

# State of the Art Avelina De Moray - Vampire Art

Many of you will have seen Avelina De Moray's work last issue in Gallery Girl and on the competition page. Now we revisit it and talk to the lady herself about the journey that got her here and the nature of her art.

*On your site there are shots going back over a few years, is that how you first got started? What else lead you to what you do now?*

It all started with band photography. I love going to concerts, so having a front row seat and getting to shoot the show seemed like an awesome deal! Over time, my interest in photography changed from shooting metal bands

*"I kinda accidentally found this really unique style and just stuck with it"*

to trying to capture and portray the images of vampires I kept seeing in my head. My camera just so happened to be the tool I had available to me at that time.

Once I started mixing drawing with photography, I kinda accidentally found this really unique style and just stuck

with it because it was a lot of fun....I guess I'm just lucky I'm good at it.

Of course, being insanely fascinated with vampires, horror and the occult, certainly shows in my art.

*You still appear in a number of your images, are these self portraits or do you get any help collecting the initial images? What is the process that goes into making one of your fantastic finished works?*

Yes, I definitely need help with that. I like to be hands on with everything, but I can't be in the artwork and shoot it too! The photos that I have appeared in have been taken by my fiancé Von.

Every artwork is different, I mean,



*evolved since you began?*

My work evolves as my budget increases. Better cameras and lighting begets better results which in turn leads to bigger ideas. Sometimes as an artist you might have a vision of how you want things to look but the resources just aren't available so you have to compromise. Often what you end up with

they all require a lot of work, but some may be completed in 6 hours, others like Dracula, which is entirely drawn, took me over two months to complete. (Or abandon, as they say art is never finished, it is abandoned.)

*How do you think your work has*





is completely different from what you intended, but it's no less artistic.

*When working with models, how clear is the image you are looking for beforehand and how much is it influenced by working with the models on the day?*

I definitely look for a particular 'type' of model when sourcing people to include in my artworks, but after thinking about this, I couldn't tell you what specifically it is that I look for, I just know 'that person would make a cool vampire' when I see it.

Normally, once I have found a model I would like to work with, I plan two or three artwork scenarios with them in mind, which we then stage at the photo shoot. I've found this a much better approach

### character

than just taking random photos as seeing what falls out.

This has actually become so important to me now, that I will first come up with the artwork idea, and then source the appropriate model to carry out the character needed on the day.

*What do you think it is about your work that makes it unique?*

I think it's my mixed-medium that

makes my art unique. Some artists draw, some paint, others use photography. I combine all three.



I'll go out of my way to make my photography appear like a drawing by sketching onto the photograph, or by layering textures on top of the photo to

give it an 'older' look.

*Looking forward, what are your ambitions for your work in the future?*

In terms of artworks, I'd like to start a Jack the Ripper series, and cover the classic Nosferatu. I'm currently working on expanding my clothing and jewelry line into Europe and the USA and I'm also recording an album with my band As Angels Bleed.

*What are you up to when not creating your gothic and vampire art?*

My free time is spent watching movies, as this is where I draw a lot of my inspiration from.

*This issue is a British Horror special, obviously there are strong horror themes in your work, do you have any particularly important sources of inspiration?*

I love all those Hammer Horror movies, Christopher Lee and Peter Cushing are awesome. And there's a real artistic naivety in those films, they must have shot like one a week, it's amazing work. I watched Vampire Lovers only last week and was just stunned by the film sets, and to think that none of that was done with the help of computers. The whole film was an

inspiration.

