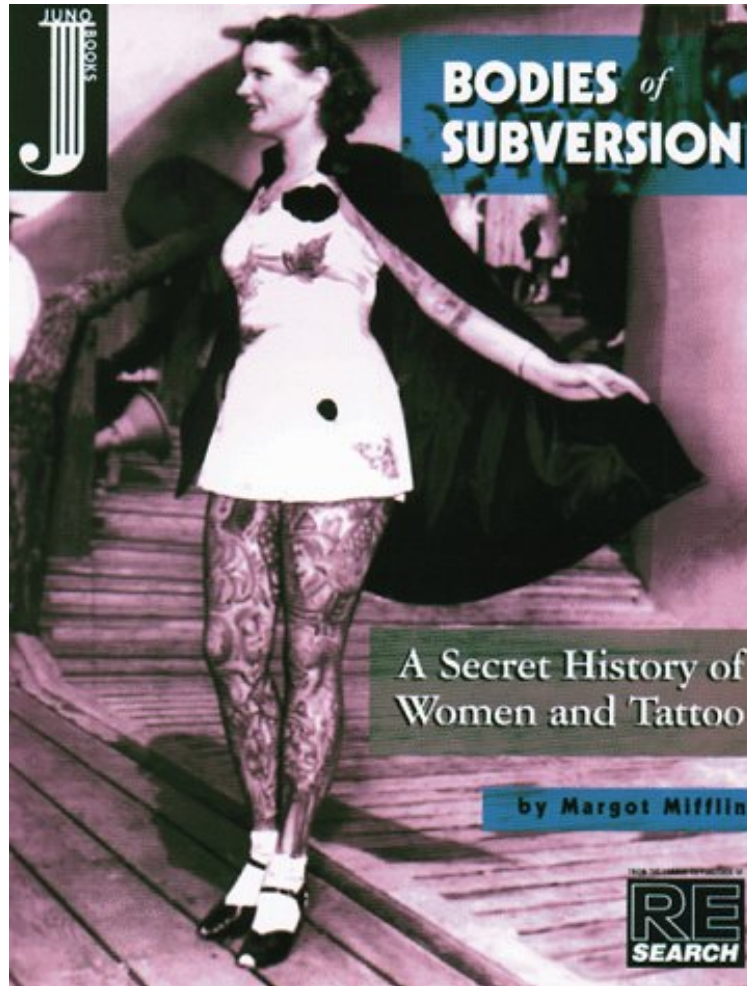


Bodies of Subversion: A Secret History of Women and Tattoo

Margot Mifflin

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Margot Mifflin : Bodies of Subversion: A Secret History of Women and Tattoo before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bodies of Subversion: A Secret History of Women and Tattoo:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great art, essential reading- real history. So NOT 'for women only'. Tattoo bookshelf must-have.By nyc customerWow! 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 whose 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-executed 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 hotrod 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? There was a world of talent and a whole society (even high 'society lady') tattoo well before the sailor and flapper era? I didn't. That makes this book invaluable for anyone, and not (not hardly) just for 'women tattoo artists' or 'women issue historians'. This is anyone's 'missing era of tattoo history, complete with great photos' essential. If you don't have the thousands of dollars for ALL the tattoo and tattoo history books you want, this is one that cannot go missing from your shelves. Margot Mifflin does a sh*t-ton of genuine scholarship on tattoos (women-centric but well beyond), includes tons of artistic as well as hard to find documentary photography, and has a real gift for accessible vivid but also accurate, narrative. If you think this is a great gift for the 'lady tattoo artist or follower' in your life, you're right. But you are only half-right. Because this is a really visually stunning (and so, well worth the \$\$ right there- a spot-on No Regrets purchase for anyone at all who 'likes tattoos' of any kind) but also a Must-to-Have for any tattoo style and or tattoo history collection. If this lands in every 'woman's art and social history' collection, great. But it would be a crime against history and against tattoo especially if this weren't a staple read and look - in every tattoo person's or even just art and culture history person's collection. And for under \$20, compared to the honking high prices of tattoo books- this is a total value as well. 13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Insightful and Revealing By P. Miller This is a must-read for anyone interested in getting a fuller history of tattooing. The book does an excellent, well-balanced job of weaving biographies and social commentary regarding tattoos and tattoo-ers. And it's a story that must, to be fully inclusive, tell of women's involvement in this art, both as tattoo-ers and tattoo-ees. I had no idea this art form went back so far as it does for western female tattoo aficionados. It's a fascinating story that's seldom told or discussed. It appears that nothing is held back in terms of the whys and hows that these women came to acquire their tattoos, or to have become tattoo-ers. And it's a great missing segment in women's history, and art history for that matter, that needs more exposure (no pun intended) to help dispell the myths and prejudices about women with tattoos. This is a great, ancient art form that deserves more expression, appreciation and respect by the general public, especially in the United States where folks are just too uptight and puritanical about this kind of art. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Nice Overview! By Babychub For someone like me, who knew nothing at all about tattoos beyond seeing them on other people, this is a great introduction. The book covers the history of tattooed women, gives personality sketches of various artists and collectors, and describes the ways women have struggled to join the profession and add their contributions. The book is a tribute to the women it covers without being preachy. The photos (some black-and-white, some in color) are lovely. I really enjoyed it, and it made me want to get a tattoo myself! What I came to appreciate later was how respectful the book is of the collectors and the art. I went online for more pictures of tattoos and information about the process. Site after site featured sad pictures of naked women folded up into submissive postures, with the tattoos so secondary that sometimes they were only partially visible and most of the time you couldn't make out the art at all. And this was on supposedly mainstream sites that advertised themselves as featuring art for women. It made me appreciate the book even more. I wish there would be a Volume II.

A fascinating excursion into a thriving subculture, this book explores the feminist significance of tattoos, noting that women's involvement with tattoo accelerated in both the suffragist '20s and the feminist '70s. Author Margot Mifflin uncovers the subversive relationship between women and tattoo, from society ladies who want to sever their identification with "natural" beauty, to the healing powers that tattoo's color and symbolism can provide for a mastectomy survivor. 100 photos, some in color.

An indelible account of an indelible piece of cultural history. -- Barbara Kruger, artist An outstanding read, and long-overdue addition to the growing body of literature on tattooing -- International Tattooing Bodies of Subversion is a comprehensive and clear-eyed account of tattooing and women in Western society over the past century. Margot Mifflin furthers understanding of this complex art as it exists among women. It is essential reading for anyone interested in the subject. -- Don E. Hardy, renowned tattooist and historian In this provocative work full of intriguing female characters from tattoo history, Margot Mifflin makes a persuasive case for the tattooed woman as an emblem of female self-expression. -- Susan Faludi, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of Backlash About the Author Margot Mifflin writes about women, art, and contemporary culture. She has written for The New York Times, ARTnews, Entertainment Weekly, The Believer, and Salon.com, and she lectures about body modification at colleges, museums, and universities nationally. Mifflin is an associate professor in the English Department of Lehman College of the City

University of New York (CUNY), and directs the Arts and Culture program at CUNY's Graduate School of Journalism, where she also teaches. Her book, *The Blue Tattoo: The Life of Olive Oatman* was published by The University of Nebraska in 2009.