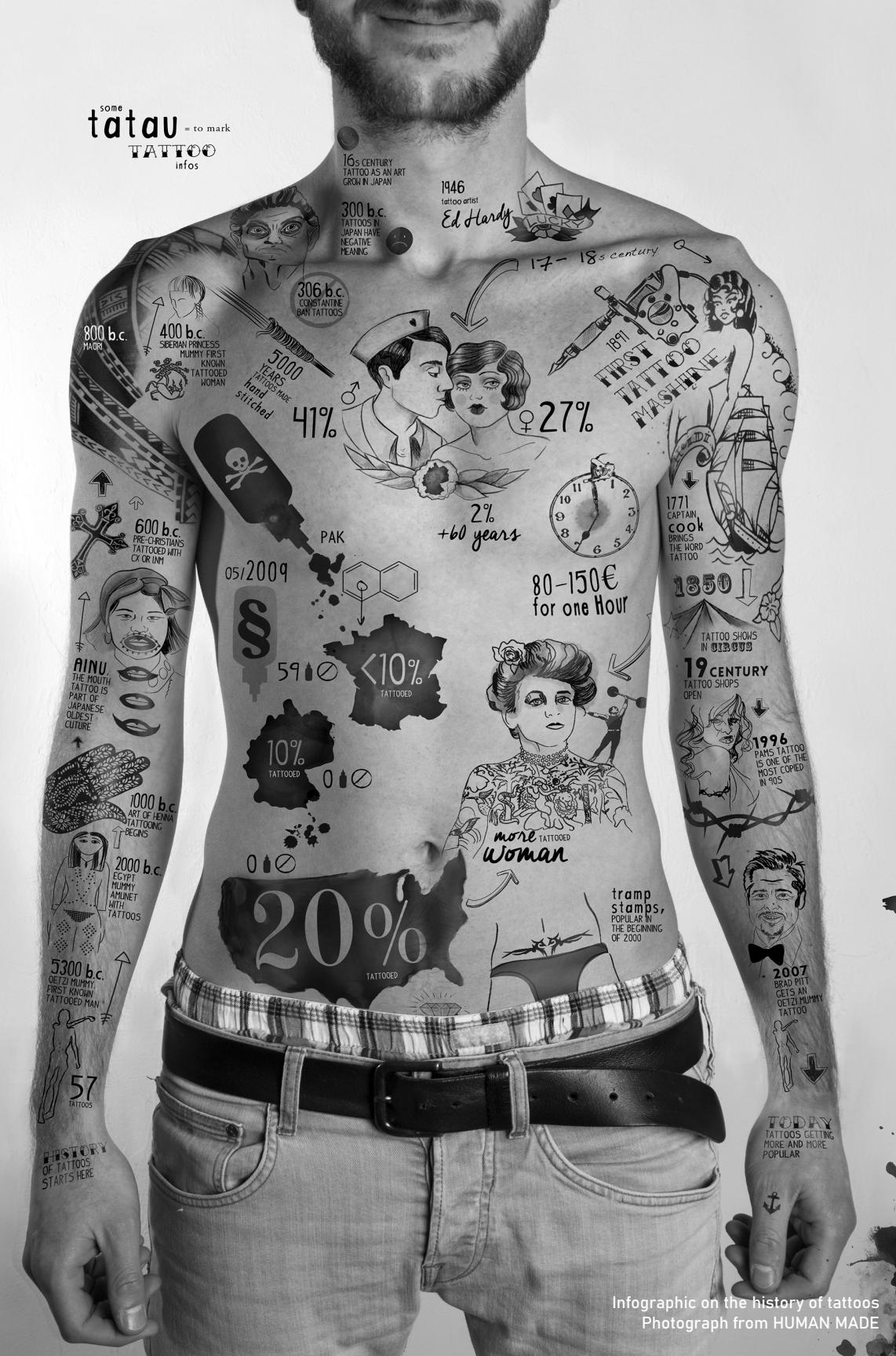


GRAY VIOLAGO

Tattoo! Not Taboo





A BRIEF HISTORY OF TATTOOS

ORIGINS

• EVOLUTION

• STIGMA

“ Some of us can begin to heal the damage people have done to us by escaping the situation, but some of us need more than that. Tattoos make statements that need to be made. Or hide things that are no one's business. Your scars are battle wounds, but you don't see them that way. Yet. ”

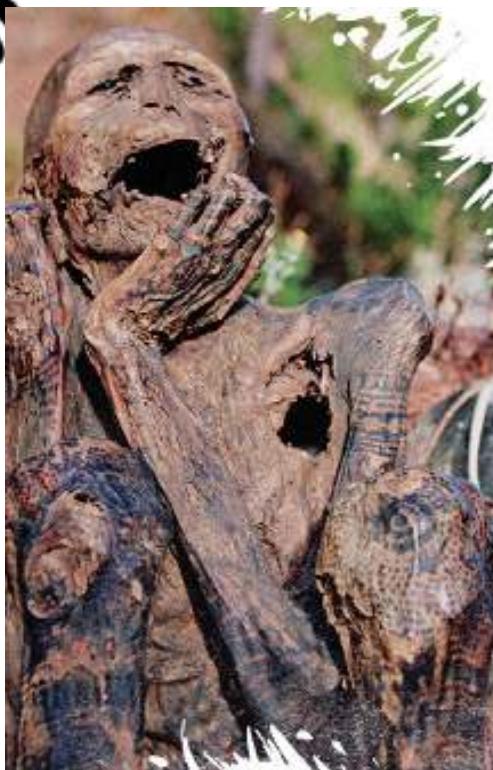
—Tamara Webber

Infographic on the history of tattoos
Photograph from HUMAN MADE

3370-3100 BC

WHERE DID TATTOOS ORIGINATE?

The first ever record of tattooing comes from a figure discovered in The Ötztal Alps located near Austria and northern Italy. Since then, numerous locations have slowly adapted the incredible tradition of tattooing as part of their cultures. Some of the earliest countries and cultures to have practiced tattooing are China, Mongolia, Alaska, Egypt, Sudan, Russia Greenland , and the Philippines. Afterwards, several other countries started practicing the tradition of tattooing for several different purposes.



Igorot Headhunter Tattoos
Photograph from Inked

WHEN DID TATTOOS COME AROUND?

Records say that the tradition of tattooing existed back as far as 3370 BC - 3170 BC. It's one of the oldest traditions several cultures used for different purposes, such as rites of passage, religious connections, criminal branding, aesthetic concepts, and so on. Over time, the art of tattooing has evolved and slowly come about for many personal reasons amongst the people who choose to become tattooed. Tattoos became a creative way of telling one's story.



Tattooed woman
Photograph from Authority Tattoo



Vintage Tattoo Photos
Photograph from moon-child.net

Live on...

Ötzi met an unfortunate demise where he was murdered as he was crossing through Tisenjoch/Giogo di Tisa in South Tyrol, however he continues to live on as a memory.

ÖTZI THE ICEMAN

5



Ötzi the Iceman
Photograph from Mother Nature Network

AN ICONIC FIGURE

Ötzi the Iceman is the very first known person to have adorned tattoos on his body. His body was only discovered in September 1991, thus he remained an enigma for the longest time.



6

A STAR IS NOW BORN

2017

Ötzi's popularity has given him enough reason to have a film produced that documents his lifestyle. The film shows what his life was like as he traveled through the Alps, struggled to survive, and the meaning behind his tattoos. Everything was recorded until his last few moments as he was murdered, while struggling not to become a murderer himself, then had his body preserved in ice for centuries.

ICEMAN

The Ötztal Alps, more than 5300 years ago. A Neolithic clan has settled near a creek. It is their leader Kelab's responsibility to be the keeper of the group's holy shrine Tineka. While Kelab is hunting, the settlement is attacked. The members of the tribe are brutally murdered, among them Kelab's wife and son, only one newborn survives - and Tineka is gone. Blinded by pain and fury, Kelab is out for one thing alone - vengeance. The pursuit of the murderers is shaping up to be quite an odyssey for Kelab. He fights for the infant's survival and against the forces of nature. And a fatal error even turns Kelab from hunter to hunted. On top of all that, the loneliness causes Kelab to doubt his actions more and more. When Kelab finally faces the murderers of his clan, his greatest challenge will be not to become a murderer himself. - Ötzi - The Iceman is one of the oldest and most well-known mummies in the world. With emotional impact, writer/director Felix Randau depicts the first unsolved murder case in the history of mankind.

