

STORIES ON THE SKIN

Tattoo Culture at FAU
Documentary

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

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Produced at Rush Hour Films, Hollywood, FL

Special thanks to William Miller, Ph.D., Dean of Libraries; Rita Pellen, Associate Dean of Libraries; Arthur & Mata Jaffe Center for Book Arts and supportive staff at Florida Atlantic University Libraries.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS PROJECT, VISIT
WWW.STORIESONTHESKIN.ORG.**

If you would like to arrange a screening for your school or organization, please contact Karen J. Leader, Ph.D. at kleader@fau.edu.

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FAU
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It makes perfect sense that *Stories on the Skin: Tattoo Culture at FAU* originated in the Jaffe Center for Book Arts at Florida Atlantic University Libraries. The Center's founder, Arthur Jaffe, had been contemplating the inked students on the Boca Raton campus of FAU, and arrived at the metaphor of tattooed bodies as walking books. As we developed the project, it was visualized by designer and photographer Patricia "Z" Koppisch. Hundreds of FAU students, faculty and staff have collaborated on several phases including a survey, photo exhibition with catalogue, interviews, workshops, art and writing projects, videos and live performances — some of which are featured in this documentary by filmmaker Susan Rosenkranz.

The most experimental part of the project, and one that continues, is the attempt to stretch this notion of tattoo culture as the performance of self. When a book is read a journey is taken; one

feels like a different person at the end. So it is too with tattoos, both for the wearer and the viewer. Each time the story is told it is more deeply embodied, more part of the fabric of a life, an illustrated history, an adventure story.

We didn't begin with any hypothesis or opinion about tattoos. We started a conversation and have found that as the project proceeds, the conversation is changing and becoming richer. As an art historian collaborating with a center committed to books as aesthetic objects, our focus is on both the visual medium, the tattoo, and the narrative component, the story. Through all its stages, we have offered a deeper understanding of the artful presentation of the self to the world, on the pages of the body.

Karen J. Leader, Ph.D.
Executive Producer



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"This project attempts to shed some light on the growing emergence of, and changing attitude toward, permanent body art."

~UNIVERSITY PRESS

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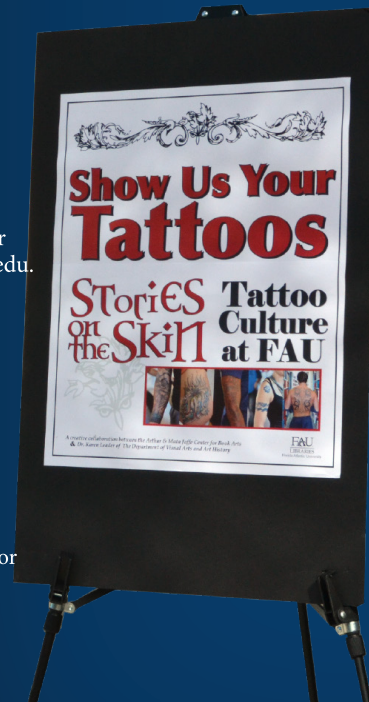
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