ON BEING JOSHUA

Philip Tomaru
March 17 at 9:35pm

Q: Are you a Josh or a Joshua?

Joshua David Riegel

The answer would be:

Joshua

Philip Tomaru

Tell me about your tats

Joshua David Riegel

The one on the my right says "swarm" and references a quotation from Henry Miller's Sexus, which reads: "We must die as egos and be born again in the swarm, not separate and self-hypnotized, but individual and related." The funny thing is that I haven't read Sexus but I came across this quotation in another book and it haunted me until I eventually decided to get swarm tattooed on me. The one on the left is an abstract drawing with almost Rorschach-like qualities: some people see a bunny, some see a fist, some see a pig or a heart. There are several smaller, similar drawings on my right forearm. The one on the inside of my upper right arm is a "robotic African mask" (this is how a seventeen-year-old me described what I wanted to my tattoo dude), which in hindsight I've come to understand as my afro-futuristic musing as a young queer kid dealing with my identity while being stuck in Denver, Colorado. Perhaps my most embarrassing tattoo, which in a perverse way is also my fave, is one on my calf that says "GSG" in old English lettering. I also got this one when I was seventeen and it stands for "gayside gangstas," a gang that my pals and I made up. Yes, I'm talking about an imaginary gang! We used to go to raves together, wear really outrageous Versace sunglasses that we stole at the mall, throw lots of shade, and dream about being anywhere but Denver. There are more tattoos but I'll spare you any further rambling exegeses.

Philip Tomaru

Q#6: Let's talkk about Devin ... complete this sentence:
Devin _____

Joshua David Riegel

Devin is black and jewish and so am I.