Brief History

* Started in Asia-spread to Polynesia and tribal groups in Africa, Borneo, Cambodia, Europe, North & South America
* Tattooing has been in practice in Eurasia since Neolithic times
	+ Otzi the Iceman (5000 years ago) was found to have 57 tattoos of dots and lines along his spine, knee, and right ankle
	+ Thought to be a form of healing (like acupuncture) for Otzi
* Practiced for many centuries in many cultures, particularly in Asia – then spread around the world
	+ **Ainu, indigenous of Japan**
	+ **Atayal, Seediq, Truku, Saisiyat of Taiwan**
	+ **Berbers of North Africa**
	+ **Igbo, Yoruba, Fulani and Hausa of Nigeria**
	+ **Maori of New Zealand**

**Ainu of Japan**

* Ainu means “humans” in their language
* Direct descendents of the Jomon people who inhabited Japan 12,000 years ago
* The last fully tattooed Ainu woman died in 1998
* Tattooing was reserved for females as was the profession of tattooist
* Tattoo was brought to earth by their “ancestral mother” of the Ainu – ancestral ties
* Derived from a female ancestor- form of kinship
* They were seen as a prerequisite for marriage and afterlife
* They were to ward off evil spirits from entering the mouth that can cause sickness
* Signified woman had reached maturity and ready for marriage
* Japanese authorities prohibited at various times, the use of tattooing by the Ainu
	+ They saw it as a crime and seen as a form of body mutilation
* Makiri (knife) and sheathes used
	+ Blood wiped away with a cloth saturated in a hot ash wood called Nire
	+ Soot was taken with fingers from the bottom of the kettle and wiped into the incisions

**Atayal of Taiwan**

*According to legend, a stone called* [*Pinspkan*](http://pateljal.com/2012/06/24/a-story-of-a-stone-and-its-significance/) *split open and three people emerged. One returned to the stone and the other two fell in love. However, the man was too shy to tell the woman he loved her. So the woman put coal on her face to change her appearance so he could speak openly to her.*

* Facial tattoos to symbolize maturity – receive them when ready for marriage and learned how to weave
* The dominant Han society of Taiwan – view tattoos as markers of outcasts and criminals

**Berbers of North Africa**

* Berbers lived in Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, Egypt
* They are Muslims- tattoos were for protection against evil spirits and to cure illnesses
* Berber tattoos in early 20th century – prerequisite for marriage
* Pigment- lampblack and juice from leaves of fava beans
* Berber women were considered the guardians of the family’s honor and reputation
	+ Responsible for magical practices to safeguard life
	+ Responsible for raising the children

**Maori of New Zealand**

* Called Ta moko (permanent body and face marking) by the Maori of New Zealand
* carved by chisels rather than punctured
* leaves skin with grooves rather than a smooth surface
* Pre-European Maori culture, high ranking persons received Moko – those without them were seen as lower social status
* Moko is a milestone between childhood and adulthood
	+ Make a person more attractive to the opposite sex
	+ Men- generally received Moko on their faces, buttocks, thighs
	+ Women-moko on their lips and chins
* Uhi (chisels) and pigments made from (awheto) and burnt timbers
* Men are usually the tattoo specialists

**Brief History con’t**

* Mummies from ancient Egypt found to have tattoos
* Pre-Christian Germanic, Celtic and other central and northern European tribes were heavily tattooed
* The Picts were tattooed and scarified (evidence is limited)
* The Picts lived in the Late Iron Age and Early Medieval Celtic times
* Living in ancient eastern and northern Scotland
	+ They lived in northern part of Britain
	+ Britain takes its name from “Britons” = *people of design*
* -discovered in Pazyryk, Russia -2500 years ago

**United States**

* To identify sailors – to identify / prove American citizenship
	+ Wanted to avoid impressment by the British Navy
		- Shortly after the American Revolution, They wanted to avoid **Impressment** by British Navy Ships – **taking men into the navy by force with or without notice**
		- By the 18th to 19th centuries, tattoos were more about self expression
	+ These protection papers were often so general
	+ Tattoos were more personal
	+ The protection papers included information about tattoos and scars
	+ Used anything they could find onboard
		- Pigments, gunpowder, urine
		- Initials of loved ones, significant dates, symbols, crosses etc

**Modern Day**

* By the 1970s, tattoos became part of mainstream global and Western Fashion
* Common in both sexes, all economic classes and ages
* Redefinition of tattoos as a form of deviance to a form of personal expression
* In the 2000’s, TV shows such as Inked, Miami Ink and LA ink
* Growing popularity due to improved equipment and pigments
* Counterculture- display body art as a sign of resistance to the values of the white, heterosexual, middle class
* Clientele changed from bikers, sailors, gangs to middle & upper class
* Japanese-koi fish, dragons, anything scaly, rising sun, tidal wave, samurai
* Sugar skulls-made from sugar or clay used in Mexican celebration to celebrate Day of the Dead and the Roman Catholic All Souls Day

**Designing my Sleeve**

* Rachel Ruysch – Dutch painter who painted still life from Amsterdam
	+ (1664-1750) – Vanitas – fleetingness of life; flowers are from different seasons – life is short
* Koi fish- always in pairs- good luck and fortune , swim upstream to become dragon (perseverance)
* Clocks-Felix Gonzalez Torres (died in 1996) from AIDS –related complications
	+ “Perfect Lovers” memo
* **Perfect lovers. Two clocks, in synch. Two schedules, two mechanical systems. Two heartbeats. They hang on the wall, high and off center. An afterthought. They go on, quietly and persistently. Imagine when they come off the wall and are transported to the next exhibition, or placed somewhere in storage. They keep ticking along, just out of synch with one another. I find myself hoping that they are allowed to stay together midst the bubblewrap. Surely, they must.**
* Avalokitesvara-Bodhisattava of compassion
* Feng shui – yin and yang (water and mountains) – balance
* Bodhi tree-Buddha achieved enlightenment under the Bodhi tree (Gautama Buddha) “bodhi” = enlightenment
* planted around Buddhist monasteries
* Turtle – longevity, toughness
* Butterfly, sunflowers (transformation and sunshine)