

Answers

- I chose this profession over others because my art has always been a huge passion of mine and it's been my biggest emotional outlet, my greatest skill, and a big part of my personality. Being a tattoo artist is so rewarding! It's really a job that makes people happy and I'm happy to be helping them with my art and I feel like I'm making semi-personal connections with each client through each piece. Plus, having a job I love makes it so much easier to stay motivated and happy with what I do for a living.
- Yes! I have a few different body modifications. I have close to 30 tattoos (which doesn't seem like a lot for a tattoo artist but I'm working on it! lol) and I have Stretched ears, a double septum, a belly piercing, a Tragus piercing, A tongue piercing and my double lobe pierced. I also have colored hair. :)
- My work background is actually very unrelated to my profession. I Spent a few years housekeeping for hotels, motels, and property management. I chose tattooing over cleaning because it suits me a lot better and I feel much better psychologically and mentally because I'm in a place where I belong.
- I've faced many challenges during my tattoo journey all the way up to now even! You never stop going through tough learning experiences in the field. Especially before I was a professional artist. I ran into many challenges with learning a tattoo machine and learning how to use one because I had no one to mentor me yet or give me reliable advice so I had to teach myself which caused me to pick up some bad habits that I had to unlearn in order to excel. I had challenges finding a shop to take me in for a while which was super discouraging and I was using cheap equipment so my tattoos weren't quality enough to show my full potential which made it even more difficult to stay optimistic about it. Also, When you are a beginner tattoo artist after you've gone through your classes and applied and have been approved by the Department of Public Health, you aren't immediately making money so you have to have another source of income to survive off of while you're apprenticing for the first few months (depending on the artists and mentor) so I was working 2 jobs almost everyday for close to a year which was probably the most exhausting phase of my apprenticeship.
- In 5 years I hope to have completed my apprenticeship and officially be a Graduated full time professional tattoo artist and I hope to have established myself a lot more and have a solid client base and respected reputation and I hope to have "mastered" the basics to tattooing enough to have super nice and consistency work of all varieties of style. I also see myself traveling and tattooing in other states and just having all kinds of new and great experiences while sharing my art in different places.
- I think the relation to tattoos and self image is visible self expression and commitment. I think tattoos help express one's personality and passions along with emotions and personal beliefs. Also, tattoos help people create their own uniqueness and encourage people to stand out of the crowd and be more individual.
- I think it's a strong mix of both! There are some people who only want meaningful tattoos and others who just want to collect the art and then there are people who want both! Most people start out with a more meaningful tattoo though so they "won't regret it" lol.

- I think at one point there was a gender gap but I feel like things have definitely changed for the better. There are so many different varieties of tattoo artists now and I think all artists are validated by their work and reputation and experience instead of their gender, although, there are certain people who prefer to be specifically tattooed by a certain gender of artist.
- There are so many different kinds of culture behind tattooing that I don't think I can properly explain it all but I can say that there are so many different perspectives, purposes, and meaning behind tattoos and tattooing. It's amazing how much culture there is behind tattooing from all around the world and throughout history. It's definitely something to look into when picking out a style for your tattoo!
- I believe that the media can have a good and bad representation of tattooing. It really just depends on the media type and the purpose of it. The tattoo world is full of different experiences and beliefs and ways of the trade so there is many different sources of information. And just like all other things, There can be bad or unreliable information out there about the trade but on the other hand There can be some really helpful and accurate things in the internet about tattooing and media is a huge help to gaining a clientele base and reputation but the best way to represent my profession is through the face to face contact and interaction with each client.