It isn't every day one gets to meet an artist who's been praised by none other than the great H.R. Giger himself, let alone one whose paintings are done in his own blood. The first American to have his work displayed in the H.R. Giger Museum in Switzerland, Vincent Castiglia, is a painter/tattoo artist who's done everything from film posters (SAVAGE COUNTY) and album covers (Triptykon) to inking members of such hardcore acts as Agnostic Front and Dying Fetus. FANGORIA caught up with Castiglia in his (appropriately enough) Hell's Kitchen studio.

FANGORIA: When did you first get bitten by the art bug?

VINCENT CASTIGLIA: At birth, I think. You know, it was always something I did just really naturally—drawing in pencil or pen or whatever I could get my hands on from as early of an age as I can remember.

FANG: H.R. Giger's obviously a fan of yours, as well as an influence. How long have you two known each other and how has he influenced your work?

CASTIGLIA: Well, Giger was, *is* an icon. He's kind of my art hero. I grew up looking at his artwork and buying his books and [having] posters on my walls. We met in 2005. I was invited to an exhibition of his in Switzerland, and that's where he had seen my work for the first time. That's where the connection was made. I participated in a group exhibition at the H.R. Giger Museum in 2006, and plans for a solo show were made shortly after that for 2008. Giger invited me to have a solo show at the museum.

FANG: You were the first American artist to be invited to do that, right?

CASTIGLIA: Yes. That's correct.

FANG: Was it pretty cool? Did a bunch of people turn out?

CASTIGLIA: The turnout was huge. It was during the winter, it just had snowed so there was all this snow on the ground and it's up in the mountains. The museum's in a castle three hours outside of Zurich, just about. It's the Chateau St. Germain. The turnout was huge, there was barely standing room, barely breathing room, and I was really blown away.

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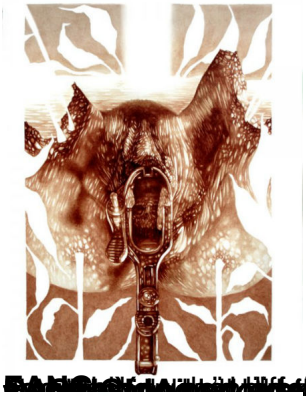

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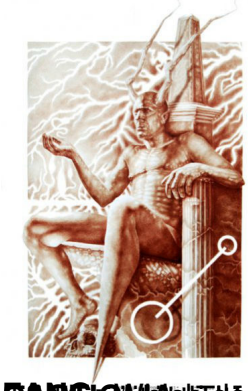

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