Tattooing Workflow & Methodology

THE 6 STEPS of JOHN HUDIC's FRENCH NEO ROMANTICISM

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1. Conceptualization & Finding the Hidden Story

• **Listen for Keywords:** Begin by collaborating closely with the client to uncover the deeper, underlying story or emotional core hidden beneath their initial concepts.

• **Allow the Idea to Evolve:** The live dialogue is exceptionally fluid, frequently guiding the final artistic direction to a completely different, more profound space than initially planned.

• **Multi-Disciplinary Infusion:** The thematic weight of this style is constantly sharpened by my active fine art practice outside of tattooing, including traditional oil painting and digital work.

2. Live Collaboration & Composition Mapping

• **Visual 'Shopping List':** Gather and browse contextual references, raw imagery, and unique visual trajectories that resonate powerfully with the client's core narrative.

• **Build the Skeleton:** Map out the absolute structural foundation and core composition directly on day one, working live in the room alongside the client.

• **Solve the Anatomy Puzzle:** Analyze how graphical and realistic elements interact fluidly with the physical canvas, optimizing layout for standalone pieces versus full cohesive sleeves.

3. Digital Reference Exploration

• **Leverage Efficient Tools:** Integrate advanced digital tools as functional production assets rather than shortcut design replacements, keeping pace with high commercial demands.

• **Refine Atmosphere & Light:** Use technology specifically to safely isolate extreme lighting angles, test rapid composition changes, and ensure undivided focus stays directed entirely on premium storytelling.

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4. Technical Setup & Medium Selection

• **Prepare the Workhorses:** Set up and fine-tune four hybrid tattoo machines configured to my exact natural preference, utilizing three definitive needle types: 7 soft edge mag, 7 round shader, and 3 round liner.

• **Balance Ink Mediums:** Avoid single-medium limitations by combining opaque pigments for absolute value precision and structural control alongside traditional grey wash for natural fluid transparency and breathing room.

5. Tattooing Approach & Skin Application

• **Anchor the Centerpiece:** Begin the physiological session by locking down the primary 'hero' element first, providing a clear visual anchor to confidently build out future overlapping passes.

• **Print from the Bottom Up:** Methodically push section-by-section like a printer, rendering deep foundational dark midtones and focal shadows (eyes, nose, mouth) immediately before moving up.

• **Adapt to the Dynamic Canvas:** Apply specialized techniques based on skin canvas behavior. Drive solid opaques harder on lighter skin profiles, while using delicate 3RL stippling on deeper skin tones to preserve light values with rich organic airiness.

6. Portfolio Showcase

• **Capture the Natural Vibe:** Safely document finished work using a high-fidelity mirrorless setup (like a Nikon Z f) or phone video in dedicated, mood-enhancing ambient lighting.

• **Maintain Raw Realism:** Utilize essential hardware modifications like a CPL filter to drastically reduce raw skin glare, ensuring visual content remains entirely real and strictly free from heavy over-processing.