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# Inked In

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## A design which lasts forever

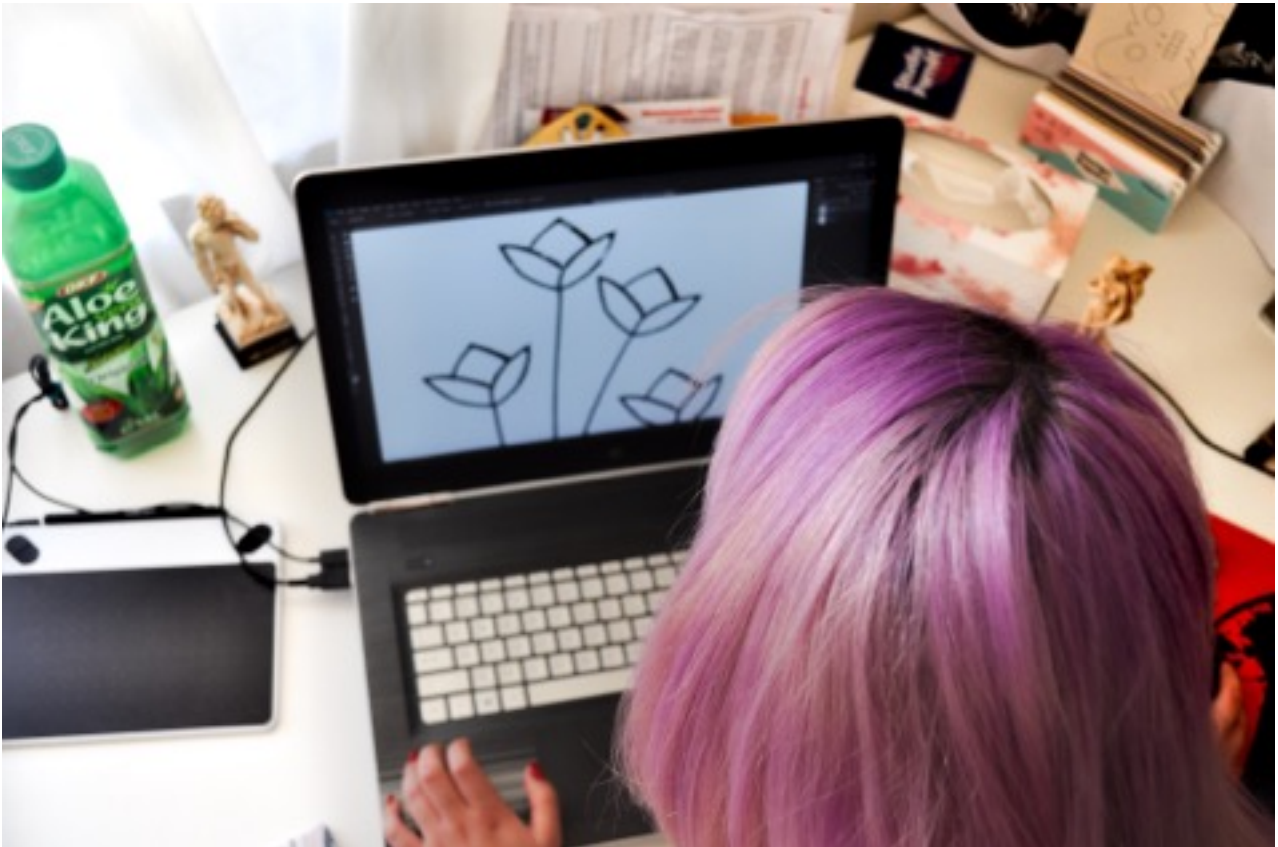


The 'trend' of tattoos is not something new. The oldest proofs of tattoos yet found were dated from 3,250 BC in the Alps! Through-out time, this practice was used all around the world using varied techniques and designs according to the cultures. They were mainly used for permanent corporal representations of a certain event or identification of an individual. These included marks of social ranks, religion, sign for bravery or fertility, pledges of love, protection, or identification for slaves and convicts, among many others.

**Roya Guliyeva  
wiping the  
excess of ink  
and discovering  
her new tattoo.**

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Nowadays, tattoos are mostly used for fashion purposes. Tattoos are now considered as a true form of art and tattoo artists can sometimes be real stars recognized for their personal styles including watercolor, old/new-school, neo-traditional, Japanese traditional, etc. Roya Guliyeva, a young college student living in Prague, decided to get 3 tattoos to celebrate her 20th birthday.



