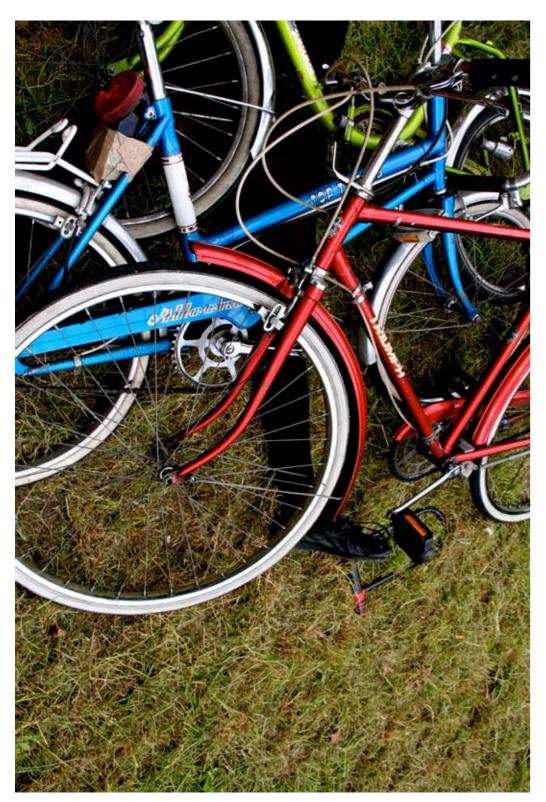




# GUTTER BUNNY SUMMER 2010



#### **FEATURES**

**6 Mittens**Meet French girl riders extraordinaire

**8 Moustachio Bikes** Steve'll fix it for ya

#### **MUSIC**

14 Social status
Interview with Kev Soar,
activist, musician, socialist
and all around nice guy

# 16 Something wicked this way comes

Norwich hardcore scene is back and bad

#### **PHOTOGRAPHY**

18 The bright young things

BMX world of Sam King

#### 22 Girls & boys

...and their bikes

#### LAST MINUTE INTERVIEW

#### 30 Marco Zamora

LA artist talks about his town and art and bikes in it

## **CONTRIBUTORS**



# Mischa Notcutt

# ATPI ATPI

# Michelle Tyllicki

# Geraldine Nicolo

Geraldine has come to London from sunny Marseille. Why do people from beautiful, sun drenched parts of the world come to London will always be a mistery but we're glad to have Geraldine here because she takes nice pictures and shoots beautiful surreal twee videos. It's good to have people like her around, non?



photoshoot for this issue.

Mischa could very easily be the nicest person in the world and if she's not then she definitely is in top five. Say someone like Mahamatma Gandhi might be number one, but that is always questionable. She is a stylist and DJ and helped with Girls and Boys

Morgan is a proud Norfolk boy that has been playing in hardcore bands for many years now. As a freelance journalist he travels to his home town to discover whatever has happened to once flowering Norwich HxC scene.



Michelle is all around talented illustrator, animator and designer living between London and Krakow. For Gutter Bunny, she has generously provided a sleek design of magazine's logo. Also, her pink hair rule.

Guter Bunny magazine is published, edited and designed by Nikola Vasakova.

Contributing designer: Michelle Tylicki Web developer of gutterbunny.co.uk: Stephen Martin Gutter Bunny is printed on recycled post-consumer RFC certificated paper using vegetable oil inks.

For enquiries please email: nikola vasakova@yahoo.co.uk



Cover shot by Nikola Vasakova, model Lena Mascara

# The Mittens

It's no easy job being a girl in the competitive sports community. Not only do female pros get paid less than their male counterparts (quel surprise!) but also no matter how good you are the grudging recognition of "she's all right" will rarely come without the sly addition of "for a girl."

