



Body Adornment and Modification: Is it Art or Is It Torture?"

* Sana Mahmood Abbasi

* Director of the Fashion Design Program (College of Fine Arts & Design), American University in the Emirates, Dubai

ABSTRACT

An adornment can take different forms and shapes. It is in general an accessory or an ornament worn to enhance the beauty of the wearer, and to distinguish and define his or her social, cultural, and religious status. However, in the case of body modification, not all can be accepted socially, as some can be very offensive, and may cause controversial issues in societies. Body modification can be achieved by surgical augmentation, removal and split of body parts, and others by applying long-term force. One can start to wonder if these type of modifications are considered Art to beautify the wearer, or torture. Is the intention to be different and to stand out, or to belong to a tribe, or a clan? Is body adornment or modification a personal choice, or is it forced on some people in their early childhood, as in most African tribes. Can the permanent modification of the body cause serious illnesses? Or is it safe, and fun to do. This study will explain the differences and variations of body adornments and modifications. The psychology behind body adornment, and who does it and why? What are the consequences behind this act, and to what extend is it acceptable and what is totally rejected, and causes controversy among societies, and what are the religious view in this regard.

Keywords : Tattoo, Body Piercing, Removal & splitting, Makeup, Jewelry, Scarification, Body modification

Introduction:

Recent years have seen a considerable re-appearance in the popularity of tattooing and body piercing. This apparent phenomenon, which is a development that some have dismissed as a fashionable trend, while others have argued that the relative permanence of such forms of body modification militates against their full absorption into the fashion system. As some people seem to express their-believes or make a statement, and regard their tattoos and piercings as decorative accessories. Others are implemented as a form of anti-fashion and as a way of fixing or anchoring the instinctively constructed self. Religion has its views in this regard. As some of the body modifications are rituals, and some religions favor some and forbid others. However, there are always the extreme cases of body modifications that can be viewed as symptomatic of body dysmorphic disorder, and other mental illness. This study will look into all types of body Adornments & Modifications. Their history, and what is in Fashion today, and the controversial issues that are raised regarding the extreme body modifications, and what are the various religious views in this regard.

Body Adornment:

In General, body adornments are accessory or ornaments worn to enhance the beauty or status of the wearer. They are often worn to embellish, enhance, or distinguish the wearer, and to define cultural, social, or religious status within a specific community. When worn to show economic status, the items are often expensive and made out of gold or silver and precious stones. Adornments are usually colorful, and worn to attract attention, however, they have a long history, around the world, from feathers or bone, to modern accessories, such as jewelry, since they vary from one culture to another. Items of adornment are also used by warriors, and by other members of the military to show rank or achievements.

Body Modification:

Is the deliberate alteration of the body for non-medical reasons. It is often done for aesthetics, sexual enhancement, rites of passage, religious beliefs, to display group member-

ship or affiliation, to create Body Art, for shock value, and as a self-expression, among other reasons. Body modification is a term that is generally associated with tattooing and piercing but can also include branding, scarification, surgical implants, and a number of lesser known procedures and practices. Not all types of body modification originated at the same time, while some practices have been around for thousands of years, others have just begun to gain popularity. For example: Tongue splitting was unheard of and now it is becoming fashionable in its most broad definition and it includes plastic surgery. One of the most socially acceptable decorations is: Ear piercing. However, Body Piercing can include: lip, nipple, genital, belly button, and other places in the body. Other body modifications include: Pearling: Also known as genital Beading. Neck stretching: As multiple neck rings or spiral are worn to stretch the neck (in reality lowering of the shoulders) are common in Africa. Scrotal implants: An implant is a device placed under the human skin for decorative purposes. Tattooing: Is the injection of a pigment under the skin. Eyeball Tattooing: Injection of a pigment into the cornea. Extra-ocular implant (eyeball jewelry): The implantation of jewelry in the outer layer of the eye. Surface Piercing: Surface piercing is piercing where the entrance and exit holes are pierced through the same flat area of skin. Sometimes surface piercings are difficult to heal, because, as the body rejects the body jewelry as a foreign object, the jewelry is pushed to the surface, causing the piercing to grow out (also called rejection). Micro-dermal implants: Are a form of body modification that give the aesthetic appearance of a Trans-dermal implant, without the complications of surgery associated with it. Micro-dermal implants can be placed practically anywhere on the surface of the skin on the body, but are different from conventional piercing in that they are composed of two components: An anchor, which is implanted underneath the skin, with a step protruding from (or flush with) the surface of the surrounding skin, and the interchangeable jewelry, which is screwed into the threaded hole in the step of the anchor. On the other hand, Cosmetics (colloquially known as makeup or make-up) are considered a type of body modifications. They are care substances used to enhance the appearance or odor

of the human body. They are generally a mixture of chemical compounds, some being derived from natural sources, many being synthetic.

