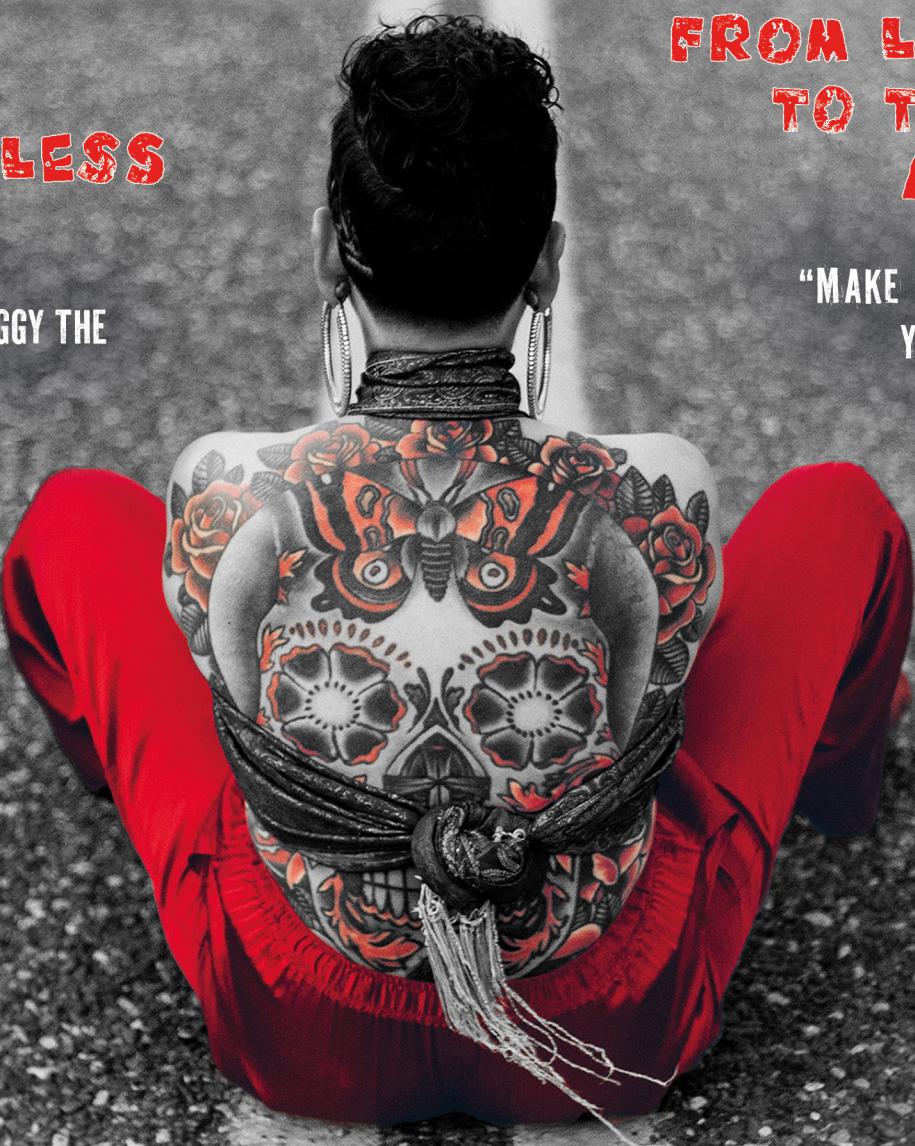


Volume 1, issue 1, winter 2023

# IDENTIFY!

A STRIPELESS  
ZEBRA!?

READ THE STORY OF ZIGGY THE  
STRIPELESS ZEBRA



FROM LAWYER  
TO TATTOO  
ARTIST

"MAKE YOUR PLAN B  
YOUR PLAN A"

A TATTOO ARTISTS  
JOURNEY

"IT FELT REALLY COOL THAT SOME  
ONE GOT A TATTOO OF MY OWN DESIGN"

A TEACHER  
WITH TATTOOS

"IF YOU TRULY WANT SOMETHING YOU  
SHOULD MAKE IT PERMANENT"

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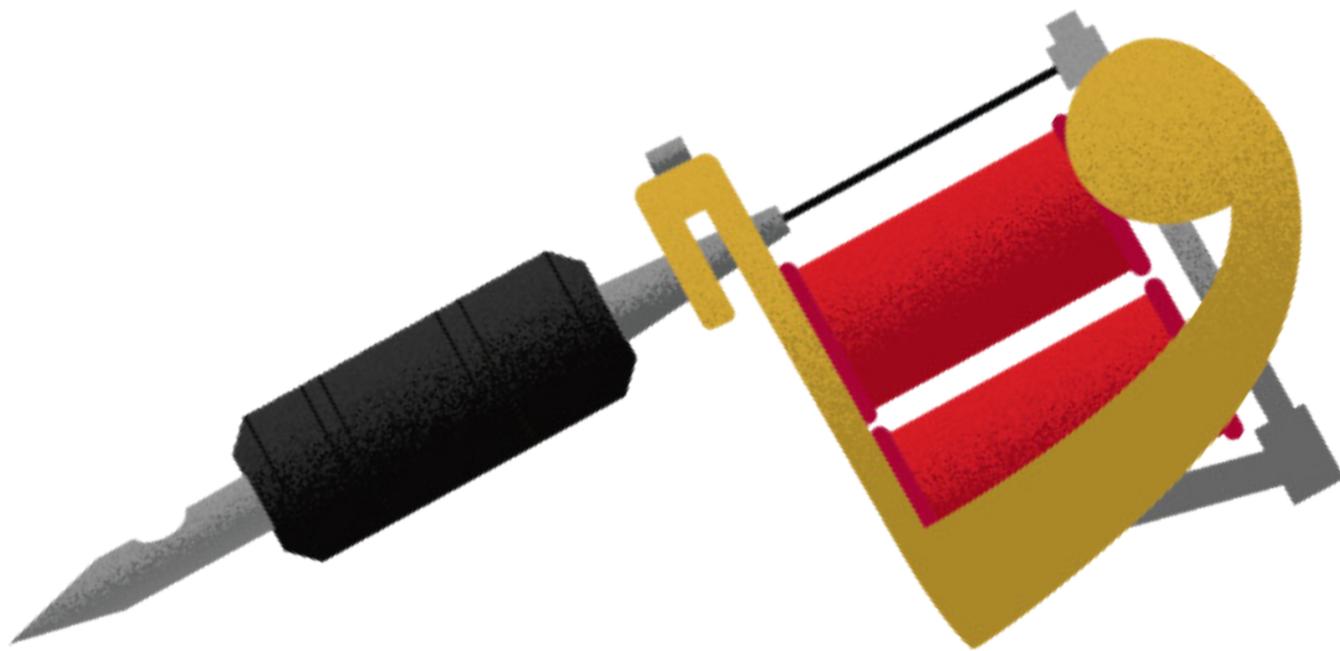
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# DESTINED TO TATTOO