Roya creating her own tattoo designs using her skills as a graphic design student

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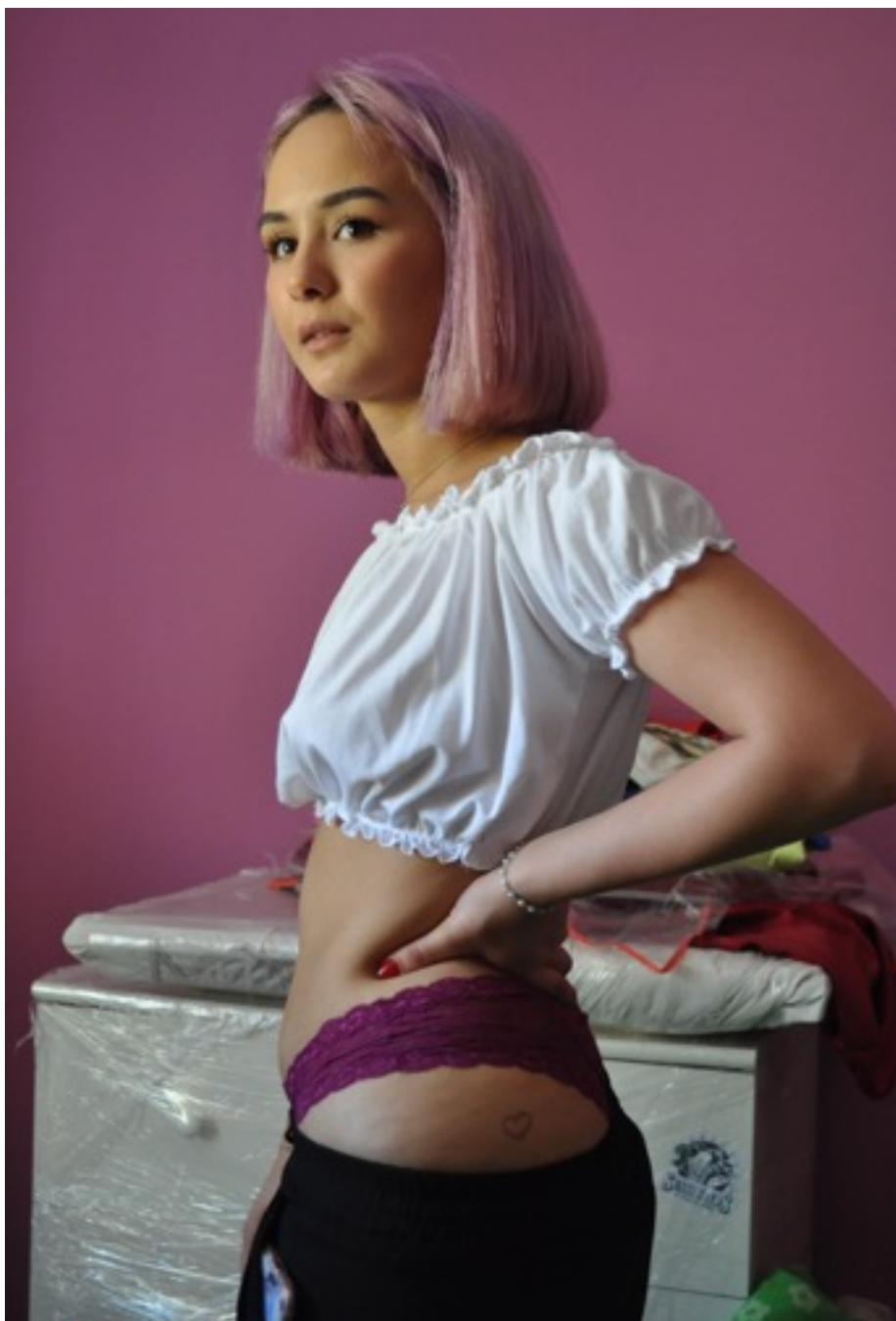
When a friend of Roya told her that she could get her tattooed for free as a birthday gift, she jumped on the occasion... and got 3 at once! First she had to design the looks of the tattoos. Roya has now been studying graphic design for 2 years so creating the shapes was not hard for her. She decided to get a moon behind the ear as it 'reminded her of her childhood', a set of 4 flowers on her ribs representing 4 members of her family 'who are the people she loves the most', and a heart on her posterior 'because it's cute'.



