

LA Unscripted | September 13th, 2023

From hotspots 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 at Water 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 up 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 TLC 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's 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 and a shop that's earned the distinctive title Oldest in America right there Hold it a 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 flash 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 artists 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 the problem is is people instantly judged me But you know 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 party like so you get to know who they are You know you need to see their real life behind the camera 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 forever 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 unscripted everyone I'm Devin at the broken art tattoo shop and at water you know it's hard to find an un inked 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 Well 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 it 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 crew 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 a thank you But I feel like my lips have faded over the years too and I don't have that natural 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 are getting thinner why it's happening and it's like oh now I more need filler and some people don't want to do that So they still have more lips It's just because the vermilion border faded They think 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 Dana dare coming up a legend They call Mr Cartoon and the one guy the Dodgers all go to for in Welcome back to L A unscripted I'm Devin from the broken art tattoo shop in at water time now to meet 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 wanna 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 cartoon Did Esteban was there capturing the whole culture low rider culture tattoo culture The 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 A 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 your 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 a Dodger 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 all 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 can 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 no nobody would give me a job How would you like I'm just gonna open my own shop My name is Jose Diosa 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 banners 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 uh 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 haven't tattooed no MLB players yet Hopefully I get to tattoo one and that's like uh my dream right now The Lost Cove is a contemporary lifestyle brand focused on the subcultures that helped mold the Southern California way of life My name is Travis Ross I'm the owner and designer of the Lost Cove company and we're about to reveal our tattoo speakeasy in HQ He started as a pop up shop and I knew eventually I wanted to start a type of tattoo speakeasy where you had to ring the doorbell something a little bit different and more exclusive Do you have to book an appointment to get the address It comes to Mike when I come to it comes to Mike When I come I like this to feel like home I want you to put your bag down on the ground and forget about it I want you to have fun Yeah My mom and my dad were heavily tattooed when it wasn't cool I got my first tattoo in Mexico when I was 16 and it was game over from them I was actually born in Minnesota and I remember just sitting in Minnesota and like envisioning palm trees ocean all these things My dad moved to Long Beach California one day and said do you want to move here And I was there I think within 48 hours and when I got into tattooing I saw where tattooing was going and I really thought this is a path that I can carve for myself and still eventually do all the things that I want to do Tattoo is magic It is this magical creation that's been around longer than most subcultures or most tools have been around To be honest there's this wide range of tattooing that I don't think people know yet and it really needs to be on birthed And I'm hoping the Lost Cove is one of the companies that gets to be at the forefront of that streetwear brand is the Lost Cove company It's a contemporary streetwear brand We've done T

shirts embroidered hoodies we focus on doing small batch Like I said we're now stepping into a whole new realm with the runway We're doing full cut and sew we've got everything from dress shirts that are cropped in different ways to flannels that are done our way pants whole nine So it's very exciting The goal is always to be a lifestyle brand So Phoenix Fashion Week kind of came out of the blue where over 100 brands were being selected and they hand picked 10 and we were one of those 10 And with that I was nominated for designer of the year and I'm now competing with nine other brands I love L A for so many reasons I mean obviously tattooing and apparel all these things within reach that make such a unique and beautiful place And I always tell people yes it's expensive Yes there's traffic but you got to pay to play to me a concrete paradise to be honest 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