

## CHICANO TATTOOS

**Chicano tattoos** are a black and grey tattoo style that originated within the Mexican-American (Chicano) community, especially in the Southwestern United States. The style developed in prisons and urban neighborhoods as a way to express identity, culture, faith, and personal experiences.

The tattoos often feature **fine line work**, **smooth black and grey shading**, and **symbolic imagery** such as roses, praying hands, religious figures like the Virgin Mary or Jesus, lowriders, skulls, and portraits of women known as *cholas*. **Old English lettering** or cursive script is also a major element, often used for names, tributes, or meaningful phrases.

Chicano tattooing is deeply personal and narrative. Each design usually carries a strong emotional or cultural meaning—connected to family, religion, struggle, respect, or remembrance. It's a style that blends street influence with artistic detail, making it both raw and refined.