

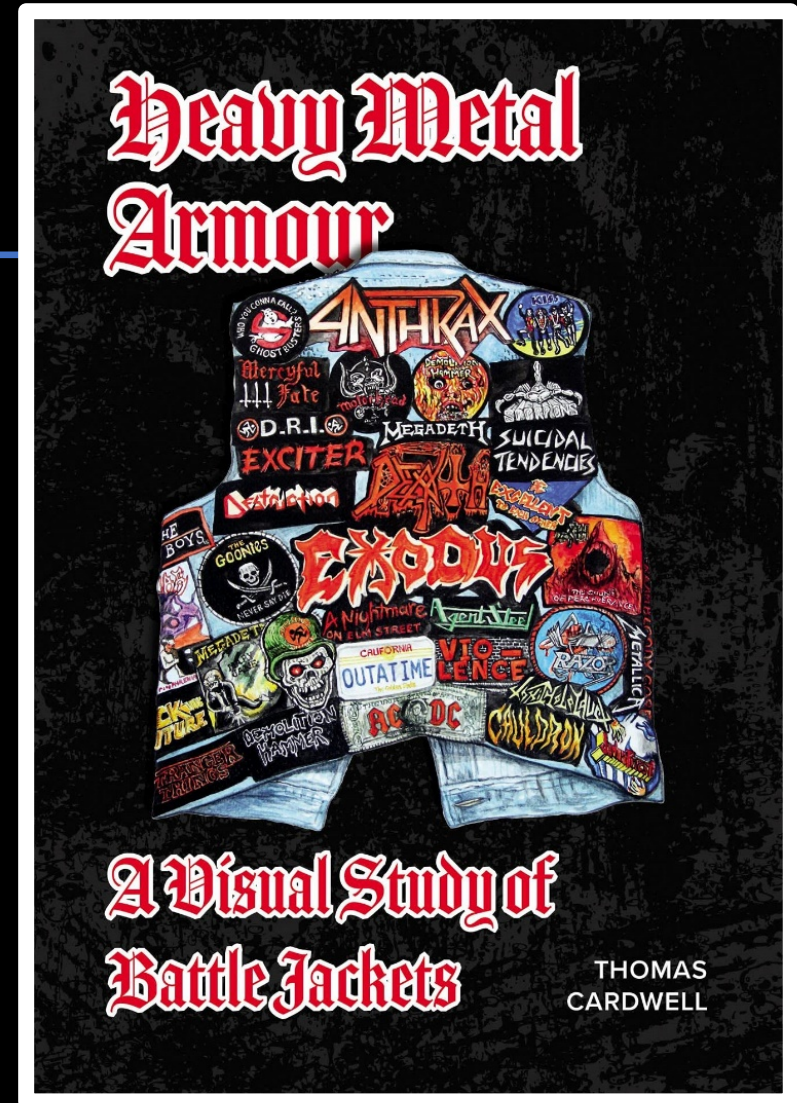


***Back in Black: The Leather
Jacket Paintings***

Dr Tom Cardwell, University of the Arts London

Introduction

- Senior Lecturer in Painting, Camberwell College of Arts, University of the Arts London
- PhD (2017, Chelsea College of Arts) *Still Life and Death Metal: Painting the Battle Jacket*
- Monograph *Heavy Metal Armour* (2022, Intellect, UK, University of Chicago Press, USA)
- Research focus on intersections between art and popular visual culture, particularly DIY subcultures
- 2022-2023 KONE Fellow in the Arts at Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies, project title *Helsinki Urban Atlas*



Previous research context



(Left) Tom Cardwell, *Aidan's Jacket (front)*, watercolour on paper,

38 x 26 cm, 2015

(Right) Tom Cardwell, *Death (reverted)*, watercolour on paper,

38 x 26 cm, 2020

2016



- My paper at IJMS Conference 2016 (London) discussed this painting featuring an invented rocker's jacket

Tom Cardwell, *How the West (Country) Was Won*, oil on canvas, 120 x 90 cm, 2016



2018

- Participants at IJMS 2018 in Rancho Cucamonga USA modelled some of my custom made jackets for a series of photos

(Left) Liliana Falcón wearing *Kunstkammer II Jacket* with custom patches, IJMS 2018, Chaffey College, Rancho Cucamonga

***Between Jackets
and Paintings –
the Black
Square***



Kazimir Malevich
Black Square 1913
© State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow



Installation view, Ad Reinhardt, David Zwirner, New York, 2013. Photo by Tim Nighswander/IMAGING4ART © 2013 Estate of Ad Reinhardt/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York. Courtesy David Zwirner, New York/London.



