



## **Lory Lockwood - Expendables Artist by Aidy Drayton**

I really don't believe in luck but one day I was in the right place at the right time. I live in New Orleans - a movie filming town - and I had previously done an ad job for a local prop buyer.

While in my studio, he remarked on a tattoo project that I was painting – a series of lady tattoos called the Krewe d'Tat. He was intrigued by the work and a few months later I got the call.

“How would you like to do some tattoo paintings for Sylvester Stallone's new movie, The Expendables?” After a quick yes, I was introduced to Stallone who showed me tattoos of his wife with long flowing hair and also a raven. I was then commissioned to paint designs on three acoustic light blue guitars – two fully painted and one partially painted.

These guitars were intended for two scenes. In the first, Mickey Rourke is shown painting a guitar, which he had intended to give to his girlfriend. The moment is pivotal for the film because Mickey expresses remorse for past actions not taken and this conversation with Stallone spurs him on to return to the island Vilena to rescue the girl he left behind.

In the second scene, one of the finished guitars was supposed to be smashed by Rourke in his anger with the now ex girl friend. But this scene was never filmed. I think the guitars were too beautiful to destroy. Word has it that they may be in the Hard Rock Café in Vegas or Reno.

I had two other jobs related to this movie. The first was as an art consultant for Mickey when he was painting. At 2 AM, I was called to the Tool Shop set, bringing a palette, brushes, jars and paints to set up a studio. I then talked to Mickey about paint strokes and brush sizes and then watched the filming. No retakes were needed!

The second job was a commissioned painting for the prop master who wanted a raven tattoo. He took the painting back to California and had a tattoo artist inscribe it on his shoulder.

All from just being an artist and going to the studio to paint. Is that luck?



Kent's Tattoo Painting



3 Prop Guitars



Artist at Work



Mickey Rourke on set