

.get inspired! magazine

FEATURING WORK BY

EDYTA BARTKIEWICZ
PHOTOGRAPHY

VLADIMIR STANKOVIC
ILLUSTRATION

KOTY 2
PHOTOGRAPHY

JORDY ROELOFS
DIGITAL ART

LÉON
PHOTOGRAPHY

FOR ARTISTS, DESIGNERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS!

CREATIVE INSPIRATION E-MAGAZINE



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WELCOME



Hey all! Hope you are all doing great!

It's not hard to find great work to share with you, because there is so much awesomeness out there. Amazing people creating amazing stunning work. Sometimes you'll find real gems, exceptional work. There is so much talent to discover and we are doing our best to share the best of the best!

This month on p6 we feature stunning portraits by young Polish photograph talent Edyta Bartkiewicz. Amazing creative illustrations on p14 by graphic designer and illustrator Vladimir Stankovic based in the cold north, Lapland Finland. An exclusive photo serie on p22 by KOTY 2, based in Poland. Digital art at it's best on p30 by the self-taught Dutch graphic designer Jordy Roelofs, with mind-blowing photo manipulation and Photoshop skills. Instant shots from inside cultures, people and countries. Léon photographs tries to reflect the world as it is. With and without lines, he tries not to lie about what he sees and let know what people express, and what landscapes tell. Check it out on P38!

Check out a random pin, pinned on Pinterest on p5. On p46 you'll find 'Stitched Up', where young female creatives are changing the world of graffiti and we end with the two winners of our Facebook Fan Spotlight raffle on p48 and p49.

Enjoy this issue and all have a great creative month, Christmas and New Year! Next issue will be up 2nd of January!

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NEXT ISSUE January 2013

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TELEPHONE

STITCHED UP

A TIGHT-KNIT GANG OF YOUNG FEMALE CREATIVES ARE CHANGING THE WORLD OF GRAFFITI. PAGE 46

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KOTY 2

POLAND | MORE ON [HTTP://WWW.KOTY2.COM](http://www.koty2.com)

















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STITCHED UP

A TIGHT-KNIT GANG OF YOUNG FEMALE CREATIVES ARE CHANGING THE WORLD OF GRAFFITI. ARMED WITH A PAIR OF KNITTING NEEDLES AND A BALL OF YARN, WE FIND OUT ABOUT THE SOFTER SIDE OF STREET ART.

WORDS BY LUKE POWELL
PHOTOGRAPHS BY KNITTHECITY

TOP: Handmade Herd.
MIDDLE: Gods by Knit the City.
BOTTOM: Swingin' on the gibbet.



There is a certain image attached to graffiti artists. One that depicts hooded delinquents vandalising cities under the cover of darkness, spray can in hand.

But this old-fashioned stereotype could not be further from the truth and when applied to Lauren O'Farrell, AKA Deadly Knitshade, it is easy to see why.

Having ditched a spray can for a ball of yarn, O'Farrell - along with her 'gang' of graffiti knitters - have been stitching their way across central London, covering anything from telephone boxes to trees in brightly coloured wool.

"Yarnbombing, or yarnstorming as we try to call it when in London, is about enhancing a public space with graffiti knitting or crochet," says 34-year-old O'Farrell, founder of the guerrilla knitting group 'Knit the City.'

"A typical yarnstorm begins with us planning a target and then heading out into early hours of the morning to do it. Once we've covered the object in bright, woolly yarn, we'll run off into the shadows giggling."

Despite the hobby's huge popularity in the UK, guerrilla knitting originally started in a small boutique in Houston, Texas, when in 2005, 39-year-old Magda Sayeg knitted a small cosy to go over the door handle of her shop.

After receiving so much attention from customers over such a small addition, Sayeg, whose guerrilla knitting alias soon became 'Knit Please', decided to start knitting on a much bigger level.

Since then her projects have gone on to include knitting the weapons of a 50-foot, pro-military statue in Bali, Indonesia, to covering an entire bus in yarn during a trip to Mexico.

