

# Signaling change

## New Astoria tattoo shop opens

BY ALYSSA EVANS

Astoria has a new tattoo shop and its owners are long-time local tattoo artists.

Alana Robbie and Loren Candela recently opened Signal Tattoo at 285 W. Marine Drive. The pair previously worked together at Shanghai Tattoo Parlor.

### If You Go

Signal Tattoo, 285 W. Marine Drive (relocating to 14th Street in September)

Open noon to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday

signaltattoo.com

971-704-9322 or signaltattoo@gmail.com

“We have lived and worked in Astoria six years-ish. Ask your auntie about us, they’ll know. Ask your mom. Ask the Coast Guard. We’ve probably tattooed your mom or your

daughter or your sister,” Caldera said.

Robbie and Candela opened Signal Tattoo as a soft launch in June. In September, the pair will move to a permanent space off 14th Street, above Purple Cow Toys.

“We’re exploring. We’re kind of letting the identity of Signal come to us, instead of trying to strong-arm it into being a certain thing,” Robbie said.

“Yeah, it’s natural,” Candela added.

### Origins

Robbie started tattooing 18 years ago at a biker shop where she learned to tattoo by copying flash.

“I kind of stumbled into it because I was too young to know any better — that’s usually how I tell people that. It ended up working out really well,” Robbie said. “Basically, I showed this guy who was actively hiring apprentices my artwork and got into it at a really busy street shop, where I got a lot of skin under my needles.”

Robbie was especially inspired to open up her own shop during the coronavirus pandemic.

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Photos by Alyssa Evans

**ABOVE:** Alana Robbie, left, and Loren Candela own Signal Tattoo. **BELOW:** Some of Candela’s art.



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