"Its so annoying! We were really pissed off when we read this post on some guy's bike blog commenting on our ride from Paris to London saying, if chicks can do it, we can do it too...fuck him!" exclaimed Clemence and Elvire, half of The Mittens pack, Frances finest all female riders. I met up with them just after they arrived to London making the journey from Paris in only 26 hours, looking like they hadn't even broken a sweat. "There was a wet trousers situation though" says Elvire, "the ferry was leaving in 2 minutes and we had massive hill in front of us and I just got a puncture... Man, on this trip, I learned how to fix a puncture within a minute! We were screaming and swearing going up the hill but we made it just on time!" Clemence even wore high heels all throughout the trip, not that she seemed to make a massive deal out of it though.

Not that being a girl in a predominantly male community doesn't posses its advantages however, discounts in bike shops and the sometimes welcome attention of the guys are all certainly



AGE: 110 YEARS OLD WEIGHT: 212 KG HEIGHT: 6M 72CM

MEASUREMENTS: 360 240 360

LANGUAGES SPOKEN: SLANG, GHETTO AND UPPER CLASS PORTUGUESE, SPANISH, ENGLISH, GERMAN (EIN BIS-CHEN...), FRENCH CANADIAN, FRENCH

well and good, but they do not make up for the persistent sense of being judged less on ability than on gender.

> With all but one of The Mittens riding fix-gear, I asked them what they think of the often negative image associated with the fixed gear community, epitomised by the arrogant, reckless rider with a superiority complex over all other cyclists. "It's really exaggerated" says Clemence "obviously some people really do take themselves too seriously or do it for an image but mostly people just ride fixed because since they sat and start pedaling they can't imagine riding any other bike, I personally can't!" Before adding "but it doesn't matter what bike is one riding, as long as they don't drive a car!"

themittensriders. wordpress.com



Steve from Moustachio's Bikes runs his bicycle workshop in mighty Seven Sisters, north London. Still in it's initial stages of maturity, it has already become a success by providing a number of unique services unavailable in the area. As well as providing people with a more understanding of bikes and riding, workshops like Moustachio's Bikes could be used as meeting places for the community, to allow like minded people to join and plan a better cycling network for new and experienced cyclists alike.

#### All this new wave of cycling in London, people are really getting into it, do you think we'll ever be as big on cycling as I believe I am one of the only BMXers in the world who still say, Amsterdam or Copehagen?

I hope so. Geographically London is ideal for cycling because it is flat and not so large that any journey should ever take over an hour. Cycling in London makes more sense than any other method of transport. It is good for the environment, peoples' health, is far more affordable, improves peoples' navigational skills, is refreshing, activating and creates an independence incomparable to the alternatives. The financial restrictions of the economy have forced people to seek alternative travelling means, and the recent surge in popularity of cycling has provided an easily obtainable solution I don't believe the jump to becoming a truly bike friendly capital is so great but it will require the combined efforts of all involved. For it to work successfully to the benefit of the riders, the progress should be in the hands of the riders, not the corporate chain stores, the government, or the councils. Cycling is a symbol of freedom and the idea of cyclists waiting for a better London to be created for them is going to be a long and painful path to take. I think the councils should put more effort into helping to create network of communal workshops that can be used by all to fix their bike problems, and also create more secure bike locking facilities. I particularly like that many squatting communities are now giving free bike maintenance tutorials free of charge as a way of giving back to the community that maintains their cost-free

#### What are your favourite bikes, do you have any preferred

There is only one type of bike that I like and thawt is a bike that the rider is completely happy with, that functions safely and efficiently, and opens doors to independence and good times. A bike should be set up as a reflection of riding style and needs.

There is currently a surge in stock bikes to match the expanding variety of riding styles. This is great as it allows buyers a diversity of choice and hence more accessibility to previously custom-only setups. However, the flip side is that with this convenience comes the ease to just let someone else make decisions for you that affect your ride. Stock bikes can only ever provide a good starting base; only with time in the saddle will you find out which parts are more or less suitable as they wear out, break, restrict or cause discomfort. Spending lots on a stock bike with lots of really expensive parts is often counter productive when you realise all these parts are not suitable or do not fit.