Roya explaining to Robert, aspiring tattoo artist, what tattoo she wants.

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The one she chose to ink those permanent drawings on her body was her friend's boyfriend and aspiring tattooist, Robert Varadi. Robert accepted to have Roya come to his house and be tattooed for free with his personal equipment. Once arrived, Roya first started explaining in details what she desired. She described the outlined of each tattoo as well as the place they would have on her body and the size she would like them to be. Even though she was very nervous, Roya was also very excited to finally get those designs carved on her skin. 'I had been willing to get this (flower) tattoo for 3 years now', she says.



Roya with the blueprint of the first tattoo. Last hesitations before getting inked.

Once the room equipment perfectly sanitized and the equipment prepared on a small table by the bed, Roya was invited to come in. A friend of Robert, also interested in becoming a tattoo artist had come to watch Robert in action. Roya just had to lay down on the bedcover accordingly to the directions of Robert.



Roya, Robert and his friend getting everything ready before starting the tattoo.

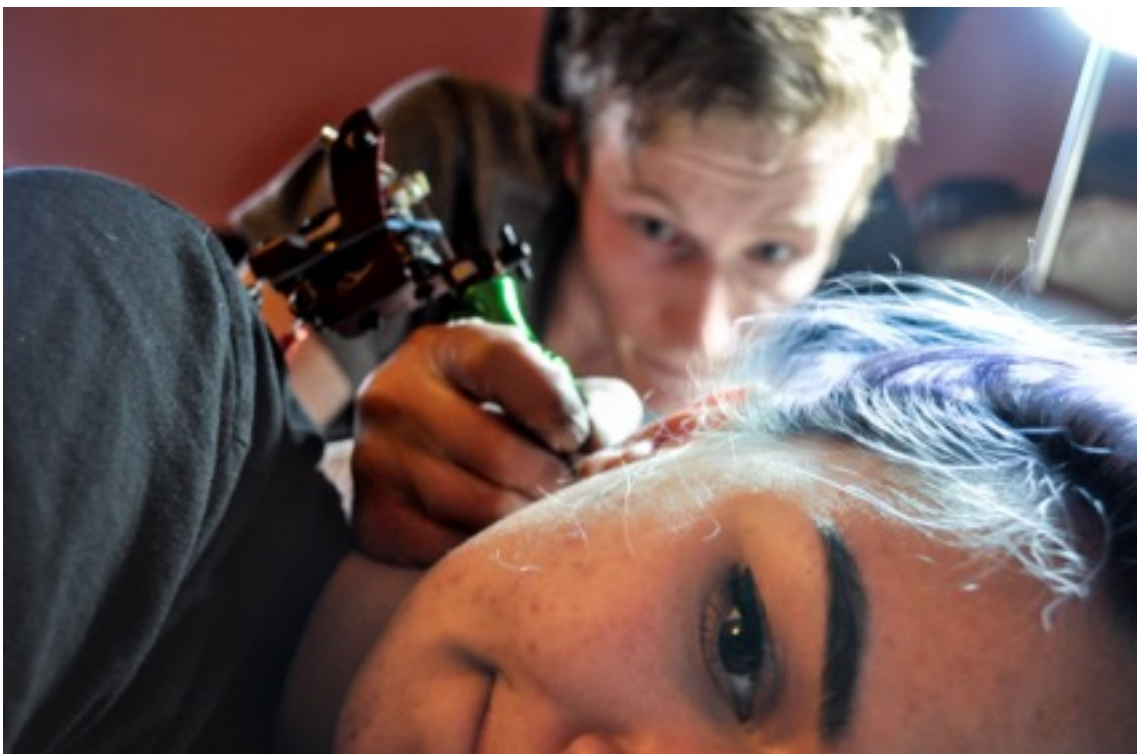
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**Roya, nervously laughing as the needle tickles her skin.**