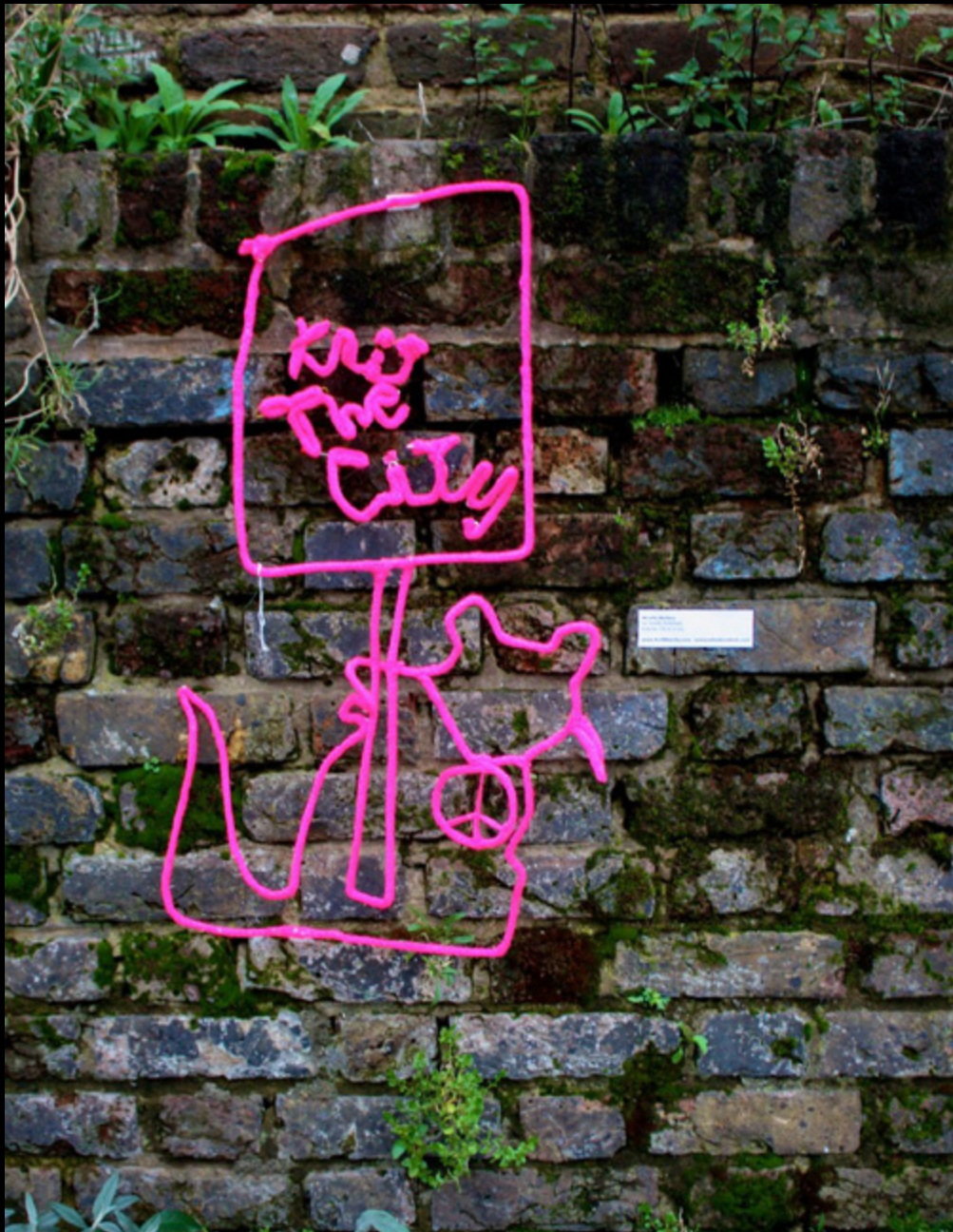
Although O'Farrell was not the first guerrilla knitter, she believes that Knit The City pioneered the art of what she calls 'Stitched Stories'. "When it all started over in America, they were just knitting things and putting them wherever. We did that twice and then we got really bored with it," explains O'Farrell.

"So to give the hobby an extra dimension, we decided to tell stories to go along with the things we created and that has really taken off." The stories, which are posted on Knit the City's blog, are a mix of colourful tales to accompany the images of their exploits.

One of O'Farrell's most popular creations is an incredible 8-metre giant, knitted squid called Plarchie. Made entirely from plastic bags, Plarchie took over 100 hours to create and has been 'exhibited' all across London, including the Natural History Museum.



“OUR PUPILS WILL ENTER HUMBLE AND TIMID AND THEY WILL GO OUT AS SNEAKY STITCHERS.”



Despite a lot of O’Farrell’s work sharing many similarities with graffiti, notably the lack of permission when attaching it to public property, the police have only approached her on one occasion.

“We were knitting a giant cosy for a telephone box back in 2009 when the police came over and asked us what we thought we were doing,” says O’Farrell. “We managed to convince them it was for a craft project and they actually let us continue working on it, one of the policemen even took a picture on his phone, so I think we secretly got their approval.”

Lauren’s interest in knitting started back in 2006 when she used the hobby to distract her from the treatment she was undergoing for cancer.

During that time she created a small knitting group known as Stitch and Bitch with fellow enthusiasts. Eventually, after a three-year long battle with Hodgkin’s Lymphoma, she returned to full health emerging as her alter ego ‘Deadly Knitshade’.

“I had always been interested in graffiti and street art, and the free time I suddenly had whilst in hospital was a great opportunity for me to explore my artistic side,” explains O’Farrell. “When I was finally let out, Stitch and Bitch became Stich London and that grew massively in popularity.”

So popular was her Stich London group, that she launched a book under the same name, featuring her unique knitting patterns.

More recently, O’Farrell, along with her Knit the City accomplices; Lady Loop, Shorn-a the Dead, The Fastener and Knitting Ninja, are to launch the world’s first ‘Yarnstorm Boot Camp’ located on the Isle of Wight.

Knit the City will teach wannabe knitters over a three-day period, before allowing the students to graduate.

“We get asked so often if people can join us and how they can start up themselves. Seeing as we are keeping Knit the City to just the four of us, we wanted a way to teach others to get involved and go out and

start their own groups,” says O’Farrell. “Our pupils will enter humble and timid and they will go out as sneaky stitchers, I think the Isle of Wight can expect to be overrun with knitted creatures by the time we get round to it.”

As more yarnstormers are recruited in the future, it seems as though the movement will continue to soften the shady image of street art.

“Most people love what we do, they usually find it quite odd, but it does make people smile,” adds O’Farrell. “I can’t see that ever changing, and I can’t see myself changing what I do either.”

To see more knitting visit:
<http://knittthecity.com/>
<http://www.whodunnknit.com>

LEFT: Knit The City’s homage to street artist Banksy.
RIGHT: ‘Tagging’ in Trafalgar Square.



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