Riding is a learning experience and taking it slowly is the best and most safe way to becoming a confident and accomplished rider. Learning what bike to ride is part of that learning experience. People like to jump on whatever bike is trendy at the moment, without knowing how to ride it properly first. It can be quite dangerous.

#### Do you have any rarities in your collection?

runs a 2-brake setup, a trials riding habit that has shaped my riding style irrevocably, so in that sense my BMX is pretty rare! I also have an amazing tricycle that a friend found, which was probably homemade by some DIY fiend like myself, with an excess of welding tools and materials. It's a tiny kid's trike but it is so heavily over-engineered, it's amazing. It is made of solid rectangular section iron bar, has no bearings, and you cannot lift it. Truly unique and near completely useless unless upgraded to become a locomotive train.

#### Building a community where cyclists help each other is really important and it seems like you could be playing an important role in this. What are your plans for the future?

There is never any one way to solve any large scale problem like a whole city of cyclists' bikes requiring regular maintenance, but there is an option that is currently expanding in London that I believe will be better for the majority of commuters. Cyclists looking to buy or fix a bike will benefit from community based workshops because they will teach people to fix and maintain their own bikes and provide them with the means and support they need to do this indefinitely, becoming independent from the expense and the hassle associated with high street stores, specialist stores, and online parts buying and DIY home mechanics. I really hope that this year will be a turning point in providing London with a better network of community based workshops so that eventually all Londoners have this option available to them, no matter where they are based.











Essex born, London bred, Kev Soar has been involved in London's alternative music scene for quite some time now. I caught Kev at one of his favourite past times (you guessed it, footbal) and we had a chat about his fanzine, social values but first of all. footbal.

Words: Nikola Vasakova Photography: Charlotte Turner

**Gutter Bunny**: Hey Kev, how are you?

**Kevin Soar**: I'm ok just watching football and drinking some beer...Is this the interview already?

**GB:** Yes, everything you say can be used against you.

KS: Oh, no!

**GB**: Haha, who's playing?

KS: Man United vs Bayern Munich. 3-1 United.

**GB:** And who are you supporting? Manchester or Munich?

**KS:** Well, of course Manchester but only because they are English. I support West Ham normally.

**GB:** I watched Barca vs Arsenal the other day. Good game.

**KS:** Good game.

**GB:** I was slightly disappointed how Arsenal scored the last goal, that was a pretty cheap win.

**KS:** Well, its true they were lucky. But Barcelona smashed them yesterday. Best team in the world. I watched it

GB: I would never thought you'd be so into football.

**KS**: I have been all my life, it's in the blood I'm afraid. My mum's side of the family are all from east London, that's why I support West Ham. My great granddad played for East Ham and my granddad used to play for the British Navy and at Hackney marshes. I played until I was 16. My brother still plays.

**GB:** Whole generation of football obsessed Soars! **KS:** Yeah, I still play but my bones are pretty cracking nowadays. I'm captain and manager of our work team My mum and nan both have picture of me with our league-winning trophy.

**GB:** I know that we have something in common and that's an interest in self-publishing. You have magazine background yourself.

KS: A bit...

GB: Tell me about Toy pirate. I've noticed that you started working on it again.

**KS:** Well just the blog now. Basically, it was a fanzine I did when I was at uni.

**GB:** From what I heard, it was pretty popular.

**KS:** We used to publish lots of writing and illustrations by southeast Londoners and we got an Arts council grant, which pretty much paid for it until its end.

**GB:** And was it always as political as it is now?

KS: No, no. Not at all.

#### I mean it was only political in the very essence of DIY

i.e. self-publishing, supporting the unsupported, publishing unpublished writers and illustrators of all ages, creeds and backgrounds.

**GB:** So when did you start being involved towards the political left?

**KS:** Essentially, the idea of free speech and self publication without inhibition is leftist in spirit. So that was the politics

**GB:** Yes, DIY ethics and leftism in their essence support each other.

**KS:** You're right, the DIY ethics and history of the zines is in its purest form are a very leftist ideal - liberty, freedom of press, things like that. Of course pamphlets and zines that are right leaning in their political inclination can be produced too, but it is rarely the case.

