

for immediate release:

# the inborn absolute

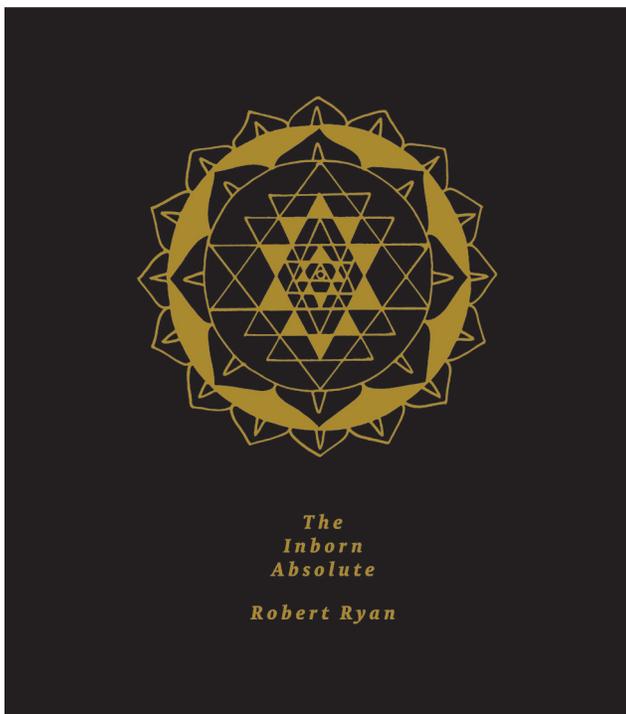
by ROBERT RYAN introduction by Andrew Berardini

featherproof books and Mandible Projects are thrilled to announce *The Inborn Absolute*, a stunning collection of the paintings and tattoos of celebrated artist Robert Ryan, publishing in August 2016.

Robert Ryan discovered tattooing and painting as a young musician, and has spent the past twenty years perfecting his work. Now he's one of the preeminent artists in his field, but working in a style seemingly all his own: his work reveals a deep mastery of Americana tattoo traditions — bold lines, heavy shading, solid fields of color — that he uses to display mystical and extraordinary takes on religious iconography, sacred geometry, and spiritual journeys. After spending much of the past several years traveling throughout India, Nepal and Peru with shamans and monks, these images are alive with deep reverence and understanding for the subject matter and its history.

*The Inborn Absolute* collects the artist's past five years of Eastern deity paintings, mandala studies, and even an unfettered glimpse into his sketchbook. It also includes interviews with iconic performer and artist Genesis P. Orridge and

legendary tattoo artist Freddy Corbin that serve to contextualize Ryan's work and his progression as an artist. Ultimately, *The Inborn Absolute* is a celebration of an artist's masterful blend of skill, tradition, and a knowledge which can only be passed down through oral traditions and ancient practices.



*“In his pictures, written on paper and skin, Ryan gathers the traditions drawn from a thousand sailors’ visions of Eastern temples and steeped in the practice of a thousand tattooers before him, from all of us searchers’ quest for meaning across a continent. From beneath the surface of America, from beneath the surface of reality, Ryan mines mystic possibility and gives these traditions new life and new power.” —Andrew Berardini*

## about robert ryan:

Robert Ryan lives in Asbury Park, New Jersey, where he has been painting and tattooing for twenty years. Ryan's work has been featured in many galleries, schools, and publications world wide. As a musician, he has released albums with the bands Lord Sterling, Out Like Lambs, and Harmonize Most High, as well as his solo effort American Cloud Songs.

## about featherproof:

featherproof books was founded in 2005. We publish strange and beautiful fiction and nonfiction and post-, trans-, and inter-genre tragicomedy.

## about mandible projects:

Mandible Projects is a creative entity in Chicago that publishes, curates and consults on a wide range of artistic projects.

## THE INBORN ABSOLUTE

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by: Robert Ryan

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