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URBAN UNDERBELLY ART PAINTS THE SCENE AT SURFN'INK 2012

Not all the art on display at SURFn'ink from 13-15 January at the Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre will be on bodies!

SURFn'ink 2012 will host a Melbourne exhibition called '*Underway is the Only Way*', featuring works by Australian and international street artists, illustrators, graphic designers, graffiti, tattoo and fine artists.

Co-curator Jianna Lucia says the exhibition, inspired by a range of art scenes and disciplines, is sure to draw an eclectic mix of art lovers, collectors and designers.

"We describe the exhibition as 'urban underbelly', spanning from the tattoo parlour, to alley way street art, through to prestigious design, homebound illustration, crazy paintings and rather fine art," she said.

Underway is the Only Way will also include live painting demonstrations.

Appearing at SURFn'ink will be digital artist, **Jemproduce**, who says his work portrays his "ever-growing love for street culture and all that fine-tunes it". His art has been described as 'stylised and provocative', and is inspired by a diverse range of influences spanning from architecture, basic shapes, colours and geometry, to women and street culture.

Japanese illustrator/artist **Tommi Arm** will also make a guest appearance at SURFn'ink. Tommi has resided in Melbourne since 2002, and completed Bachelor of Fine Art at Victorian College of the Arts in 2009, majoring in Painting.

She has been working under the name 'FAM' and has been involved in exhibitions and art projects locally and overseas since 2007, designing for local bands, contributing to online magazines, designing murals and freelance illustration. In 2010, Tommi worked as a set art designer and supervisor for a Japanese production of the Wizard of Oz in Shinjuku, Japan.

On display in *Underway is the Only Way* will be work by Sydney-based artist **Rebecca Murphy**, named one of the most exciting female graphic artists in the world by Curvy Magazine in 2010. Rebecca's works have been described as "a little romantic, floral and syrupy but also a bit gory, bloody and creeped out."

Preferring to work in acrylics and archival ink on paper, wood and canvas, Rebecca's influences vary from Art Nouveau and Ukiyo-e woodblock prints to Pop Surrealism. Her works have been exhibited in New York, Tokyo, Singapore, Miami and Los Angeles.

The exhibition will also feature work by **Michael Mantis**. The former Brisbane artist and graphic designer studied at the Queensland College of Art and went on to design and illustrate record covers, posters and other pop paraphernalia for high profile artists, such as hip hop band Resin Dogs and rock band, the Ramones.

In 2005 Michael moved to London where he was one half and founding member of the infamous street art duo 'Goldtooth'.

Living and breathing the London east end vibrancy, Goldtooth went on to have three successful solo shows, including appearances at the flash art fair in Milan and with WOWWOW at 'THE EVENT' art festival in Birmingham. Michael now works as an illustrator for international clothing company, Ben Sherman, in London.

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Also on display will be work by Brisbane artist **Braidy Hughes**, a self-taught artist whose work has featured in publications such as Curvy, ABC Arts and Avant Card, and is currently held in private collections across Australia and the USA.

Australian tattooists, including Brisbane tattooists **Matt Cunnington** from Westside Tattoo and **Tim Ricks** from Electric Hand Tattoos, are also part of the exhibition.

Those keen to put some art on their bodies, not their walls, can book ahead for a date with some of the world's most highly regarded tattoo artists at SURFn'ink, including Shige from Japan and Brent McCown from Austria.

They will join tattoo artists from America, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Samoa, Tahiti, UK, Japan, Greece, China, Korea and Thailand, all of whom are already taking bookings from those who want to be tattooed during the January event.

Other big names include Nathan Kostechko (US), Steve Ma-Ching (NZ), David Corden (UK) and Bob Tyrell (US), who has appeared on popular cable TV shows LA Ink and Miami Ink.

A full list of artists is available on the website www.tattoosurfink.com

More than 15,000 people are expected to attend SURFn'ink at the Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre from 13-15 January.

SURFn'ink tickets are priced from \$20 and are available from www.ticketek.com The first 200 VIP ticket holders through the door will receive a free tattoo magazine and go in the draw to win a \$500 tattoo voucher.

For more information, interviews or images for SURFn'ink 2012, contact Kate at Hello Marketing on 0418 667 330 or 07 5598 1100.