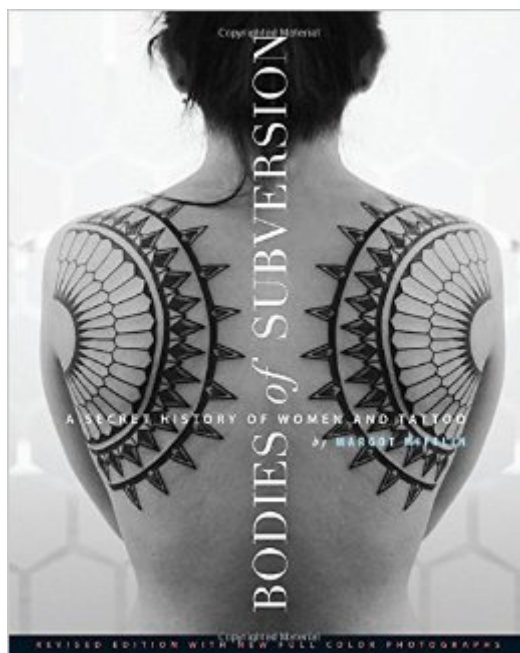


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# Bodies Of Subversion: A Secret History Of Women And Tattoo, 3rd Edition



## Synopsis

Bodies of Subversion was the first history of women's tattoo art when it was released in 1997, providing a fascinating excursion to a subculture that dates back to the nineteenth-century and including many never-before-seen photos of tattooed women from the last century. Newly revised and expanded, it remains the only book to chronicle the history of both tattooed women and women tattooists. As the primary reference source on the subject, it contains information from the original edition, including documentation of: • Nineteenth-century sideshow attractions who created fantastic abduction tales in which they claimed to have been forcibly tattooed. • Victorian society women who wore tattoos as custom couture, including Winston Churchill's mother, who wore a serpent on her wrist. • Maud Wagner, the first known woman tattooist, who in 1904 traded a date with her tattooist husband-to-be for an apprenticeship. • The parallel rise of tattooing and cosmetic surgery during the 80s when women tattooists became soul doctors to a nation afflicted with body anxieties. • Breast cancer survivors of the 90s who tattoo their mastectomy scars as an alternative to reconstructive surgery or prosthetics. The book contains 50 new photos and FULL COLOR images throughout including newly discovered work by Britain's first female tattooist, Jessie Knight; Janis Joplin's wrist tattoo; and tattooed pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber. In addition, the updated 3rd edition boasts a sleek design and new chapters documenting recent changes to the timeline of female tattooing, including a section on: celebrity tattoo artist Kat Von D, the most famous tattooist, male or female, in the world; the impact of reality shows on women's tattoo culture; and, therapeutic uses of tattooing for women leaving gangs, prisons, or situations of domestic abuse. As of 2012, tattooed women outnumber men for the first time in American history, making Bodies of Subversion more relevant than ever. "In Bodies of Subversion, Margot Mifflin insightfully chronicles the saga of skin as signage. Through compelling anecdotes and cleverly astute analysis, she shows and tells us new histories about women, tattoos, public pictures, and private parts. It's an indelible account of an indelible piece of cultural history." —Barbara Kruger, artist

## Book Information

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World > Women in History

## Customer Reviews

Wow! This book is rock solid and there is not another book like it. It strikes the perfect balance between genuinely great photos of tattoos and historical shots of tattoo artists and models, (how rare is that? I've bought a lot of books with a disappointing few and blurry shots) WITH a scholarly eye for historical detail IN a very engaging very story-telling, (rather than history lecture) way. I don't know what anyone really interested in tattoo artistry could do without this. It's not just some waffly rah-rah 'ink chicks through history' throwaway. This really is an absolute essential for any tattoo history and historical seminal tattoo artist, OR even just 'what about all the Other tattoos, besides the noble and ubiquitous Sailor Jerry / Ed Hardy etc styles. I'm not sure which made my head explode more. The number of hardcore artists who's work we've seen and seen copied, but who (surprise!) happen to be women, the gorgeous illustrations showing what I would NEVER have seen or known otherwise- early (victorian / edwardian era early tattoos- which I had no clue existed beyond sailor and port shops) were actually EXTREMELY well done and extremely patriotic, elaborately well framed and shaded portraits, anatomically (think 'audubon' quality) butterflies, birds and wildlife, intricate costume like lacework ends to tattoo sleeves and leggings- tons of deeply thought out well-excecuted patriotic drawings- IN tattoo, or the clobberingly well researched and well documented history of tattoos and society- PRIOR to what I always thought WAS 'the dawn of tattoos in the US- that 30's-50's era sailor and hotrodder artwork. Yes it's great and I love it. But how many people know that beloved SJ and Ed Hardy etc, that was the SECOND wave and a whole SECOND style of tattoo?

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