

Biker's Perspective – Femalian Viewpoint

By Jynx

OK – Someone has to respond to this. Here goes... (Referring to last months article from Biker Mama "Property of")...

I'm unclear as to what your definition of a "biker", "biker-bitch", or for that matter, "cager" is. If you live in the Midwest, we're all cagers. After the snow melts we bloom into "bikers" again. That is, except for, the forever wearing, living only in leather, year-long lifers. Ofcourse they don't ride 365 day a year, they just look like it.

A motorcycle is a VEHICLE. How anyone can dedicate his or her life to the ownership of a vehicle amuses me. And for the "club-bikers" to limit it to a certain make of vehicle (Harley) further confuses me. I'm NOT new to the biking lifestyle. I've been riding for over 40 years and put on more miles that most. I'm not out to prove anything, I simply enjoy riding. I don't wear one of your patches (nor would I). Am I still a "sister" or an "outsider" who doesn't get it?

It seems people who feel they have to prove they're bikers (by word, patch, or otherwise) ride the least! The majority of riding they do is from garage to clubhouse, club-event or bar, and back to the garage. That's their choice, but I hardly call that a hard-biker! "Real-Bikers" ride! Whether it's on a Harley, BMW, Honda, etc., etc.... They ride!

It's taken years for bikers to show that the majority of us are normal, law abiding, caring, individuals. We are not, for the most part, thugs, fighting, cursing, drinking, or getting kicks out of intimidating others. We're simply people who enjoy the open-road on two wheels.

The picture you portrayed, of a biker (male or female) seemed to show how tough you are, and have to be, to ride. It doesn't take a tough individual to ride. Check out the kids riding the off-road events... You think you're a biker? Try that! I did and gained an immense respect for their skill and guts. How many hard-club-bikers have spent a week or two cruising back roads as a testament to their love of riding? Very, very, Few! Just cause you wear a black leather jacket and colors doesn't make you a hard-biker.

My biker friends would do anything for me, and I the same for them. They would do most anything for anyone in need and don't limit their caring (back-up as you call it) to only bikers in their trivial group. They treat me with respect, and show all bikers and cagers respect as well. And your..."We are expected to be respectful to other club members or brothers. Even if they are not respectful of us," along with no say so over what goes on or where you go...Come on! You also ask..."Why would any woman go along with the lifestyle that included being treated like this?" Good question! And you choose this lifestyle? Maybe you should show yourself more respect.

As you said, "(you) can hold your own at pool, drinking, riding, and fighting..." strange to me that out of all life's endeavors these are the four you felt most worthwhile mentioning.

"Property Of"... Our jackets and clothing are often billboards. We are responsible for what they say. If you feel the necessity to advertise to others that you are owned by, controlled by, or have to submit to someone or some life-style, it's your right. I too wear patches. My favorites are..."Ride Hard or Stay Home" and "Mean People Suck!"

Wake up Biker Mama, it's not a man's world it's a People's world!

Your turn...



Kustom Korner

by Mark prosser

Just what is "custom paint"? What a topic of discussion? Everyone has an idea of what custom paint is in their own mind whether they understand it or not. First we need to know a bit about the history of Kustom paint, we need to understand where it came from to understand how we have gotten where we are.

T.V. shows and national magazines have really blown the whole custom world up in the last several years. They have started giving painters, bike builders and car builders the recognition they deserve. Custom paint is only a few years old since House of Kolor came out with Khameleon, and of course every since Biker Build Off, OCC and Overhaulin have been on the T.V.

Wait a minute! Not quiet true.

Let's take a quick look at the history of custom painting, a subject we could discuss for months and we will. It is a very interesting subject and one that is full of names and people you've probably never heard of that are responsible for the art being what it is today.

John Kosmosky (Founder of House of Kolor) started mixing raw chemicals in Dixie cups in his shop (The House of Kolor) in 1956 because he didn't like the paint products on the market. House Of Kolor is probably is most famous custom paint line, and in my humble opinion the best and yes I have dabbled with most, but now all the paint lines have their "custom" lines of paint.

Big Daddy Ed Roth used to airbrush T- shirts in the late 60's at car show's before people ever saw this type of painting apparatus. He would paint his crazy cars and bikes with the infamous Rat Fink characters burning tires and eyeballs popping, and fire breathing big blocks ripping the tires off. By the mid- sixties every cool car magazine including Time and Life and Sports Illustrated featured Roth's creations. He introduced the Wammo Wheelie bars to Schwinn who put them on their bikes around this time Roth hired the legendary pin striper Von Dutch. Yes that's right folks Von Dutch is not an expensive trendy clothing line. He was "the" master of abstract modern pin striping. We will be discussing Von Dutch and the art of the line in another article. Robert Williams was the other link that worked with Dutch and Roth to illustrate and bring to life all those wonderful hot rod and biker posters and paintings. Roth was then scrutinized for his affiliation with the Hells Angels because he used to ride the trikes he built.

Roth's legacy is still carried on today at the Rat Fink Reunion in California every year.

Candy paint: another new product right? Not quite. According to George Barris, from Barris Brothers Kustoms we know that in 1957 a northern Californian named Mel Pinoli painted a 49 Chevy fleet line by mixing printing dies in Lacquer and the car won the 1957 Oakland show as well as Custom Car d'Elegance. Many people claim this was the first Candy paint job ever completed. (By the way it got it's name because it looks like a hard candy sucker.)

St. John Morton a northern California custom painter, pinstriper, tattoo artist, and chemist gives Mel credit for finishing the first candy job. Gene Winfield who is famous for his chop tops is also famous for the fade away paint job which he has done hundreds of and still does them today in his 70's.

Larry Watson is know for the Watson style flames and was "the man" in the late 50's painting more flames, scallops and pearls than any one in the business. They say that in the Trident's Show in the Los Angeles sports arena in 1956 Larry Watson had 54 cars and over two dozen motorcycles on display with his custom paint jobs.

I realize you've never seen these guy's on Pimp my Ride, or Payback, or Trick my Truck, but you did see a very select group of the Original customizers on an episode of Jesse James's MONSTER GARAGE when they did a chopped and sectioned 54 Chevy that received a Gene Winfield fade away paint job. To me custom paint is another extension of art, you may not particularly like a flame job, but don't ridicule the fact that it is art. I see "custom paint" that is really not very good, but even then I give credit for some trying and maybe some time down the road it will be really good. It's not a level that you reach and then go to work, rather it is a life long journey and each paint job marks that moment it time. I've been painting most of my adult life and when I do the "perfect" paint job, I'll let you know. I always chuckle when I hear people say "it's all a fad, here today and gone tomorrow". They've been customizing and custom painting bikes and cars as long as they have been building them. Generally "Fads" don't last 70 or 80 years or longer.

Next month, more talk about "custom Paint" and the materials we use to get those freaky flops and piercing pearls and Kustom Kandies. Until then. www.prosserpaint.com

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