



Rip The Ripper

POWELL

Words by **George Powell**
Photos: **Desiree Astorga**
Rip the Ripper: **V. C. Johnson**

ART SHOW

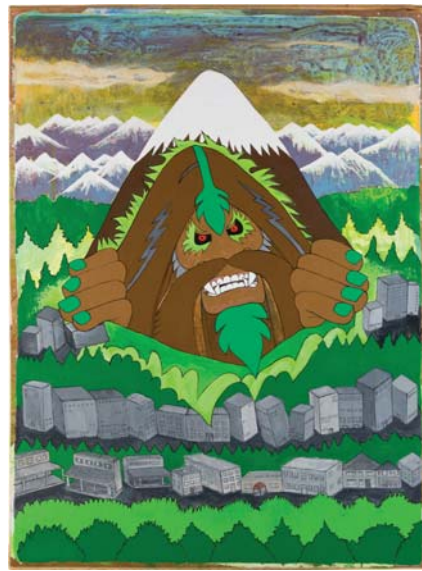
Ripper

The *Ripper* graphic has become so widely known and respected in the skate world that many young artists “borrow” Court Johnson’s famous artwork to further their clients’ marketing plans or their own art reputation. Usually, we are not very stoked to see this, and these “compliments” end up in our attorney’s IN box. One day early last year we were chuckling about how many of these were coming up on the Internet, at a rate of several per month, and marveled at how many people thought enough of the *Ripper* to rip it off. One thing led to another during our conversation, and it was suggested we should invite some of the industry’s best artists to participate in an art show designed to let each artist interpret Court’s graphic in their own way, with our permission. Wow, what a fun thought. So Brett Hammond contacted a few of his artist friends, and discovered they were into it. Steve Caballero contacted a few more. From there, we asked Desiree Astorga to take over plans for a show at the January ASR show and used our Skate One staff to assist her. As word of who was participating in the show spread, many more

artists than we ever expected asked to be a part of it, and it grew far beyond our initial estimates, to more than 60 artists. When the pieces began to come in before the show, we were blown away by the quality and originality of the artists’ work. It was simply amazing! So we stepped up our efforts to make sure the works were shown and publicized well at ASR. When it was all over, people came to us and said they thought the “Rip the *Ripper*” Art Show was one of the best things to happen at the ASR show this January. This was a really fun show for us to produce, and all our staff helped out. Our artists participated by doing their own pieces, and everyone else helped to get the artwork packaged, shipped, hung, and the reception for the artists planned. The show was incredible to experience first hand. Art has to be seen in person to appreciate the full effect it creates; but for those who could not be there, we have produced a coffee-table book of the show, which will include all the pieces, photos of the artists’ reception, commentary, and a historical forward. It will be available on skateone.com very soon. ■



Angryblue



Bigfoot



Billy Bakker



Brett Hammond



Chris Pastras



Adam Wallacavage



Chicken



Bobby Puleo



Dennis McNett



Desiree Astorga



Don Pendleton



Flip



Fos



Jason Maloney



Jason Redwood



Jaymeer



JJ Rudisill



John Lytle



Lori Damiano



Ron Cameron



J Strickland



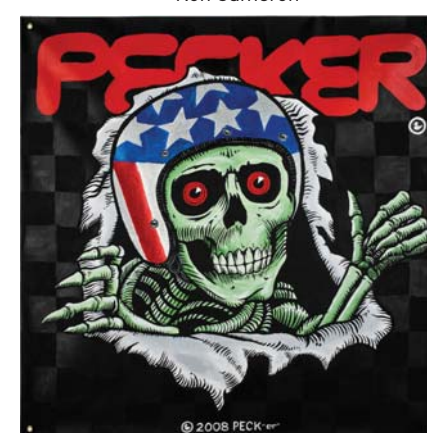
Judi Oyama



Keith Meek



Michael Sieben



Oliver Pecker



Susanne Melanie



Paul Imagine



Jeral Tidwell



Andrew Pommier



James O'Mahoney



Johnny Mojo



Tod Swank



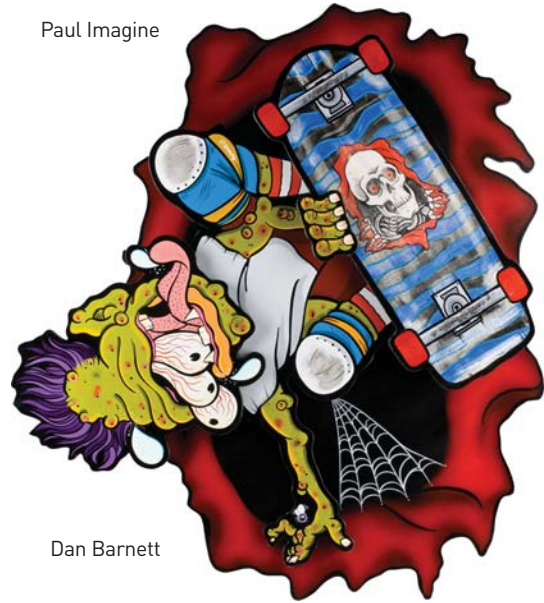
Squindo



Mark Sellman



Tanner Goldbeck



Dan Barnett



Russ Pope



Shepard Fairey



Esao Andrews



Steve Sherlock



Todd Bratrud



John Oliver



Marco Saiz



Steve Caballero



Jerry Mahoney



Kevin Ancell



Steve Saiz



Kevin Marburg



Wes Humpston



Lance Mountain



Jason Adams



Michael Matheson



Steve Olson

RIPPER