

Top Time for Tattoos

As the art of tattoos becomes an ever-growing industry, **BEM's Steve Sibbald** takes a look at their history and why more and more **folk**¹ are going under the needle.

For thousands of years, humans have used body art and tattoos as ways of expressing themselves. Whether it be to stand out³ and express individuality or to pledge their allegiance to a certain gang or tribe⁴, they have been prevalent⁵ forever, with the oldest evidence⁶ of tattoos reported⁷ dating back to as far as 3000 BC⁸.

While tattoos have fallen in and out of fashion⁹ over time, during recent years, they have made something of a comeback¹⁰. These days¹¹ it is not uncommon to see body art on the arms or neck of people in any line of work¹², from chefs¹³ or doctors, to police officers and estate agents¹⁴.

Socially Accepted

It's fair to say that¹⁵ in the modern age, social stigma¹⁶ has certainly declined¹⁷ and there's no denying that¹⁸ an increasing amount of folk – both young and old – are deciding to get inked¹⁹.

Designs and ideas are hugely varied²⁰, with people choosing to use their bodies as a canvas²¹ for a number of reasons. While many wish to show respect to²² loved ones or pets, others choose images or symbols which have an important significance²³ to them. Song lyrics²⁴ or specific dates are also desired²⁵ choices.

A DESIRE TO SHOW 'IDENTITY' OR 'INDIVIDUALITY' IS ONE OF THE MOST COMMON FACTORS BEHIND TATTOOS, AND IT'S AN INDUSTRY WHICH MANY ARTISTS ARE DECIDING TO CASH IN ON.

- ¹ folk fəʊk ludzie (pɒt.)
- ² to express oneself tu ɪk'spres wʌn'self wyrazic
- ³ to stand out tə stænd aʊt wyrozniac się
- ⁴ tribe traɪb plemię
- ⁵ prevalent 'prevələnt powszechny
- ⁶ evidence 'evɪdəns dowód, dowody
- ⁷ reportedly rɪ'pɔ:tɪdli podobno
- ⁸ BC (before Christ) bi: sɪ: brɪ:ʃ:(r) kraist przed
- ⁹ to fall in/out of fashion tə fɔ:l ɪn 'aʊt əv 'fæʃn
- ¹⁰ comeback 'kʌmbæk comeback, powrót
- ¹¹ these days ði:z deɪz obecnie, dzisiejszymi
- ¹² X line of work ɪn 'wɜ:k X branża,
- ¹³ chef ʃef szef kuchni, mistrz kucharski
- ¹⁴ estate agent ɪ'steɪt 'eɪdʒənt agent
- ¹⁵ it's fair to say that... ɪts feə(r) tə seɪ ðæt
- ¹⁶ stigma 'stɪɡmə piętno
- ¹⁷ to decline tə dɪ'klaɪn opasać,
- ¹⁸ there's no denying that... ðeəz nəʊ dɪ naɪnɪŋ ðæt
- ¹⁹ to get inked tə get ɪŋkt wydzierać się
- ²⁰ varied 'veərɪd różnorodny, zróżnicowany
- ²¹ canvas 'kænvəs płótno, kanwa
- ²² to show respect to sb tə ʃaʊ rɪ'spekt tə
- ²³ significance sɪɡ'nɪfɪkəns znaczenie,
- ²⁴ lyrics 'lɪrɪks tekst (piosenki)
- ²⁵ desired dɪ'zəəd wymagany, pożądany