

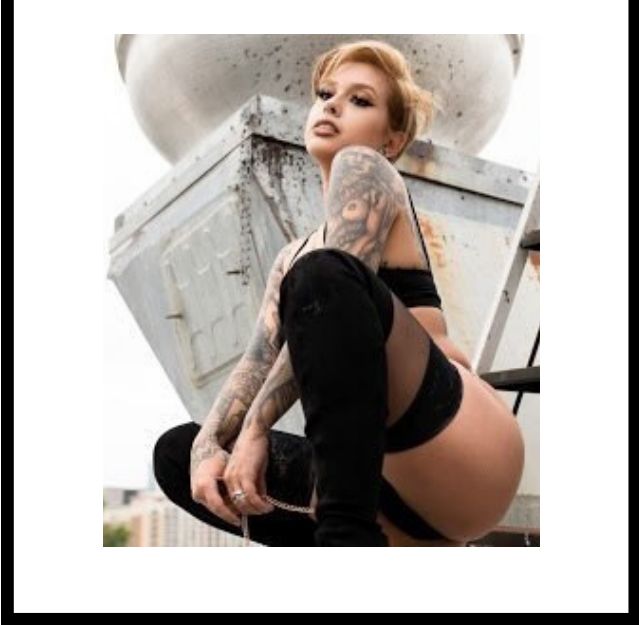
TEXAS INKED

MAY || ISSUE 4



PHOTOGRAPHER: @MR_PILLARS

VULGAR VANITY



FEATURED MODEL



FEATURED ARTIST

MAY
ISSUE

4



TEXAS INKED "PIMPIN"

TATTOO OF THE WEEK



TATTOO OF THE WEEK

Eric Ryan

[@ERICRYANTATTOOS](#)



TEXAS INKED "PIMPIN"



IMPERIAL EMPIRE



Imperial Empire is a Premium and Vintage Streetwear shop owned by Houstonians Drew and Chelsea Parker and their babygirl Banks. What started as a personal hobby for Drew Parker turned into a business when he realized the market for it. The shop specializes in 20+ year old vintage clothing with most pieces coming from the 1990s to early 2000s. Alongside the vintage tees, you can find what Parker coins, “vintage hype” which is essentially apparel such as Carhart items or vintage pieces revisioned and reworked with embroidery, screenprint, or cut into crop tops for the ladies. The most current curated collection is entitled “Made in the Wild” and can be found online or in store at the Houston location.

From the moment you walk into Imperial Empire, you can feel the nostalgia from the era. The music, the decor, and overall environment are the embodiment of 1990s meets modern streetwear. While the first brick and mortar opened in 2015 in Houston, the Empire expanded to their second location in Austin, Texas. Parker also takes time to give back to the community via a sponsorship and coaching of the AAU Basketball team, Imperial. Parker uses the team to provide opportunities to high school kids through the sport, travel, and even allows some players to work in his shop. If one thing is for certain, Imperial isn’t just a family business, it’s an Empire.

Photographed/Written By: [Stephanie Tacy](#)
See the Q&A on the next page...

LOCATIONS

1840 Westheimer Rd.
Houston, Texas 77098

2815 Guadalupe Street
Austin, Texas 78705

www.shopimperial.net

Q&A Stephanie Tacy || Imperial Owner Drew Parker:

Q: Where are you from? Where are you based?

A: "I am from and am currently based in Houston, Texas."

Q: How long have you been collecting vintage clothing?

A: "It's been about 10+ years now."

Q: What inspired you to start collecting vintage 10+ years ago?

A: "I saw a lot of people wearing the same type of stuff. I saw them wearing basically everything from the mall, everything was reproduced, and I just wanted to be different. The '90s stuff was what I grew up on so I started hunting that stuff down and trying to source it for me personally. Then I realized there was a market for it and that's how I started the business."

Q: What is your favorite piece of all of the those that you have found?

A: "I was in college and I found a Notorious B.I.G. One More Chance shirt, a rap tee, and I found it in a Good Will. This is back when rap tees weren't popular yet. I just remember buying it, it caught my eye, and I was like "Okay, let me get this piece right here." Now that piece is worth \$1,300 in today's market."

Q: How did you come up with the name, Imperial Empire?

A: "When I first started, I knew Imperial wasn't going to always be just straight vintage so I wanted to have a universal name. Imperial is the universal name but Empire encompasses all of our projects including our women's stuff, AAU program, and more things in the works as we build our empire."

