

DESMA XYZ –Tattoo, Design, Fashion and Art

Prof. Frederick Flim Flam
Winter 02/03

Syllabus

Tattoo, Design, Fashion and Art

The design and meanings of tattoos have rapidly changed in the past decades. One hundred years ago, tattoos were a strict distinction of criminals in the western world. Nowadays there is a tattoo (youth) culture that enjoys the act of marking the body permanently in a rather different context. The aim of this course is to investigate and discuss the various connections of tattoo art with design, fashion and art. You will learn about the history of tattooing in western and non-western cultures.

We will look at how tattoo design impacts fashion, how art treats tattooing, how “classic” tattoo design influences contemporary (media) design and vice versa.

These aims will be supported by examples in all fields, guest lectures and field trips.

Assignments

There will be a midterm assignment and a final assignment. The midterm assignment will be a written exam, the final assignment will consist of a paper and practical project.

Grading

The grading is based on the midterm assignment (25%), the final assignment (50%), and on the student’s comments, feedback and active participation during the class meetings (25%). More than two absences without the teachers permission from the class meetings will have a negative impact on the overall grading.

Reading materials

Text materials will be handed out in class and downloadable from the class website.

Class meetings

The course will take place Mondays from 9-12 am in room # 333

Teaching Assistant

Anne Nym annenym@tattoo.edu
Office hours: Fridays from 2-3pm in room # 222

Course homepage

www.tattoo&art.edu

Course outline

Week 00

- The history of tattooing: cultural and religious backgrounds and origins of tattooing rituals.

Week 01

- Tattoos in western society: from tattoos as distinctions of criminals to today's tattoo youth culture.

Week 02

- Tattoos and fashion: classical motifs and newly developed tattoo designs. How tattoo design influenced fashion.

Week 03

- Theoreticians about tattoos: Adolf Loos and others.

Week 04

- Tattoos in art: How artists treat tattoos in their work: Ulay, Wim Delvoye, Art Orienté Objet and others.

Week 05

- Written exam on the text "ornament and crime" by Adolf Loos.

Week 06

- Guest lecture. The artist Tatiana Needle will present her current research about the influence of new media on tattoo design.

Week 07

- The influence of bioscience on tattoo art.
- Announcement of final assignment.

Week 08

- Field trip to the Hollywood Tattoo Shop, corner Highland and Hollywood. Tattooist Konstantin Nossatchev will give us a tour through the shop and demonstrate his skills on the skin of TA Anne. Please meet there at 10am sharp!

Week 09

- Discussion of the acquired knowledge and your final assignment projects. Time for Questions and Answers.

Week 10

- Field trip to the "Tattooed Pigs" exhibit by Wim Delvoye, Museum of Contemporary Art, 3214 Art Blvd, Downtown L.A. Meeting at the location at 10am sharp!

Finals week

- Presentation of final assignments