

Ongoing Rise and Fall of Tattoos

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I have no relevant conflicts of interest.

I do not have a tattoo



Around the world, people get tattoos for different reasons, not just adornment

Contemporary tattooing continues to be vibrantly practiced around the world

Over time, tattooing practices have mixed and moved across the world

For thousands of years, tattooing has been part of humanity's shared heritage. Repressed in Europe, it flourished in Asia, Oceania and the Americas as a form of art, social affiliation, and spirituality. When Western travelers in the 15th century brought the practice home to Europe, tattooing lost much of the symbolic and cultural significance it once held and became an act of individualism associated with the fringes of society. Since then tattooing has continued to change.

Otzi



**Yupik figure
with chin
tattoos**

The Arctic
St. Lawrence island,
Alaska



**Makonde figure
portraying a
keloid tattoo**

(Scarification and
pigmentation)

East Africa



You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh on account of the dead or tattoo any marks upon you: I am the Lord

Holiness Code, Leviticus 19:28

Ye shall not cut yourselves nor make any baldness between the eyes for the dead

Deuteronomy 14:1

550-400 B.C.

These admonitions may have been motivated by marks on the bodies of Israelites at the time.

China

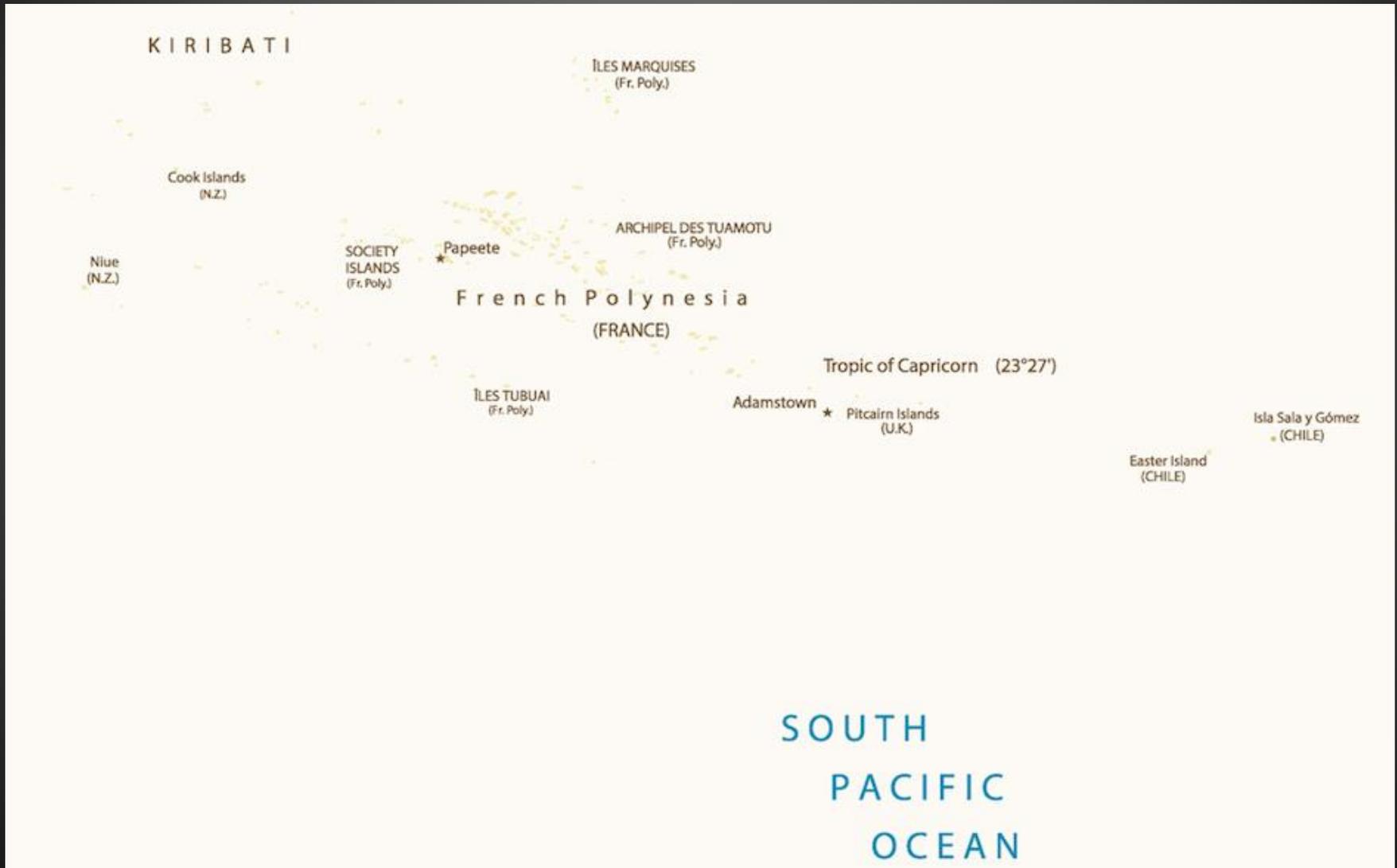
Mentioned 350 years ago

Drung culture

- rites of passage
- Tribal identifiers



Polynesian Islands



Polynesia

Proud parents: Island of Nuku Hiva, Tahiti Shores

Alexandra Marie Colin

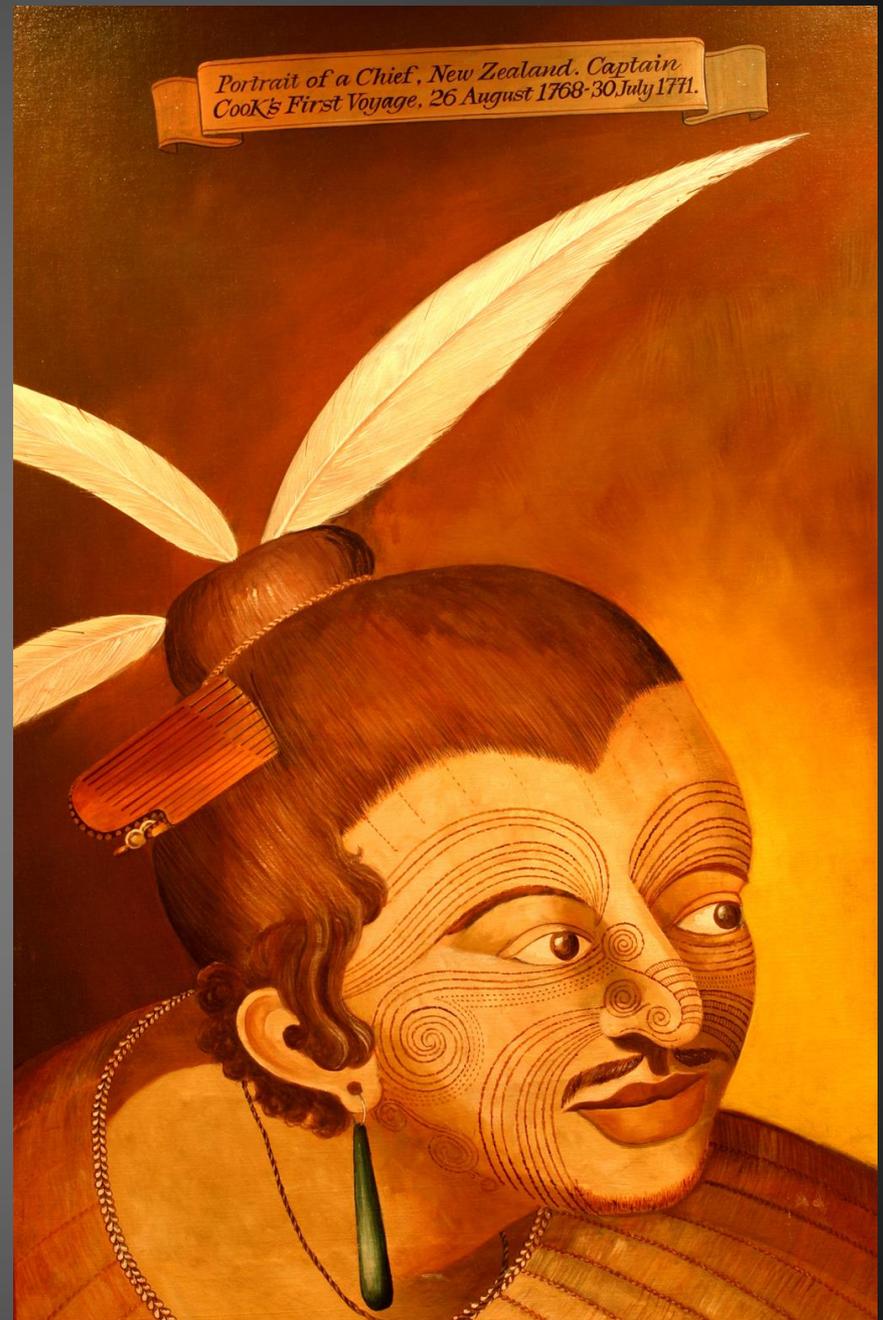
1798 -1875

Oil painting



Tattooing

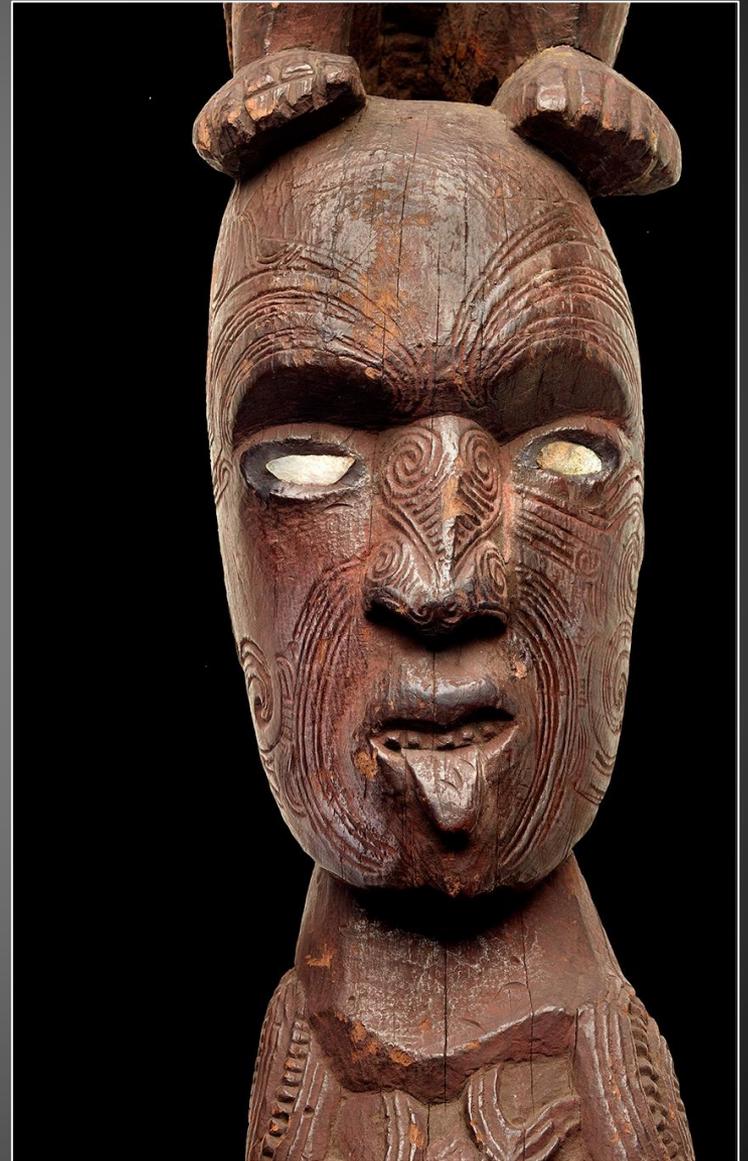
- Tahitian word: “tatau” translates as “the results of tapping.”
- Captain Cook’s first voyage 1769-1791.
- Maoris: the “moko” was a sign of status as well as affiliation.



