

needles because as the demand for more custom work was rising, it made it easier to have the time to draw. Also, hand-drawn stencils... my God I'm glad of the thermal copier. Some stencils would take longer to draw than to tattoo! You couldn't buy from any suppliers without a registration certificate, and going into a trade only room at a show was terrifying as someone new to the business.

"Now though, anyone can get hold of anything, which is kind of a shame. I think public knowledge is important, but the mystique of tattooing has been lost by tattoo TV programmes, and the dawn of everyone knowing a kitchen wizard has arrived. Some balance would be nice. It's gone from not enough public awareness to everyone 'having a go' irresponsibly. Not to mention not paying tax on their earnings.

I'LL JUST BE THE BEST AMANDA I CAN BE AND AS LONG AS I'M DOING THAT, WITH THE RESULT OF HAPPY CLIENTS, I AM SATISFIED



Don't be surprised, if I do a little roofing or cosmetic procedures in the future, with MY stuff off eBay!

"That said though, some good has come of it because clients are way more adventurous with what they want done than they used to be. This is great because everything is custom drawn now which has played into my exact wishes for my career since the beginning. Inks are better and there's a massive range available. Life is made a whole lot easier for artists to do what they want with extensive needle configurations and different machines.

"I've also had two children, which has made my time management incredible because I have less of it. I work harder than I ever did before on communicating with clients and on my design work. To be honest, sometimes I'm a borderline workaholic.

"I do miss textiles a great deal, but I get to wear stupid clothes, make costumes for my kids, tattoo people, do face painting for