was easy to be front row of this scene with Sean. For ethical reasons, we chose not to photograph and exploit the moment.

"If you really want to dig deep on comic history, Arlen Schumer can pretty much tell you anything there is ever to know about comics."

ARLEN SCHUMER

Then there was the presentation by comic historian Arlen Schumer. He spoke about what was, in his opinion, the best comics of 1968. Arlen also presented some serious deets on the late Jack Kirby and Stan Lee regarding their works together. He leans toward Jack Kirby being the true talent behind the now famous superhero characters that people flock to see in theaters. He also reintroduced the controversy regarding Jack Kirby drawings and Stan Lee's filling out the dialogue bubbles.

Earlier comics credit both talents for everything, but later issues break up the credits with Stan Lee getting story and/or writing credits and Jack Kirby receiving credits for the art. Arlen also spoke about Neil Adams at DC Comics, who helped revitalize Batman, reestablishing his dark nature. Then he spoke about the influence that Bridget Riley, known for her singular Op Art paintings had on certain artists of the time. Op Art, short for Optical Art, is style of visual art that uses optical illusions. But another topic of surprise! Who knew that DC Comics, at the time, was trying to be hip while Marvel was actually indisputably hip.

We learned about Steve Ditko, best known for his role in creating Spider-Man as well as, what makes a hero and how he was anti hippie. There were also

referenced parallels between characters like "The Question" and The Watchman's Rorschach.

If you really want to dig deep on comic history, Arlen Schumer can pretty much tell you anything there is ever to know about comics. (Con't.)



Sean Astin being interviewed at WinterCon 2018

AHRC NYC

We were also pleased to meet a group of some very special and talented individuals from AHRC NYC. The organization participated at Artist Alley, bringing in various artists to showcase their talent, throughout the day. "AHRC NYC, the organization that created the first schools, workshops, day treatment programs and community residences, continues to meet the needs of its individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They offer individuals a wide range of programs, services and supports tailored to meet their specific needs," as stated on their website. One of those programs offers a studio for the artists to draft and produce comics. We met Ben Granoff who moderated the arrival of each of the artists to Wintercon and was gracious enough to introduce us to each artist and show us their original comics. One of those artists, who is a huge fan of the *Back to the Future* trilogy, is Deigo Francica. Diego will likely be able to tell you everything and anything there is to know about the movies and his love of it shines through in his comics. He's even got the soundtrack down with Huey Lewis and the News "Power of Love."

All of the artists we met were deliberate in their approach to their comic and brought life to it in their own special way. As a matter of fact, we hope to feature AHRC NYC and its artists in an upcoming issue and dive deeper into the programs and services they provide

WINTERCON CABERET SHOW

On to the WinterCon Caberet! I didn't get to see it, only heard a smidgen of singing in the far end of the casino. But I think it's worth mentioning since we don't ever recalling there being a cabaret at any of the other one's we've attended. Here's a report back from an eyewitness and I quote, *"There really wasn't much to it. I watched the Army of Darkness characters perform and then watched this girl dance way too long while lip-synching to phrases from old movies, became sick of watching her and left. As I left, this one chick 'Uhura' we'll call her, was wearing a 1960s version of a Star Trek uniform began to sing while someone played the guitar. The Army of Darkness performance was the best if I had to judge what I saw. The three characters turned it into a musical with a bit of amateur choreography, relating to scenes from the movie. The lead guy who played the main character, sang while the other two acted out quasi scenes from the movie."* And there you have it everyone! Doesn't sound like it will be hitting Broadway anytime soon, but they all entertained and kept smiles on the faces of most convention goers. (Con't)



Army of Darkness Cabaret performers at WinterCon 2018



Some amazing cosplay this year! Well, another WinterCon, another sad “see ya later”. We met so many interesting and talented people. Let’s keep our promises to stay in touch. It does become a little difficult sometimes being able to report on events while exhibiting there, but we hope to only attend more Cons and sharpen our point of view to bring you more in depth personal accounts, up and coming artist and interviews from them. Well, there you have it. We hope to see you there next year! **End.**

An Interview with CLIFFORD EVANS



Be it freedom, love, or toys—
it always feels best, when we give.