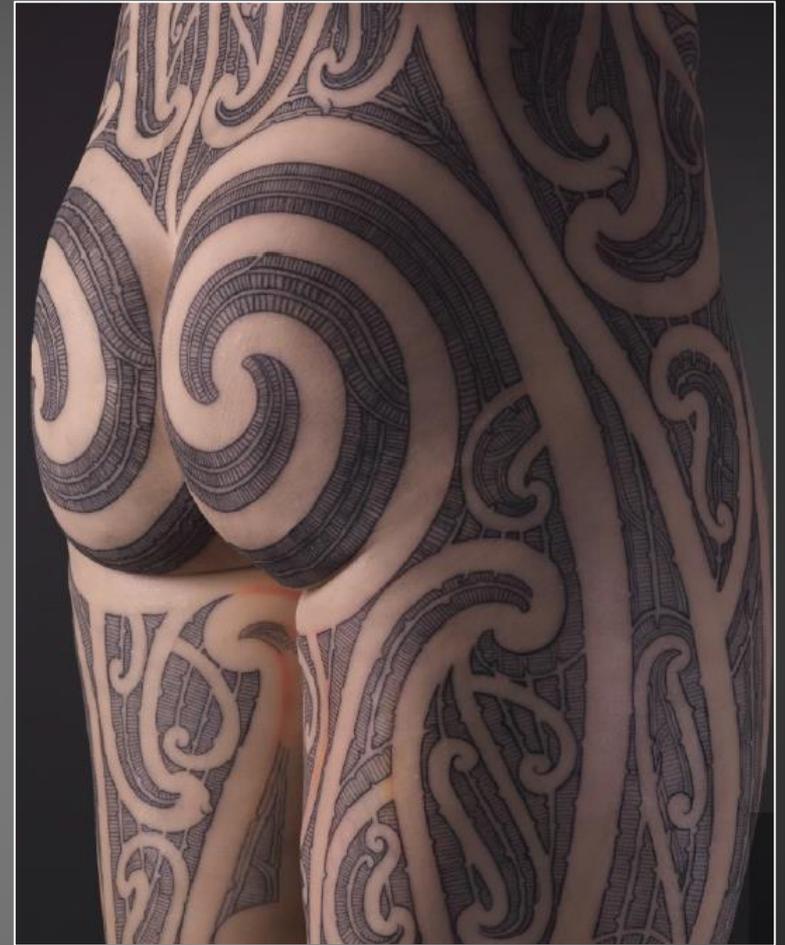
New Zealand

Maori sculpture portraying *ta moko* traditional tattooing

Chicago Field Museum collections



New Zealand



Tattooed silicone torso

Mark Kopua



A PRINCE OF THE MARQUESAS.

AUSTRALIA



Australia

Percentage estimates of tattooed persons

Sample in Australia	Year of Sample	N	Age	Total (%)
General population representative sample ²²	1998	10,340	≥ 14 $\cong 20$ $\cong 50-60$	10 5
Australian Study of Health and Relationships, representative sample ²³	2001	19,000	16-59	13
Computer-assisted random digit dialing with a representative sample ²⁴	2004	8656	16-64	15

ASIA



Thailand



Yonyuk Watchiya, Boxer,
Bangkok

©Cedric Arnold



Kad Luang Market, Chiangmai

© Dow Waskiksiri



98-year old master tattooer Whang-Od of Kalinga, Philippines



Kalinga traditions and new practitioners, Philippines



Contemporary
tattoo by Horiyoshi
III, a master of
irezumi
Martin Haldik

Taiwan

Percentage estimates of tattooed adolescents

Sample in Asia	Year of Sample	N	Age	Total (%)
Sample of high school students in Taiwan²⁹	2004	9755	13-18	1
Sample of juvenile detainees in Taiwan³⁰	2012	973	Mean=17	52

Technology of Tattooing

Whether they used knives or needles, made out of shark teeth teeth, cactus spines or metal, tattooists across cultures and time have employed a common method: puncture the skin and deposit pigment.

- >Yupik tattooists used lampblack mixed with urine as their ink's base.
- >Roman Catholic women in Bosnia-Herzegovina used soot combined with breast milk.
- >Maori tattooists used soot from charred pine wood mixed with water.

Modern electric tattoo needles and synthetic pigments now allow tattooists to create designs more intricate and colorful than ever before

Tattooing in the West

Carried on the skin of sailors and adventurers, tattooing made its way to Europe. As it spread it continued to diversify. By the end of the 19th century, faster transportation – and the invention of the electric tattoo machine – helped artists in Europe, Asia and North America exchange ideas and techniques at a more rapid pace. In the mid-20th century tattoo artists began to gather in clubs – first in 1953 in the UK. An international tattooing convention held in 1976 in Texas sparked a global resurgence of tattooing.