—www.port-prince.de





Bamboo Technique
Photograph from The Planet D

BAMBOO

Widely seen as the main technique that started the tattooing culture within Japan. A handle is crafted out of bamboo wood, smoothed down, and completely rounded for comfort and accuracy, then finished off with up to two dozen sharpened points added to the end of it to act as the tattooing needles. The bamboo handle is punted into the skin once ink has been applied to the extremely sharp points. This effect pushes the needles just deep enough into the skin to allow the ink to set in location.



Metal Tube Technique
Photograph from Joyenergizer

METAL TUBE

This technique was most prevalent in Southeast Asian countries and was highly popular within ancient Thailand. The artist dips the point into ink before proceeding to carefully place the tube over the required area of skin and firmly pressing down on the tube repeatedly, much like how a sewing machine works, in order to pierce the skin and distribute the ink.



Rake and Striking Stick Technique
Photograph from Joyenergizer

RAKE & STRIKING

This is one of the oldest known tattooing methods throughout the worlds, practiced mostly in the South Pacific territories including Samoa and Papua New Guinea. When using the rake and striking stick method, the artist ensures that the customer's skin is well stretched out before hitting a sharpened rake attached to a long horizontal handle with a thick solid stick in order to put the rake into the stretched skin.



Western Technique
Photograph from The Planet D

WESTERN

Nowadays, the only way that you will be able to get tattooed is via extremely sharp needles which are attached to an electrified tattoo gun. The needles are slotted onto the gun, which is then connected to a power supply. After the needles are dipped into a pot of ink, and at the push of a button, the electrically-charged gun will proceed to cause the needles to extrude and contract many thousands of times per minute. This is what we call a tattoo machine or western technique.



Landscape tattoo
Photograph from Tattoolaz

Different countries have different tattoo **traditions**



Mountain view
Photograph from Unsplash



Chinese tattoo
Photograph from Next Luxury



TattoosBag.com
Samoan tattoo
Photograph from TattoosBag



Egyptian tattoo
Photograph from Tattoolaz

You can find tattoos in any place nowadays, but some **cultures** first started the tradition of tattooing

Over 2000 years ago

THE HISTORY OF POLYNESIAN TATTOOS



Tamoko maori tattoo
Photograph uploaded to Pinterest

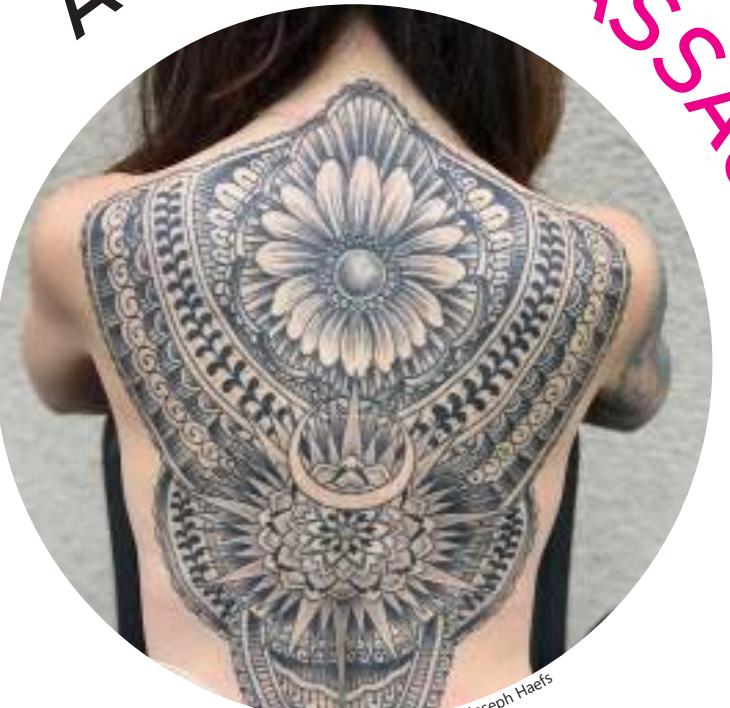


Samoan tattoo
Photograph from TattooZZa

Over 2000 years ago, Polynesian countries did not have any form of writing, thus they used tattoos to communicate and express themselves in terms of their identity, hierarchy, religion, and creativity.

There have been several explorers and navigators who ventured into the Polynesian islands. Perhaps the most influential pioneer was Captain James Cook, who ventured into the Pacific in 1771. It was because of his voyage that tattoos started to become a thing in Europe. European sailors also really liked the idea of tattoos and used them as a means to tell stories of their journeys in the sea. Unfortunately, this tradition did not last long as tattoos were banned during the Renaissance, however, tattoos eventually became accepted in society once again.

A RITE OF PASSAGE



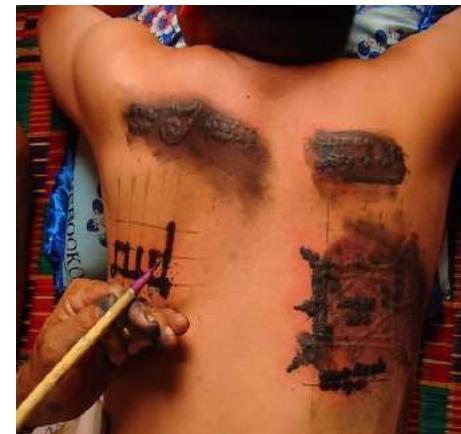
Tattoo design by Joseph Haefs

Show your status in society
An art form that everybody adorned
Became so popular it spread across Europe



David Beckham sticker tattoo
Photograph from OhMyTat

HOW THE CHINESE VIEWED TATTOOS

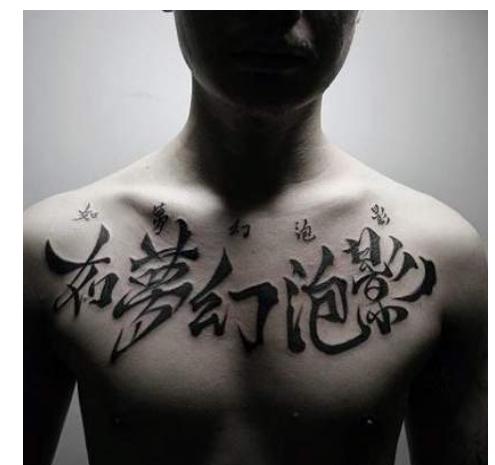


A criminal being tattooed
Photograph from Tattoo.com

美 和 友 恩 憎 命 英
"Beauty" "Harmony" "Friend" "Grace" "Forgiveness" "Destiny" "Courage"

WORDS SPEAK LOUDER THAN ACTIONS

Due to the elegant and graceful strokes of Chinese characters, Chinese letters became a common form of tattoo designs, both among the Chinese and foreigners. Such tattoos show just how important symbolism can be. Tattoos aren't just about "looking pretty," it's also about what the tattoo means for you personally.



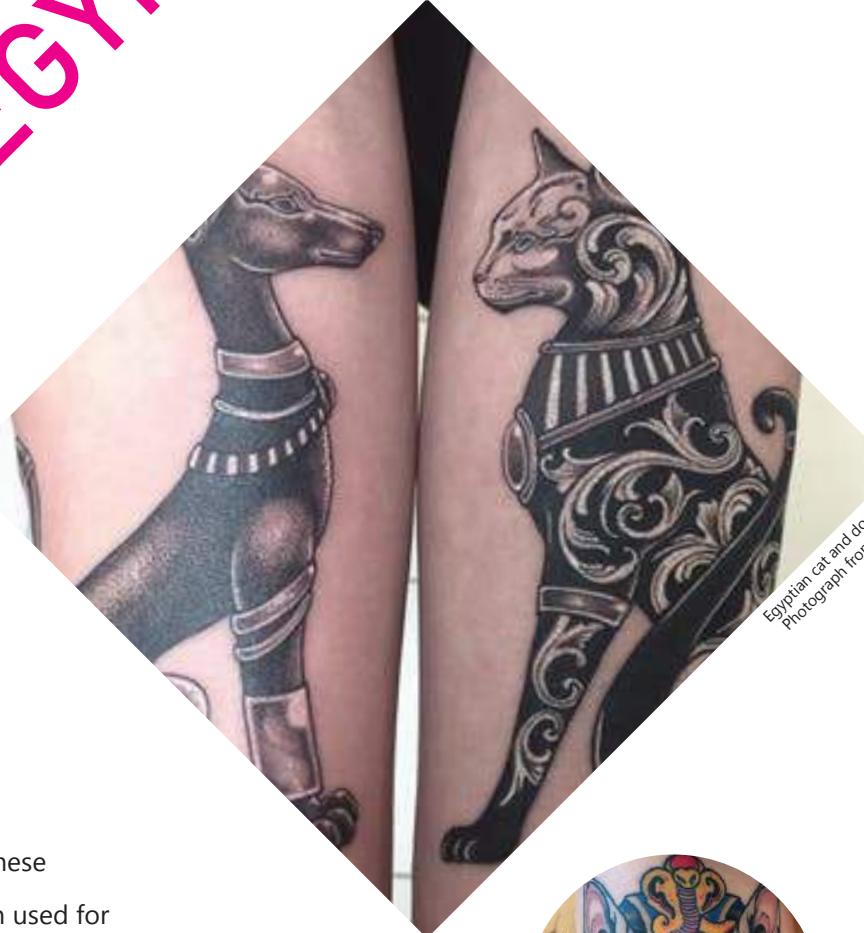
Chinese word tattoo
Photograph from Next Luxury