Illustrations by Sonny Quinn

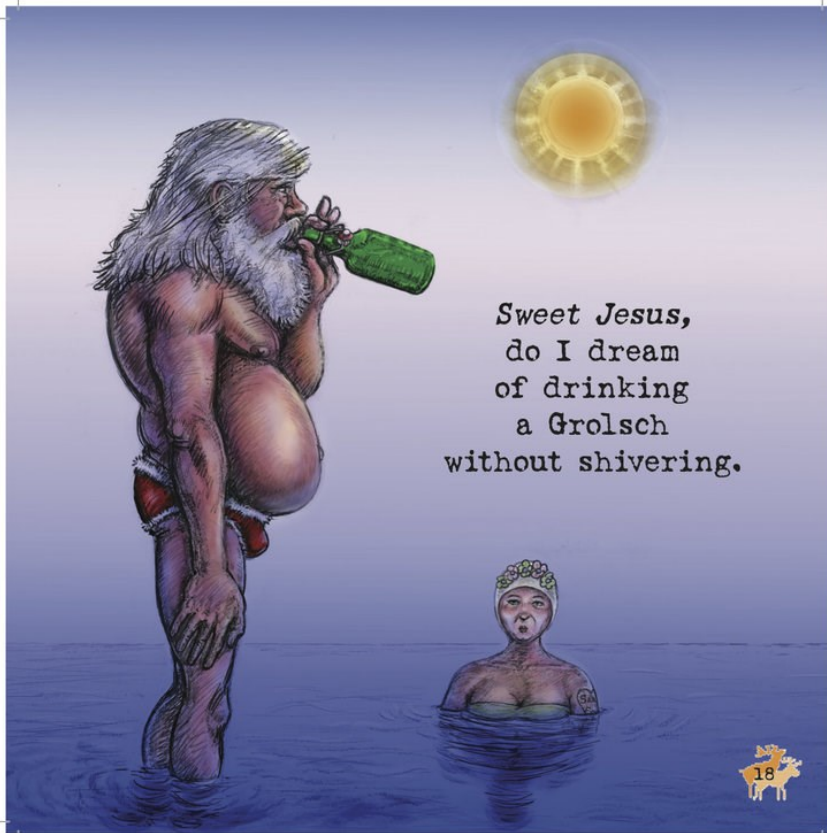


SALTY SANTA

In your words, tell us about this side of Santa that you've had the privilege to know. (How did you come up revealing this side of Santa?)

I've come to realize that the Santa in the story is a metaphor for what Christmas has become. He's tired, burnt-out from doing this gig for nearly 200 years, and once-upon-a-time was a happier Santa doing good work for a happier world. The story idea itself originally came from a Halloween story I'd read called "It's Decorative Gourd Season, Motherfuckers." Our Santa kind of emerged from there, as this really foul-mouthed, totally-over-it guy. A bit like the old man neighbor who yells at you to get off his lawn. He's kind of like the guy who's worked for the same company his whole life—in this case it's Christmas—and then out of nowhere it's become Christmas, Inc., something he doesn't recognize at all. In the book, his language is mostly toned down and cleaned up, but he's still tired, world-weary, jaded about what has become of his Christmas. Which of course reflects on him, and his own self of self.

