



Tattoos

Tattoos have been the trend for many decades. Forty million Americans have inked their skin. Tattoos are part of a corporal decoration. It can mean various meanings; beauty, rebellion, sex, warfare, and many more. Curious when it all started? Tattoos have been around for over five thousand years. This form of

art is used globally which every culture have different methods of tattooing. The fashion of tattoos has been worn, and it is still being worn and it won't go extinct due to its symbolization and uniqueness. Many cherish them, and many despise them. Tattoos were once illegal, and in some locations tattooing is still illegal however that doesn't discontinue the individuals to express their creativity.

Archeologists have discovered very interesting artifacts. These historical scientists have found the revolution of tattoos. The Iceman who was discovered in 1981 that took place in Italy. Scientists found valuable information on the oldest mummy "Iceman" including the fact that this person had fifty nine tattoos. Not only did the scientists were able to determine the tattoos but also the purpose which apparently helped the Iceman to overcome his arthritis. That means all nine layers of skin were inked; the most painful way. The first ancient method was tattoo sewing. Who finally found the new method of tattooing? Thomas Edison played an important role in the invention of tattoos. Thomas Edison created the stencil pen to duplicate writing onto another document. Samuel Riley who was immigrant of New York City who transformed the stencil pen into an electric tattoo pen. This great tattoo invention was created in 1891. In the 1800s and 1900s individuals who worked in a circus would get inked to make a living; this was a form of entertainment. Women also decided that they were capable to entertain the society, like Betty Broadbent. Today, tattoos and freak shows (circus) still take place like Rick Genest "Zombie Boy" in Montreal.



Tattoos are also a cultural and traditional aspect in art. Around the world there are various traditional methods and styles of tattooing. In New Zealand, a moko tattoo which is Maori method is frequently used to express a



person's origin and status. For women it symbolizes beauty and for men it symbolizes warrior. In Hawaii, the Polynesians is similar to the Maori tradition because they both symbolize your role in society. The Polynesians' method is the use of tools that are carved bones; stick with needles that is dipped in the ink that taps the ink in the skin. As mentioned before, there's the most ancient method which is tattoo sewing. In Japan, the hand pocking method is very painful however the color effects are more visual than the tattoo machines. These methods are ancient that represents culture, religion and valuable morals. These unique historical methods are still present today.

The main question is why do people decorate their bodies' permantly? People do not get tattoos to improve their appearance. Many get tattoos to rebel and be unique. For instance, in Japan many get body suit tattoos even though it is illegal because they believe that discrimination shouldn't be tolerated. Many people in Japan who have tattoos have less job opportunities and can't go to public pools because the government believes that people who have tattoos are part of the Japanese mafia. Many get tattoos to intimidate and also for protection such as gang members and prisoners (skin heads). Many for the reasons to represent who they are. People also get tattoos to represent their career. For example: soldiers who serve their country. Many have different interpretations of tattoos; positive and negative but this form of art is still very popular and even worldwide. There are many more numerous reasons why individuals get tattoos but in the end it is art and also a part of fashion.

Tattoos are a great way to express a person's individuality. It expresses a person's history, their likes/dislikes, their style and many more. Tattoos are also a part of fashion because it sends a message just like clothing expresses our style. Tattoos can be done anytime, anywhere, anyone. A tattoo artist once said: "There's no time when it comes to art." That's what makes art so special and tattoos play an important role in art that many should take the time to educate themselves and cherish it. In the end, tattoos is not just an electric machine and ink it is art; body art.



“A Fashion that does not reach the streets is not a Fashion.”

-Coco Chanel



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