

q feature: INTERVIEW WITH SULTAN ROYALE

by Gabriel Tabasco

As part of our cover story, Gabriel Tabasco talks to illustrator SultanRoyale and his creations which he says are 'drawing of his global crushes.'

Where did the instagram handle @ SultanRoyale come from?

I'm from the Middle East and I love the glories and beauty of the past. I love the sexiness and power of sultans and the secrets of harems, the palaces, gardens and such,, so the name SultanRoyale came and stayed.

How did you begin drawing?

It was during the Covid lockdowns. I was bored, away from home and needed an outlet. I bought an iPad and began drawing. Since then I never looked back.

What do you draw?

I began by drawing hunky, moustached men who evolved into sultans. Since then I have expanded to draw men in throes of passion, men posing naked, with erections, showing their holes, in threesomes and so on. I like to draw some of the stars on OnlyFans and sportsmen. One follower said that there are a lot of drawings of men holding their legs in the air, which is true. I do draw a lot of bottoms... and men who are bottoms.

And men showing their holes. (Chuckles). I especially like to draw my friends; whether naked or clothed. They appreciate it, like being in the limelight and I also like giving them the drawing as a gift and through the picture seeing a little more of them; their personality or capturing a happy moment.

Did you draw anyone famous?

I often draw porn stars such as Beau Butler, Drew Valentino and straight porn-star Manuel Ferrara. I drew Arad WinWin a number of times and he liked the posts and then followed me. One of my favourite drawings was a portrait of French porn star turned actor François Sagat. I also drew Prince Harry in y-fronts.

Did you draw anyone who didn't like it?

I drew a Greek singer... he did not take it well; having his drawing featured between men with erections or men stretching open their legs and showing their fluffy or smooth holes. It wasn't the quality of the drawing that he disliked but that it was in a gay, porn-y drawing instagram account. I think he's a closeted gay guy so of course he would not be happy about it. It was a shame since I always liked him and his songs. His friend liked the picture though.



Do you ever draw yourself?

Yes. Many times. In my favourite position: face looking at the camera, legs up and stretched open, showing my waxed hole. I did that pose so many times that the photographer who took some of them called it my signature pose. (Chuckles).

If anyone submits an image to be featured what do you expect?

You'd be surprised how many men submit photos to be drawn and then featured. However, many times the photos are no good; they are shadowy, blurred, hidden face, or in bad angles. Or they might send 20 versions of the same photo with a slight variation in the pose. I think it is disrespectful to send such a photo, expect it to be drawn. Some advice to anyone who will send a photo in for a commission is make sure it is clear, that you're in a good pose, as much light as possible too. It's not about body type, it's about making an effort to take a good image.

How has instagram reacted to your account?

Not well. They almost had a meltdown like that Greek singer. Instagram initially banned my previous account so I needed to recreate it. I censor it a little bit more now.

What's been one of your more successful drawings?

I created a process where I draw a face / dick portrait. Men submit an image of their face and their dick and I draw them both. Then viewers are asked to guess the size through a poll. (Chuckles). But many people liked the images of the men with legs in the air or the porn stars. The images people like least are the ones I did not pay too much attention to and the ones they liked the most are the more harmonious, well done ones. So it is true that people value quality.

Where do you find inspiration?

I love the Middle East; the scents of the Levant and stories such as Arabian nights. Initially my drawings harked back to the exotic days of palaces, sultans, genies and harems, with curtains fluttering in the wind and sumptuous bowls of fruit and food. With that in mind, I drew sexy, hunky men, wearing little clothing and enjoying their palaces. So that is a big source of inspiration. More recently I like drawing stills from porn films, porn stars and hunks posing.

What role does sexuality play in your art? If yes, do you think it might be offensive?

It is very sexual and purposely so. There is a focus on men, gay culture and horny moments. It's meant to be fun so I certainly don't think it is meant to be offensive. If so, I apologise for offending anyone's sensitivities.

Has art helped you in other areas of your life?

If you mean my drawings, then I find drawing a creative outlet that I need and enjoy. It relaxes me and I enjoy creating something beautiful or sexy. If you mean let in general then yes, it has also helped me. I love galleries and museums.

Are you political at all?

I don't intend to be political. I do like to reference some cultural or historical elements but more from a perspective to tell a story than make a point about a political movement or moment in time.

What do you enjoy sketching the most?

Without a doubt the face. I get a real sense of satisfaction getting a subject's face right, with all the nuances, expressions, shading and details. I also love drawing dicks; the shape, the shading and ideally the guy's face. I also like drawing buttholes... but those are easy!

More of Sultan Royale can be found on

Instagram@sultanroyale

Twitter / X@sultanroyale