This is an unconventional Santa but a real kind of guy. At this point is he going through the motions of life? In one of the lines in the story, Santa mentions having done the Santa "job" for 181 years. Or, as he says, "running this wicked-bitch of a route." It's enough to burn anyone out. Now after all this time, the world's gotten really dangerous, he has to carry a shotgun to keep himself and the reindeer safe, and time has taken its toll on him. He's an old man who has to sit on this hard wooden bench in his sleigh. He's got terrible hemorrhoids, his back and knees ache, and his nose is wind-burned. (Con't)



Just think about what that of being Santa job entails. It's not about taking pictures with crying children in malls. He literally delivers billions of toys every year, but first has to make this list up to decide who even gets those toys. Even with magic powers, it's probably the hardest job on Earth. No wonder Santa wants to retire someplace warm, drink a pina-colada, or shoot craps in a Las Vegas casino.

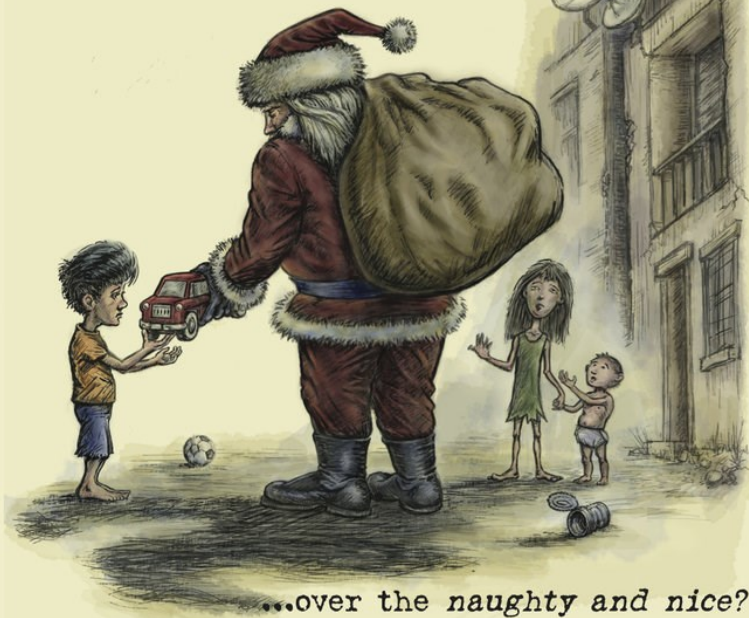
Seems like he brings up the naughty or nice along with the big businesses taking over. Mom and Pop shops are becoming a thing of the past. Does he feel like society is caught up in consumerism and escaping traditional values? That's the Santa/Christmas metaphor here, spot on. Instead of Christmas being about giving, it's become more and more about "getting." In the story, Santa is horrified by Amazon, Walmart, "that fancy schmancy Apple Store." But in the end he says, "It always feels best when we give." This, after Santa realizes that to give love is really what Christmas, and life, is all about. I guess Cupid, the runaway reindeer in the story, represents this. He doesn't want to be on the sled team any more. He wants to be free of all Christmas has become. Cupid is pretty much about the Love.

By now it's even colder,
and we're running even later.
And Santa's gotta do
what he's gotta do.



Also, the image with Santa handing a truck to what appears to be an impoverished little boy. There are tv satellites in the background. I got the sense that material items are coveted rather than the basic necessities in life. What was the meaning behind that image? At the heart of that image of Santa handing a toy truck to one little boy — while another little girl and even smaller boy stand there with their hands out — is Santa's own disillusionment with having to cast judgment on children. Maybe at one time all that "naughty and nice" stuff was okay for him, but now that there's so much suffering in so many places, it's (Con't)

And all this never-ending fuss...