福 智 貴 安 愛 平 幸
"Happiness" "Wisdom" "Honor" "Tranquility" "Love" "Peace" "Fortunate"

2000 BC

TATTOOS IN ANCIENT EGYPT

In Egypt, tattoos were also found among several mummified bodies. These tattoos were believed to have been used for more decorative purposes, but some studies show that tattoos were used as a cure to certain illnesses. They were used to treat symptoms of pelvic peritonitis, which was seen based on a study on the mummified body of the high priestess, Hathor. Also, interestingly enough, tattoos were only found among the bodies of women and not men. This belief changed when Nubian men were discovered to also have adorned tattoos between 300 BC and 400 CE.



Egyptian cat and dog tattoo
Photograph from tattoodo



Egyptian cat tattoo
Photograph from Zarias



Pharaoh tattoo
Photograph from Next Luxury



Egyptian tattoo design
Photograph from Ask Ideas

Egyptian tattoo design
Photograph from Tattoo-Journal

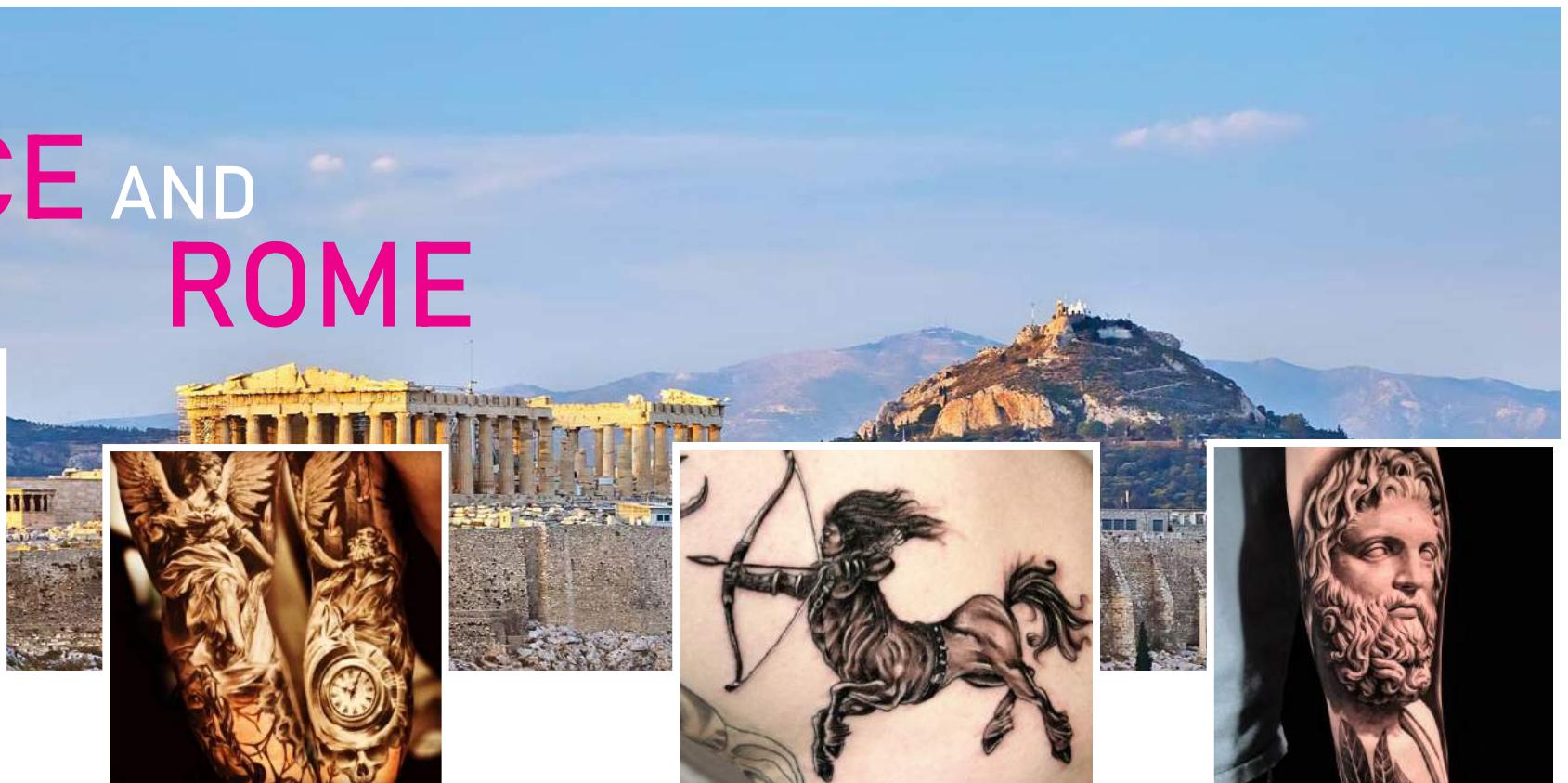
ANCIENT GREECE AND ROME



Greek and Roman gods tattoos
Photograph from Flickr

TATTOO ART AT ITS FINEST AND PUREST FORM

Tattoos developed during Ancient Roman and Greek times stood out exceptionally well due to the fine level of detail these tattoos possessed. They approached tattooing with a realistic sense, which was portrayed well and successfully.



