

He continues, "I got my first one done when I was just 17 and wish I had even more limbs to get even more. I've been to hundreds of conventions<sup>66</sup> and met so many tattoo fanatics over the years. But the current trend is sad to see. It takes away from<sup>67</sup> what body art is actually about in the first place."

## On Reflection...

Of course, as the industry grows, it's inevitable<sup>68</sup> that more and more of those who have gone under the needle will ultimately question<sup>69</sup> their decision later on down the line<sup>70</sup>. After all, what might have seemed like a good idea at the time, might not seem such a great one a few years later.

According to a UK study carried out<sup>71</sup> in 2020, 27 percent of people regretted<sup>72</sup> getting tattoos done, while 13 percent regretted at least one of their tattoos. As a result, tattoo removal<sup>73</sup> is becoming increasingly popular with those who, for whatever reason, have decided that their choices were not for them long-term<sup>74</sup>.

"I had two tattoos done seven years ago," care worker<sup>75</sup> Leanne Dutton tells

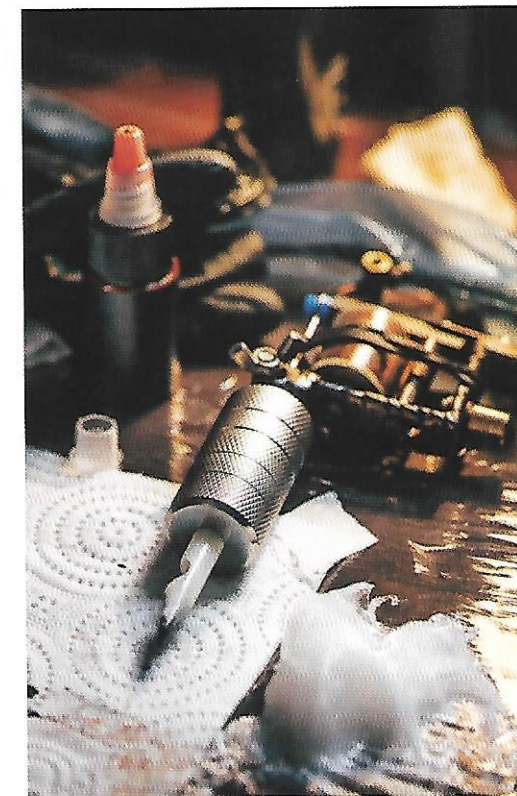
BEM. "One was of my then-partner's name, the other was a small bird. At the time they both meant so much to me. But when me and my husband split up<sup>76</sup>, I hated them and eventually<sup>77</sup> had them removed. I now feel like I'm a new person and a burden has been lifted<sup>78</sup>, as silly as it may sound."

## Passion is a Fashion

But for the foreseeable future<sup>79</sup>, the tattoo market looks like it is set to flourish<sup>80</sup> further – partly<sup>81</sup> down to<sup>82</sup> a large demand in a post-lockdown era. With restrictions now lifted and tattoo parlours back up and running<sup>83</sup>, many are dealing with huge backlogs<sup>84</sup> of customers just waiting to hand over<sup>85</sup> their cash.

"I think primarily<sup>86</sup> what we have are two types of customers right now," Tasha Darcy tells BEM. "We have fanatics who have been denied<sup>87</sup> their passion due to the recent restrictions and are now back out making up for<sup>88</sup> lost time. Then there are those who are biting the bullet<sup>89</sup> and following trends and fashion who have had time to reflect and have a bit of extra<sup>90</sup> money in

their pocket. Many want to express themselves with a tattoo, perhaps to celebrate or simply to treat<sup>91</sup> themselves. And who can blame them<sup>92</sup>?" ■



<sup>66</sup> convention kən'venʃn *tu*: konwent, zlot (miłośników/fanów czegoś), konferencja tematyczna

<sup>67</sup> to take sth away from sth tə teɪk 'sʌmθɪŋ ə'weɪ frəm 'sʌmθɪŋ *tu*: umniejszyć coś, odbierając coś, odzierać coś z czegoś

<sup>68</sup> inevitable ɪn'evɪtəbl nieuchronny

<sup>69</sup> to question sth tə 'kwɛstʃən 'sʌmθɪŋ kwestionować coś

<sup>70</sup> down the line daʊn ðə laɪn w przyszłości, za jakiś czas

<sup>71</sup> to carry sth out tə 'kæəri 'sʌmθɪŋ aʊt przeprowadzić coś

<sup>72</sup> to regret doing sth tə rɪ'ɡret 'duɪŋ 'sʌmθɪŋ żałować zrobienia czegoś

<sup>73</sup> removal rɪ'mu:vəl usunięcie, usuwanie

<sup>74</sup> long-term lɒŋ tɜ:m na dłuższą metę, długofalowy (tylko przed rzeczownikami)

<sup>75</sup> care worker keə(r) 'wɜ:kə(r) pracownik opieki społecznej

<sup>76</sup> to split up tə splɪt ʌp podzielić się, *tu*: rozwieść

<sup>77</sup> eventually ɪ'ventʃəli ostatecznie, w końcu

<sup>78</sup> to lift a burden tə lɪft ə 'bɜ:dən zdjąć (z kogoś) ciężar

<sup>79</sup> for the foreseeable future fə(r) ðə fɔ:'si:əbl 'fju:tʃə(r) w najbliższej dającej się przewidzieć przyszłości

<sup>80</sup> to flourish tə 'flaʊrɪʃ kwitnąć, dobrze się rozwijać

<sup>81</sup> partly 'pɑ:tlɪ częściowo

<sup>82</sup> down to sth daʊn tə 'sʌmθɪŋ *tu*: z powodu czegoś, przez coś

<sup>83</sup> up and running ʌp ənd 'rʌnɪŋ działający, uruchomiony

<sup>84</sup> backlog 'bæklog zaległości

<sup>85</sup> to hand sth over tə hænd 'sʌmθɪŋ ə'ʊvə(r) przekazać coś, oddać

<sup>86</sup> primarily 'praɪməriəli przeważnie, głównie

<sup>87</sup> to deny sb sth tə dɪ'naɪ 'sʌmbədi 'sʌmθɪŋ nie dać komuś czegoś, odmówić komuś czegoś

<sup>88</sup> to make up for sth tə meɪk ʌp fə(r) 'sʌmθɪŋ nadrobić coś, zrekompensować

<sup>89</sup> to bite the bullet tə baɪt ðə 'bʊlɪt chwycić byka za rogi

<sup>90</sup> extra 'ekstrə dodatkowy

<sup>91</sup> to treat oneself tə trɪt wʌn'self sprawić sobie przyjemność

<sup>92</sup> who can blame sb? hu: kən blæm 'sʌmbədi czy można się komuś dziwić?