**When you look at the amazing work of a tattoo artist, you might think these talented people have been doing this their entire life. However, nothing could be further from the truth. Just like everyone, these people had to find out what they wanted to do through trials and tribulations. Pam Sernaiotto, who used to be a lawyer, made a big career switch after realizing working in law did not make her happy. Sjors also made a career switch because for him, being a freelance illustrator lacked social contact. Both found their passion in tattooing and let go of their career to follow their dreams.**

Pam told us that when she was younger, she loved drawing. During lunch breaks, she would always draw herself and her friends in her books, but she did not like colouring them in. Due to a lack of artistic options at the time, she opted out of studying law. Since studying demanded a lot of her time, she gave up drawing and any form of artistic expression. After graduating, she passed the bar exam for law and practised law for four years.

When asked about what made her switch her careers, she said: "I liked working with the law before I started working with it." she told us that there was no self-expression being a lawyer.

"You must dress in a certain way or do your hair like this or like that. I couldn't express myself through my body, or art, or my hair, it was putting me inside a box." Even though she had succeeded her goal of working in law, it was making her completely miserable.

After four years, Pam decided enough was enough and started looking into getting back in touch with her creative side. Her eye immediately fell onto working in the tattoo field. However, making that switch was not easy. "That was so tough, it was like my rock bottom in depression. I was already feeling horrible and terrible with myself and what I was

doing because I wasn't liking it. I didn't enjoy going to work during the day, so I was already pretty depressed when I decided to quit." Around this time, she explains that unbeknownst to her, she had developed severe panic attacks, thinking it was just connected to her physical health. Even after realizing how bad her job was making her feel, taking the step to actually quit was still very difficult, "my family was expecting me to be a lawyer." Even though her family did not force her on this career path, there were certain expectations, being the first one in her family to go to university.



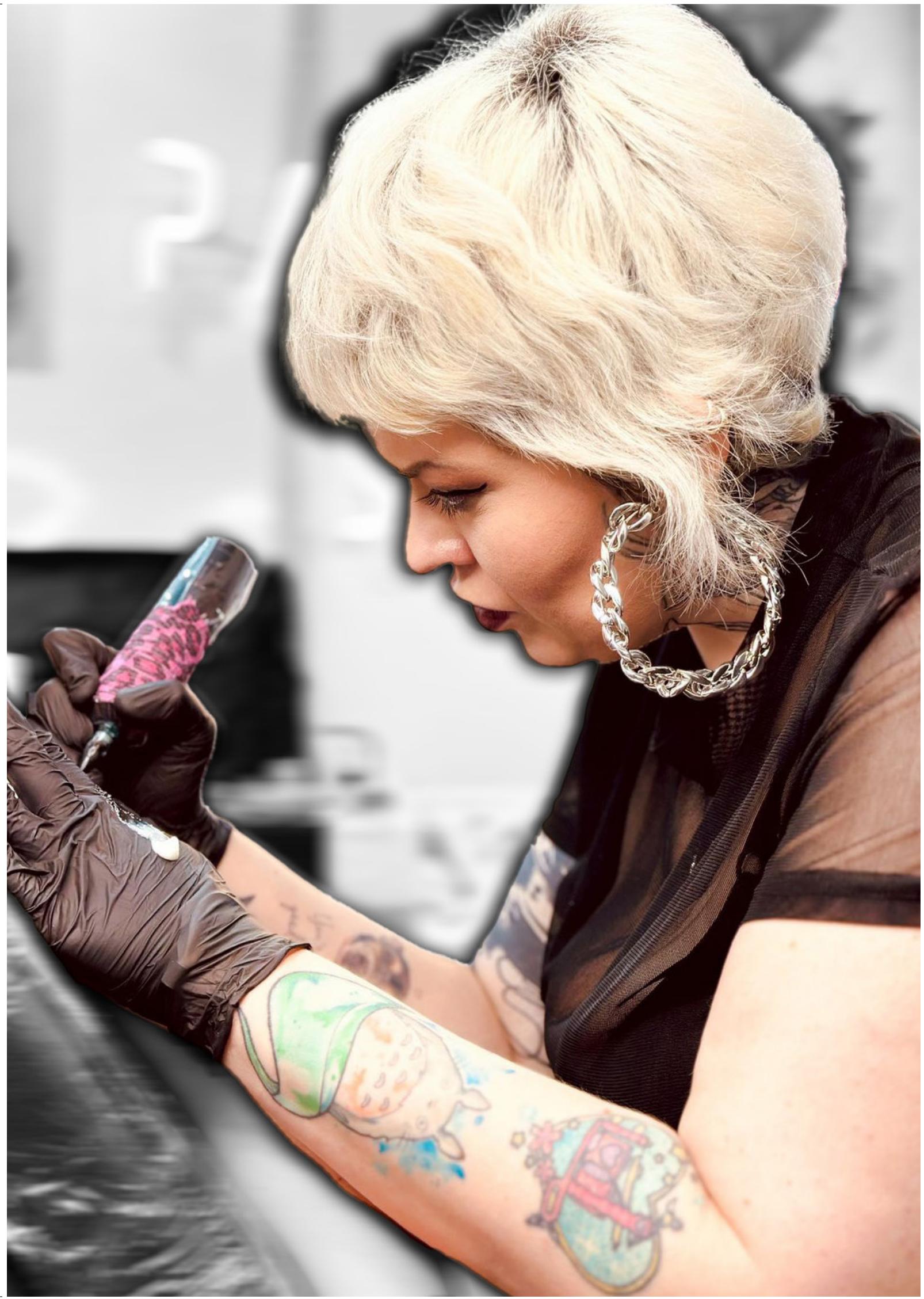
## "MY FAMILY WAS EXPECTING ME TO BE LAWYER."