Greek and Roman tattoo design
Photograph from Tattoodo

Sagittarius tattoo design
Photograph from Tattoos Time

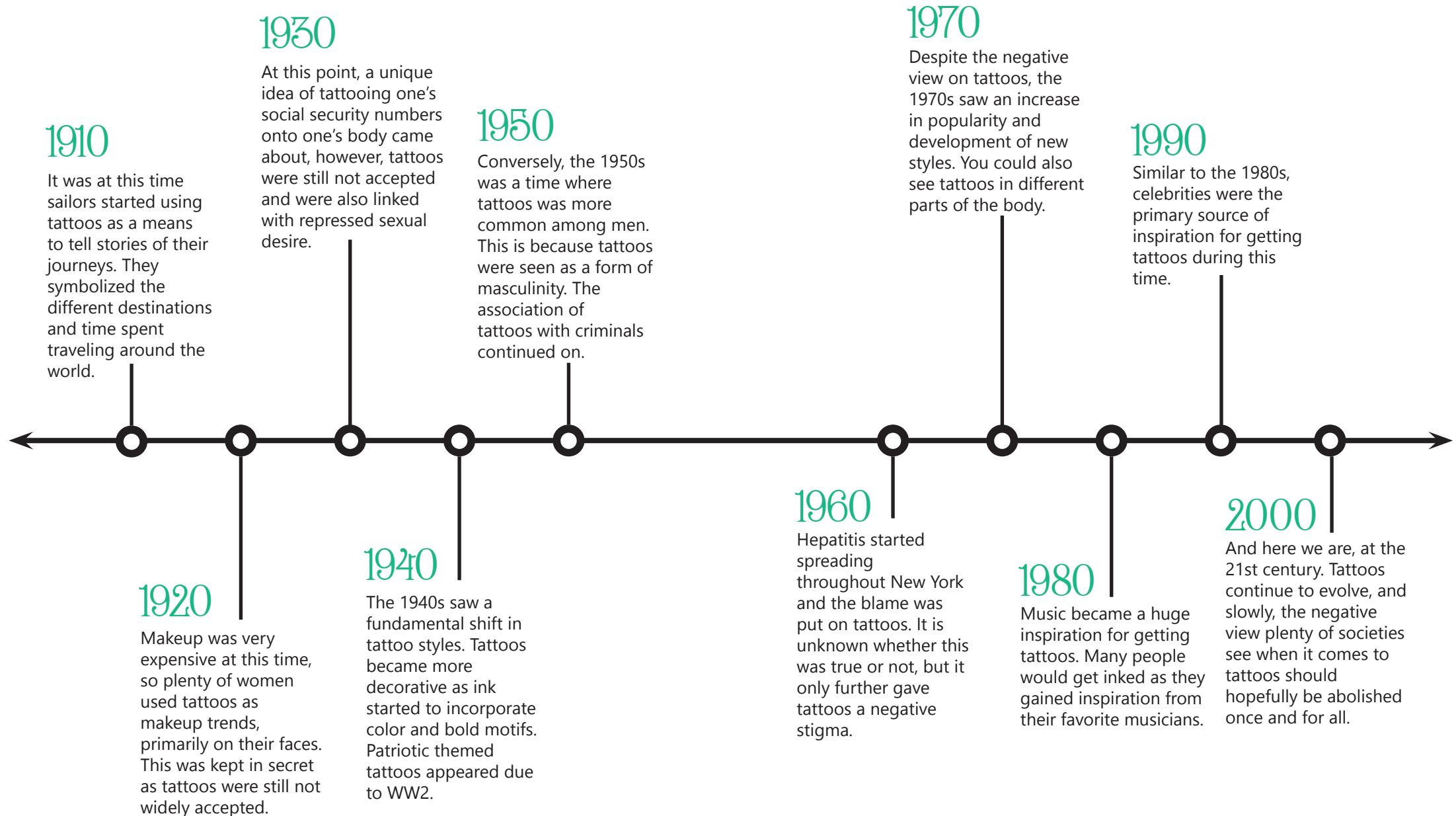
Greek god tattoo design
Photograph from Tattoodo

However, even though these tattoos were eye-catching and aesthetically pleasing, the majority of tattoos during ancient times were not designed to look pleasant, rather they were used to indicate criminals and outcasts, similar to that of China. Slaves were also branded with tattoos which indicated that a particular slave was in fact, owned by somebody.



Tattoo fact!
In the earliest days, tattoo ink was partially made of insect eggs.

A MODERN TIMELINE...





Photograph taken by Alison Wright/Corbis
Photograph from Daily Mail

Too much of anything is never a good thing. Always do things in moderation, and that includes getting tattoos.

CAN WE ESCAPE THE PAST?

As we've previously seen, tattoos in the past served many different purposes. Unfortunately, not all of those purposes were as glamorous as they are now. We learned that for the Chinese, tattoos were used to brand people as criminals or people who cannot be trusted. While that isn't so much the case in today's society, the past stigma that was placed on tattoos still has its effects on us even now. Plenty of careers prevent a person from having visible tattoos at work. Can we say that's due to the stigma tattoos bore throughout the centuries? We can't deny that some tattoos are simply too distracting, whether it's because of volume, quality, colors, or overall design. If we really want to escape the past, we just have to keep showing the world that tattoos can be beautiful, significant, and meaningful.

APPROPRIATE OR NOT?

HOW CAN WE MOVE ON?

If you ever plan on getting a tattoo, don't get one you know will just bring up controversies on whether tattoos should just keep being prohibited in certain places or not. Get one that is meaningful, but not inappropriate, or one that looks extravagant and compelling. Tattoos in the past were used for unique purposes as we've seen, or were important traditions for their cultures. Nowadays, these traditions and purposes are no longer common as technology has been able to substitute for what tattoos were previously used for. Tattoos are simply a form of art and expression now, thus we should keep them as meaningful as possible and not have them devolve into distractions or inappropriate objects. If we keep it up, tattoos may just become completely accepted in society today, and we can be free to express ourselves in the form of body art.

Less is more, and that also applies to tattoos. You can't show others the things that matter if there's much to see.



A COLLECTION OF TATTOO STYLES



Tattoo Me Now

TattooZZa

iNKPPL



Tattoo Ideas

Tattoodo

Subtle Tattoos



Piercing Ideas

Tattoo-Journal

Wild Tattoo Art



Styles At Life

Outsons

Trend Hunter

- ABSTRACT
- TRIBAL
- GEOMETRIC
- NEW SCHOOL
- REALISTIC
- MINIMALIST

“He whirled in the water and grinned at me. Damn, he was a handsome bastard. I realized he was half-naked. Blue swirls of tattoos painted his chest. When God made that chest, he did to tempt women.”



—Ilona Andrews

STYLE 1





Abstract tattoo design
Photograph from Tattoo SEO



Abstract tattoo designs
Photograph from Wild Tattoo Art

MORE ARTISTIC THAN YOU MAY THINK

They express plenty of emotion and inner feelings. Like abstract paintings, abstract tattoos are usually a mixture of colorful and creative strokes and lines.



THEY CONVEY MORE THAN WHAT WE SEE

You may just experience a sense of escapism when seeing a beautiful piece of abstract tattoo art. Such are the effects of abstract tattoos.



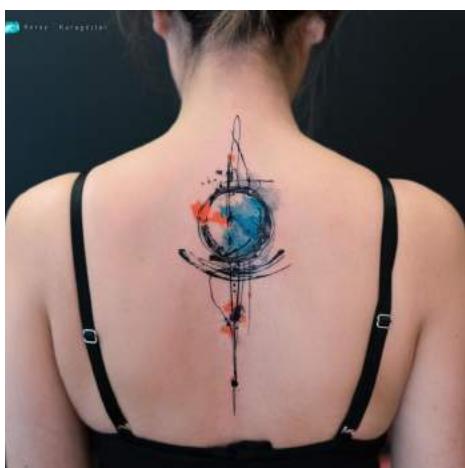
Abstract tattoo design
Photograph from CM Tattoos

COULD ABSTRACT TATTOOS BE RIGHT FOR YOU?

Do you want a tattoo that's a little less conventional? If so, you should most definitely get an abstract tattoo. They are perfect for showing something unique and representational rather than literal. Despite this, abstract tattoos are still considered authentic works of art. They are some of the most expressive and intricate types of tattoos around because they tend to have special meanings.



Abstract tattoo by Vaigirdas Kofy
Photograph from Instagram



Abstract tattoo by Koray Karagozler
Photograph from Instagram

Compared to other tattoo styles, abstract tattoos tend to have the most meaning because of their unique appearances and inner influences. Abstract tattoos are usually the manifestations of what we feel inside in the form of art. They help inspire different thought processes and show our inner thoughts and creativity. In other words, they bring out the artistic sides that everybody has deep down, even if they may not think they have any.



Abstract sleeve tattoo
Photograph from Amazing Tattoo Ideas

BEAUTY COMES IN DIFFERENT SHAPES AND FORMS

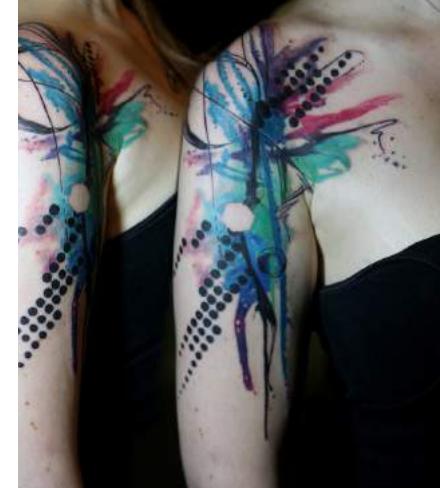
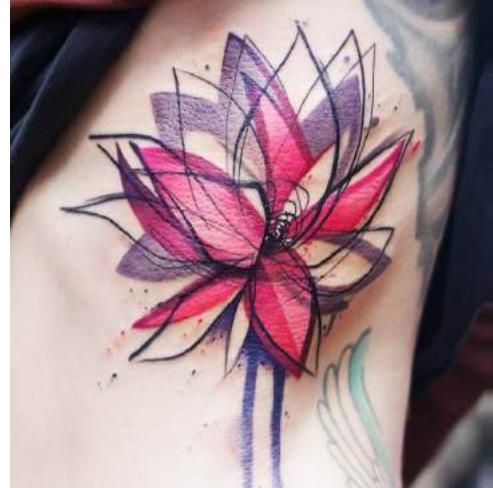
Abstract tattoos are what help you discover different kinds of aesthetics when it comes to body art. They possess significant grace, elegance, and life while also exhibiting a strong sense of mystery and appeal.