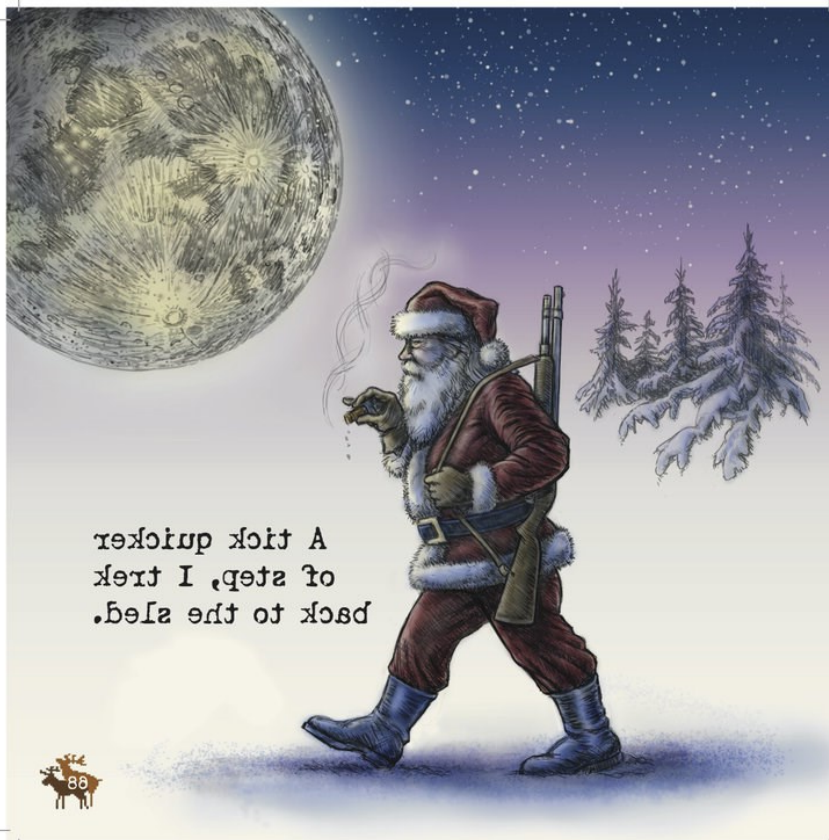
heartbreaking for him to have to make that call. Deep in Santa's heart he knows that all little children are essentially good, only in time do they get corrupted by a world of satellite dishes and other things in the material adult world that turn them "naughty."

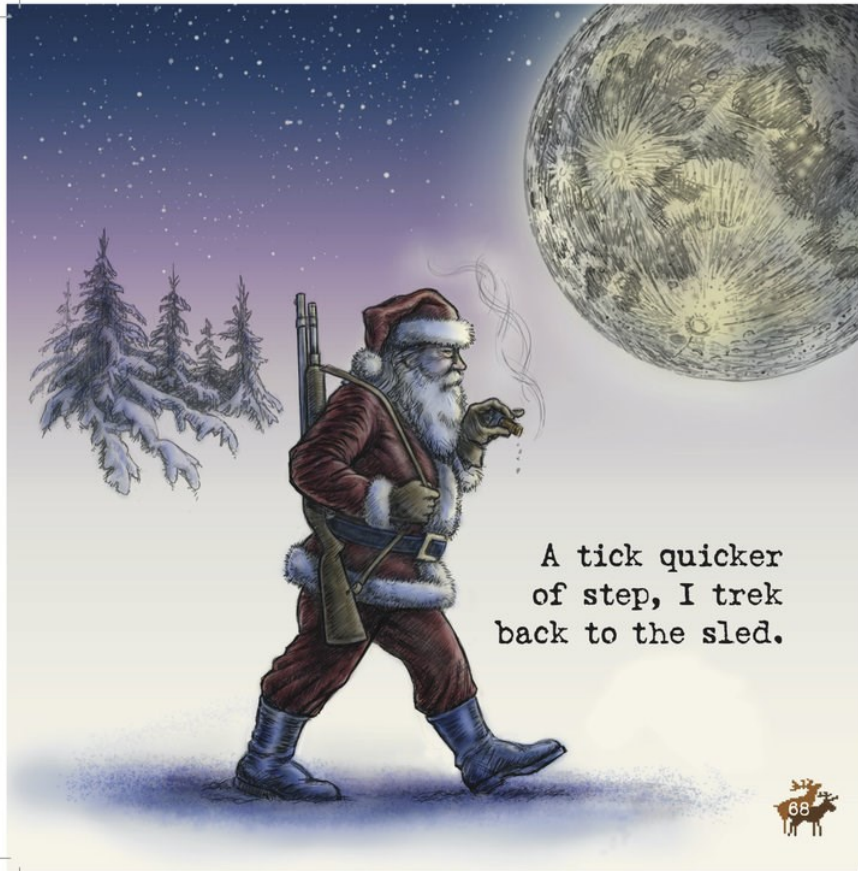
Santa likes Cigars. Seems to be an aficionado from the looks of it. No pipe? It's funny you mention this. Yes, Santa smokes a cigar throughout — a bit of oral fixation or pacification. But as the illustrator and I were developing the book, we always talked about a content Santa smoking a pipe, but the unhappy one smoking a cigar.