17th century stamp to
draw a tattoo design
commemorating a
pilgrimage to Jerusalem



Musée du Quai Branly Jacques Chirac

Germany

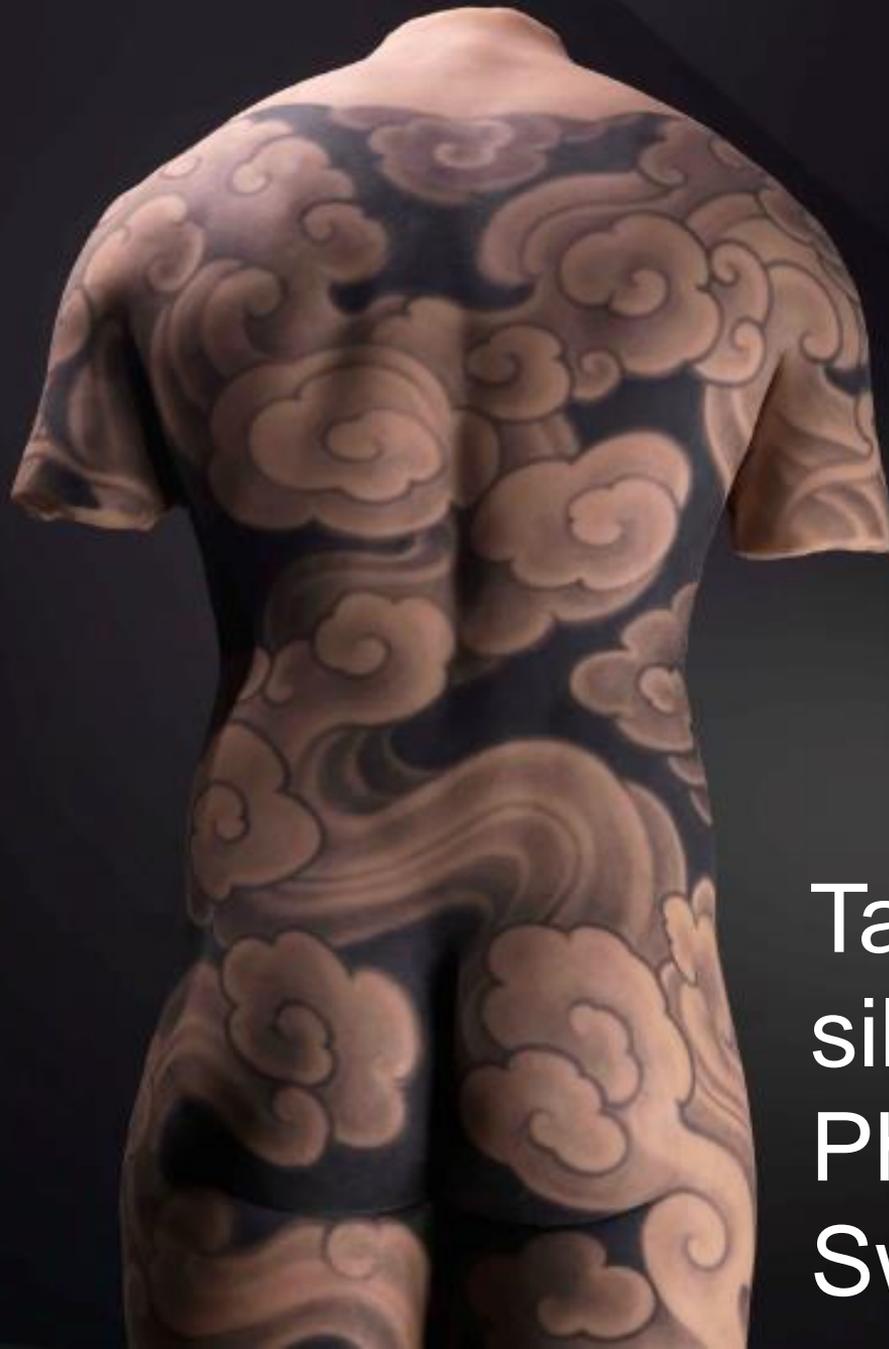
Percentage estimates of tattooed persons

