

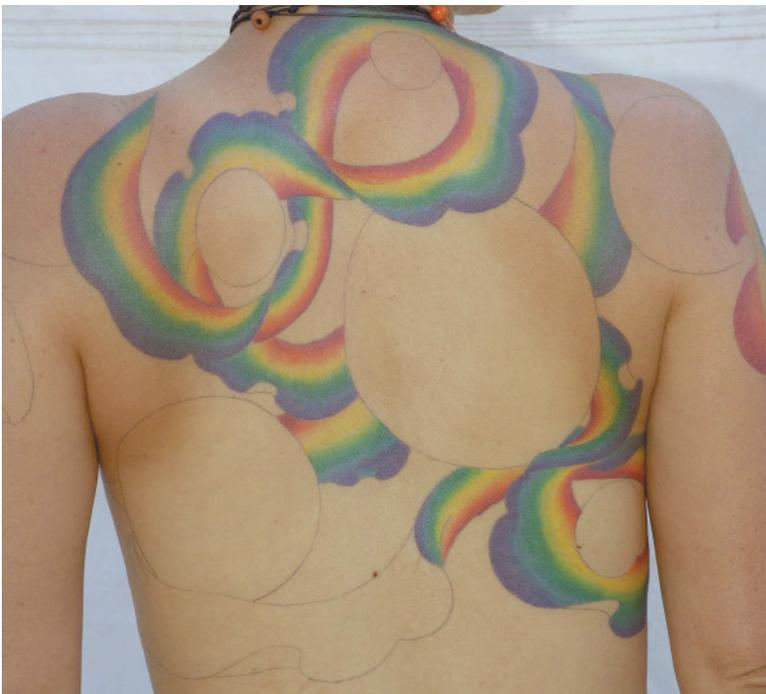
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Tattoo you

An exhibition at Newcastle University's Museum of Antiquities explores the history of tattooing in Britain, from the time of the Roman legionaries (when the juice of the leek was used as an antiseptic) to the supreme flowering of the art on David Beckham's back and the ankles of chavettes.

It is likely that ancient Britons were tattooed (Herod of Antioch wrote, in the 3rd Century AD: "The Britons incise on their bodies coloured pictures of animals, of which they are very proud"), but we cannot be sure because their bodies have not been preserved. Certainly, the practice can be traced back to Neolithic times.

The exhibition looks at tattoos as both ornament and announcement. As late as 1871, tattoos were used to mark different criminals: D for drunkard, F for fraymaker (someone who brawled in church), M for malefactor, SL for seditious



Work in progress, from Newcastle University's tattoo exhibition.

libeller and V for vagabond. Now criminals tattoo themselves voluntarily, and each tattoo broadcasts gang membership, rank and deeds. The museum invites visitors to

add photographs of their own tattoos, and the exhibition runs until 21 December 2006. For more information see the website at museums.ncl.ac.uk.

Post-punk and polarizers

The Cavern Club, Exeter, is used to hosting noise/drum & bass, post-punk sonic, dub, jungle and indie. Wicked! From 4 December 2006 to 15 January 2007 however, it will also be showing images from the Light Fantastic: Art from Science exhibition. These consist of huge 6ft x 4ft polarized light micrographs.

The vibrantly colourful images of polarized light microscopy make a dramatic backdrop, and it was inspired of Plymouth's Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery to move the exhibition here. For obvious reasons, the

venue is not suitable for children or Andy Williams fans!

For more details see the website at: www.cavernclub.co.uk.



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