The idea of newspapers and freedom of information being distributed to the public so everyone can know what is going on in the world is a leftist idea essentially.

**GB:** Did you get inspiration from some radical leftist zines? Or did you just do your thing and it naturally evolved into what it is now?

**KS:** I wish I could say I had but coming fresh from an Essex suburb, you don't get to see many leftist radical zines.

GB: Huh, I guess not.

**KS:** Self-teaching is part of DIY, after all. Moving to London changed me. It took a while to get into the veins but it got there in the end. I came from Essex to London interested in football and girls.

**GB:** I guess some of the Essex in you still prevails as I remember us talking about football just about a minute ago.

**KS:** True. I always talk about football. Football has a great history painted with politics, freedom, and working class struggles...Everything you could want. I am thinking about writing a book about Hackney marshes.

**GB:** The history is there, it's just quite a shame how it's shadowed by politics, money and scary angry football fans.

**KS:** It is a shame but when you think about it, everything is about money and big scary men nowadays.

GB: Ha ha, well put

**KS:** I like to think it will come full circle one day. There will be wage caps and more fan owned teams. Like Barcelona that is pretty much owned by the fans. They don't have a sponsor.

**GB:** Makes me love them even more.

Let's talk about Positive Action - a social group you started not so long after Toy Pirate. It's taking social change into culture and music world if I understand it correctly. Not so many musicians are willing to do that or are concerned enough.

**KS:** True it's a shaky ground to tread.

**GB:** But the idea worked in the 90's when the Positive Force started, am I right on the time line?

**KS:** Yes, it started in the 90's with Positive Force group in Washington. That's where we took the inspiration from. My friend Aaron Bately approached me about the idea and we took it on together.

**GB:** Maybe the 00's are not so exciting times for people getting involved in social activities. It feels like people have resigned.

**KS:** That's the common thought. I still haven't yet decided if it's true or not.

**GB:** Maybe they need a harder shake

**KS:** Maybe when everyone has forgotten to vote and the conservatives come in, then they will be shaken. Although I would prefer no conservatives to apathy to be honest. Generally our generation has lived comfortably snuggled in the breasts of capitalism. And I mean why should we be angry, we have everything.

**GB:** Or so it seems on the surface of things. **KS:** Look at it this way - We have grown up with Internet and the most disposable income any generation has ever had...but obviously now with the recent "economic

ever had...but obviously now with the recent "economic down turn" (said in a slow newsreader voice), I kind of hope that the recession will bring up something interesting in the arts community and youth culture. Youth unemployment is at a high now so kids are starting to wake up. A few things have popped up but nothing all that huge on the scale of things.

Of course we (Positive Action) don't even hit the radar of many a persons social calendar. Sadly it mostly depends on the reputation of the band over the nature of the cause that attracts the people

**GB:** People are still more interested in what is cool then what is good, although, I'm aware, it sounds like granny talk

**KS:** The bank marches last year were positive. But again, it seemed more people were there to take photos, or smash things than actually make a stand. There were pictures of kids smashing windows in anarchist attire but with a New Era hat and Nike trainers on, if that doesn't tell you something about our generation then I don't know what does. I think the majority of the true anarchists who have done their homework and really fight for workers' rights generally wouldn't have taken part in random window smashing. It's the hangers on and those who think listening to the Sex Pistols once makes them all righteous causing the problems.

**GB:** There are too many little sub groups, no organization to ever cause a proper stir.

**KS:** I was on some forum about one of the marches and all these anarchists were arguing with other left wing groups like the socialist party and the Morning Star about them getting in the way of their 'block'. The bank march had too many people just marching for the sake of being mad - 'Boris Johnson banned drinking on the tube, I'm sooo mad! Bankers get more money than me, I'm so mad!' At the end of the day a lot of people are just jealous they don't get bonuses. They would never refuse them. There's a lot of hypocrisy out there.