Sample in Germany	Year of Sample	N	Age	Total (%)
General population representative sample^{26,27}	Accepted for publication 2005	2043	14-93 14-44 25-34	8.5 15
Community snowball-sampling survey of southern German-speaking area of Central Europe²⁸	2010	441	16-30+	15

Italy

Percentage estimates of adolescents with tattoos

Sample in Italy	Year of Sample	N	Age	Total (%)
School children (Eurispes)	2002	3800	12-18	6.6
Representative sample of high school students in Cagliari²⁵	2004	820	15-19	8.5
			15-16	6.0
			17-18	7.2
			≥19	15.8



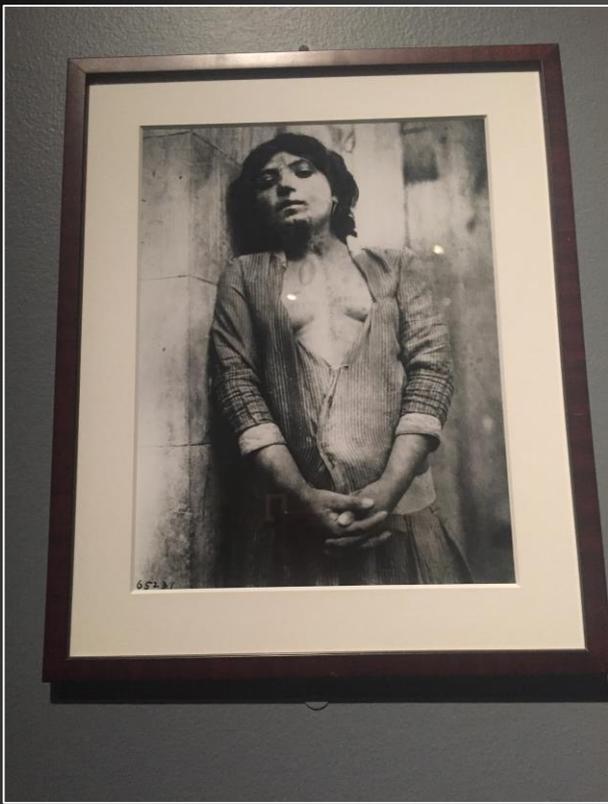
Tattooed
silicone torso
Philip Leu,
Switzerland



