



FREEPORT ART MUSEUM

NEWS RELEASE

DATE: Now through May 22nd, 2010

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NEW EXHIBITION March 27 - May 22, 2010

IN THE FLESH:

A CULTURAL VIEW OF BODY ART

Curated by Jessica Caddell and Brian Reis

In the Flesh: A Cultural View of Body Art explores the ways in which people modify and decorate their bodies including tattooing, piercing, body painting, reshaping, and scarification. Investigating cultural tradition and individual expression, *In the Flesh* presents objects from the Museum's permanent collections, art and tattoo materials from local body art businesses, and a special photographic series presented by co-curator, Brian Reis, dealing with contemporary tattoo practices.

People from every known culture have used the human body as a mobile canvas for millennia. From the temporary embellishment of painting and adorning to the more permanent methods of piercing and tattooing, body art is used for many reasons including rites of passage, identification, beautification and rebellion. The marks and patterns selected for body art are specific to a particular time and a particular culture. As our cultures change, so do the meanings and messages derived from body art. This exhibition will include a look at some of these cultural shifts through history.

Artifacts showcased in *In the Flesh* include body-modification tools, such as a teeth-filing tray from Borneo and contemporary tattoo equipment, a wooden sculpture from Africa showing scarification, shoes worn by women from China with bound feet and ear spools from the Ancient Maya.

In the photographic series, images of men and women displaying a variety of current body art practices show the ever-changing nature of individual expression.

TATTOO FASHION SHOW

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Museum and the Winneshiek Playhouse will present a special fashion show of body art on Friday, April 16th at Winneshiek Theater. Cocktail hour being s at 6 PM, show at 7 PM. Tickets are \$6.

GALLERY TALK WITH AUTHOR

The Freeport Art Museum welcomes **Amelia Klem Osterud**, a tattooed academic librarian from Wisconsin and author of *The Tattooed Lady: A History* for a gallery talk at **1 PM on Saturday, May 15th** at the museum. Her first book, *The Tattooed Lady* chronicles the small number of courageous women who covered their bodies in tattoos and traveled the country, performing nearly nude on carnival stages during a time when it was scandalous even to show a bit of ankle. Combining thorough research with more than a hundred historical photos, this social history explores tattoo origins, women's history, and circus lore. This event is free and open to the public. A book signing will be available after the talk.

Tattoo Art Workshop for ages 8 and up

Explore the art of making tattoos. At 2 PM on March 27, students will first make a plaster cast of their arm and begin to design an original tattoo. At 2 PM on April 3, students will "flesh out" their arm-casts using a variety of flesh-tone paints that will add a realist look to their casts. Then students will finish their tattoo design and paint it on their plaster cast arm. Cost for the series is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members.

The Freeport Art Museum is located at 121 North Harlem Avenue, and is open Tuesday through Friday 10 am to 5pm., and Saturday from 12:00- 5:00 pm. **Admission to the Museum is FREE.** For more information or to schedule a tour, please call 815-235-9755.



Left: Aaron Williams, Right: Ryein Rawhoof outside Sacred Art Tattoo in Rockford. Photographs by Brian Reis