



AVELINA DE MORAY

Underground Gothic art has been subtly apparent in all forms of society since the beginning of time. In centuries long past, Gothic artwork was restricted to sculptures and statues common in most cathedrals around the globe. But as methods of creation for the 'dark arts' evolve, and as what was traditionally considered Gothic is combined with the mythical subjects at their peak of popularity in the modern world, 'vampire art' is beginning to emerge as a key art form.

The latest artist to come crawling from their stagnant abyss and plunge into the intriguing world of vampire art is Sydney's most notorious mistress of the genre, Avelina De Moray. But how does one become involved with the dark arts? "Quite accidentally, really," Avelina explains. "I've always had an insatiable appetite for horror movies and the occult, so I guess it was only natural that after absorbing so much darkness from movies, literature and music, it would eventually influence any creative endeavours I pursued."

The 'accident' that eventually resulted in the widely acclaimed Vampire Series all started with the most recognisable of Avelina's works, *Vampires of Rookwood*. "My first vampire artwork was not intended to be a vampire artwork. I had staged a shoot at Sydney's infamous Rookwood Cemetery. It wasn't until I returned to my studio and started experimenting with my favourite image that I transformed the model into a vampire."

The work of artists is often reflected in the way those artists present

themselves, so in Avelina's case we went looking for the obvious tattoos consisting of the undead or the occult. However, what we found was quite different. "I had most of my tattoos done when I was 19 or 20," she says. "My current tattoos are of Egyptian gods and other traditional tattoo symbols like stars, roses, a flaming heart, dice and a little biomechanics thrown in amongst my half-sleeve. My favourite tattoo is the Chinese dragon on my left arm."

All of Avelina's ink is the work of Chris and Dave Rand from Rand Ink in Corrimal, NSW. For any new body art, however, the search is on for someone who specialises in black and white. "I would definitely love to get a vampire tattoo eventually, or maybe a cross or some bats. Something to update my body art to reflect the things I am into now."

The recognition gained from the sheer quality of *Vampire Series* has seen Avelina attract some rather flattering feedback, from being featured on the cover of Polish magazine *Nowa Fantasyka* to having one of her works, *The Exorcism of Lucy Westenra*, redone by infamous blood painter Dr. Rev. "It's pretty fucking cool," she beams. "Vampire art painted in human blood – what's more vampiric than that?" Avelina's artwork even adorns the walls of the king of horror himself, Alice Cooper, at his home in Arizona. Cooper took a special liking to Avelina's art and even insisted on taking a canvas to give to his mother. "It's not every day you get to say Alice Cooper and his mother have your canvases on their wall!" – *Chad Bergersen*