In 2010, she stopped being a lawyer. "I wasn't doing law, so I could do whatever I wanted." At the same time, she started getting more tattoos and fell in love with the vibe and the feel of tattoo shops. She said that she liked the fact that someone would be drawing all day and someone would enter the shop and get one of those drawings, "I fell in love with that." There still was one big problem; there was only one course in learning tattoos, which was in another city, and it was very expensive. At the time, she lived in a small city near the ocean, in the state of São Paulo. Moving to another city was not an option since, at this time, she was jobless and could not afford it. So, she went asking around at tattoo shops to see if they were willing to teach her. She even offered to pay them if she was just allowed to watch. She was told that tattoos and tattooing was a man's job and was refused to be their apprentice.

After being told off like those multiple times, most people would give up and move on to the next thing, but not Pam. She got the bright idea to just take more tattoos herself and very closely observe the techniques that they were using on her, "I would pay attention to whatever the tattoo artist was doing." While she did learn a lot from this, she does admit that sadly she was not able to learn it properly around this time. She could not get her lines right and had so many questions, which led to a certain point of defeat where she had to drop tattoos for the time being. It took her seven years to earn enough money through

other jobs to move to the big city of São Paulo. Here she noticed that things were a lot different from where she originally came from. While still being somewhat frowned upon, here were way more women and girls learning how to tattoo. This motivated her enough to give it another shot to try to learn again. "I started messaging other girls who were also learning", this was way easier now with the tools of social media like Facebook and Instagram. "We started to talk about it, and I would teach them something I knew, and they would in turn teach me something else, and that way we kind of learned together."

This way she quickly got better and better, even though her style at the beginning was a far cry of her very personalized style she has now. When asked about this she told us: "When I decided to learn how to tattoo, I started tattooing with just black ink, that's normal, you have to learn the basics, but I quickly found myself getting bored with it, you know? Black here, black there, and then the shading is black and everything is just black." She then went on to tell us that she actually never knew how to colour as a kid. "I never learned how to colour. It was all black and drawn with pencil and everything. I was afraid of using colours." Luckily enough, she did not let her fear of colouring get the best of her, quite the opposite. She started studying how to colour to become an expert on it because, in her own words, "I could not colour for nothing, so I decided to be excellent at it." This of course took a long time to master, but all her dedication did pay off in the end, creating an extremely unique style that is not replicated anywhere else.



Nowadays, Pam has her own studio in São Paulo and travels the world as a guest artist at other tattoo shops. She has a perfect five-star rating with more than two hundred reviews, having done a little over sixteen hundred tattoos. We asked her what she thinks gives her all these positive reviews, and she responded that it is not just about the tattoos. While most tattoo artists ask you what you want before you come in and have a sketch ready for you when you come in, Pam chooses to do things a little differently. Instead of asking what you want before you come in, she has people come in and talk to the customers to create the tattoo with them on the spot. "I did everything with watercolour, and I would sometimes find that even though clients would like the design, they wanted me to change little things, which is so hard to do at that point. This way of creating made it a welcoming process for her clients. I am pretty sure those five-stars reviews are not just for the tattoos, but it is also the whole experience in spending the afternoon with me, where some clients really connect with me, it is this whole process."

With her business growing fast over the past few years, Pam has some bright plans for the future. She wants to travel a lot more on the long term to create more oversea relationships. As she said: "I want to just go anywhere and be able to tattoo there." She states that it is not just for the change of scenery, but also the fact that in other countries people tend to take different tattoos as well. In the near future, she would like more people to work in her studio, mainly girls and women who are starting in tattoos.

We closed the interview with a few inspiring words of advice for people who want to get started in tattoos. She admits it is cliché, but her first advice was to study a lot. "Pay attention to every little detail. If you are looking at a font, look at every detail. If it's a character, look at every single little line. Study every drawing that you made. There is no way of doing it fast, so just take your time and tell clients to just be patient."