The Black Square in Metal Artwork

Cover art for
Metallica, *Metallica*,
1991

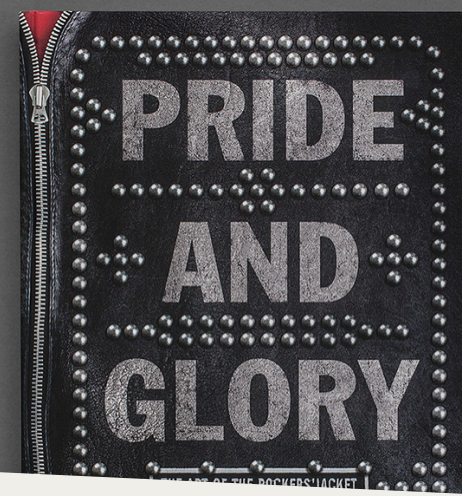
Black Leather Jackets in Academia

- Alford & Ferriss (2007) discuss the importance of the leather jacket in motorcycle cultures.
- DeLong et al. (2010) analyse the black leather bike jacket from a consumption point of view, looking at how today's wearers might have different values to 20th century lifestyle riders.
- Clifford-Napoleone, (2015, 2016) and Steele (1996) look at the role of leather clothing in music, BDSM and queer subcultures.
- Ruess (2021) discusses links between leather jackets and 'coolness' in popular music subcultures.



The Ramones in Perfecto jackets. Illustration by Catharina Ruess.

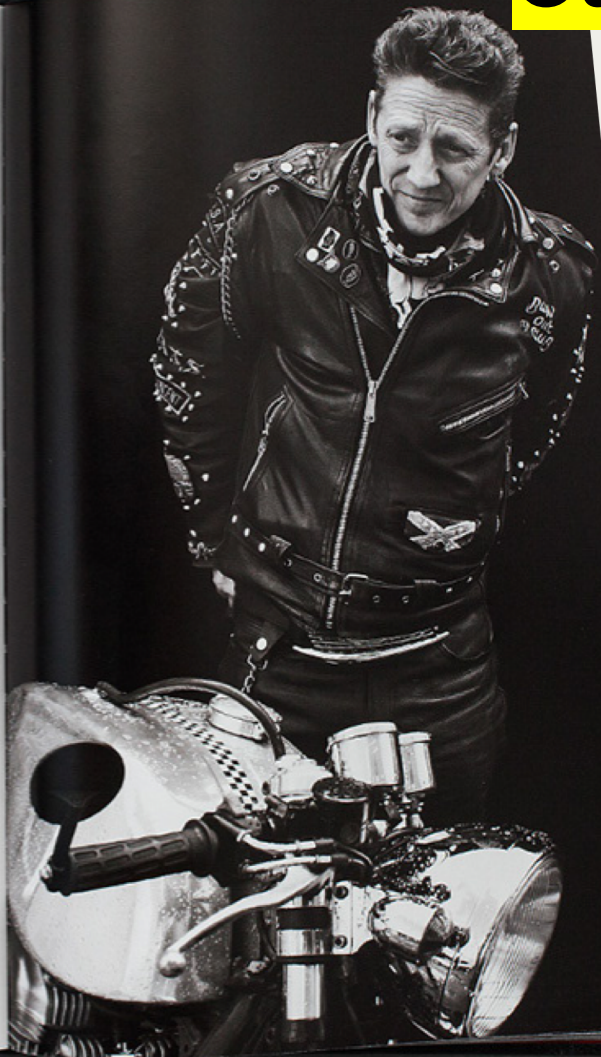
- Horst Friedrichs, *Pride and Glory*, Prestel Verlag, 2012
- Johnny Stewart, *Rockers!* Plexus Publishing, 1989
- Mick Farren, *The Black Leather Jacket*, Plexus Publishing, 2007
- Anne-Laure Quilleriet, *The Leather Book*, Assouline, New York, 2004



Inspiration and References

Photos by Horst Friedrichs

Custom painting



‘Lewis Leathers offered studs and badges from 1960...You could even get commissioned paintings for the back of your jacket. There was a selection of designs available. Lewis Leathers could send them off to an artist to decorate one of the styles for any customer.’

