

Horimono as Metamorphosing Apparatus : An Analysis on the Pictorial and Literary Representations of Japanese Tattooing.

なほ おおぬき
Naho ONUKI

This thesis tackles the re-examination of the concept of Japanese tattooing from the viewpoint of representation focused on *Horimono*—a type of tattoo popular since the late Edo period. In contrast with the possibility to replace many types of body decorations at any time, tattooing is a decisive, everlasting decoration without the possibility of being erased. In this thesis we will examine how such characteristic has contributed to Japanese tattooing, through the dimension of representation within tattooed works.

Chapter 1 is a historical overview of the aspects and values of Japanese tattooing, encompassing horimono works from Yayoi period up to the early modern period. Chapter 2 looks at Utagawa Kuniyoshi's *Tsūzoku Suikoden Gōketsu Hyakuhachinin no Hitori* ukiyo-e series, which had a great impact on the designs and popularization of horimono, to point out that behind such popularity was the desire for outlaw heroes embodying the spirit of chivalrous men, the fact that through shouldering such a horimono with a transcendental design a common man could become a hero, and how such metamorphosis was a factor in the support of Kuniyoshi's prints and the popular use of scenes depicted in his prints.

Chapter 3 examines the kamigata actor prints by Shunkōsai Hokushū and Toyokawa Umekuni who depicted horimono in their works prior to the aforementioned series by Kuniyoshi. In these actor prints one can see how traditional representations or allusions to other theatrical pieces were intentionally applied to show the Edo style of kamigata actors. Chapter 4 first looks at how horimono became viewed as barbaric during the modernization of Japan after Meiji Restoration, before looking at works by writers and painters during this era that depicted their female protagonists as malicious women through the power of horimono.

In conclusion, this study shows that horimono was viewed as a visual apparatus that transformed characters depicted in art and literature.