Does Santa still enjoy being Santa?

By the end of the book, Santa realizes that being Santa is his calling in life. There is no one else who can do it. As the story says, "Santa's gotta do what he's gotta do." It's a really tough job, but he's the man for it. And once he understands this again, that it's his calling to deliver joy, he's able to carry on and be Santa again. Even if he has to keep smoking a cigar to make it through that long, brutal and cold night.

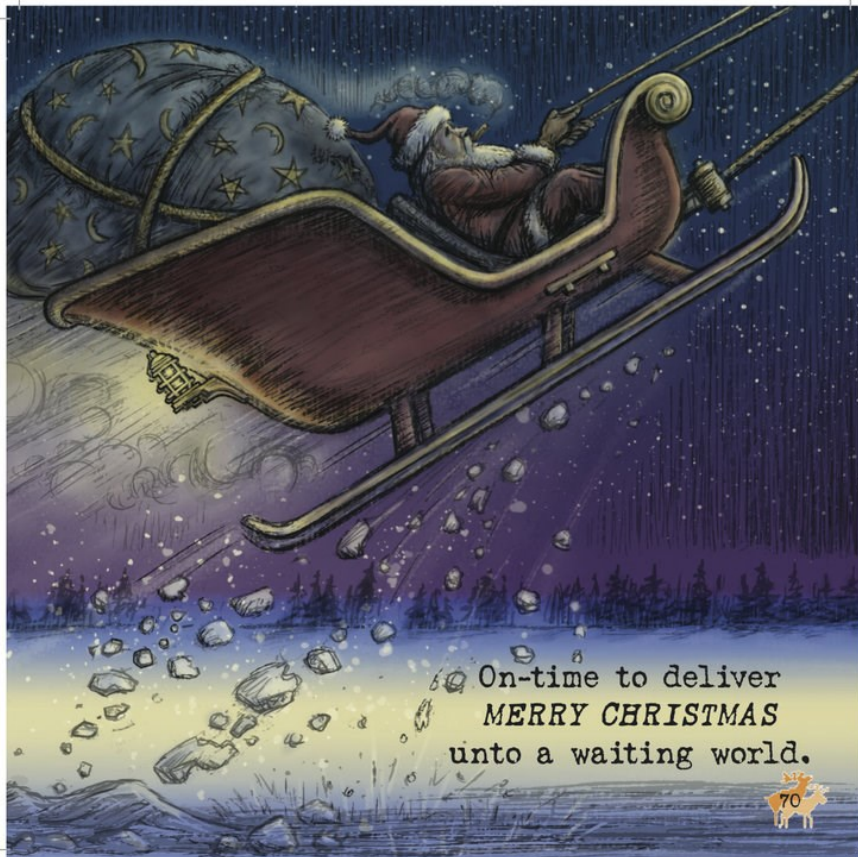
The images are pretty rustic. North Pole with a few gunshot holes. What makes Santa want to carry a shotgun after all of these years? Or was he always a shotgun kind of guy? Got to protect the reindeer from those wolves! The first renderings of our Santa had him kind of resembling Ernest Hemingway, and all the macho stuff associated with that. The idea was that this guy lives up at the North Pole. It's cold, it's rustic, there's wild animals around, some of which like polar bears might be dangerous. Santa then evolved from Hemingway into this rugged Nordic kind of guy, which if you think about him literally is what Santa is. And of course, now that the world's so dangerous and he has to deliver toys to kids in war zones, not to mention that Santa is basically a home intruder (Con't)