- Derek Harris of Lewis Leathers interviewed by Colin Fallows in *Pride and Glory* (Friedrichs, 2012).

Quodlibet Painting – ‘What you will’

- Quodlibet paintings aim to ‘trick the eye’ with illusionistic depictions of everyday objects at life size, suggesting the viewer can enter into the space of the painting



(Left) Samuel Van Hoogstraten, Letter rack, 1666-68, oil on canvas, 63 x 79 cm

**The painting frame as
epistemological
boundary**



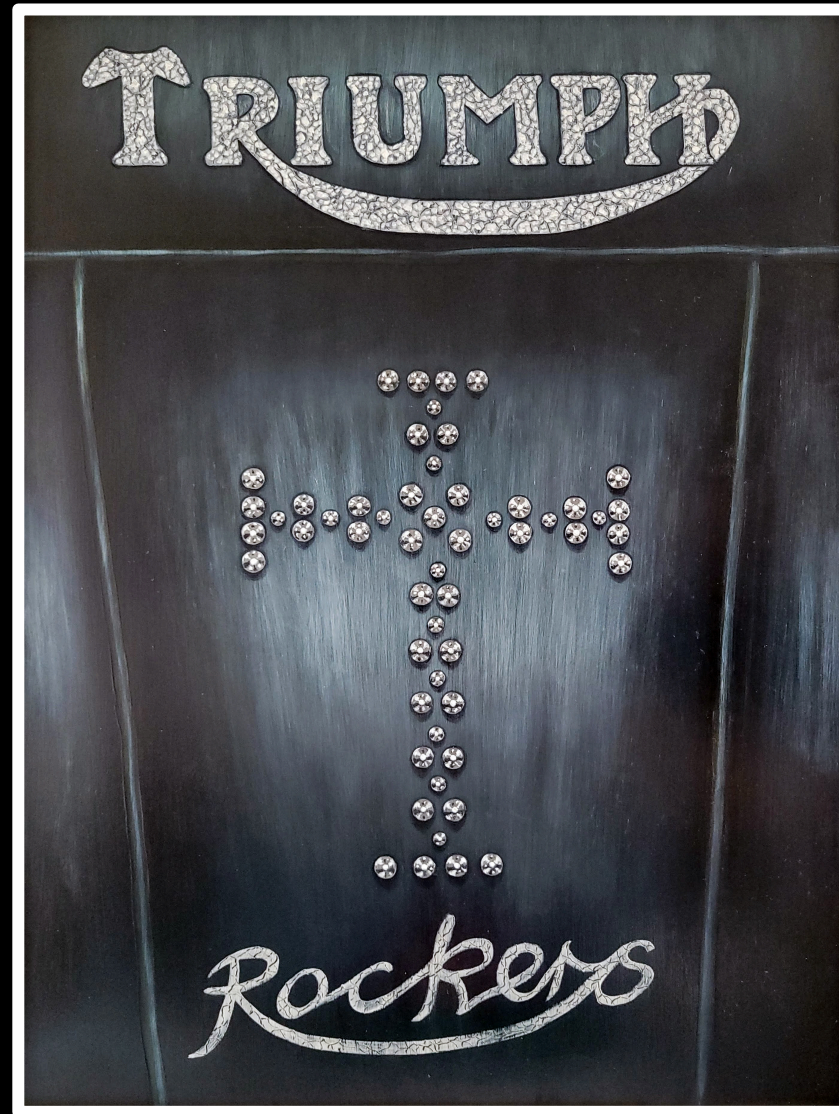
Tom Cardwell, *Neon Nights v.1*,
2019, 130 x 90 cms, oil on canvas