Abstract tattoo
Photograph from House of Wallenberg

Abstract tattoo
Photograph from Flickriver

Abstract tattoo
Photograph from Pinterest



Tattoo fact!

The world's most tattooed man is 100% covered.

MYSTERY IS AN INGREDIENT OF ATTRACTION

The many different meanings that an abstract tattoo embodies is a trait that appeals to lots of people who adorn abstract tattoos. Mystery is a powerful element that draws people in because knowledge is what people seek.



STYLE 2



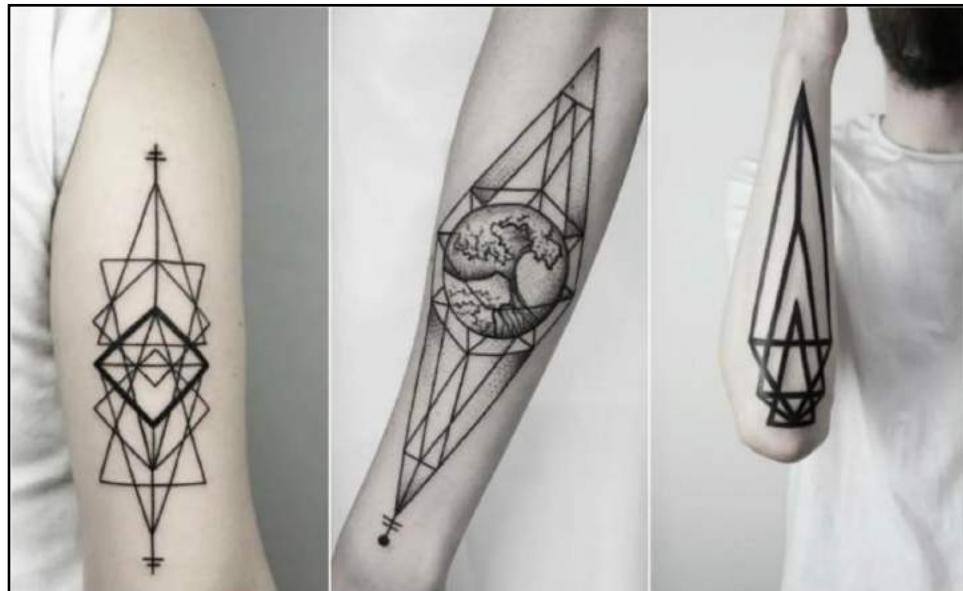


Geometric tattoo design by Aga Kura
Photograph from World Tattoo Gallery



Geometric tattoo design by Yeliz Ozcan
Photograph from Kick Ass Things

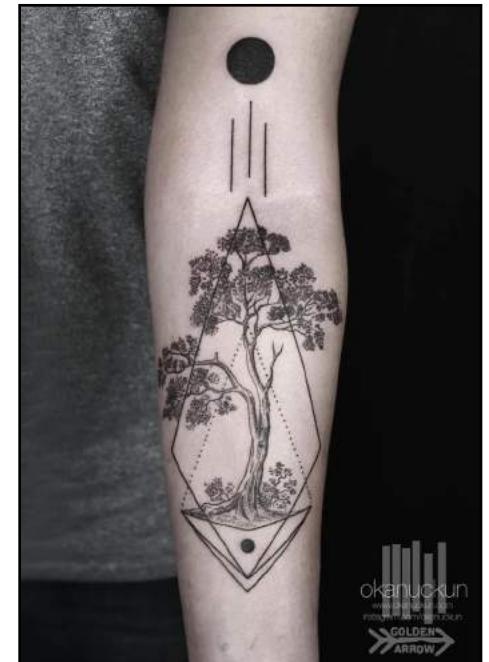
DIFFERENT SHAPES AND SIZES



Series of geometric tattoo designs compiled by Diego Cera
Photograph from Cultura Colectiva

DON'T FORGET SYMMETRY

Normally, people consider symmetry as an extremely attractive thing, and that part starts to really hold true when we see a geometric tattoo. Geometric tattoos use symmetrical lines to make an amazing and alluring aesthetic. They are one of the reasons geometric tattoos are so beautiful and popular. Another reason for their popularity is the patterns all the lines tend to create. Patterns are another form of design, and geometric tattoos further show the beauty when it comes to patterning.



Geometric tattoo design by Okan Uçkun
Photograph from Tattoolo

SHAPED TO PERFECTION

ALL LINES MATTER

Geometric tattoos consists of several different elements that helps them identify as such. These tattoos use symmetrical lines and black strokes to show the beauty of a piece of art influenced by math. You can't go wrong with getting a geometric tattoo because they hold plenty of meaning, and the use of lines and patterns shows the talent of the artists who made such tattoos. However, geometric tattoos aren't limited to just the use of lines and patterns. You may still consider anything with parallel, matching lines a geometric tattoo.



Symmetrical butterfly tattoo
Photograph from Cloak and Dagger Tattoo Parlour

ONE OF THE OLDEST BRANCHES OF MATHEMATICS GETS TURNED INTO A BEAUTIFUL ART FORM

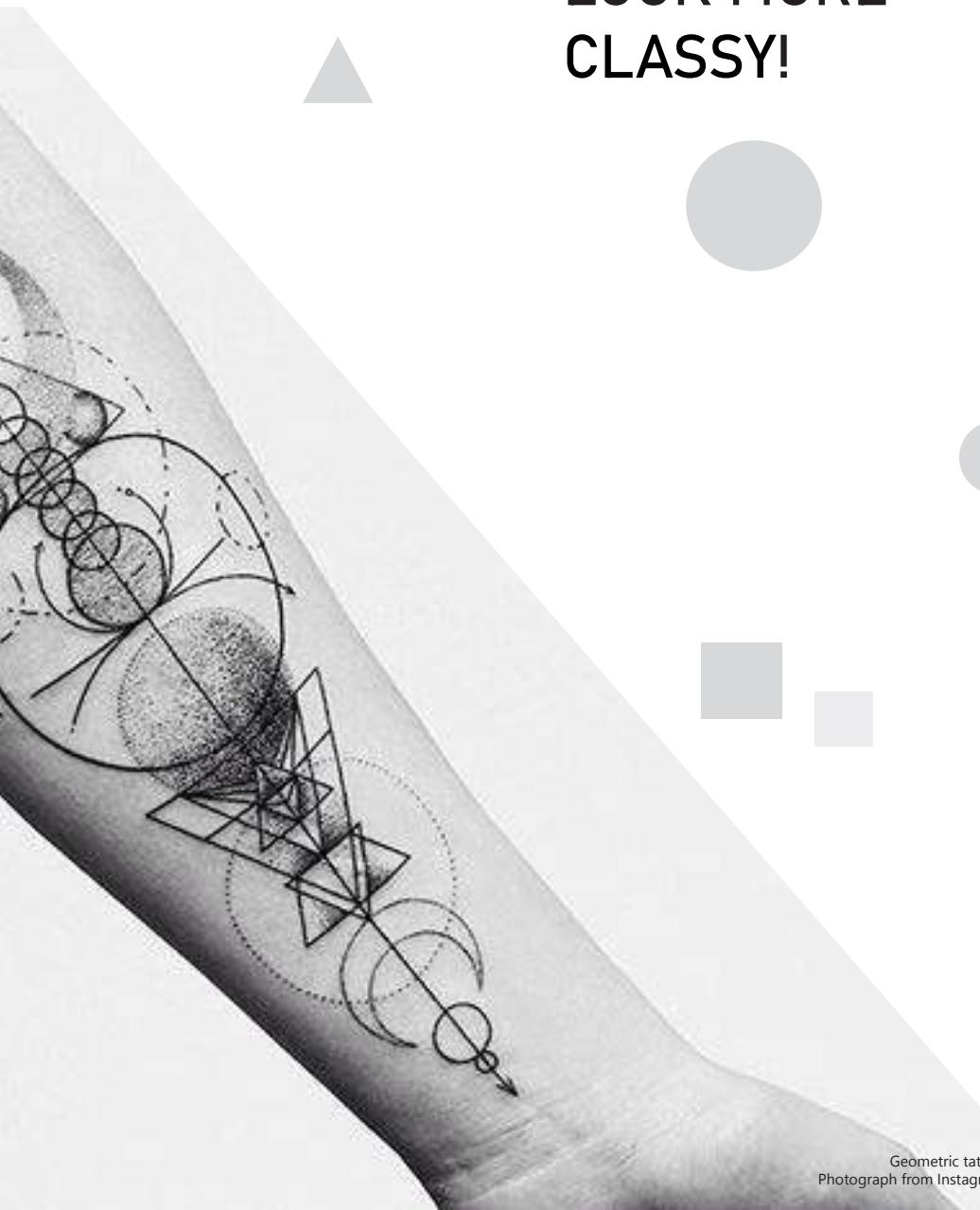
Geometric tattoos are also a good idea for those who wish to drift away from non-traditional tattoos. They are not as common as other types of tattoos because only a number of artists are able to make them due to how challenging they can be to make.