## "I AM SO HAPPY AND GRATEFUL THAT I TOOK THAT STEP."

And finally, we asked her if she had any advice for people who are stuck doing work they do not want to do. She told us to find your plan B and make it your plan A. "It's hard to do something you have studied for so many years and then just quit. But I was super comfortable since I was still living at my parents, so that helped a lot of having that support. Not just the emotional, but also the financial support." She told us that saving up some money and cutting back on expenses is also really important. "Go find and do what you really like. What can you imagine yourself doing for the next ten to fifteen years? If money

wasn't an issue, what would I like to do?" For Pam this was doing something artistic, working with art and find what she was able to use as her creative outlet. Sometimes it is hard when you already have

a career and are well off financially, to then have to start over. But, what is more important is that you are happy with what you do every day. "I am so happy and grateful that I took that step."

Someone who took that step is Sjors.

Sjors van Helmond lives in a very small village in the Netherlands and is currently 23 years old. About a year ago, he started his journey of learning how to turn people into his canvas. Sjors started drawing at a very young age. His asthma and hay fever made it difficult for him to go outside a lot. That is why he was often sitting inside to work on his creative ideas. At the age of seven, he moved to Mexico with his parents and sister because of his father's work. This was a major change in his life. It was a totally different culture with other values and beliefs. Mexico is a much stricter Christian country where a lot of things such as cartoon characters, which are seen as very normal in less religious countries, are often seen as demonic. "In Mexico, I noticed that my generation began to resist that." Watching cartoons on television was very popular among his friends. These originally Japanese animated series later became known as anime, which were not very well-known in Europe yet. Sjors is still very passionate about anime and even has a tattoo related to this.

After living in Mexico for almost 5 years, they moved back to the Netherlands. It was difficult to readjust to the culture here. While kids around him had a strong friend group from childhood, his were on the other side of the world. A few years later after obtaining his HAVO diploma, Sjors still had no vision for what he wanted to do next, but eventually decided to start marketing communication at Koning Willem I College in 'S-Hertogenbosch. Unfortunately, he did not feel like the programme was suited for him and switched to media and design. Through this programme, he was able to do things more to his liking and express his creative thoughts. After graduating media and design, he started as a freelance illustrator, but the lack of contact with people and clients decreased his motivation. For a while, the idea of becoming a tattoo artist existed somewhere in his head, but this was just an idea. With this profession, he would be able to have that social contact with customers and also be able to be creative.

Tattoos were not unfamiliar to him at the time. Currently, he has six tattoos, of which two represent something important to him. The number 22 reoccurs very often in his life, for example, he turned 22 on March 22nd in 2022, he was 22 years old when he started his tattoo artist journey and his grandfather was born and passed away on the 22nd. Furthermore, the number 77 is his lucky number. It was one of his favourite things to doodle in class. "I used to doodle a lot, and teachers would always get angry with me."

On a trip to Dublin in 2021, Sjors and a friend of his made the decision to get a tattoo. The artist that tattooed them gave Sjors a motivative insight as a future as a tattoo artist. His name was Jailes Moura, a former



engineer from Brazil who moved to Ireland to start his career as a tattoo artist. After a long conversation between the two of them, mainly about Mexico and drawing, Jailes asked if Sjors saw a career as a tattoo artist for himself. After a moment of doubt, the artist told him to not think about it too much and just try it, which lit a spark inside of him. His father also asked if becoming a tattoo artist would fit his interest. He was a big motivational factor and the reason he made the final decision to start his apprenticeship. His father also played a role in this decision-making process, because he encouraged him to take it seriously and start his apprenticeship. "My dad always told me to do something you'd like, because you have to do it for a really long time. I wouldn't need a lot of money, as long as I could pay my bills."

It was around this time last year that he got his first tattoo machine and became an apprentice for Makkie, a tattoo artist with 35 years of experience to teach him all the techniques he will later need. For Sjors, starting his apprenticeship was not as easy as he hoped it would be. Not because the tasks were difficult, but because the repetitive process of just tracing already existing designs for a few months straight, which was very demotivating for him. Currently, he can make designs of his own, make designs for Makkie and has started practising tattooing on fake skin. His father will be the first person for him to tattoo, which makes it extra special for him since he helped him choose his new path in life.

Sjors explains that the process of becoming a professional tattoo artist starts with a great deal of simply drawing. It teaches you how to handle certain shapes, the difference between light and dark and whether to make use of coloured ink or solely black ink. "You think it's just drawing and putting down a line with a machine, but it's much more difficult than that." The following step requires the mentor to give feedback on techniques that are being practised after which the apprentice can continue on his own and eventually, start tattooing on people.

With this profession, working in a shop where he can meet customers in person and connect with them, Sjors feels more content and fulfils his need for social contact, but there is also a downside. "Of course, with tattooing, you have a certain responsibility. They are expensive and have to look good. Otherwise, you'll lose customers." We asked him what tattooing means to him, and he responded with: "You can give it multiple meanings. They are timestamps which remind you of the moment you got them and the amazing stories behind them. Besides that, they are great conversation starters, and it felt really cool to see that someone got a tattoo of my own design."

For both Pam and Sjors, taking that step to follow their heart and passion has been a life-changing experience. Both decided to follow their true dreams, even if there are obstacles on your path. But, that is where you learn the most. After all, success is a journey, not just a destination.



# INKSTER

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## FICTIONAL STORY

# EVERY

# STRIPES

Ziggy scrubs until his skin tingles. It's not easy to get rid of all the mud that was thrown at him. Soap and water leave his coat white again, no marks or stripes. Just plain. He makes a beeline for his room once he gets out of the shower and lies down on his bed. His tears come back now that he's truly alone and relives what has happened. Randall and his friend group humiliate him, before letting a group of monkeys target him with handfuls of mud.