www.myspace.com/ chaptersweetheart



SOMETHING

ACKED

THE MAY

COMES

At one point, Norwich's HxC and Screamo scene was one of the biggest in the country and the place to see up-and-coming bands was The Ferryboat Inn on Kings Street, which became the habitat of many a young scene kids. And rightly so; promoters who worked the Norwich scene and who adopted the classic D.I.Y. work ethic would often put on packed-out shows with big names from America, Europe and the U.K. itself. However, all of this came slowly, inevitably to an end in '06. Of course, between then and now there had been numerous attempts to reignite the burgeoning HxC scene that once put Norwich on the map, but all of these lacked the solid conviction. It seemed that it became more about who had the best looking girlfriend, hair and tattooes. All is not lost though, as on the grapevine that stretches far and wide I 've been hearing tales of a new wave of great HxC bands emerging from Norwich. I managed to corner one stalwart of the revitalised scene, Mr. Wesley Brown, and tried to extract some answers as to what monsters are stirring in the bowels of this fine city.

Words: Morgan Hewitt Photography: Band archive

### Mr Brown, how the devil are you and what are you doing?

Right now, I'm listening to 'Murder Ballads', but in general art schooling in Norwich and playing in my band!

## Tell us all what band you're in and what sub-genre of HxC it belongs to?

I'm in Jackals. Sub-genre, I don't know. It's just fast hardcore. We take influences from stuff like Cult Ritual and Charles Bronson. It's fast and short.

## Honestly, is there a rising HxC scene in Norwich again and what bands are causing a stir?

More bands have sprung up recently, I think it's people coming into Norwich and injecting some life into it again People had become lazy in recent years and forgot that DIY was the key to make stuff happen.

## Are there any Norwich HxC bands touring the UK presently?

Lonewolves are doing a lot of stuff, they're Cambridge lads too, but Tom and Smalls have been around Norwich for years. But I'd say Lonewolves, hands down, are one of my favourite bands in the UK right now.

## What the hell happened to the HxC scene circa '06 until now?

Honestly, I think people got lazy and a lot of people left in recent years to go to Leeds...or in your case Morgan, London. So there are always setbacks. Plus a lot of people around that time weren't really down for it and saw it as fashion. I see people that were at gigs a few years ago now going to raves and getting wrecked at shit dub-step club nights. People flake out.

# Can Norwich retain its reputation for producing HxC and Screamo bands that can contend with bigger scenes like Leeds for example?

I don't know if it has to contend with Leeds and other major cities. There are good bands that come out of Norwich despite its size and isolation. As long as the people in 'the scene', as it were, are having fun who cares about contending. Just do it anyway.

# Is HxC a dirty word now what with the likes of Gallows seeing mainstream adoration only to be dropped by the major label they were on?

No, there was hardcore before Gallows and there will be hardcore after. It's constantly evolving. I say hardcore and I mean anything through from Cursed to Mind Eraser. Say I see people that were at gigs

a few years ago now going to

raves and getting wrecked at

shit dub-step club nights.

People flake out.

hardcore to someone else and they might think of Terror, so it's open to interpretation. Hardcore will never be a dirty word.

# Do you think major labels picking up on HxC in the UK changes people's perspective as to why they want to form a band in the first place, i.e. to have fun and play shows?

Maybe, but I'm under the illusion that any band i get involved with is primarily for fun, hanging out with my friends and conveying whatever I think or feel directly as I can to my peers.

# Has the stigma of outsiders in HxC scenes (notably Norwich) died away, or is there still an essence of elitism remaining?

I think everyone involved in Norwich knows one another, typical Norfolk, but if I saw someone new at a gig that I hadn't seen before, I'd be happy to say hi. Since we all know each other and hang out, any notion of elitism is soon chipped away!

# Are there any bands in the Norwich scene currently pushing the boundaries of HxC, i.e. blending the typical HxC sound with some other forms of noise?

Baptists are doing some good, epic hardcore songs which remind me of noise-rock bands in some way. They're a new Norwich band to check out. I think most bands are doing something different, Jack (from 'What Would Henry Rollins Do?' Norwich fanzine) put on a gig recently and honestly all the Norwich bands had their own distinct sound. My own band for example, have had responses like, "I didn't expect them to sound like that!". Variation is welcome!

