

Sweet and Sour Inspired Me

Most of the time we get tattoos that are singular, in isolation, created and appreciated one at a time. We get tattoos for many reasons, and sometimes for no reason at all. Some tattoo collectors go to the extent of getting a specific artist for their signature piece or style. On the other hand, there are the more casual and spontaneous ones who just want to satisfy their desire for another piece of art.

Isn't it always that there are two sides to everything? As in life, tattooing has a tradition in which pairs of tattoos are created together. This is perfectly depicted in the ancient Greek theater masks Comedy Tragedy – “Laugh Now” and “Cry Later”. Or having HATE on the fingers of one hand, and LOVE on the other. I've seen the moon and sun, which is cool.

The one I like, because it's cute, because it's colorful, and not so dramatic are the Sweet and Sour babies. One baby

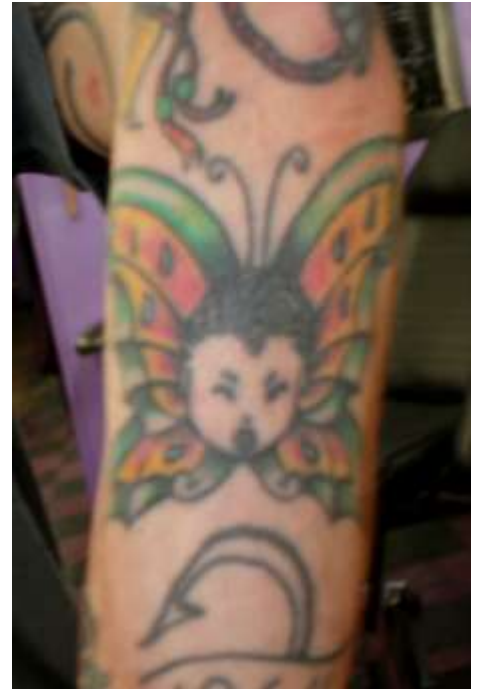


has blonde hair and is smiling. The other baby has black hair and is crying. This design epitomizes the classic paired tattoo treatment.

I'm looking for the right tattoo, and this one is on the table for contention. I almost get scared to find the right tattoo because that would mean I would have to get it. And I don't know why, but getting a new tattoo is what I want, and yet I have a bit of anxiety.

Purple Panther Tattoos is right up the block from my P.O. box on Sunset Blvd. After checking my mail, I wanted to stop in a parlor and chat with someone just to get ideas about stories and designs. Graham Chaffee

is the owner of the shop and also my victim for inspiration.



If ever you need inspiration with whatever you're working on, turn to another artist, they can provide insight on everything you've never thought about. So I need to thank Graham for letting me pillage his shop and his body for ideas.

He had both the tattoos done by artist who used to work at his shop years back and he was getting the tattoos done at the exact same time. For smoother work, he powered both needles to one source, a car battery. As the artists worked simultaneously, Graham was getting electrocuted - always a nice way to spend an afternoon. Finally realizing he was what was completing the circuit, he had each tattoo done individually which took an hour apiece.

The duality of human nature represents what I battle daily. Some days are happy, some days are sad. Some days I only want to be good, and some days I do everything bad. Every person has a good and evil side to their lives. Although we have a two-sided personality, we must choose when to show which side. This paired tattoo represents our duplicitous natures perfectly. Even though Graham said this tattoo held no real meaning, I'd like to believe it was spawned from something personal.

Maybe he's just simple, and I'm the difficult one that needs reasons before getting tattoos. In either case, I think I've found my next tattoo. Thanks Graham!