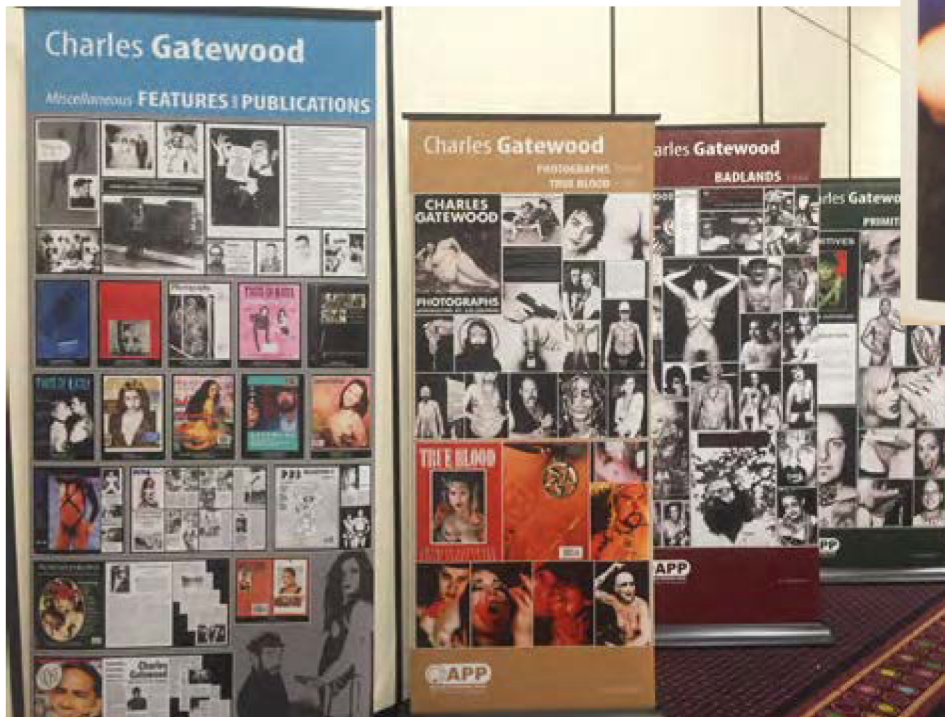
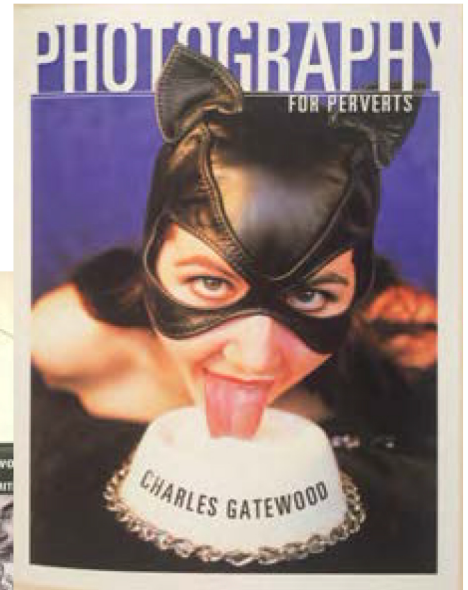




BPA FUNDRAISING AUCTION

GENE GOWEN

Body Piercing Archives Fundraising Coordinator



This year's BPA exhibit featured gonzo photographer Charles Gatewood. Photos by Kendra Jane B.

I would like to start by thanking everyone who contributed to this year's Body Piercing Archive Fundraising Auction. Your donations went towards the preservation of our living history and the history of those who helped us all get here.

Going into this year's Conference, I again wanted to come up with items that were functional. For the last several years, I have carried my own jewelry in a protective book for safe and easy transport. When brainstorming ideas for this year's project, I began to think of all the Conference attendees leaving Vegas with their precious new jewelry acquisitions. So with this year's donations of shirts, we made jewelry travel cases.

Different from last year, this year's items were conceived to connect us not just with studios and companies but with our jewelry itself. As sort of a self-effacing reminder of the inexorable tie that binds us all. Studios can open and close, piercers may move all over the world, companies may fade into obscurity. Come

what may, however we find ourselves in this industry, we are all bound and driven by the jewelry.

Looking ahead, we have already begun the process of creating fundraising donations for the 2018 Conference. The collection of iconic studio and company shirts from this year yielded more than enough material for next year's project. We'll be returning with some of the items that were so popular at last year's Conference, but we will have plenty of other new creations with us as well.

I am thankful to everyone who has made a purchase or donation on behalf of the BPA. There is no amount of money nor is there any amount of effort that is insignificant in the scramble to save our past before it eludes us. I would like to once again express my gratitude to the Archives Committee for allowing me the opportunity to be of help, however rudimentary it may be, to the APP and its membership.

Yours in service.