He lets his gaze drift across his room. It's nothing fancy, but it's a space where he can truly be himself. Colours in the form of postcards from different cities decorate the walls. The golden light through his window highlighting some of them.

He blinks his tears away "I wish I could take a break." He whispers through his tears. Sadness and anger replace the shame he felt. "It's not fair! It's not fair! Why did I have to be different?" Ziggy screams and burrows his head in the pillow.

He sniffls through his tears and turns his head to the side. Over on the wall, is a postcard of Porto, showing a world full of colours through the tiles and architecture. The red border around it makes the scene more noticeable. After Ziggy sits up on his bed, he wishes he could just be there right now. A frown takes over his face.

Looking at the postcard once more before springing into action. Ziggy moves around his room, grabbing his red backpack before opening the drawer where he keeps his money. He takes all of it and shoves it in the bag. He moves swiftly, gathering toiletries and his journal from his desk. It lays open on a colourful page. His doodles of a zebra with coloured stripes are the last he sees before shoving it in his backpack as well. He grabs a piece of paper, carefully writing out a last goodbye for his parents. The zebra picks it up and reads it over. It is not perfect, but it will have to do, and carefully places it on the bed.

He closes the backpack and opens his door, too afraid to make a sound. It's quiet, only for his parents mumbling somewhere downstairs, probably in the kitchen.

He tiptoes down the stairs, his heart going a mile a minute, skipping the creaking step. Ziggy hugs the wall and peeks around the corner. He sees his parents in the kitchen. For a second, guilt takes over his mind. How can he leave his parents? They have always been there for him, after every mishap and struggle.

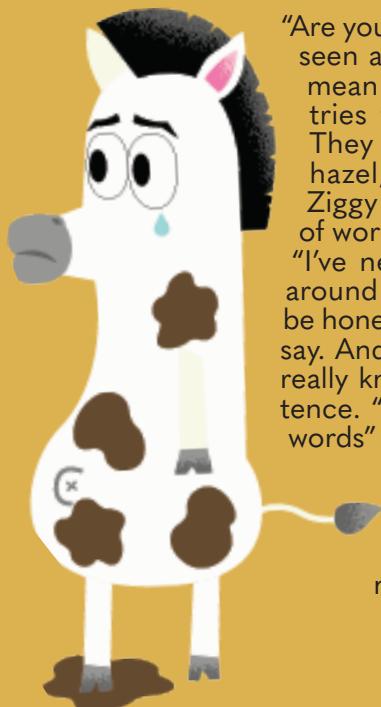
However, the itch under his skin to see the world only grows stronger by the minute. He takes a breath, knowing he must do this on his own. With that, he turns around and reaches the door. He has a train to catch.

When Ziggy steps out of the train, he is met with a blue sky and leafy green trees. Everything is so bright and colourful. Ziggy feels a thrilling sensation go through his hooves. He watches with open eyes as the life of the city engulfs him in its rhythm. Everywhere he looks, he sees something new. On his left are beautiful blue and green tiles covering a whole row of houses. Everyone looks so happy. He sees a group of donkeys enjoying the sunrays. He spots one with a hoop in their nose, and some other with a shaven design in their fur. Deciding that today is the day to be brave, Ziggy approaches them.

"Ehm, hey" He asks timidly. "Hey man, how's it going?" One of them says. From up close, Ziggy notices a piercing in his eyebrow as well. The zebra shakes his head when he realizes he is staring, stepping out of his trance. "Sorry, I didn't mean to be rude." He stammers, feeling caught in the act. "All good mate." The donkey says while holding up his hoof. Ziggy looks at it for a second before realizing it's a hoof-bump. He recovers himself and awkwardly holds his hoof out. The group around him giggles at his antics, but for the first time, Ziggy feels it is not in a negative way.

"Well, what are you waiting for, hotshot? Grab a chair, you look like someone with a lot of stories", says the girl with the shaved dragon. "Yeah, you look like you have some secrets" someone chimes in. Ziggy looks around him. He sees no one ready to push him over, so grabs a chair and sits down, patting his lap awkwardly. Some started their conversations up again.

Ziggy is not sure where he should chime in. Having this much social stimuli has never happened before. Panic slowly rises inside of him. He tries to swallow, but his mouth is dry. For a second, he contemplates running away -again- but he stops when he feels something touching in arm. He turns and sees one of the girls with a hoof on his arm, with a worried look on her face.



"Are you okay? You look like you've seen a ghost." She asks. "No. I-I mean yes." Ziggy stammers. He tries to hold her eye contact. They are a beautiful shade of hazel, deep and mysterious. Ziggy sighs deep before a sea of words come out of his mouth. "I've never had so many people around me being nice to me, to be honest I just don't know what to say. And you're just..." He doesn't really know how to finish the sentence. "You are just too sweet for words" The girl giggles. "I'm Sofia" She says and holds out her hoof. "Ziggy" he says while extending his own. "Okay Ziggy, I like that name. It suits you."

They fall into an easy conversation. Turns out, talking to others is not scary at all. The zebra slowly starts to realize that maybe, he doesn't suffer from social anxiety, it's just others who never gave him a chance.

Ziggy slowly lets himself relax. Him and Sofia talk for hours sitting there and watching the busy life of the city flash past them. Sofia is an artist, already making money with murals throughout the city.