### Finally, what would you say to anyone that's dubious of listening to HxC because of its obtuse nature?

It's not to everyone's taste, and I'm not going to convince people otherwise!

THE BRIGHT YOUNG THINGS



GUTTER BUNNY ENTERS THE KINGDOM

OF BMX PHOTOGRAPHER JAM KING.

WORDS NIKOLA VASAKOVA







# RIDING ALWAYS GAVE ME AN EXCUSE TO GET A CAMERA OUT

AND VICE VERSA



# NO WAY

I can be doing with more education, would much rather just try and get on with freelancing and stuff," scoffs young Sam King. Although still only in the 6th grade, Sam already managed to attract the attention of BMX community through creating beautiful photographs of his BMX riding friends that look like they were taken in sun drenched California rather than near by Guildford. Sam can't wait to get out of school and make living from behind his camera lenses. With a professional attitude he takes in his work, it seems that the sixth grade education commitments are only holding this talented young man from pursuing some serious career.

**Gutter Bunny:** Are you London born and raised, Sam? **Sam King:** Pretty close. I'm from Guildford, which is in Surrey. It can be pretty boring there at times but I get by. **GB:** Looking at your pictures, it seems like you have a nice cycle park over there.

**SK:** Yeah, there's an old beaten up skatepark about ten minutes ride from my house, which is pretty fun, We have a good little scene down there, but most of the times we travel to some of the other local parks like Horsham and Crawley.

**GB:** Sounds like an easy life to me.

**SK:** I try to have fun when I can.

**GB:** I remember when BMX was the only bike you would ever see on the streeet, shame it's now just a part of really small scene...

**SK:** Yeah, its dying otu a fair bit in some areas, like my local BMX scene has got a lot smaller the past two years I've really been involved in it but then again, in some areas the scene is getting bigger...but overall, it's definitely getting smaller.

**GB:** How did you get into BMX?

**SK:** I don't even remember. I used to ride MTB and do

a bit of trails and street on it, then I moved house and ended up selling my MTB. Then when I turned 16 I got a proper BMX and used to just ride on my own. Then I went down the skatepark just to see what it was like and got talking to one of the riders who was my age down there and he saw I had a camera so I used to just go there and take photos, even thought they weren't very good at the time. That kind of got me involved with the locals a bit more. Then I started going down there and became a local myself and started to progress with my riding and photography and here I am now. It's strange how I gt into both at the same time, but riding always gave me an excuse to get the camera out and vice versa.

GB: Have you tried both in the same time?

**SK:** Not yet, haha. I did a bit of filming over the summer, which involved me riding and filming at the same time, even though I was only just rolling along the floor it was a bit daunting for fear of dropping the camera and I came close a couple of times!

**GB:** I looked at your portfolio, its kind of mixture of personal and sport photography, what is the direction you wanna take?

**SK:** I don't really know, now I do a big mix of pretty much everything lifestyle. I'd love to still get a lot of my pictures published in the BMX magazines, but I can kind of see myself moving more towards fashion side of photography. Although the stuff in the studio can get a bit boring and samey, I love what you see in the magazines with the weird clothes and strange locations, that's my kinda pictures!

