

LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Body Art in the
Ancient Americas

Piercings, tattoos, scarification, and even reshaped heads were held in high regard in many Pre-Columbian cultures. Such permanent changes were thought to make the body beautiful, strong, and powerful. Often steeped in ceremony, body transformations were associated with lasting changes in the identity of the wearer.

Lasting Impressions presents over sixty objects, highlighting three thousand years of body art practices in the ancient Americas. Human portraits and figurines offer a glimpse of ideals of beauty and power, while jewelry and personal ornaments illustrate some of the many ways in which Pre-Columbian people adorned themselves.



Exhibition Events

Saturday, January 21st, 2011

1 PM, ILLUSTRATED LECTURE

*"Spiritual Skin: Guardian and Assistant
Tattooing of the Americas"*

Lars Krutak

Saturday, January 28th, 2011

1 PM, ILLUSTRATED LECTURE

*"Performing the Body: Movement and
Adornment in the Ancient Andes"*

Blenda Femenias

Events are free and open to the public
Space is limited and registration is required
RSVP to museum@doaks.org or (202) 339-6984

Museum and Shop open Tue-Sun, 2-5 pm

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Ancient Americas



Dumbarton Oaks Museum

1703 32ND STREET NW • WASHINGTON DC 20007

WWW.DOAKS.ORG/MUSEUM

Dumbarton Oaks Museum

OCTOBER 1, 2011—MARCH 4, 2012

Spiritual Skin

Guardian and Assistant Tattooing of the Americas

An Illustrated Lecture by **Lars Krutak**



Indigenous peoples of the Americas have long practiced tattooing. Some employed tattoos for therapeutic purposes, to mark special achievements, or assert tribal identity. Others decorated the body with symbols that were understood to promote fertility, attract prey animals, or act as love charms to attract a future mate.

Lars Krutak's lecture focuses on a category of body marking known as "guardian" or "assistant" tattooing that was performed to incorporate tutelary and protective spirits into the human body. Based on ethnographic data and fieldwork among the Kayabi of Brazil, Krutak

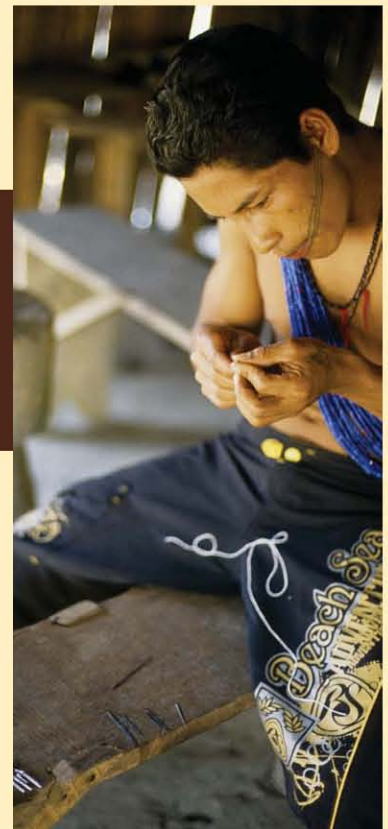
discusses how personal power and belief allowed individuals to transcend their human, natural, and supernatural realms of everyday existence through engaging in highly intimate spiritual relationships.

Saturday, January 21st, 2012, 1 PM

The Founders' Room

Reservations required: museum@doaks.org or (202) 339-6984

LARS KRUTAK is an anthropologist in the Repatriation Office of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. His books include *The Tattooing Arts of Tribal Women* (2007) and *Kalinga Tattoo: Ancient and Modern Expressions of the Tribal* (2010), focusing on the Kalinga of the northern Philippines. In 2003, he was a co-recipient of the American Book Award in Literature for *Akuzilleput Igaqullghet: Our Words Put to Paper. Sourcebook in St. Lawrence Island Yupik Heritage and History*.



Dumbarton Oaks Museum
1703 32nd Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007

Photo 1: *Matis Man Imitating A Jaguar, Brazil.* Image © Philippe Erikson
Photo 2: *Kayabi Tattooist Preparing His Tools, Brazil.* Image © Lars Krutak