

# Carlos Cartagena

by Allan Anderson

Internationally known for his pin up art, Carlos Cartagena has been prominently featured in such coveted publications as Playboy, Penthouse, Hustler and Abercrombie and Fitch's A&F Quarterly. He is widely regarded as the hallmark of pin up art and is sought out worldwide for his work.



Carlos was born April 29, 1960 in Guatemala City. In school, the teachers were impressed with Carlos drawing ability but later on he wanted to do more than just draw. In 1981 he followed his dream and migrated to the United States. His first ten years in the U.S. he worked at different jobs but it was in the late 80's when he started self teaching air-brush techniques, making lots of mistakes in the process, but moving toward his big dream.

Carlos started painting professionally at the age of 30 and in 1990 he landed his first job as an illustrator for a Southern California luminous sign company. It was good practice and he had the chance to perfect his many skills there. Soon it was time to advance. Carlos would divide his time between freelance work and painting on leather jackets and on custom Harley Davidson motorcycles. His work was gaining national recognition for his murals on the backs of leather jackets, and on the tanks and fenders of Harley Davidson motorcycles. His work was also beginning to reflect "his" style – sexy, sometimes erotic, but always in good taste.



Carlos Cartagena



Playboy Cigarette Racing Team

Slap-On Art Decals

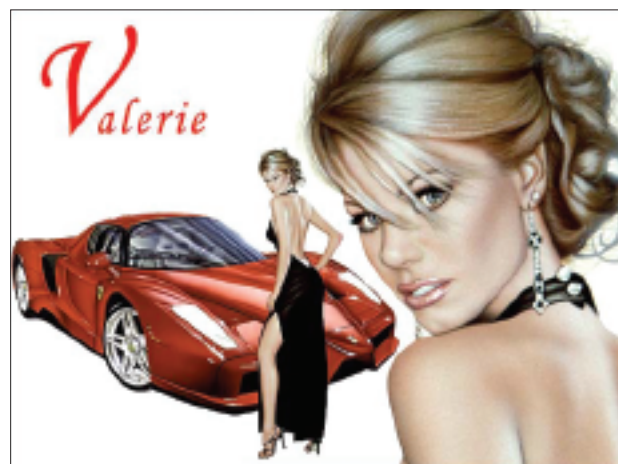
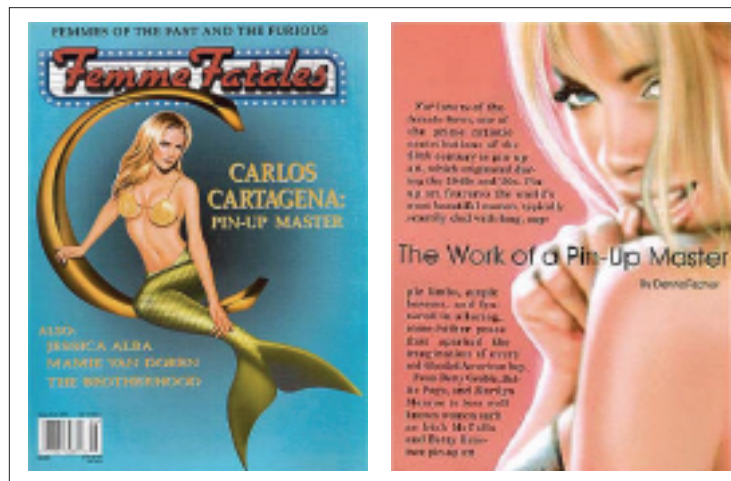


In 1992 he won first place in his first ever contest, a nationwide T-Shirt contest with a portrait of Marilyn Monroe, put on by *Impressions magazine*.

His art reached the masses in 1995 and 1996 when one of his Harley-Davidson murals won consecutive first place awards at Sturgis and Laughlin for his custom radical designs. In the late 90's he was commissioned by life-long surfer Mark Buck and founder of *Slap-on Art Decals®* to create a series of sexy decals that could be applied to surfboards, car windows, shower doors, skis, skateboards, snowboards or anything with a smooth surface that would look better with a gorgeous image of a sexy woman applied to it. Carlos was commissioned for a series of pinups for the first release of decals.

On November 11, 2005 at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, his sexy artwork was used to support the Vince Neil's *Off the Strip Poker Tournament*, benefiting the *Skylar Neil Memorial Foundation* and the *T.J. Martell Foundation* (Leukemia, Cancer and Aids Research).

This summer as a tribute to the original Hooters girl Lynne Austin, the first to grace those famous orange shorts, Hooters Casino Hotel commissioned Carlos to develop a 30 inch by 40 inch original airbrush rendering of Lynne serving hot wings and beer in classic Hooters style. 1,500 limited edition prints were offered for sale to Hooters Casino Hotel guests to. Once unveiled by Carlos, the artwork will be displayed in the lobby of the world's first Hooters Casino in Las Vegas. "I am very pleased to be creating this artwork of the beautiful girls that represent Hooters, and specially to be working with such an iconic girl in Hooters History, Lynne Austin. I







Vince Neil's Off the Strip Poker Tournament presentation



Original Hooters girl Lynne Austin

can promise that the illustration will be gorgeous, just like Lynne” said Carlos. “I’m grateful to have been chosen for this project among the many other great talented artists out there, and I couldn’t be happier that my first commissioned piece of work for a casino be with such a well-known brand as Hooters.” Carlos hopes to work on more casino projects in Reno and Las Vegas.

For any business inquiries please contact Carlos Cartagena’s agent Mr. Tracy Crump at: (435) 257-2229 or e-mail him at: [crumps@frontiernet.net](mailto:crumps@frontiernet.net)

I would like to thank Tracy Crump for supplying me with the background information for this article.

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