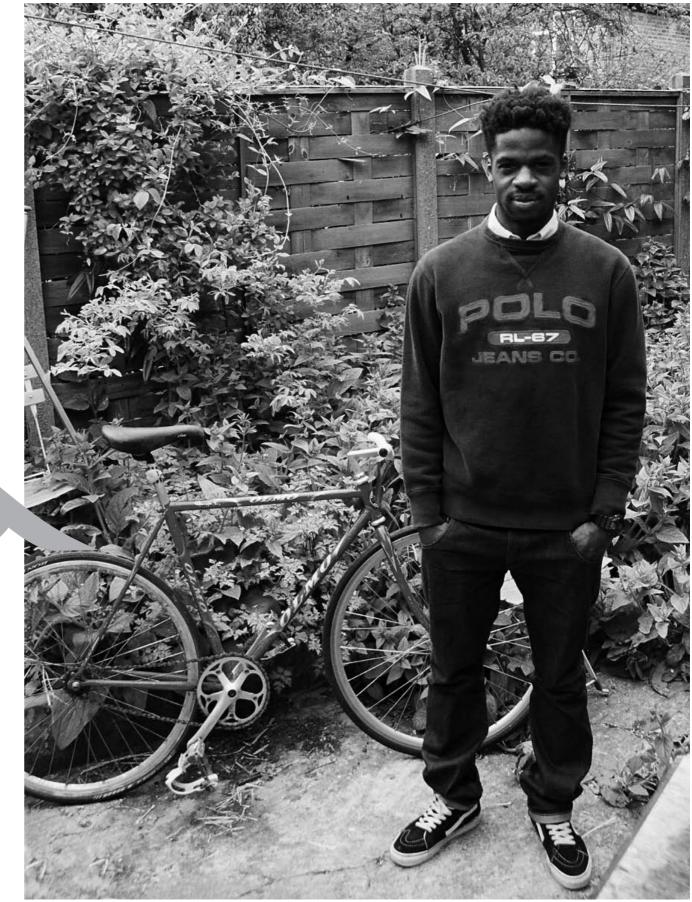
**GB:** Well, most of the fashion photographers didn't start shooting kids in the skate parks, so you have what is called "the competitive advantage".

**SK:** Haha, I'd like to think so, BMX has taught me a lot about lightning and composition and such.

**GB:** So who are the photographers you look up to? **SK:** There is far too many to name, to be honest, but the one I've always loved since I saw his work and the one

one I've always loved since I saw his work and the one that instantly comes to my mind is Brooks Reynolds. I love the sense of loneliness in his photos and I think my photos are starting to take that sort of direction too. His lighting is on point too.