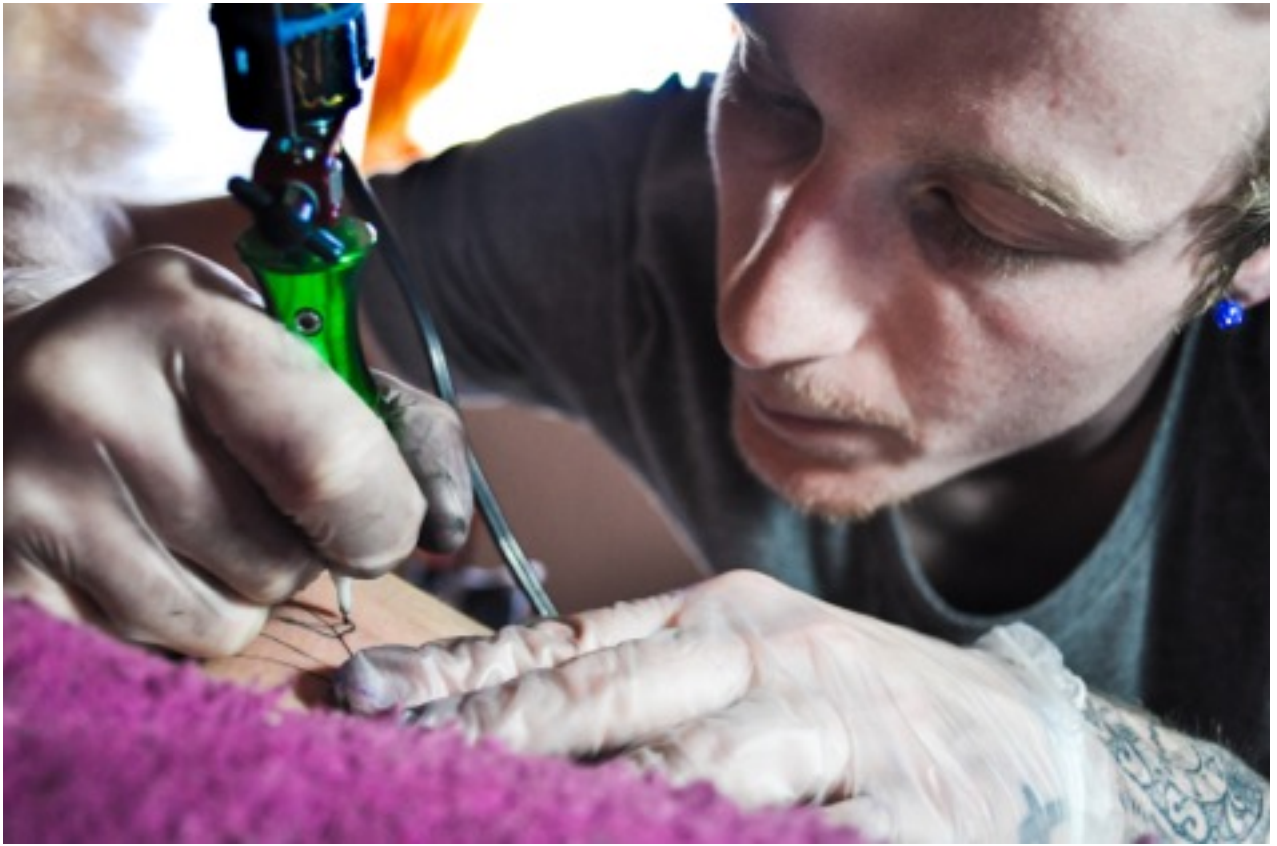
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It took in total 3 hours, including a few breaks, for Robert to finish all the 3 tattoos. Every time, the same process repeated itself: placing the blueprint of the tattoo on the exact place Roya wanted it, placing Roya in the best position for Robert to work, drawing over the blueprint with the needle and ink, wiping away the excess of ink, and finally letting Roya check the tattoo before wrapping it for a good half hour in plastic foil. During the whole process, Roya went through a lot of emotions. She was worried, excited, nervously laughing, in pain, and finally, satisfied with the work. Meanwhile, Robert stayed extremely focused on the work and on Roya's comfort.



**Roya, slightly worried while Robert focuses on his work.**

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Robert, handling the needle on the tulip flowers placed on Roya's ribs.

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Roya, surprised and happy while discovering her newly heart-shaped butt-tattoo.

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After the end of the session, Roya promised to recommend Robert to friends and to tag him on social media to promote his work. She came home happy and satisfied with her own design inked forever in her body!



Roya, back home and proudly showing her 'secret' tattoo.

Now that the needle is far away from her skin, all that she needs to care about, is make sure her parents won't find out...

By Lena Fix, 2018