Geometric tattoo
Photograph from Cloak and Tattooodo

If getting a geometry tattoo is what you really want, then make sure you have a talented tattoo artist. As mentioned, these tattoos are not as easy to make as other tattoos because it requires absolute perfection. A simple geometric tattoo design can be completely ruined if one part of the pattern comes out incorrectly. In other words, the tattoo itself as a whole has to be done right and there's absolutely no way to cover any mistakes. Because tattoos are permanent, you definitely wouldn't want something imperfect engraved on your skin.

Geometric tattoo
Photograph from APKPure



THE POWER OF SYMMETRY AND PATTERNS CAN MAKE YOU LOOK MORE CLASSY!

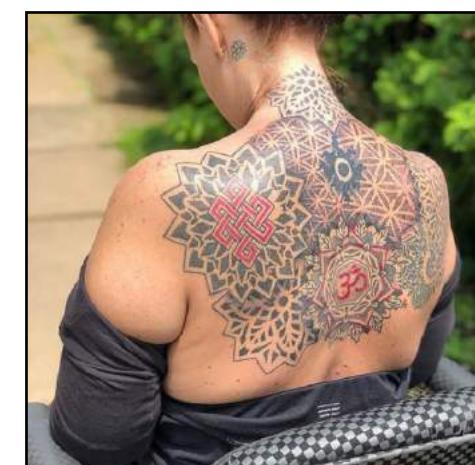
Symmetry is usually associated with beauty and grace, and with geometric tattoos, you can only get so much of that symmetry. The entire basis of **geometric tattoos** is to show off perfect edges.



Geometric tattoo
Photograph from Tattoos Era



Geometric tattoo
Photograph from Next Luxury



Geometric tattoo
Photograph from TattooDI

When you've gotten your geometric tattoo, then you can show off just how **refined** and **classy** your tastes are! Geometric tattoos present some of the most exquisite quality in tattoos.

STYLE 3

Realistic
Style



Realistic dragon eye tattoo
Photograph from Next Luxury

OLD-FASHIONED BUT STILL FASHIONABLE



Realistic butterfly tattoo
Photograph from Bored Panda

47

KEEP IT REAL

Realistic tattoos are some of the most amazingly detailed tattoos there are. They replicate many different concepts such as photography, 3D graphics, portraiture, landscapes, and so on. Such highly detailed tattoos are certainly pushing our ideas and expectations of tattoos in the 21st century.



Realistic tattoo
Photograph from Asylum Tattoo

A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

You can never go wrong with realistic tattoos since they represent the real world, meaning the style and designs matches just about anybody.



Realistic tattoo
Photograph from Tattoo Designs - TattoosBag



Realistic tattoos
Photograph from Youtube

PATIENCE, SKILL, and CREATIVITY

Making a realistic tattoo requires plenty of dedication. The skill level required to make such tattoos is immense. It requires patience due to the amount of time it takes to make them, skill to draw such details, and creativity to separate the design from pure, dull realism.



Realistic owl tattoo
Photograph from Pinterest



Full body realistic tattoo
Photograph from Next Luxury



Process of realistic tattoos
Photograph from Askideas



Realistic tattoo
Photograph from Youtube

THE COSTS ARE HIGH, BUT WORTH IT

We've established how much time, effort, and dedication realistic tattoos take to make. Because of this, you can certainly expect the prices of realistic tattoos to skyrocket. The costs can be immense, given that most professional tattoo artists can charge anywhere between \$100 per hour to \$300+ per hour. If you really want a realistic tattoo, you should most definitely find a professional and experienced tattoo artist. The costs are indeed high, but it shows your dedication to the art of tattooing and just how lively they can make your body appear.



Drawing a realistic tattoo design
Photograph from Piercing Models



Realistic
tattoos are
truly the
pinnacle of
tattoo art with
their highly
exquisite and
detailed form.

STYLE 4



NEVER FORGET WHO YOU ARE

You may have come across some tattoos which might be considered abstract. These tattoos use lots of lines and patterns much like the other styles, but they aren't within that same category because they have their own: tribal tattoos. These tattoos were used to represent one's culture and heritage, but now it has been more popularized simply for its eye-catching aesthetic. For some people, the idea of getting tribal tattoos when it doesn't relate to one's culture or heritage is not a good thing, as it almost makes the idea of tribal tattoos lose its meaning. Regardless, you shouldn't let such things stop you from getting an amazing piece of art on your skin.



Tribal tattoo
Photograph from Improb



Tribal tattoo
Photograph from Wild Tattoo Art



Tribal tattoo
Photograph from Tattoo Easily



Tribal tattoo
Photograph from Wild Tattoo Art

FLOWING LINES

SACRED ORIGINS

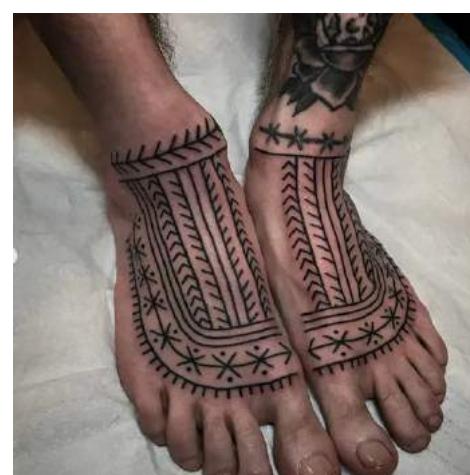


Tribal tattoo
Photograph from Tattooodo

There are many ancient cultures that first started tribal tattooing as a part of their beliefs. These cultures include the Borneo, Aztec, Maori, Indian, Samoan, Hawaiian, and Polynesian. For all of these cultures, the tradition of getting a tribal tattoo was a rite of passage. In today's time, this is no longer the case, and tribal tattoos are mostly just used for their wonderful aesthetic.



Tribal tattoo
Photograph from Tattooodo



Tribal tattoo
Photograph from Tattooodo

But tribal tattoos weren't only used for decorative or traditional purposes. They were even used for medicinal purposes. This doesn't only apply to tribal tattoos however, since any form of tattooing back in the day could be used for medicinal purposes.

Tribal tattoos are almost always just black in color. Because of this, they tend to age well and don't fade as quickly as other tattoo styles.

C U L

T U R E



Tattoo fact!

The oldest tattooer in
the world is a 97 year
old Filipina woman.

...Never forget how
important that is

STYLE 5





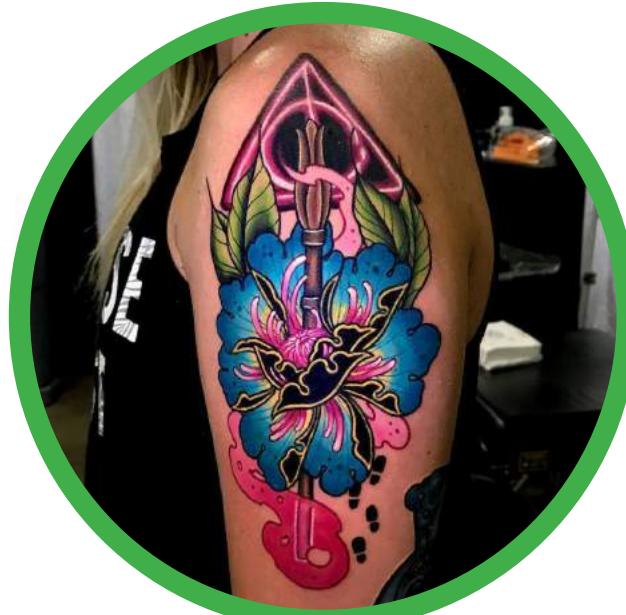
Invader Zim tattoo
Photograph from Tattmag

If you had a **playful childhood** which you'd love to **relive**, new school tattoos possess the right kind of expression for you. They're **fun** and **eye-catching**!