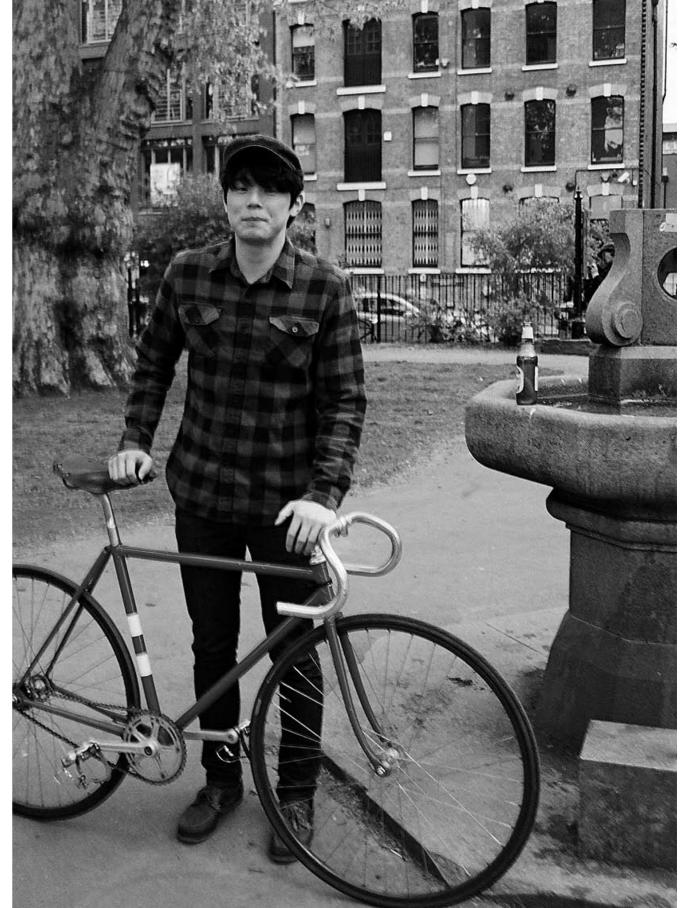




GIRLS

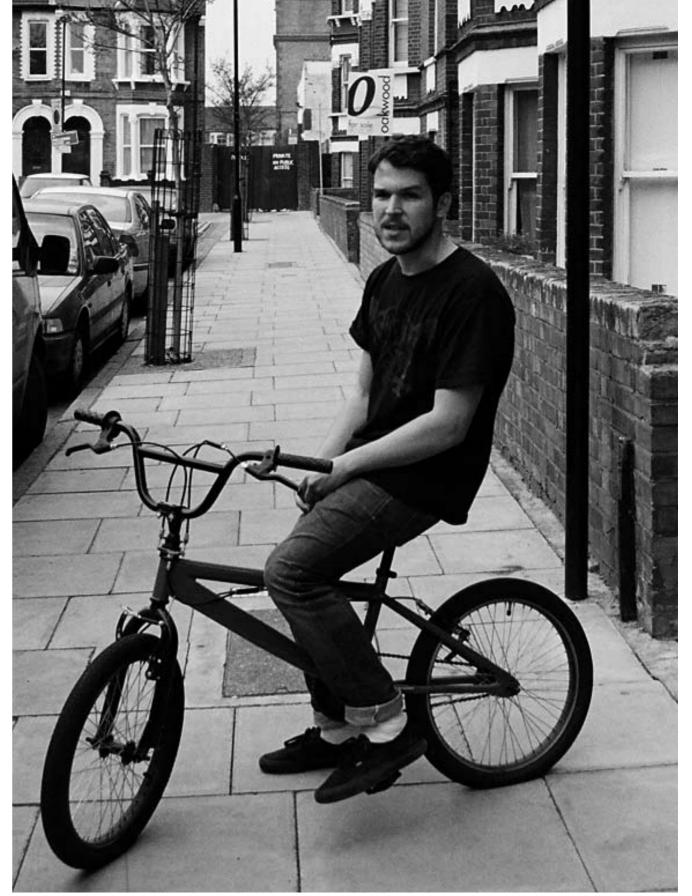
BOYS





Ju is wearing hat from Beyond Retro, Carhartt shirt, Lee jeans, loafers and rides custom built fixie.





Bruno wears Shitting Fists t-shirt, Levi's Jeans, Vans trainers and rides custom built BMX.





PHOTOGRAPHY: NIKOLA VASAKOVA STYLING: MISCHA NOTCUTT

# MARCO ZAMORA





Marco Zamora is a 28-years old artist living and cyclingin LA. He gives us a brief statement on his artworks and how it is to ride in downtown LA. He prefers whiskey over beer and table tennis over machine gunning. He's cool.

Words: Trippe @Fecal Face Artwork: Marco Zamona

#### Describe your process of creating a new piece.

I usually figure out what size of painting I want to make. Build the panels. Then go out and shoot a ton of photos. I'm always observing and creeping out on my surroundings. After that I sort through what I have collected then get to work.

#### What materials do you normally work with?

Ink and watercolor on wood panel and paper. So nice!

# There's a lot of fix gear-ness in your recent work. I take it you ride a bunch there in LA. How has traffic been receptive to more bicycles? Are cyclists organized much there?

Yeah, it's not only that I enjoy riding, there has been a change in society with bicycles and it is a really good thing, especially for LA. The only thing is that traffic and people that drive cars, from my experience, have not taken it too well. People are aggressive. Over the past year or so there has been a strong organization of people riding from all over Southern California and is because of what the North has started. We need more bike lanes and happy people.

#### If you had to explain your work to a stranger, how would you do it?

I make art. I work with my surroundings and what I am involved with at that time in my life. At the moment I am making paintings and have been playing with installation and peoples neglected treasures and trash.

#### What do you love most about living in downtown LA?

That's a hard question. The fact that every time I step outside I can never expect what I will see or end up doing.

#### If I came out for a visit what would we do/ where would you take me?

Go check out some museums/ art shows. Ride, eat some good food. Play some wii. Then go grab some drinks and who knows from there.

#### What are you really excited about right now?

To be making art.