"So, what brings you to Porto?" Sofia asks. By now, the others have joined their conversation. There is Alfonso, the guy with the eyebrow piercing who talks with his hoof and is apparently a semi-pro-skater. Miguel is allegedly 'the best cook in Porto'. Ziggy is already promised a three-course meal. Tarik, is originally from Morocco, but moved here five years ago. "I met this crazy bunch drunk in an alleyway on some Wednesday night, and I haven't been able to get rid of them ever since." Tarik jokes with a wink.

Lastly, there was Maria, the girl with all the swirls tattoos on her. Some of them even look hypnotizing. "I did some of them myself," she boasts with a smirk on her face. "It looks so cool" Ziggy says as he leans over to admire it closer. Maria smiles.

"When did you start?" Ziggy asks as he meets her gaze. "About two years ago? Don't look so surprised! Once you start, you'll get addicted," she responds to Ziggy's shocked face. He looks back down at her arms where the swirls and patterns stand out on her skin. The longer he looks at it, the more curious he gets. Tattoos sound quite interesting. Ziggy tries to imagine himself with something on his skin. It would be nice to finally look like a real zebra.

Ziggy feels overwhelmed with the amount of talent and creativity around him. These people who express themselves so differently, yet they all find common ground in their creativity.

"Why did you start?" Ziggy finds himself asking. It still surprises him with how talkative he feels.

"Why do you want to know?" Maria quirks.

"I don't know, curiosity? Like, what the process is. But you're avoiding my question," Ziggy quickly adds.

The girl smiles before answering, "Just wanted to stand out from everyone, I guess. I mean, look at all of them, it's boring to have nothing on your skin."

It gets eerily quiet; you could hear a pin drop. Ziggy swallows. He looks around the circle before turning his head around. He doesn't want them to see his emotions, not when they just started to like him.

"Hey, I'm sorry. I didn't mean it like that." Maria says and puts her hoof on his shoulder. The weight of it grounds him a bit as he lets her words sink in.

"It's okay I guess." Ziggy sighs. "I know I'm different. I mean, our stripes are made to blend in, and I don't have that. I'm not normal like everybody at home." He laughs, but it doesn't reach his eyes.

"Maybe normal isn't meant for you, my friend" Miguel pipes in. "Yeah, you've got to create your own style, dude. You are You, and no one else can do that," Tarik says as the others agree with him.

A bit of anger rises inside of Ziggy. He frowns "Why on earth would I want to stick out of the crowd? My whole life, I have wanted nothing more than to just be normal." He stands up. "I have never had friends or, or anyone to lean on. It was just me, alone! And now you are going to tell me that I should do just that? Screw that! You have no idea what I've been through!" He breaths heavy as he looks around the group. They all have a worried expression. It suddenly dawns on him what he just said. He never meant to expose that much of himself, especially his past. His heart is racing. What if they laugh at him for being all alone? What if they think he's a freak and this is all a façade?

Breaking the awkward silence, Alfonso asks, "You know what you need? You got to meet our friend Jerryl," he says and takes a sip of his drink. "Al, that's a great idea! Why didn't I think of that!" says Maria. The mischievous glint is back in her eye. Ziggy doesn't know her for that long, but he can practically see her excitement shoot to the sky.

"Who's Jerryl?" Ziggy tries to answer as normal as possible. He's internally grateful that no one really commented on his emotional outburst. A sliver of hope nestles back in his heart, hoping they are still cool with them "Jerryl is only like, the coolest dude." someone says.

"Yeah, I actually work part time at his tattoo shop," Maria answers. She stands up before helping Sofia as well. "Come on, It's not busy, I haven't been called in yet." She winks before walking up the hill with the rest following her. Ziggy finds a comfortable spot at the back of the group. The ambiance seems to have shifted back into what it was before his outburst.

He feels someone next to him and looks to see Sofia fall into his step. She looks up at him, and Ziggy gives a comforting smile. They walk silence. The sunset has been traded in for a beautiful sky,

stars twinkling, a gentle breeze around them.

While walking the streets, Ziggy tries to take in the ambiance of the city. Every building he sees is uniquely tiled with patterns and colours to stand out in their own way. Yet, in his mind, he keeps reliving the situation.

Somewhere, he knows they are right. Even what Maria said was true. Despite him never fitting in at home, he now found people, places even, that put those thoughts into a different perspective. On one hand, there is a nagging voice in his head wanting to fit in to be liked, yet, on the other hand, surrounded by all this creativity makes him wonder if 'being normal' is what he really wants.

The group stops in front of a small shop. The light illuminates the sign above the double doors, reading inkfluence. It's a small front, nestled between two others. It looks a bit run down on the outside, but when Maria opens the door, a cozy, well-lit area shows. The floors are wood, the walls have shelves filled with plants, frames, and unique colourful-looking objects.

Alfonso, Miguel, and Sofia immediately walk to the comfy-looking leather couches. Ziggy laughs as Alfonso lets himself fall on the couch.

"Hey, hey! If it isn't my favourite people," someone says as he walks out of the back. Ziggy looks up to the sound and is amazed by what he sees. In front of him is a zebra, with stripes and, well, more than stripes? Between them the man has some thunderbolts, making them stand out from the regular pattern.

"Jerryl, meet our friend Ziggy, he arrived in Porto today." Maria introduces him. Jerryl looks him up and down. "What's up dude! Look at you, a blank canvas. Ready to get tatted up?" "Tatted what?" Ziggy asks confused. "Yeah, that's what you're here for, right?" The older zebra says with a confused look on his face.

"Am I?" he asks to the group.

"Yeah, you are!" Sofia quips from the couch.

