



ASKEW ONE

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Biography

*Born 1979, Palmerston North, New Zealand
Lives and works in Auckland, New Zealand*

Askew One is a multi-disciplinary artist mostly renown for his graffiti art paintings. Widely regarded as one of the New Zealand graffiti scene's driving forces he has managed to remain at the forefront of the movement whilst working tirelessly behind the scenes in a diverse array of projects.

A restless personality, a touch of ADD mixed with a childhood amidst the 80's sugary-diets, TV parenting and general explosion of mass pop-culture shaped Askew during his formative years. His work draws greatly from New Zealand's geographical isolation and it's subsequent desire to feel inclusion through pop-cultural appropriation. He is particularly intrigued in how trends mutate and break beyond being a caricature of their source. He is currently focussed on helping re-define the New Zealand graffiti aesthetic along with his main contemporaries, members of TMD, RTR and GBAK crews. Steeped in the foundation and tradition of 'NYC Subway' influenced graffiti, Askew wishes to see writing thrive in New Zealand, evolve past mere imitation or what he terms 'Karaoke Painting'.

Although working primarily in aerosol paint, Askew is versed in graphic design, illustration, photography, publishing, music and moving image. He also collated and co-authored a book about New Zealand graffiti, 'In-Form' which was a Montana Book Awards finalist in 2008.

2009

- Through Aotearoa Urban Arts Trust, donated the largest "Netch" mural to date to Youthline. It was painted with 7 other members of the TMD crew.
- Commissioned by Eglemoss in United Kingdom to create artwork for 'Street Dogz' collectible dog tags project.
- Travelled to Detroit, Michigan to create work for C-Pop gallery and live painting at "Primary Detroit" event.
- Painted at "primary Flight" Event During "Art Basel Miami". Created 2 large mural works in the Wynwood Design District alongside many reputable artists from the 'Street Art and Graffiti' world.
- Alongside Berst, coined the term "Netch", which refers to an extremely detailed and

collaborative approach to graffiti painting.

- Released “Killa Kombo 4” online video. It was done in collaboration with music producer P-Money, director Warren Green and the Ironlak Spray paint company. The video recieved an incredible 18,000 views within the first 2 weeks of release.
- Commissioned by “Health Plus” private hospital to create 3m x 2.5m canvas work for Foyer.
- Designed “askew’s Olivia” spray paint colour and created art work for Ironlak Limited Edition can.
- Participated in the “The Exchange Project” for both the website and future book release to be published as part of the “On The Run’ series.
- Travelled to Melbourne for Ironlak team walls in lieu of “Clash Of The Titans” event.
- Designed a T-Shirt print for “The Seventh Letter” clothing label.
- Organised the “Kings Of Style” graffiti battle for Manukau City Council’s “Southside Gig” at the TelstraClear Pacific Arts Centre. The walls are put up for auction on sella afterwards to raise money for Oxfam’s Samoa Tsunami relief fund.
- Took first place in Phat1’s “The Next Level” battle in Manukau.
- Ran a free TMD graffiti workshop at the Atomic Events Centre in Hastings. The mural workwas donated on behalf of the Aotearoa Urban Arts Trust.
- Began exploring moving image as an artistic medium.
- Collaborated with Michael McNamara on first limited screen prints made available through TMD website.
- Painted school bus live with TMD as part of opening reception at The Academy Cinema’s release of “Alter-Ego” movie.
- Gifted an artwork to The Academy Theatre to be displayed in their entrance.
- Contributed “Stuck On This Crazy Island” shirt design for “Crowded Elevator’s Creative Collection” show at Webb’s Gallery. Showed art work entitled “Displaced Pakeha Bastard Searching For Culture Amongst The Decay Of An Infant City”.
- Two works painted for French art collector Alian-Dominique Gallizia painted in 2006 featured in “Let Tag Au Grand Palais” exhibition of 150 writers from around the globe.
- “I Wish This Was A Swimming Pool” work painted in the “Sohole” failed development in Ponsonby spawned a public ‘happening’ that generated a lot of local media.
- The Aotearoa Urban Arts Trust released the “Team Dynamite” TMD T-shirt series at Loaded to raise money for youth related projects.
- New York City legend Futura featured on “High Snobiety” website wearing “Frost Face Killah” T-shirt designed for Qubic Store in New Market.
- Created “Stop War” mural with Saves in Mt Eden, Auckland.
- Became featured artist on Known Gallery website.
- Featured on cover of French “Innercity” magazine and shared joint article with Vents RTR.