and there's a lot of people out there who've got a gun at home, he's got to work Christmas Eve with a shotgun. I mean, who wouldn't these days?

One of the things Stan Lee was famous for was bringing relatable complex characteristics to the characters he was writing for, do you think your Santa is relatable? I think this Santa is totally relatable to anyone who's burnt out on their job, lost a sense of who they are, or just feels like they need a change in their life. On the other hand, it's only when Santa remembers who he really is — the one and ONLY Santa — he comes to a kind of peace with that. To me, anyone who's ever kind of "lost" themselves for a while can relate to this. Especially because nothing feels better than to realize who you truly are again. **Do you have any plans for "kids book for adults" like the Easter Bunny, Jack Frost or Punxsutawney Phil? Or will you continue on with Santa?** The next book is already written. In that one, Mrs. Claus is the star. The story itself is basically done, but it hasn't been illustrated yet. It's a side of Mrs. Claus that very few of us know. Let's just say the girl has got some secrets.



CLIFFORD EVAN is a published novelist with "Delivered" being released in 2013. He has an MFA in creative writing and has been teaching writing and literature at the university level for over 15 years. CUPIDS LAST CHRISTMAS would definitely make a great gift. Get your copy *HERE* in hard copy or Kindle! WE CAN'T WAIT FOR HIS NEXT BOOK ON MRS. CLAUS!!!

End.

An Interview with IVAN ESTEVEZ

“KAMI ARTIST”



IVAN ESTEVEZ

Master Artist, Tattoo Maven

Exhibiting at Comic-cons not only gives us the opportunity to meet our fans and see what's new with the convention scene, but it also gives us the opportunity to make new friends and meet some very interesting and talented artists. We met Ivan Estevez, also known as “KamiArtist”, at Wintercon 2018. He is very calm, reserved, humble and has a way with the pen & ink, not to mention, he's an amazing tattoo artist! He exhibited right beside us in Artist Alley, and we've got to say he is definitely going places. So...we just had to introduce you to him. Check it out!

When you were living in the Dominican Republic were there any characters that caught your eye before you came to the U.S.? Living in the D.R was such a long time ago that I only have vague memories of it, however for the last two years of my stay there my mom went to Puerto Rico so I was left with my uncle in D.R. That meant I wasn't paid much mind, so I had a lot of time alone, which I spent "helping out in a "video game cafe". So I grew up playing a lot of video games and seeing the artwork in them. When I wasn't doing that I would sneak out to explore the valleys and rivers around my town. As I mention this I had a flash back to the carnival and its "Diablos Cajuelos". In hindsight they subconsciously had an effect on me because most of my childhood was spent drawing a lot of demonic looking characters.



Ivan Estevez, the artist with Lauren Rodas at Wintercon 2018

Once in the U.S. Dragon Ball Z caught your eye. What exactly about it enthralled you? Color, lines, the animation itself? Describe the moment when that animation changed your life. I think like any kid it was the coolness factor of how the characters looked that attracted me to them. Before that, I was drawing Disney characters and such, so I guess DBZ was in my mind, the cooler thing to draw. I must've been impressed by the animation because now I am having memories of me trying to animate on the computer around the age of eleven or so. It's funny how these things are so easily forgotten, I haven't thought about that in years.

