

BODY OF WORK TATTOO CULTURE

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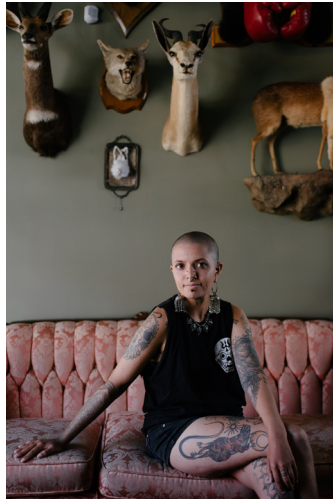
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Photographer: Alison Braun

Title: Slug, the Enigma,
Seattle, Washington, 1994

Paul Lawrence was one of the original Jim Rose Circus and Sideshow performers and appeared on The X-Files in 1995. He is called "The Enigma" for his full-body, jigsaw puzzle tattoos. He was originally known as "Slug" because he would eat anything.



Photographer: Grant Hindsley

Subject: Ciara Havishya
@la_tigresse_, 2019

Ciara Havishya always wanted to be a tattoo artist. They see body art as an empowering way to have ownership over one's body, and their art reflects that belief. Ciara is now based in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Photographed in their studio in Vancouver, British Columbia.



Photographer: Grant Hindsley

Subject: Amanda Halverson, 2019

One of our community submissions, Amanda's full sleeve was Tattooed by Atom Messmer at Artcore Tattoo Studios in the Georgetown neighborhood of Seattle. This is an example of large-scale, neo-traditional style tattoos.



Tattooed Kewpie Doll, ca. 1985

Loan courtesy of Aaron Bell

This original Japanese Kewpie doll has hand-painted irezumi (traditional hand-poked tattoos) in the style of the Yakuza (Japanese mafia) and wears a traditional fundoshi around its waist.



Thomas Edison electric pen, ca. 1889

Loan courtesy of the Spark Museum

In 1891, Samuel O'Reilly patented a design based on Thomas Edison's electric pen, the basis of the modern rotary tattoo machine.



Chicago Tattoo Supply House catalogue, ca. 1935

MoPOP Permanent Collection

This tattoo catalogue was from innovator Bill Moore's mail order company, Moore's Electrograver Company (ca. 1930s). Based in Chicago, Illinois, it was also known as The Chicago Tattoo Supply House.



Japanese stick and poke tools, ca. 1930

MoPOP Permanent Collection

One of the oldest forms of tattooing, stick-and-poke or hand-poke tattoos are now mostly associated with do-it-yourself tattooing and require very basic tools.