2008

- Re-established the “Aotearoa Urban Arts Trust” with members of TMD crew. The objective to use creative projects to generate awareness of emerging artists whilst fundraising for community projects with youth focus.
- Featured artist in Daniel Thouw’s international graffiti documentary “Alter-Ego”
- Finalist in the 2008 Montana Book Awards for “InForm”.
- Travelled to Denmark, France, Germany and USA with TMD crew, competing and winning for the 2nd time the world Write4Gold finals.
- Contributed work for Italian graffiti book “Abecedary_A” collated by AleAndrew.
- Created and installed my first “Street Sculpture”.
- Contributed illustrations for “Rarekwai” sticker book.

2007

- Collated, co-wrote and worked as principal photographer for book “InForm, New Zealand Graffiti Artists Discuss Their Work” Published by Reed.
- “Watch This Space” joint show with Misery and Elliot Francis Stewart.
- Painted artwork for Scribe video “Fresh”, Directed by Chris Graham.
- Featured work in “Letters First” Seventh Letter group show in Barcelona.
- Featured in New York lifestyle magazine “Mass Appeal”.
- One of 4 local artists approached to paint billboard for “BMW Art Cars” campaign.
- Interview and work featured in “Art News” magazine.
- Invited to be part of Australian spray paint brand Ironlak’s “Extended Family”, given paint sponsorship.
- “My Lucky Life At Number 13” solo show at Gallery with no name.
- Set up “Gallery with no name” open studio/office and exhibition space.
- “Black&Silver” group show with Phat1 (Auckland), Smash137 (Basel) and Sirum (Melbourne) at Utopian Slumps, Collingwood, Melbourne.

- Customised Nike Air force 1 sneakers for BoyzIIMen with Frank Liew and Ivy Ong of Solejam collective.
- “Street Session 1” Group show at The Loft with Smash137 (Basel), Wow123 (Bremen), Phat1 & Diva (Auckland) and Solejam Collective (Auckland).
- Brought Smash137 (Basel) to New Zealand for one month to create work and exhibit both in Auckland and Melbourne.

2006

- Featured in German Hip Hop magazine “Backspin”.
- Featured in Gareth Shutes book “Insights: New Zealand Artists Talk About Creativity”.
- Designed limited 60 T-shirt, signed and packaged in painted wooden box as part of Republic artist collaboration.
- Contributed piece for “Letters First”, Seventh Letter group show in Taipei and Tokyo.
- Travelled to Sydney and Melbourne to paint.
- Decided to end Disruptiv Ltd to focus on further developing my art career.
- Represented New Zealand in “Write 4 Gold” world final as part of TMD crew, taking first place and claiming the world title.
- Attended “Oxygen Festival” Dublin as invited guest artist.
- Attended “Sleeping Giants” graffiti festival in Brighton as invited guest artist.
- Attended “Kosmpolite” graffiti festival in Bagnolet, Paris as invited guest artist.
- Traveled to Europe and UK (Paris, Basel, Frankfurt, Dortmund, Hamburg, Chemnitz, London, Brighton, Dublin).
- Helped release Premier New Zealand Hip Hop group 4 Corners first album “The Foundations”.
- “Self Taught” Solo show at Disrupt Gallery.
- Released Solo mixtape project “Self Taught”.
- Placed first with TMD in the New Zealand qualifying round of “Write 4 Gold” battle.
- Curated and exhibited as part of TMD 10th Anniversary show at Disrupt Gallery.