"You do want to get tattooed, right?" Maria asks and looks at him with her penetrating eyes. "Yeah, I do," Ziggy stammers. "But I didn't realize it would be this fast."



"That's okay, even better. Start your trip off right, am I right?" Jerryl says. "So, do you have any designs in mind? Want me to help brainstorm?"

"I, I think I know what I want," Ziggy says.

"You do?" Maria asks.

"Yep." The zebra says full of confidence and walks over to the table with all the designs. "All my life, I have wanted to fit in, but meeting you guys, only six hours ago, I feel that I was in the wrong place all my life." He looks up to see everyone looking at him, again. It makes him a bit uncomfortable, but this whole trip has been a step out of his comfort zone, so he powers through.

"I don't think it's wrong and boring to fit in if you do it in your own style. And, being with the right people also helps." The whole group is smiling. It's only for a second before Jarryl joyously screams. The others join in to engulf him in a group hug. "That's the spirit, dude! Strong words for a small fella like you," He adds and bumps his shoulder. Ziggy blushes, his heart is overflowing with the love and positivity he's receiving.

"Shall we get this show on the road then?" He boldly says. The group laughs.

"Wait! What do you want?" Maria cleverly asks.

"Oh, right. I want to get some stripes tattooed, but they will be coloured stripes. So, I can fit in, but do it my own way."

The whole group voices their agreement, before Ziggy walks to the chair. Tarik put one some jazz, while Maria and Jerryl stencil his soon to be stripes.

"I definitely want red for courage and strength, for everything I had to endure in my old life, and for the courage to break out of that pattern and following my path."



"And how about gold? That represents achievement and success. Combined with red, I think it will show how far you've come, and a foreshadowing of what an amazing future you have in front of you." Maria helps.

"Yeah, I like that. Only good things to come, right?" Ziggy asks.

"Only good things to come." Jerryl states with the ink gun in his hand. He looks at Ziggy for confirmation before starting. Ziggy braces himself for the pain. It's mild, more like a nagging pain, and as he relaxes more into it and the time seems to fly by. Alfonso and Sofia help him out of the chair and show him to the mirror.

Ziggy twists his head to look at the stripes. They are extraordinary, The bold red contrasts to his white skin, the gold making it look more put together. "You look like someone new, Ziggy," Sofia says and places a hoof on his shoulder. Ziggy turns around to see the whole group admiring his tattoos. The confidence boosts through his veins smiling wild and proud before he responds to Sofia.

"I am finally myself."





# TATTOOED TEACHER

**"I WANT TO COMPLETE THE PICTURE, SOMETHING I CAN LOOK BACK ON THAT IS TRUE TO MYSELF."**

You see them everywhere. Tattoos in this day and age are becoming less and less of a taboo, especially the youth has been grabbed by the phenomenon of the world that is tattoos. Living in the 21st century means breaking loose from stereotypes.

To have visual tattoos while working is something older generations could not have imagined, but Thijs Havenith is someone to break this standard. This young teacher lives his life the way he wants it, and that shows through his tattoos. Starting with just a quote tattooed on him led him into the world of tattoos. Now, even eleven years later, Thijs still haven't lost the passion for tattoos. He is not done yet. "I want to complete the picture, something I can look back on that is true to myself."

**"BAD THINGS WILL HAPPEN IF YOU DON'T USE YOUR HEAD"**

Born in Zoetermeer, Thijs Havenith had a calm childhood with supporting parents who thought him to have an open mindset. He started studying while still living at home, commuting back and forth to Rotterdam. The big city sparked up his creativity and personality. Seeing people around him with tattoos made them interesting. He saw more and more people around him express themselves with tattoos. A sleeve here, a few small ones there. So, at 19 years old, he got his first tattoo.

A quote inspired by the Spanish painter Goya that read 'El sueño de la razón produce monstruos' or, 'The sleep of reason produces monsters. "Bad things will happen if you don't use your head" Thijs explained as the reason behind his tattoo. It reminds him to always do something with a conscious mind and to be aware of whatever consequences your actions might have. While nervous for his first tattoo, he did not hesitate for too long to get new ones. He sees tattoos as growth of who he is as a person. What started with wanting a meaning behind it, flowed into a calmer mindset of whatever looks fun or exciting.'



## **"WE CHANGED OUR MINDSET FROM 'WHAT CAN'T WE DO' TO 'WHAT CAN WE DO?'"**

Thijs' life outside of work is spent being creative as well. During covid, he was not able to sit still and do nothing, so he and some friends set up their own DJ business. "We changed our mindset from 'what can't we do' to 'what can we do?'" While DJ'ing is a big part of his life now, Thijs is still busy with developing himself and what story he wants to tell through his tattoos. Of course, getting tattoos comes with waves. "It can be quite sporadic to set one [tattoo]. Being influenced by tattoo artists online can make me suddenly decide to get a tattoo." Thijs describes it a bit like an addiction. Within two years, Thijs got around 8 tattoos, this all because some friends started tattooing, and he often became someone to practice on. This would mostly be small ones to fill up empty spaces. But once he feels the time is right, he is happy to start any bigger projects again. Even though not every tattoo has a deep or sentimental meaning like his first one, he does live by the quote to do anything in life with a conscious mind.

Getting a negative comment? Thijs has never been bothered by that. He has been teaching social studies at a high school for several years. He notices on a daily basis how generation Z is one of the most open generations if it comes to self-expression. His students are often curious about his tattoos or if it might have a meaning. And Thijs finds that only positive. He can explain something about himself and build a bond with his students. His students know Thijs as the teacher with tattoos, so they will never know any better.

