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CLAUDIA WUNDERLIN Lives in: Kanton Glarus (Switzerland) Joined the Brückner Group: 2016

Loves: Drawing, Freeletics and Iron Maiden

## TATTOO ART: DESIGN ON BARE SKIN

How did I find tattoo art? I didn't – it found me!

Claudia Wunderlin, Accountant PackSys Global

dorning her back is a large tattoo running from the left shoulder to the hip. And Claudia Wunderlin, an accountant at PackSys Global, is proud of it. "I thought long and hard about whether I should get a tattoo. After all, it is something that you will have under your skin for your entire life. I didn't regret it – quite the opposite, in fact."

"I have always loved drawing and painting – be it with watercolours, ink, pencil or pen." It was a matter of pure chance that her patterns and mandalas became templates for body art: "I had brought a drawing into the office so that I could take a look at it at some point to see what could be improved. A colleague saw the drawing and asked me if I could draw her a tattoo template."

Since then, the likeable Swiss accountant has already been approached by a number of colleagues and acquaintances with the same request. She has no problem with this: "Tattoos used to be frowned upon but these davs you can find them in all walks of life." In Japan, for example, tattooing was used from 1720 as a means of branding criminals, meaning that "respectable" Japanese no longer had themselves tattooed. Those who were marked as criminals were no longer able to reintegrate themselves into society, which led them to form their own class: the Yakuza. This practice was abolished in 1870 under the Meiji government and tattoos were prohibited completely until as recently as 1948.

Claudia relates with a wink that one of the requests for a tattoo design came from an executive. And her own tattoo is by no means her last. "The left side of the body is already spoken for."

However, when it comes to applying the tattoos themselves, she prefers to leave it to the experts. "For my own tattoo, I went to conventions and sought out a tattoo artist I could trust." This is something that she would recommend to everyone who is contemplating body art: not every tattoo artist masters every technique. Just because someone can tattoo wonderful floral motifs does not mean that they are good at portraits. "To avoid being disappointed, you should be very careful who you allow to work on your skin."

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THE TERM comes from Polynesia – the word "tatau" meaning "correct" (going under the skin) or "straight" or "skilful".

**TATTOOS** already existed in the Neolithic period, as can be seen from the glacier mummy "Ötzi".

**BODY ART** developed in all regions of the world even though these originally never had any contact with one another.

**DESPITE THEIR LOWER CLASS ORIGIN**, tattoos can be found in all social classes today.