2005

- “Live From Uptown” Solo show at Disrupt Gallery.
- Released final issue of Disrupt Magazine (Issue 6) and Disruptiv Mixtape Vol.4.
- Organised final “Aotearoa Hip Hop Summit” with international guests Wane COD (NYC) and Lazoo MAC (Paris).
- Released “Tomb Raiderz” Street album independently with Esspro and Young Mega.
- Attended “Represent” design conference, Luna Park Sydney as invited speaker.

2004

- Organised “Aotearoa Hip Hop Summit” with international guests Tilt (Toulouse) and Mist (Montpellier).
- Featured in “The New Cool” Touring show organised by The Dowse Museum.
- Toured New Zealand extensively as part of the “Boost Mobile Hook Up Tour”, painting in Invercargil, Timaru, Greymouth, Dunedin, Christchurch, Nelson, Wellington, Palmerston North, Gisborne, Rotorua, Tauranga, Hamilton and Auckland.
- “Elzville” joint show with Elliot Francis Stewart at Disrupt Gallery.
- Renovated and opened Disrupt Gallery with Deirdre Dawson and Jonny Wartmann.
- “Typograffi” show at Letham Gallery with Sens and Pest5.

2003

- Toured New Zealand with SUK (Stick Up Kids) members Can2 (Mainz), Atom (Dortmund), Wow123 (Bremen) and Exist (Auckland). Painted in Auckland, Wanganui, Wellington and Christchurch.
- Solo show at Urban Arthaus, Saatchi & Saatchi building.
- Organised “Disrupt The System” as part of the “Aotearoa Hip Hop Summit” with international guests Can2 (Mainz), Atom (Dortmund) and Wow123 (Bremen).
- Released Disrupt Magazine issues 1 & 2 and Disruptiv Mixtape Vol.1.
- 12-page feature in UK graffiti magazine “Graphotism”.
- Travelled to Germany (Frankfurt, Mainz, Hamburg, Bremen, Dortmund, Munich) and Dublin to paint with SUK (Stick Up Kids) Crew.

2002

- Organised “Disrupt The System” as part of the “Aotearoa Hip Hop Summit” with international guests Bates (Copenhagen), Ewok (Los Angeles) and Totem2 (Atlanta).
- Featured on “The Living Room” art TV Series in both features on Misery and Disruptiv.
- Released New Zealand’s first official graffiti publication “Disrupt Magazine” Issue 0.
- Contributed and painted at “Respect” Exhibition at the Dowse Museum, Lower Hutt.
- Invited into Can2’s SUK (Stick Up Kids) Crew.
- Designed “NZ On Air” Tag logo.

- Started Disruptiv Ltd with Deirdre Dawson and Jonny Wartmann.

2001

- Organised “Disrupt The System” as part of “Aotearoa Hip Hop Summit” with international guests Daim, Tasek (Hamburg), Can2 (Mainz), Codeak (Munich) and Seak (Cologne).
- Organised “Damage Control” live graffiti event featuring Daim (Hamburg) and Loomit (Munich).

2000

- Organised first “Disrupt The System” at Aotea Square with international guests Loomit (Munich), Kasino and Tash (Brisbane).
- Invited into TMD crew.
- First solo show “Unshaven and Uncooperative” at The Area gallery.

1999

- Arrested and charged with 14 counts of wilful damage.

1998

- Contribute work for “Fresh Fresh Fresh” graffiti art show at The Area gallery.
- Arrested and charged with “Criminal Damage” for taking part in painting 4 whole train cars in Masterton. The incident makes headline on both TV1 and TV3 news simultaneously.
- Placed first in IGAC (International Graffiti Art Competition) organised by Graffiti Verite creator Bob Bryan with a digital graffiti piece.
- Studied Graduate Diploma in Multimedia at AIT (AUT). I fail one paper and chose not to waste the money going back.

1997

- First exhibition at Nga Tangata Cosmos gallery with Misery.

1996

- Attended Auckland Metropolitan College with long time friends Misery and Elliot Francis Stewart.

1993

- Began writing graffiti.
- Attended Western Springs College.

1984

- Moved to central Auckland, first exposed to Hip Hop culture.

1979

- Born in Palmerston North.