

Sean Cliver's *Disposable: A History of Skateboard Art*

At last, a skate-graphics art book by a skate graphic artist.

Who knows skateboard art better than a guy who was there? Sean Cliver's *Disposable: A History of Skateboard Art* chronicles the rises and falls of skate-art popularity, which coincidentally coincide with his own residency as a skate-graphics artist at Powell Peralta, World Industries, and Birdhouse. Although plenty of skate-bred artists have found success outside the industry and in the big wide worlds of art and Hollywood, Sean Cliver was able to take what he knows about the creation of board graphics—and some of it's not pretty—to get other artists and skaters to talk about how it all went down with them.

Included in these tales of insider trading, sheer genius, megalomania, art theft, and artistic inspiration are commentary by skaters and artists including Wes Humpston, Jim Phillips, Lance Mountain, Pushead, Ed Templeton, John Lucero, Mike Hill, Chris Miller, Jason Jessee, Steve Caballero, Ron Cameron, Jim Thiebaud, Jason Lee, Garry Davis, Tod Swank, Tony Hawk, Andy Howell, Steve Rocco, Natas Kaupas, Andy Jenkins, Todd Francis, Marc McKee, Mike Vallely, John Grigley, and Jeff Grosso.

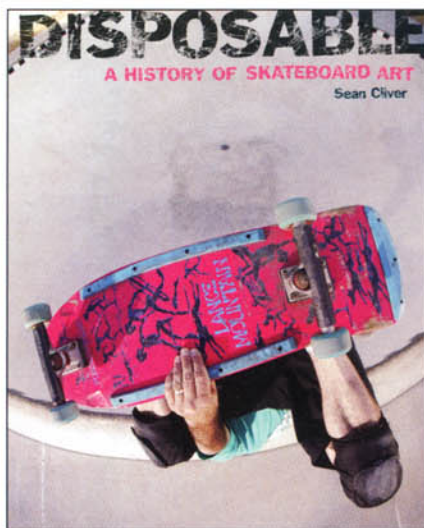
Do you know the real stories behind controversial art like Jovontae Turner's Napping Negro graphic or Natas Kaupas' Devil Worship board? What about how punk artist Pushead ended up creating the decaying ghoul forever associated with Zorlac? And talking about stories—the tales Cliver shares of his own miraculous

employment as a skate artist are hilarious! Oh, did I mention *Disposable: A History of Skateboard Art* is an art-quality coffee-table graphics book? More than 1,000 of the decks you knew, loved, heard of, and/or owned are rendered here in full glorious color.

Of course how this book came to be is another story in itself. Cliver says, in typical humble skater fashion, "Well, it's not like it's the most original idea, but I just felt that none [of the skate art/graphics books] published to date—with the exception of *Dysfunctional*—spoke to me as a skateboarder. They were all geared for a broader market. I guess what I'm trying to say is that no one had done any justice to the medium yet, and I just thought, 'What the hell, I'll give it a shot.'"

Tracking down the decks to be photographed posed a few problems for Cliver, but he managed to pull some strings: "I had a lot of connections from my past fifteen years of work in the graphics trade. I knew a lot of board collectors around the world, and heck, I just plain thought it'd be a fun challenge.

"For the past four years I've been an avid board collector—there, I just outed myself—so I had a pretty decent handle on where most boards could be found around the world. It started to get really fun when I contacted old pros and artists and learned what boards they had squirreled away in storage boxes. The one board impossible to find in mint condition was Neil Blender's



first G&S model. The only one I was able to find was totally beat to shit. If anyone happens to have this board in decent condition, please contact me, as I'd love to update it in future printings/editions."

Readers of *Disposable* may wonder why this history of the skate graphic starts in 1978 when skateboarding is obviously much older.

Cliver explains, "I know there were graphics on boards before Wes Humpston came along, but to me that's when skateboard graphics really took on meaning. They brought an artistic, creative life to skateboarding that became an indelible facet of the subculture. So 99 percent of the book is comprised of boards produced from 1978 to present times."

After stints at Powell Peralta, World Industries/Blind/101, and nearly ten years at *Big Brother* magazine, Sean Cliver served as a producer on *Jackass* and now its bastard offspring *Wildboyz*. He's still employed full-time as an artist by Birdhouse and Hook-Ups. It's a wonder he found the time to create this book. He laughs, "It'll be nice to reconnect with my family again. If nothing else, I like to think I contributed something decent to the recordable history of skateboarding."

Blitz is distributing *Disposable: A History of Skateboard Art*, which retails for \$24.95 U.S. For more info, go to disposablethebook.com.

—Sharon Harrison