The Leather Jacket

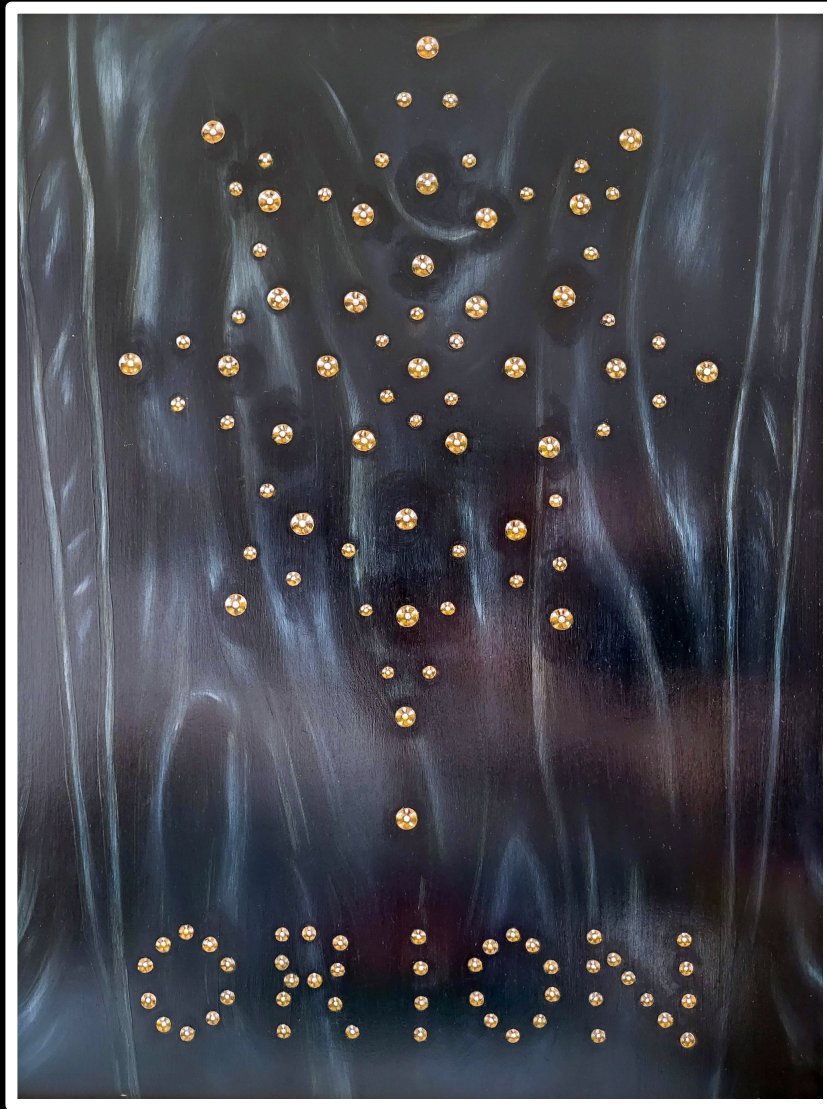
Paintings

2024

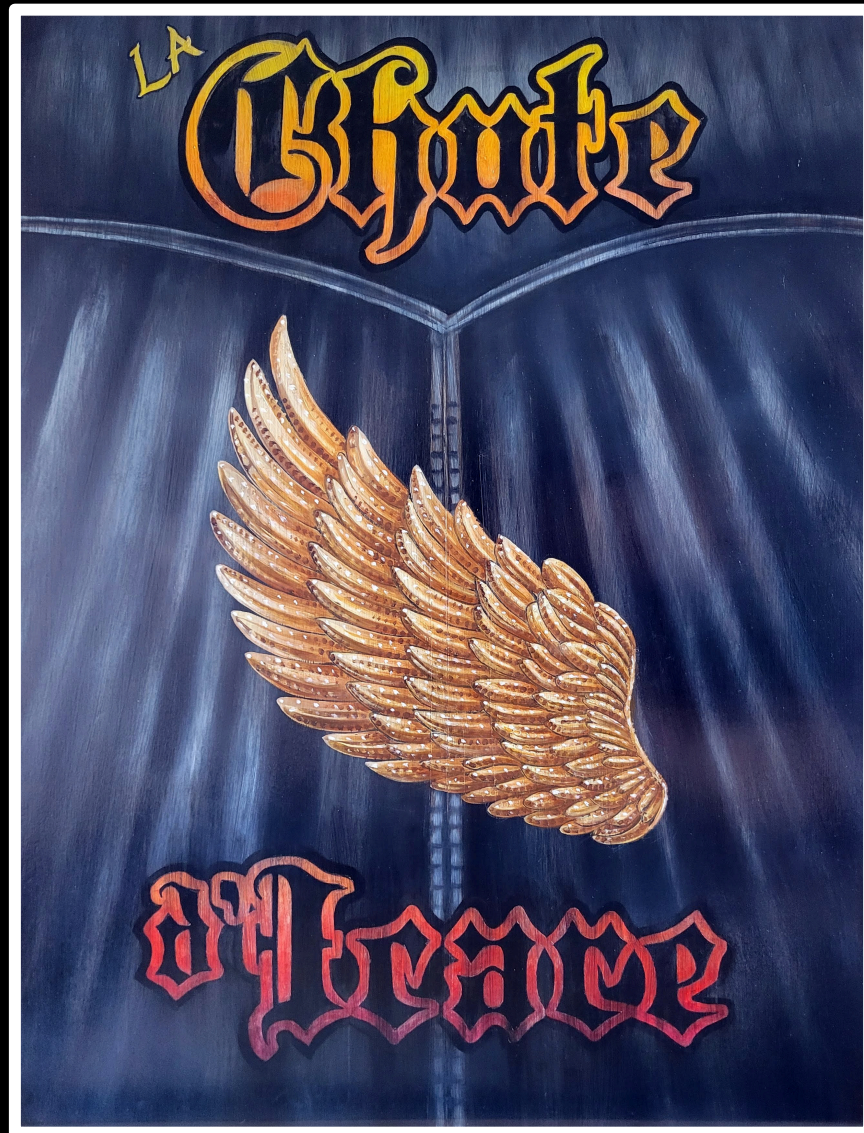




Tom Cardwell, *Triumph Rockers*, oil on panel
61.5 x 45.8 cm, 2024



Tom Cardwell, *Orion*, oil on panel
61.5 x 45.8 cm, 2024



Tom Cardwell, *La Chute d'Icare*, oil on panel
61.5 x 45.8 cm, 2024



Tom Cardwell, *Mors Omnia Aequat*, oil on panel
61.5 x 45.8 cm, 2024

References

- Alford, S. and Ferriss, S. 2007, *Motorcycle*. London: Reaktion Books Ltd.
- Clifford-Napoleone, A. 2015 *Queerness in Heavy Metal Music, Metal Bent*. New York, NY. Routledge.
- Clifford-Napoleone, A. 2016 'Metal, Masculinity and the Queer Subject', in Heesch, F. & Scott, N. (eds.) 2016 *Heavy Metal, Gender and Sexuality*. Abingdon: Routledge pp.39-53.
- DeLong, M. Gage, K. Park, J. and Sklar, M. 2010, 'From Renegade to Regular Joe: The Black Leather Jacket's Values for Bikers', *IJMS* Volume 6 Issue 2, Fall.
- Farren, M. 2007 *The Black Leather Jacket*, Plexus Publishing.
- Friedrichs, H. 2012 *Pride and Glory*, Prestel Verlag.
- Quilleriet, A. 2004 *The Leather Book*, Assouline, New York.
- Ruess, C. 2021 'Looking Cool in Black Leather', *The Fashion Studies Journal*.
- Steele, V. 1996 *Fetish: Fashion, Sex & Power*. London: Oxford University Press.
- Stewart, J. 1989 *Rockers!* Plexus Publishing.
- Tanaka, R. 2000 *Motorcycle Jackets: A Century of Leather Design*. Atglen, PA: Schiffer Publishing Ltd.

Thank you!

tomcardwell.uk

Instagram: @tomrcardwell

t.cardwell@arts.ac.uk