A BRIGHT, VIVID, AND EXTRAVAGANT STYLE

Intensely vivid tones, eye-catching characters, rounded shapes, and cartoonish concepts make New School tattooing a highly animated aesthetic that pulls from many different places for its style. With foundations in American Traditional, Neo Traditional, as well as anime, manga, video games, and comic arts, there are few things this style does not borrow from. In this guide, we look at the origins, stylistic influences, and artists that make up this incredibly saturated New School tattooing aesthetic.



New school flower tattoo
Photograph from inkppl

HOW DID NEW SCHOOL TATTOOS START?

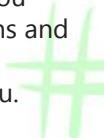
New school tattoos essentially has American Traditional roots, but also has Japanese influences. The theme of such tattoos became popular thanks to the effects of Disney, anime/manga, video games, and so on. New school tattoos also share a relationship with Neo Traditional and Art Nouveau styles, and were very heavily influenced on artists who specialized in doing new school styles.



New school potion tattoo
Photograph from Tattmag

SHOW EVERYONE
THE PASSIONS YOU
ONCE HAD WHEN
YOU WERE A CHILD

Don't forget the things you used to enjoy when you were a child. If you maybe enjoyed watching cartoons and animations, then the new school aesthetic might just appeal to you. New school tattoos are great for commemorating the things you once loved in the past.



New school owl tattoo
Photograph from Ask Ideas

You too can put your childhood **dreams** into a **reality**, a reality that you possess and have complete control over, and let that dream embody you completely. Consider getting a **new school tattoo** and bring more life and vibrancy onto your skin.



New school cat
Photograph from Tattmag

CARTOONS AND ANIMATIONS BECAME MORE WIDESPREAD BECAUSE OF THIS STYLE

When new school tattoos first started during the 1970s, the style wasn't really all that popular yet. It wasn't until the 1990s when new school tattoos really started to take a shine and had more influence on the world. Part of its increase in popularity during the 90s can be attributed to a resurgence of interest in mainstream pop culture. New school tattoos only further pushed people's interests in pop culture, which made the theme of cartoons and animations even more present. Tattooers have also pinpointed

the father of new school tattooing as an artist named Marcus Pacheco, who was a heavy practitioner of new school tattooing. Because of him and the influence of cartoons, anime, and pop culture, new school tattoos made a large difference in the world during the 90s. Some of the most iconic cartoon characters used as tattoo designs include Disney characters, Betty Boop, Pokemon, Zelda, Fresh Prince of Bel Air, and many others.

STYLE 6

MinimAllist
Style

Keep it **simple**,
stupid

When it comes to minimalist tattoos, no other **design principle** has ever been more appropriate besides the **KISS principle**.

MINIMALIST TATTOOS DON'T FOCUS ON LOTS OF DETAILS

What's most important about minimalist tattoos is in the name itself - minimalism. The point of these tattoos is to show how even small, minuscule works of art can have just as much of an impact as other works of art.



Minimalist tattoo
Photograph from Man of Many



Minimalist tattoo
Photograph from Eazy Glam

THEY FOCUS ON SUBJECT MATTER

Sometimes, all you really need is to send a message across, which is exactly what art does. Minimalist tattoos absolutely emphasize the importance of what you see, not what you might analyze. They are straight and direct when it comes to sending messages subliminally.



Minimalist tattoo
Photograph from Wild Tattoo Art

THEY'RE EASY, QUICK, AND CHEAP TO MAKE

If you just want something affordable and simple, then a minimalist tattoo suits you well. Because they're so simple, they are some of the most available tattoos around, and they cater to the most number of people.

DESPITE BEING SO SIMPLE, THEY CAN BE SOME OF THE MOST COMPELLING TATTOOS

It's easy to get lost in works of art that have lots of details. With minimalist tattoos, that problem is removed because of how simple they are. Sometimes, the simplest things can send the most powerful and direct messages.



Minimalist tattoo
Photograph from Pinterest





Minimalist tattoo
Photograph from All Day Tattoo

SOMETIMES, THEY'RE MORE **SURPRISING** THAN OTHER TATTOO STYLES

Nowadays, it's easy to find people who have tattoos on their bodies, but most of them tend to get relatively detailed. Such a simple piece of art on one's skin can really catch someone by surprise, and they might not even realize it's a tattoo right away!



Minimalist tattoo
Photograph from Pinterest

DON'T JUDGE A PERSON BY THEIR **INK**

The whole point of this book is to eliminate the stigma associated with tattoos, and minimalist tattoos are some of the best examples for that goal. No tattoo designs are meaningless or ugly, because there's always a deeper meaning behind it.

DESTIGMATIZE TATTOO ART



Flower tattoo
Photograph from Cool Tattoo Shop

“She was clean: no piercings, tattoos, or scarifications. All the kids were now. And who could blame them, Alex thought, after watching three generations of flaccid tattoos droop like moth-eaten upholstery over poorly stuffed biceps and saggy asses?”

”

—Jennifer Egan

SO WHAT IS THIS BOOK REALLY ABOUT?

We've taken a look at a brief history of tattoos, including the first tattooed man on Earth, the different techniques of tattooing, the different tribes and cultures that practiced tattooing, and also the stigma associated with tattoos. We've also taken a look at six different styles of tattooing: abstract, geometric, realistic, tribal, new school, and minimalistic.

I chose these six styles because I felt they reflect the goal of the book the most, which is to destigmatize tattoo art. Tattoos have had a long history of being associated with criminals, and today, in countries such as Japan and China, tattoos are still extremely frowned upon and associated with criminals. In the western hemisphere, having a beautiful piece of art can sometimes cost you a job, but is that really fair?

The age-old belief that tattoos are nothing but mere distractions and inappropriate is an outdated thought, and yet the idea still persists among some people and certain cultures. What this book aims to do isn't limited to educating readers on the history and different styles of tattoos, it aims to create several different tattoo designs meant to destigmatize tattoo art by drawing inspiration from the different tattoo styles and making my own designs.

On the next page and the ones that come after, you'll see the results of my research and work meant to fight the idea that tattoos are distracting, disconcerting pieces of art. As I've stated before, there is no such thing as an ugly tattoo, because they all have deeper meanings. Although there are tattoos that may appear crude and "loud", none of them are ever meaningless as they more than likely mean something to their owners.

But let's just quickly pinpoint what kind of **traits** you can expect from tattoo designs meant to **destigmatize tattoo art**.

● DETAIL

High quality detail, but also simplified to not be overdone.

● COLOR

Vibrant, serene, cool, and done in moderation, especially if black.

● LINES

Sensual, thin, symmetrical, and elegant.

● SUBJECT

What does the tattoo represent? What is the designed based on? There are plenty of different subjects that are more meaningful than others such as nature, love, music, and many more.



We all enjoy music!