**"I DO LIKE A BIT OF MYSTERY."**

Thijs is open about his tattoos, but it is not as if he starts a conversation about them himself. "I do like a bit of mystery." As soon as people ask about it, he is willing to answer, but they should not expect deep meaning for all of them. "I think other generations' view of body adornment has opened up a lot," he says. Thijs thinks more, and more people are accepting that everyone has a different opinion about it. They may see Thijs as a stereotype, but he greets everyone in a polite manner. Then often the prejudice is already gone, but people who still have an opinion will not show it easily. He never feels watched or that people look at him with an oblique eye.

**"IF YOU TRULY WANT SOMETHING, I THINK IT YOU SHOULD MAKE IT PERMANENT."**

Tattoos are a wonderful thing. For Thijs, it became a way to truly express himself. From being a young boy who struggled in social situations to someone who is literally the life of the party as a DJ. He now enjoys showing his story and personal history through his tattoos.

"If you truly want something, I think you should make it permanent. It is a documentation of your choices, and if you gave it all your thoughts, you cannot regret that choice." Thijs often reflects on his life choices thought his tattoos. Were there some things he might have done different if he knew what he knows now? Yes. But living with your decisions make you human. If you were able to erase everything and start over every time you regret something, where do you learn from? They say the journey is better than the destination, and for Thijs, he shows this through his tattoos and decisions.



# BEPANTHEN TATTOO



JUST AS IMPORTANT  
AS GETTING THE TATTOO



# AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES





## HAILEY JANSEN

### VISUAL DESIGNER

Hailey Augustine Janssen is a 19 years old first year student at Breda University. Born in Rotterdam and with a big family around her, she can only describe her childhood as loving. "There were always friends and family around to play with and do fun stuff with." This is where her caring personality derived from.

Hailey has already finished a graphic design study in Rotterdam before starting creative business. This is where she started working with Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign. She feels at ease with all Adobe programs and makes it a regular hobby to improve her skills across the Adobe creative cloud.

Besides online design, Hailey enjoys reading and drawing as a creative outlet. Hailey started creative

business because she wants to explore different fields of creativity, as well as laying down a foundation for management and marketing.

Even though Hailey doesn't have any tattoos as of yet, she is planning on getting one. She loves to deepen herself and learn all she can about the world of tattoos. "I actually don't know too many people in the world of tattoos. Deepening myself and researching tattoos really helps alleviate my doubts on getting one."

Fun fact: Hailey will get her fist tattoo together with her mom.



## NIELS BEUKERS

### CONTENT DEVELOPER

Niels Cornelis Anthonius Petrus Alexander Beukers is a 23-year-old first year student at Breda University. He is an adventurous type, always up for exploring new interests, like visiting abandoned houses. Other hobbies are working out, climbing and being creative with his friends, like making a podcast, or creating a full comic book. There will always be something that keeps Niels creatively busy.

Before Breda University, Niels studied digital business concepts, but made the switch to creative business. Here he can fully develop his creative side.

He was very young when he first downloaded Photoshop to make small designs. Working as photoshop expert for the magazine completes the circle.

Niels had, ever since he was a just a little kid, an avid interest in tattoos. He got his first tattoo when he was eighteen and got his, for now, last one this year in the month of November. That makes it so, right now, he has four tattoos in total. He however already knows that this is not the end yet and plans to get many more. *"Even though I have all tattoos I planned, I have so many other cool ideas!"*

Fun fact: Niels likes the pina colada song so much, he got the song tattooed on his left arm.



## MAARTJE KREIJTZ

### PROJECT MANAGER

Maartje Marissa Kreijtz is 22-year-old first year student at Breda university. She is raised in a small village in Gelderland. She spends her free time creating videos, traveling, working out, or on the Frisian waters. Her passion for sailing at her high school at the age of fourteen. Ever since then, she has been a sailing instructor.

*"Sailing gives me freedom. It's where I recharge and can truly live in the moment."*

Creativity is Maartje's escape from everyday life. Her head is full of ideas which she brings to life with painting, drawing, and creating videos for social media.

Her role as project manager fits her well with her experience as an employee at the Decathlon where she was in charge of social media, training new employees, and the winter sport department. Maartje is able to use her creativity for this magazine through photoshop, as well as showing her leadership skills as product manager. Maartje has been interested in tattoos for a long time. She has been influenced by her siblings. A goal of her is to get a small tattoo of every country she visits in her life. "I kind of like to use my body as a map of where I have traveled."

Fun fact: Maartje's' first tattoo will be an avocado.



## SANNE VAN LIEROP

### PLANNER/ORGANIZER

Sanne van Lierop, 19 years old, is a Dutch first year creative business student at Breda University. She is born and raised in Helmond, a small city near Eindhoven in the Netherlands. Sanne's passion for creativity started at a young age, where she would express herself through drawing and dancing, like ballet and street dance. When in a creative phase, Sanne finds herself taking inspirations of music and the loved ones around her. Sanne's sister, Renske, is a big part of why she is creative.

*They might be opposites of each other, but that makes them even better as a team. "She is both my big sister and my best friend."*

In her free time Sanne still enjoys creative outlets. One of those is expressing herself throughout clothing. "I am authentic and myself." With such an unique and alternative style you would she would have gotten a tattoo long ago but she only got her first tattoo this month!

Making a magazine about self-expression is something that is right up her alley. Choosing for Illustrator expert lets her be creative with drawing and illustrations as and talk about experience expressing your true self.

Fun fact: Sanne recently got her first tattoo of a sea turtle she saw and photographed while scuba diving.

**DENTIFY!**



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