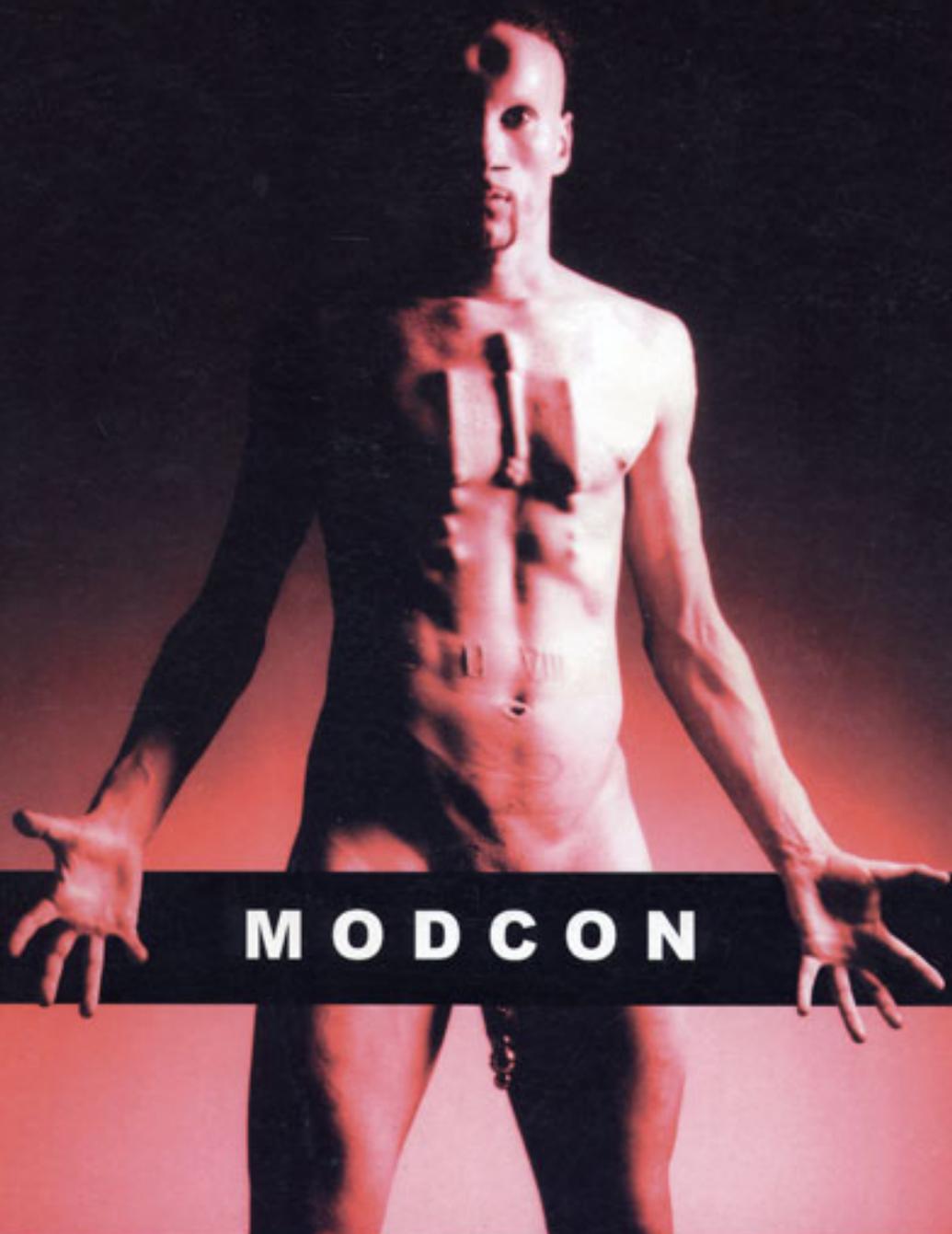


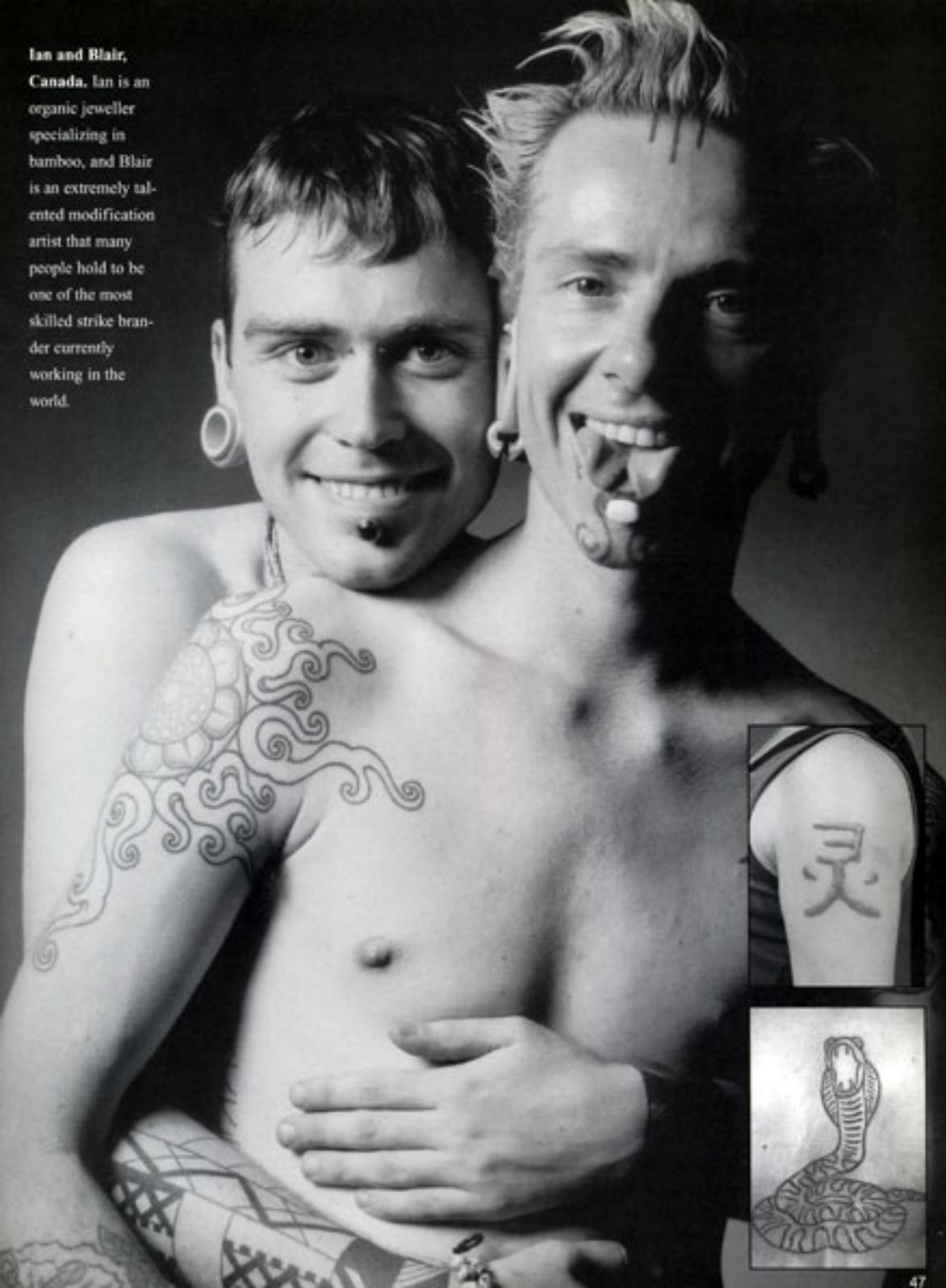
THE SECRET WORLD OF EXTREME BODY MODIFICATION



**MODCON**

BY SHANNON LARRATT

**Ian and Blair,**  
**Canada.** Ian is an  
organic jeweller  
specializing in  
bamboo, and Blair  
is an extremely tal-  
ented modification  
artist that many  
people hold to be  
one of the most  
skilled strike bran-  
der currently  
working in the  
world.



**Blair's chest suspension.** This type of suspension is considered to be the most physically demanding and can make breathing difficult. Blair hung for twelve minutes, but when lowered was absolutely unaware of the time – he perceived it as no more than a single minute.

Suspension – flesh hook suspension – seems to be on everyone's mind lately. It's a regular part of primetime sideshow television with everyone trying to top everyone else in a sick and dangerous game. It's hard to see what is gained, either personally or culturally in hanging from a helicopter as part of an apparent "my dick is bigger than your dick" television show. On the other hand, maybe it's all in good fun. I suppose the important distinction to make is between ritual and performance. A performance suspension is like going to a rock concert – it's supposed to be over the top and self-aggrandizing and fun. If it gets some people interested in ritual as a by-product, that's probably a good thing. One just has to remember that they're not the same thing – I suppose you could say that one is acting, and the other is real life...

In private suspensions I've seen people terrified out of their wits before their suspension suddenly start glowing with a huge lifechanging grin the instant their feet leave the ground. I've seen people who once they've left the ground not want to come down again – at one recent suspension we hosted, the suspender hang long enough that we had to pass food up to him, and hold up a bucket for him to pee in. I've seen people suspend for thirty seconds and back out, but still had their lives changed, having broken through a barrier. Next time you see a suspension, don't look at the hooks and the skin – look in their eyes.