Göteborg, Sweden
Tattoo: Jonas Nyberg
Photo: Zoé Forget

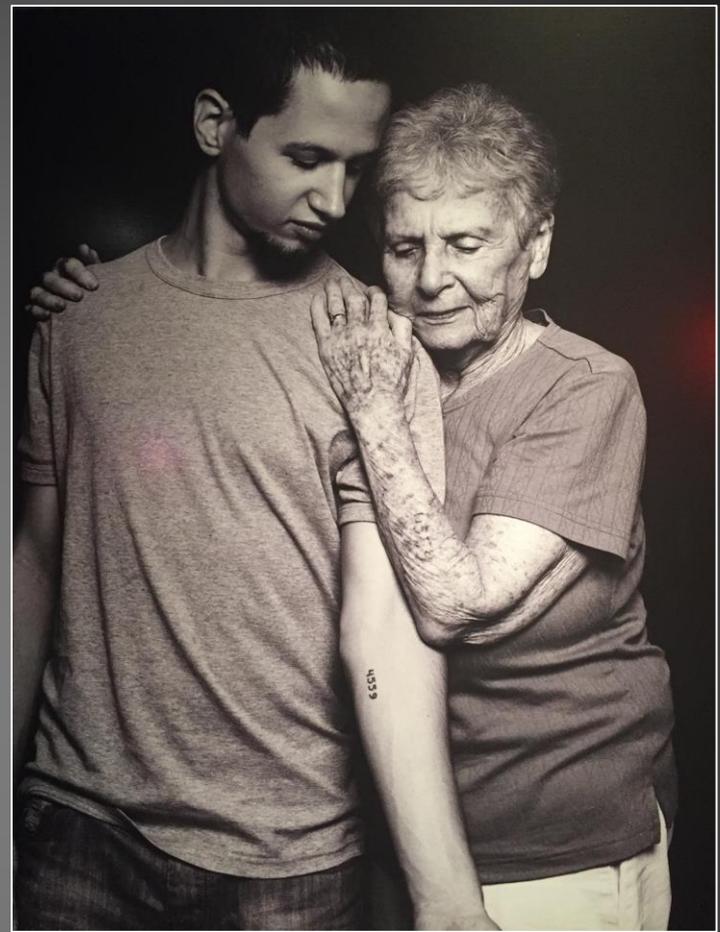


Tattoo design on linen
England
Alex Binnie 2013



Armenian woman with
identifying tattoos: 1919

©Underwood and
Underwood/Corbis



Tattooed in Aushwitz
with Israeli grandson

Photo: Uriel Sinai 2012

Blood-types tattoos

Northwest Indiana
industrial corridor long
considered terror target.

Elementary school children
were tattooed in 1952:
the height of the Cold War,
during the Korean War.



South America

Percentage estimates of tattooed adolescents

Sample in South America	Year of Sample	N	Age	Total (%)
Representative sample of adolescents in two public schools- Brazil³¹	2003	664	12-19 Mean 15.2	3.2

NORTH AMERICA

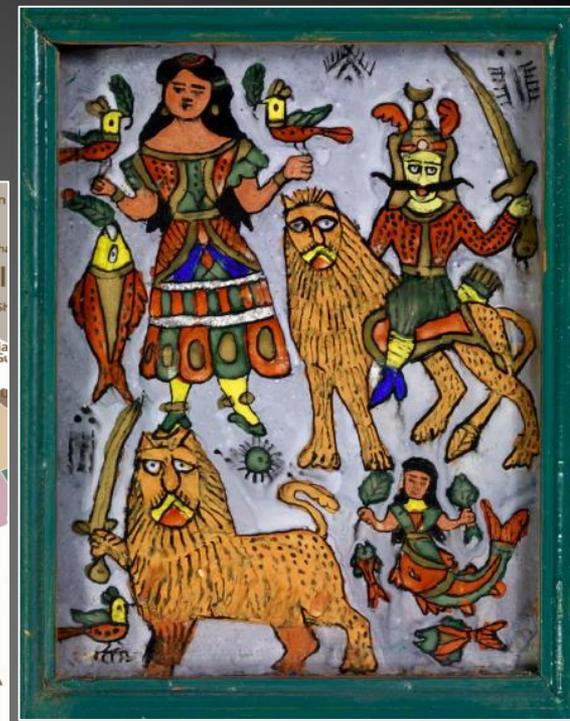


Canada

Percentage estimates of tattooed adolescents

Canada Sample	Year of Sample	N	Age	Total (%)
Representative sample of high school students in Quebec^{20,21}	2002	2145	12-18	8

AFRICA



“flash” for an
itinerant
North African
tattooist



A Berber woman from Algeria, 1960's

A Berber woman
Algeria, 1960s



An Egyptian Cross

Tattoo and Haircut

Under the El on
the Bowery in New
York

(Skid Row) 1932



Reginal Marsh

U.S.A.

Percentage estimates of tattooed persons

United States of America Sample	Year of Sample	N	Age (years)	Total (%)
Nationally representative school-based¹	1995	5837	11-13	0.5
			14-16	2.6
			17-21	7.6
			11-21	4.6
A cross-sectional convenient sample of adolescents²	1996	2101	12-18	10
Patients Presenting at an Emergency Department³	1999	294	16-35	35
			36-50	28
			51-65	5

U.S.A.

Percentage estimates of tattooed persons

United States of America Sample	Year of Sample	N	Age (years)	Total (%)
Cohort of military recruits random survey⁴	1999	499	Median=20	28
Sample survey of college volunteers⁵	1999	235	Mean=19	12
Basic recruits and advanced individual training students at one military installation⁶	2000	1,835	18-30	36

U.S.A.

Percentage estimates of tattooed persons

United States of America Sample	Year of Sample	N	Age (years)	Total (%)
College students a convenient sample⁷	2001	302	18-49	19
Randomly selected undergraduates at Pace University⁸	2001	254	Mean=21	23
Adolescent clinic for dependent children of military personnel⁹	2001	484	12-22 ≤15 ≥ 18	13.2 2 26.3
College students in a large state-supported university Southwest region¹⁰	2002	520	18-22	19

U.S.A.

