



[1] Buddhist monk at Wat Bang Phra Monastery, Thailand. 2007. © Lars Krutak



[2] Hand tattoos of Kayan elder Ado Ngo. Upper Rajang River, Sarawak, Borneo. 2011. © Lars Krutak



[3] Mentawai shaman Aman Bereta tattooing Aman Ipal's leg. Siberut Island, Indonesia. 2007. © Lars Krutak

PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION AND EMPOWERMENT: MAGICAL TATTOOING ACROSS THE INDIGENOUS WORLD

Lars Krutak

Thursday, 8 March 2022

16:00 – 17:15 (UTC+1:00)

For thousands of years, Indigenous peoples across the globe have practiced various forms of tattooing to please or seek protection from particular spirits or ancestors who inhabited their worlds. In this virtual lecture, I explore the cross-cultural use of amuletic, “guardian,” *yantra*, and other magical tattoos as religious and practical tools that were utilized to enhance human well-being and access to supernatural power. Based on ethnographic data and fieldwork among numerous tattooing societies, I will discuss how this complex of personal power and belief allowed individuals to transcend their human, natural, and otherworldly realms of everyday existence.

Biography

Lars Krutak PhD is an American anthropologist, photographer, curator, and writer known for his research about Indigenous tattoo and its cultural background. He hosted and produced the 10-part documentary series *Tattoo Hunter* on the Discovery Channel and is a Research Associate at the Museum of International Folk Art (Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA). Krutak is the author of more than 90 articles for scientific journals and popular magazines on the subject of tattooing. His books include *Tattoo Traditions of Native North America* (2014), *Magical Tattoos and Scarification* (2012), *Kalinga Tattoo* focusing on Indigenous tattooing culture in the northern Philippines (2010), and *The Tattooing Arts of Tribal Women* (2007). Krutak also served as the senior editor for *Ancient Ink: The Archeology of Tattooing* (2018), the first book dedicated to the archaeological study of tattooing.

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* After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

ZADAN - Hopes and Protections on the Body

ZADAN series will explore if new talismanic immaterial protections have emerged replacing these magical objects or if the digital space is unable to translate the talismanic of the material object. The series will investigate the hopes, desires, and fears that prompt jewellery makers in the creation of amulets/talismans/charms adornments and objects today. The aim of ZADAN is to create a common platform, to broaden an understanding of jewellery art based on an exploration of a specific topic. The title ‘ZADAN’(座談) references the Japanese concept of a conversation among peers. With this in mind we welcome students and publics to participate as peers in the consideration of Jewellery Art as a ‘magical’ everyday practice and adornment.

For *Hopes and Protections on the Body* there will be six online lectures (October 2021 – March 2022) that include presentations in response to the topic from an artist, curator, sociologist, archeologist, and anthropologist.

Find out more about ZADAN visit here:
www.craftlaboratory.org/zadan-2021-2022



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