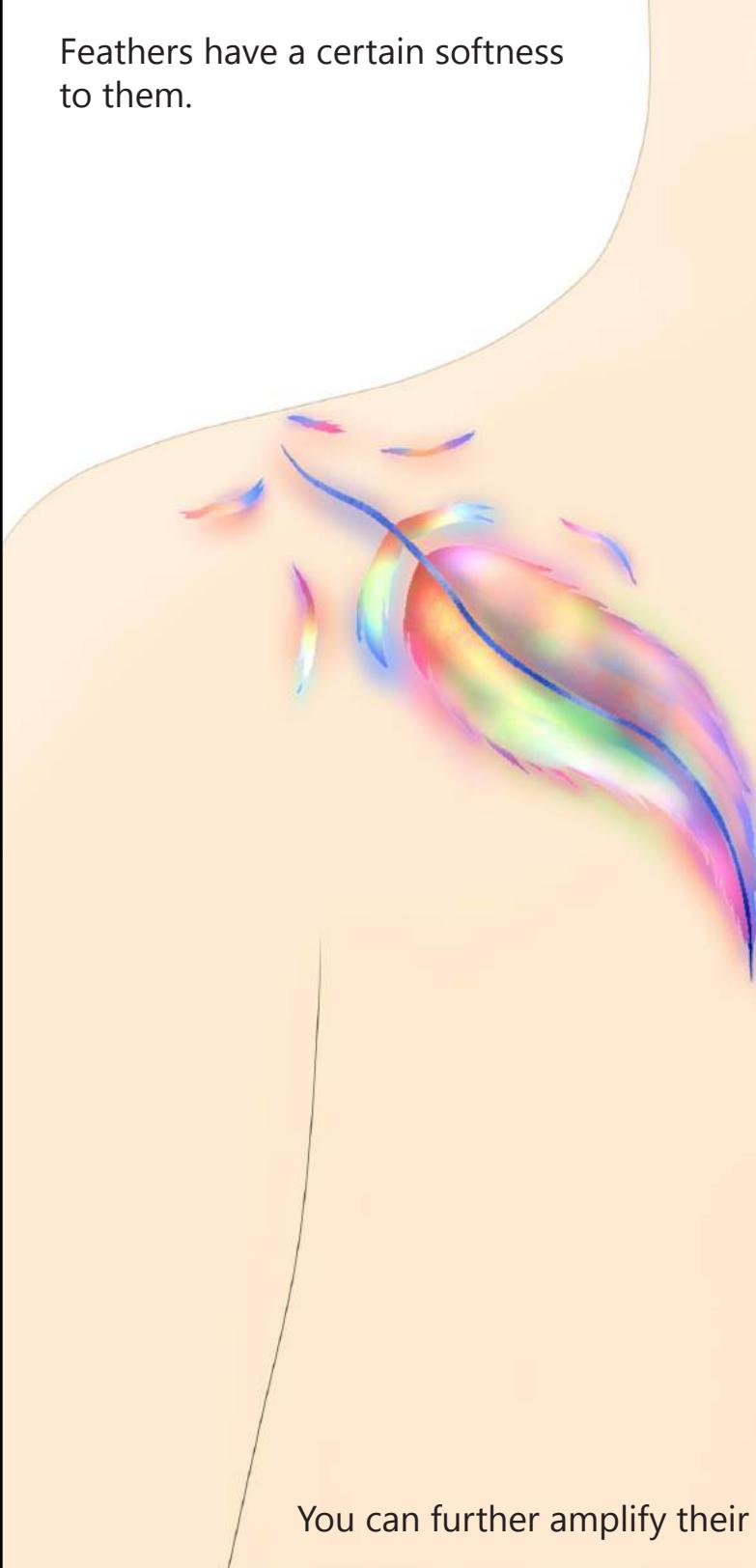


Eagles symbolize freedom.

Feathers have a certain softness to them.



...and make the lines more sensual with color and tribal elements.



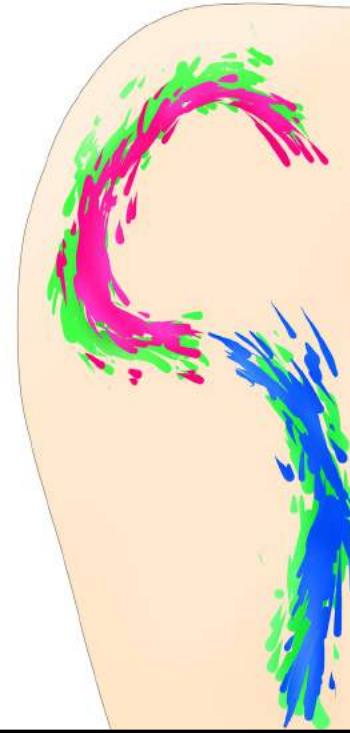
You can further amplify their softness with color!

Black with wings makes them more "loud."



Use color to make them less intrusive!

Try a more painterly style.



Cartoons look better with softer edges!

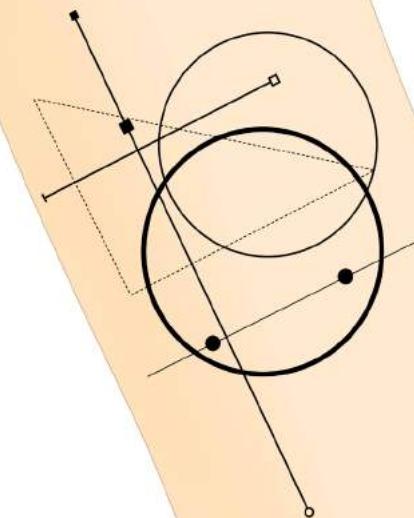


Plus, who doesn't like dogs?

Simple landscape symmetry.



A multitude of shapes...



...for a pleasing aesthetic.

Lovely, cute, and angelic;



Roses will never stop showing beauty.



We gaze and think about outer space,



but you can, in a way, tame the universe with a tattoo!

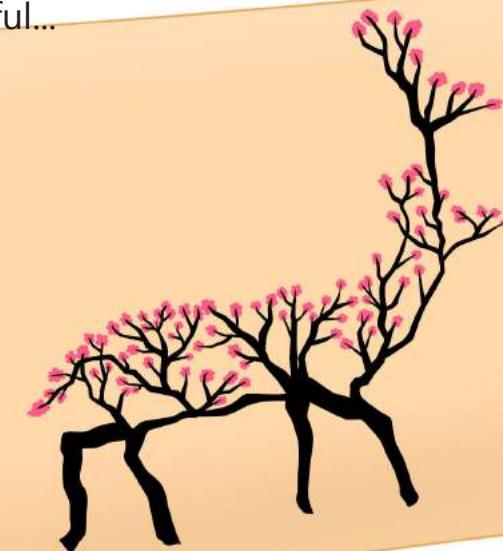
They're so elegant!

Get a design that symbolizes daydreams.



It might just help you relax.

Nature is bountiful...



...and beautiful.

True love is eternal.



Nature also vibrates...



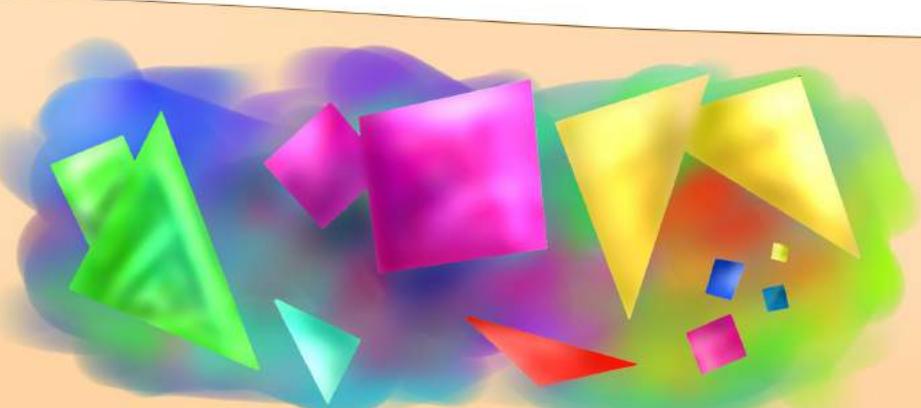
...with color and life.

Combine minimalism with something cute.



This makes for such a heartwarming tattoo!

Try a tattoo similar to this.



It's really eye-catching and unique!

Try getting something with a watercolor look.



It's different, but still stylish!



AND WITH THIS, WE COME TO AN END

I'm hoping you see now just how beautiful tattoos can be. They shouldn't be considered distractions or be unacceptable in society because they're really just another form of art, just like how music, dancing, and many other things can be considered art.

Tattoos have a long history of both good and bad. They were used to brand criminals but also had many purposes such as storytelling, heritage, representation, emotional expression, memorials, and so on. If people could just learn to look past the bad things about tattoos and see just how much influence they can have on others and our own self-confidence and self-expression, then the world may just become a more vibrant and accepting utopia.

Don't let other people affect your decision to get a tattoo or to just do things you want. Essentially, your life and how you express yourself is your own, and you have control over that. If you want to get a tattoo, then get one! Just be sure to get something beautiful and meaningful, and you may just be doing us a favor since you're helping destigmatize the world of tattoo art.