



the school and playgroup, bake ridiculous cakes, and other creative things – so I really do feel like I have fulfilled my need to be creative. I'm really lucky in that respect. I'm honestly just so happy to be able to make a living out of something I enjoy doing so much."

Looking at some of Amanda's work here, there's more than a fair few great portraits – that will be the old word of mouth doing its thing. Are they something she had to work hard on or did she find she had a natural talent for it? There are truly some awful examples out in the world, so it's nice to see somebody who knows what they're doing.

"My portraits are OK. I'm happy with them, if my clients are! I work hard on every single tattoo I do. I could never specialise in one thing, as I enjoy doing many things. The only constant in my tattooing, is that it all looks like I did it. It could be Japanese or flowers or a load of gory stuff; I don't have a label I guess, I just

tattoo things in my own way, for people that like it.

"It's textured – sketchy/ painterly. Nothing looks very shiny. I use as much black as possible and also use very old machines at the moment because I want to see what I can do with those before I start changing my kit around too much. I love needle marks in tattoos, just like I love brush strokes in paintings.

"When I see the work that's out there these days, I'm honestly gobsmacked as to why anyone wants to travel and get tattooed by me, but my God I'm grateful and honoured that they do. It is nice to know people like my tattoos because I think I tattoo in a weird way. Even my colleagues think so too. That said, I'm still totally happy and fine with what I do. 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."

We seem to have come out of the cult of celebrity now when it

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comes to TV. Personally, I think it's all over bar the shouting and the aftermath any mainstream media might want to make of it. It's probably a broad question, but Gloucester is as good an example as anywhere, so... did it make an impact on the day-to-day happenings of Alzone? There was a lot of criticism about how people would think sleeves didn't take very long, but did that really happen in the real world?

"Weirdly, Gloucester has been about ten years behind bigger cities in the trend of tattooing. Tattoo TV shows certainly accelerated the amount of people asking for cool stuff. It also made them do a little more homework before coming in and saying that classic line 'I want a tattoo, but I don't know what I want'. People 🙄"