You have a child. Considering his age, do you feel like your artwork has influenced him in anyway? Is your son an artist as well? Oh yeah he is now nine years old and has been drawing things of a darker nature, I'm sure he picked that up from my work. I hope he ends up doing art too, but I try not to influence him too much in that aspect, so that if he does become an artist it was of his on choosing. (Con't)

Which came first for you, Tattoo conventions or Comic-Cons? Did one lead you to the other?

Tattoo conventions came first. I've been doing those for about five years, and although I do sell my artwork at tattoo conventions, people mostly go for the tattooing. Being more than just a tattooer is very important to me, so I wanted to find a venue where my paintings and drawing were the main attraction. Being that my work is comic and fantasy inspired, I figured what better place than comic and fantasy conventions.

It seems that there is a lot of spirituality in your process. Please tell us more about this. I think because the nature of being the artist and the struggle that it brings for some, there's a lot of insecurities that are constant in my mind that can't help but for it to show up on my work. I was brought up Catholic but I am not completely sold on religion however.

It remains in the back of my mind and so I often struggle with my beliefs and emotions. People often wonder why I draw dark stuff but also draw angels and other "good things." Most of the time those are my feelings spilling out into my work, but often there are things that just come to my head or I dream about.

The book "The Artist Way" resonated with me on a higher level. It speaks of the "Creator" and us artist being its tool to communicate with the world, but it's up to us to keep ourselves sharp and ready to translate the message. I might not be paraphrasing what it said in the book but this is what I took away and it has helped put my mind at ease and even come up with my brand (KamiArtist) growing up. I had a heavy obsession with teaching myself Japanese so I combined it into the name.

Any upcoming events? Where can fans of your art find you next? I would like to do more Comic-cons this year, however I have clients in different states that I only get to see during tattoo conventions, therefore I'll be doing a lot more of those. But if you would like to find out where I will be next, signing up to my mailing list on my website or following me on Instagram are good ways to keep updated.

We're already following you Ivan! Check out Ivan's website at www.KamiArtist.com and his Instagram @kamiartist. We'll be sure to keep you filled in on any updates with Ivan.

End.

Cosplayer(s) of the Month



Meet beautifully frightful

Agnes Cruz

She is our Cosplayer of the Month! This is just one of her well thought out cosplays. If you'd like to see more, follow her on Instagram @sweettee816! We definitely will!

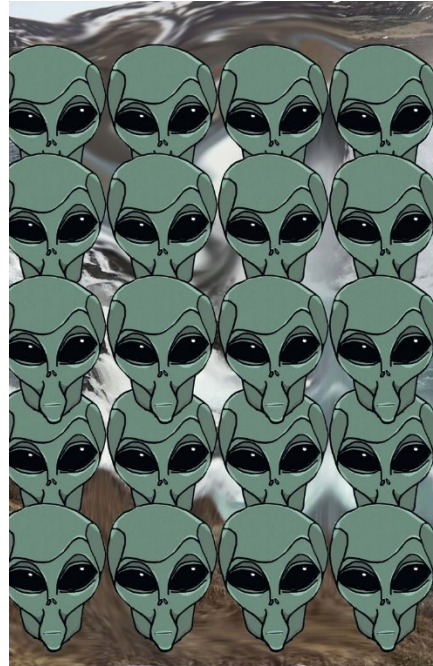
THE ALIEN AMONGST US

HAVE YOU SEEN ONE?

We have new details on the Alien Sightings. It's not much to go on, but will be added to a laundry list of information that we have gathered.

Several individuals have come forward to say that they have indeed made contact with this being. So far, no one has been injured. But we must implore you, the general public, again, **DO NOT** make contact. Call your local authorities as we do not know the intention of the Alien. It is imperative that you immediately vacate the area and alert your local government agency.

If you see the Alien(s) do not tell your neighbors; do not tell your wife, husband, siblings, teachers or doctor. **TELL NO ONE!** You only need to alert the authorities. Only they will be able to further assist you. **End.**



Last Page!

Thanks for stopping by!

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