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Center Story #9

Tattoos: The Ultimate Skin Decoration

Today, we are publishing the ninth in a series of stories focusing on Commercial Center as written by noted long-time Las Vegas journalist, Diane Taylor.

In this article, Diane explores the fascinating world of tattoos via a meeting with the owner of "Best of Las Vegas Tattoo Studio," Daz.

- *What types of tattoos are popular with customers today?*
- *How can tattoos help a person increase their self-worth?*
- *Is tattooing easier today than in years past?*

Desmond "DazTatts" Bonilla can work anytime during 24 hours a day.

Daz is the owner of Commercial Center's "Best of Las Vegas Tattoo Studio". She notes that in a 24-hour town, some customers work during daylight hours and prefer to have their tattoo work done late at night or even in the middle of the night. Daz will, with money down in advance, accommodate.

Customers have varying requests, including everything from hearts and flowers for lovers, matching designs for friends, and even extensive cover-ups for physical imperfections.

Daz has been in business at Commercial Center for five years after spending eight years working with Sin City Ink. She originally came to Las Vegas for "a change of lifestyle".

With a Mexican/Italian heritage, Daz is a native of Chicago's rough yet artistic Pilsen neighborhood. She said in her previous lifestyle that "I made many mistakes and lost a lot of friends, so things had to change." First, she visited a sister in Las Vegas, then three years later, she made the move herself.

Daz has always had artistic talent and first became a tattoo artist (somewhat informally) in Pilsen. Once in Las Vegas and away from some of her former influences, Daz was licensed and officially became a professional Las Vegas tattoo artist.

She explains that tattooing today is much easier than years ago when hours could be spent setting up machines. Today, lots of artistic samples are available on-line and tattoo artists can download art as a stencil. Then, knowledge of machines, skin types, needles, shading, colors, etc. is required.

While Daz has completed numerous “sleeves” of tattoos (which can take an entire day or can be completed in several sessions), she also offers smaller tattoos with holiday and birthday discounts.

Among the most satisfying parts of her work is covering up physical parts of the human body that might not be considered particularly attractive, such as after surgery or places where someone’s skin is discolored. One of her most popular pictures of a tattoo is of the breasts of a former breast cancer patient whose tattooed nipples had faded. Instead of new nipples, Daz completed a whole set of colored flowers on the client’s breasts.

In addition to being a professional tattoo artist, Daz is also a mentor for new artists, teaching them not only the art of tattooing, but how to build clientele and advertise yourself. She is selective as to who she accepts as a student, leaning toward others like herself who need a second chance at life.

Because Daz is a high-energy gal, she is always doing something new. Right now, she is deciding whether to offer cigars and other tobacco products to shop customers. She is also hoping to find another artist for the shop.

Daz says interest in tattoos is growing and she enjoys the location of her store in Commercial Center.

Want to give a tattoo as a birthday or holiday present? Daz does have gift certificates. Give her a call at (702) 324-4730. Or, you can email her at Daztatts@yahoo.com.

By: Diane Taylor