

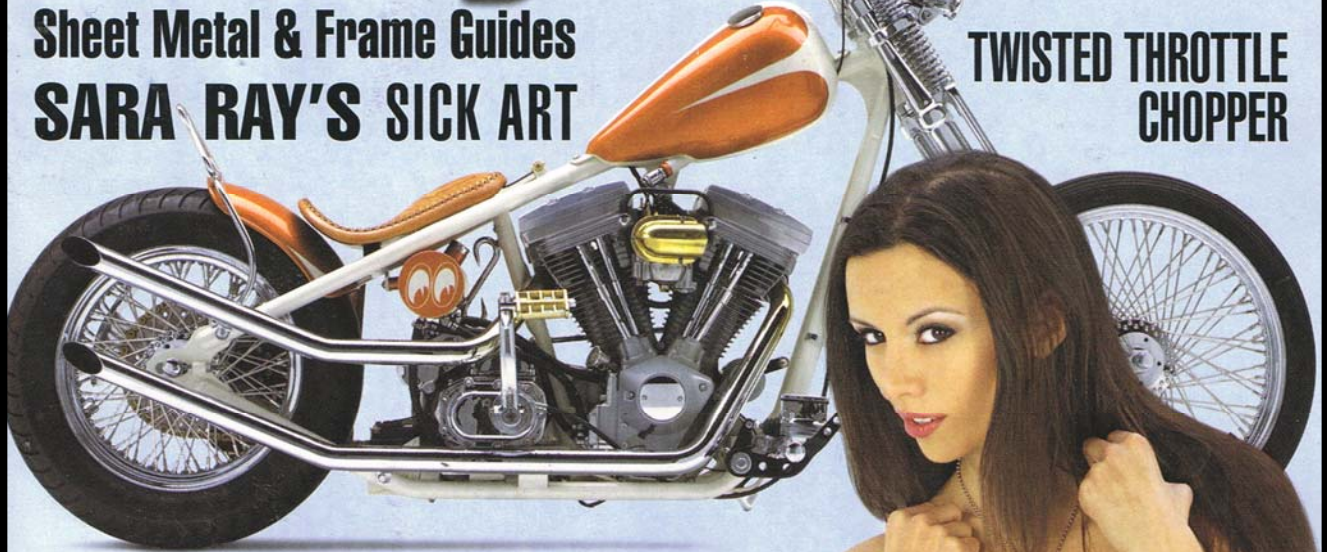
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428 • February 2009

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THE HAUNTING AND
INSPIRING ART OF SARA RAY

Raising Hell

Sara Ray sees things differently than most. For one thing, she sees the world as flat. "My brain processes everything in a way to draw it," she says, "so I see everything two-dimensionally." Sara also says that she "sees so much in everything" and "even sees some things where they don't belong." As she translates her vision to canvas, which extends beyond

Sara Ray astride the
"Saint Michael"
masterpiece.



Fortune Favours The Bold on "Fortune Teller."



Outlaw guitar.

Images: Sara Ray

the traditional kind to include things like cars, airplanes, guitars and motorcycles, she always gives her images context. There is always a story behind them.

Having had little formal art training, after graduating high school, Sara spent a lot of time at hot rod events where she met many artists who, impressed by her talent and dedication, gave her lots of advice. She continues to spend much of her time practicing her craft to improve. Fascinated by history and an obsessive book collector (stacks of books with pillows on top serve as most of her furniture), Sara's work is influenced by many things including medieval manuscript illuminations, the work of the European masters, 1940s Stag magazines and even cartoons.

Sara's first opportunity to make motorcycle metal her canvas was quite serendipitous. While visiting Italy, one of Sara's friends—a huge motorcycle enthusiast—had seen a magazine ad for Sucker Punch Sallys and asked Sara about the company. Not familiar with them at the time, she did a little research to learn about them. Some time later, at The Barrett Jackson auction in Arizona, Sara was "hangin' with a friend" while a man poured over her portfolio for about a half hour. Somewhat reluctantly, because she was having good time sitting with her friend, she got up and approached the man. He told her he wanted her to paint his bike. Thinking, yeah sure, because this kind of thing happens a lot, but rarely pays off, Sara took his card. He said he'd call her. She didn't expect that he would, but he did. "He"



This WWII themed bobber, "Veni Vidi Vici," is the first bike Sara ever painted.



was Christian Clayton from Sucker Punch Sallys, and, thus, Sara painted her first bike fender and tank for "Veni Vidi Vici"—a WWII themed bobber.

Sara had painted cars and airplanes, but she had to teach herself how to paint a bike. Her work on bikes is a huge success as a result of the technique she developed and she regularly gets e-mails asking for her to divulge it, but she's not telling! Having done several projects for Sucker Punch Sallys, Sara enjoys the collaboration. "Usually, I paint first, then they build the bike around the paint," she says. She also enjoys the free rein they give her. Two of her favorites are the "Fortune Teller" and "Saint Michael."

It is fair to say that her art consumes her, as all of Sara's pursuits including studying history, traveling, hunkering down with her books at home, and watching the Cartoon Network relate to her art. "It is hard to relax at this point in life," she says. "I'm always learning, thinking or processing art in some way." Particularly happy with her depiction of the Devil inspired by a Dürer engraving on the Saint Michael bike she just recently painted, Sara seems to be in heaven by raising hell.

—Joanne Morris

For more information: www.sararay.com