Percentage estimates of tattooed persons

United States of America Sample	Year of Sample	N	Age (years)	Total (%)
Nationally representative on-line (Harris Poll)¹¹	2003	2,215	18-≤70	16
General Population representative sample¹²	2004	500	18-50 18-29 30-40 41-50	24 36 24 15
Autopsy records from the New Mexico Office of the Medical Investigator¹³	2002-2005	3430	18-100	40
Sequential voluntary survey among college students¹⁴	2001-2006	1104	18-22	23

U.S.A.

Percentage estimates of tattooed persons

United States of America Sample	Year of Sample	N	Age (years)	Total (%)
Randomly selected undergraduates at Pace University¹⁵	2006	661	Mean 21	21.8
General Population representative on phone¹⁶	2006	1501	18-25 26-40 41-64	36 40 10
Nationally representative on-line (Harris Poll)¹⁷	2008	2302	18-64	14

U.S.A.

Percentage estimates of tattooed persons

United States of America Sample	Year of Sample	N	Age (years)	Total (%)
Millennials landline and cellular telephone Pew Research Center ¹⁷	2010	2020	18-29	38
			30-45	32
			46-64	15
			65+	6
Midwestern University students in physical education and health classes ¹⁸	2012	998	18-22	30
Nationally representative on- line (Harris Poll) ¹⁹	2015	2,225	18-65+	29

U.S.A. 2015

Percentage estimates
of tattooed persons

29%

TATTOOED TALKED WHERE

71%

OF PARENTS ARE
COMFORTABLE WITH
VISIBLE TATTOOS ON
THEIR CHILD'S PRIMARY
SCHOOL TEACHER
OR PEDIATRICIAN

*As tattoos trend
toward mainstream
status, visible ink
is unlikely to raise
eyebrows across a
variety of professions.*



AMONG THOSE
WITH ANY TATTOOS

69%

HAVE 2 OR MORE

ONE OF THE FEW AREAS NOT
DIVIDED BY POLITICS:

 29%
DEMOCRAT

 28%
INDEPENDENT

 27%
REPUBLICAN

SOURCE: The Harris Poll, conducted online in the United States between October 14 and 19, 2015 among 2,225 adults (aged 18 and over). Additional polling was conducted online in the United States between November 6 and 16, 2015 among 1,093 parents (aged 18 and over) with children under 18 in the household.

WWW.THEHARRISPOLL.COM

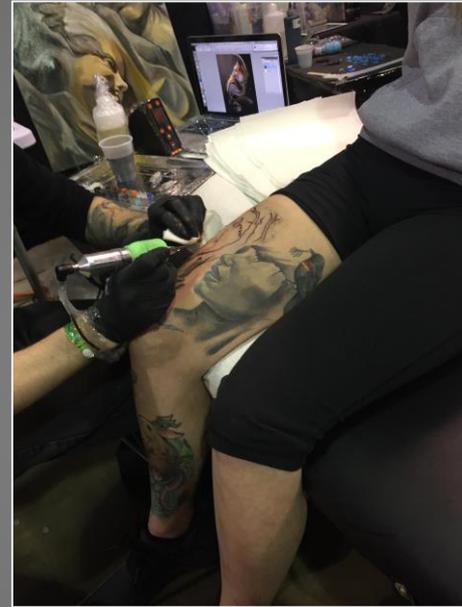
the harris poll.



The 8th Annual

Chicago Tattoo Arts Convention

March 17th - 19th 2017 Donald E Stephens Convention Center



490 Booths

800 Tattoo artists

The influences that have always shaped tattooing continue to do so today. Some contemporary artists draw on older visual traditions developed in Asia, Oceania and the Americas. Others are pushing the medium in a new direction with a vocabulary of pixels, typography, abstract designs and diagrams. Accurate prevalence data is not really available but, as we look across the world the Art of the Tattoo is alive and well but growing in depth and innovation. No longer repressed, tattooing flourishes in many countries in a variety of forms, aesthetics, symbols and meanings.



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