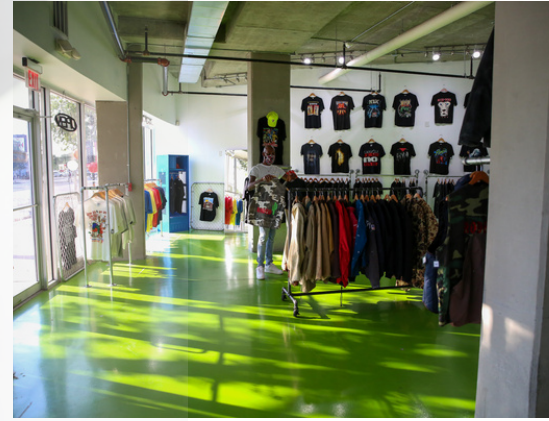
Q: Besides specializing in 20+ year old items, what separates Imperial Empire from other vintage stores?

A: "A lot of stores just only have vintage. We wanted to separate ourselves with having vintage but also having vintage hype, we call it."

Q: What's your favorite memory at Imperial Empire or a fun fact about the store?

A: "A fun fact is that the Imperial Empire is actually how I met my wife [Chelsea Parker.] She was doing photography 6 years ago and she came into my first location in the third ward. Literally once she walked through the door, we spent everyday after that together whether we were friends or we were together. We literally vibed from the beginning. We've probably only had a week apart, otherwise we've spent every day together. So that's 6 years straight of working together and obviously getting married, and now having a child together."

Model: @quezqueso



Photo's of Austin, TX location





MODEL @VULGAR.VANITY || PHOTOGRAPHER: @MR.PILLARS



FEATURED ARTIST

Nadia Rosales

[@nadiarosales](https://www.instagram.com/nadiarosales)



Q&A



WHAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU ARE GOING TO DO NOW THAT TEXAS IS OPEN?

I Can't wait to send my kid back to school. These past three semesters were nice. I just know we both need interaction with others our own age.

-Concerts. I miss live music so much. These acoustic Instagram lives aren't cutting it.

-I want to get tattooed again. Holy crap I miss being in the shop. I want to travel and meet supportive hot babes in the girls restroom of every bar I step in.

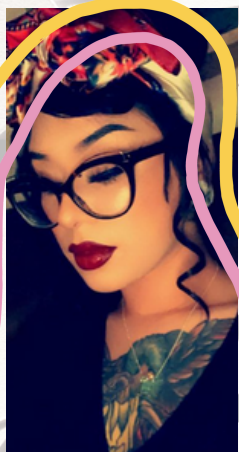


Concerts, drinks with pals, vacations, face to face interaction 🤗, fairs/conventions! - [@bettie_haze](#)



Float the river!!! - [@shesavage](#)

My friend recently posted about how her husband was able to attend an ultrasound appt with her for the first time since covid so he finally got to see their baby for the first time. So I think people are really happy to be able to share these moments again.



I was able to learn a lot about myself as a mother and home maker. I think I've had it so good for so long I forgot where if I came from. Having stores completely wiped out at one point really humbled my ass and brought out knowledge and skill I forgot I had. Now I have a pretty little garden, who would've thought I had a green thumb!? Not !! I've also learned how to ground myself while gardening when the world just feels like too much and that's a skill I didn't have before. It's one I can't live without now. - [@divine_knives](#)



I'm proud I didn't lose my compassion for people. This year really brought out the worst in some people and working this whole time I saw a lot of disrespect. I learned I have way more self control than I thought. - [@heartofhouston](#)



WHAT ARE YOU PROUD OF ACCOMPLISHING IN THE PANDEMIC?

TATTOO CONVENTION



JUNE 4TH - 6TH 2021

NRG Center

1 NRG Park, Houston, TX 77054

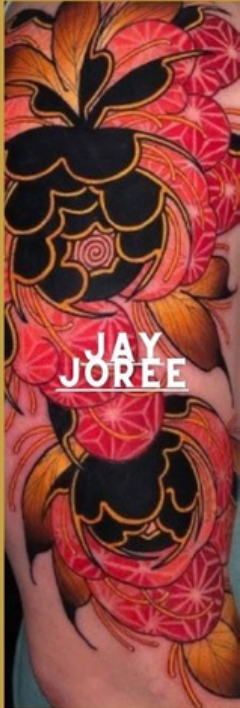
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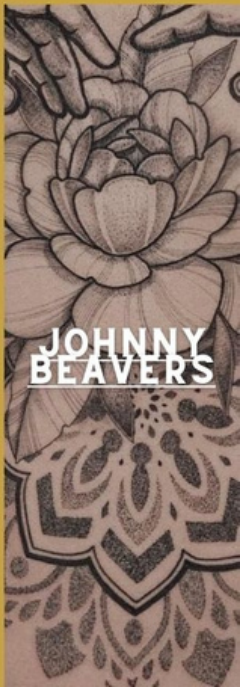
TEXAS INKED GUEST ARTIST



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GANDY



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Let us help you reach the Texas Arts Community...

2021 Price List

FULL PAGE MONTHLY

\$500

HALF PAGE MONTHLY

\$300

**Additional fees apply for ad design, 4 weeks = 1 month*

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