Surgical Augmentation:

In contrast to the explicit ornaments, the following procedures are primarily not meant to be exposed, but rather function to augment another part of the body, like the skin in a sub-dermal implant. The types of Surgical Augmentation include: Breast Implants: Are the insertion of silicone bags filled with silicone gel or saline solution into the breasts to increase their size, or to restore a more normal appearance after surgery. Silicone Injection: Is a process to produce pliable, durable parts in high volume. Silicon injections are used for corrective cosmetic surgeries, but the misuse of the silicon, or going to an unprofessional may cause dangerous results. In 2004, one British woman lost her hands and feet, as well as her buttocks, after getting black-market silicone injections that turned out to be comprised of bathroom sealant. The Sun reported on May 25, 2013, that April Michelle Brown, 46, is now warning others about the dangers of illegal and black-market treatments. She said: "My body had a massive allergic reaction to it which left me at the brink of death". "I was in so much agony that, by that point, dying would have been a release. The only way doctors could save my life was to amputate my buttocks, my hands and feet."

Removal or split:

Hair removal and hair cutting are a major type of removal and split procedure. The fashioning of hair can be considered an aspect of personal grooming, fashion, and cosmetics. Cultural and popular considerations also influence some hairstyles. Although forms of hair removal are practiced for a number of reasons, including cultural, sexual, medical and religious. Hair removal, also known as epilation or depilation, is the removal of body hair. The methods used to remove hair have varied in different times and regions, but shaving is the most common method. Female genital cutting (FGC) includes (Labiaplasty), which is the removal of the labia minora, and the clitoral hood reduction: (The removal of Clitoral Hood). Labiaplasty: Is a plastic surgery procedure for altering the labia (inner labia) and the labia majora (outer labia), the folds of skin surrounding the human vulva. There are two main categories of women seeking cosmetic genital surgery: those with congenital conditions such as Intersex, and those with no underlying condition who wish to alter the appearance of their genitals because they believe they do not fall within a normal range. A 2008 study in the Journal of Sexual Medicine reported that 32 per cent of women who underwent the procedure did so to correct a functional impairment; 31 per cent to correct a functional impairment and for aesthetic reasons; and 37 per cent for aesthetic reasons alone. The risks of the procedure include permanent scarring, infections, bleeding, irritation, and nerve damage leading to increased or decreased sensitivity. According to Pedwell, July, 2007. The performance of Female genital cutting (FGC) is considered as a means to counter racism and cultural essentialism. Clitoral hood reduction: is a plastic surgery procedure for reducing the size and the area of the clitoral hood (prepuce) in order to further expose the clitoral glans of the clitoris. It is sometimes done as a form of elective surgery where the therapeutic goal is to improve the sexual functioning of the woman, and the aesthetic refinement of her vulva. Male genital cutting (Circumcision): Is the partial or full removal of the foreskin. Whereby some, or the entire foreskin is surgically removed. This procedure is most commonly elected for religious reasons. Male circumcision generally occurs shortly after birth, during childhood or around puberty as part of a rite of passage. Circumcision is most prevalent in the religions of Judaism and Islam. The practice is also common in some predominant Christian countries such as the United States, Philippines, South Korea, West Africa, and Kenya, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, and Israel. It is also common in several African tribal groups. It is less common in Europe and Latin America, though practiced in the large Muslim population in India. In general, male circumcision is

practiced as a religious right by Jews and Muslims and some Christians. Genital Bisection: Is the splitting of both the underside and the top of the penis, including genital inversion. Subincision: Is splitting of the underside of the penis, also called urethrotomy. Nipple cutting, splitting and removal are also another type of body modifications. Nullification: Involves the voluntary removal of body parts. Body parts that are commonly removed by those who are practicing body nullification are for example: Penis, testicles, clitoris, labia, or nipples. Sometimes people who desire nullification may be diagnosed with body integrity identity disorder or Apotemnophilia: Is a psychological disorder wherein sufferers feel they would be happier living as an amputee. It is related to xenomelia, "the oppressive feeling that one or more limbs of one's body do not belong to one's self". Tongue cutting: Is the bisection of the tongue. Tongue bifurcation, splitting or forking, is a type of body modification in which the tongue is cut centrally from its tip to as far back as the underside base, forking the end like a snake tongue. Forked tongues were attributed to characters like Kaliyah in ancient Hindu texts, but those who were raised in predominantly Christian, Western culture may instantly think of Satan. Splitting one's tongue was actually a popular practice amongst ancient yoga practitioners, although the watered-down versions of trendy studio yoga rarely include it nowadays. Whether this practice is associated with ancient yogis or mythological demons, this practice was never seen because the practice almost completely died out in modern times. However, this particular cosmetic effect was revived in American subculture during the 1990s, and continues to grow in popularity.

Applying long-term force:

Body modifications occurring as the end result of long term activities or practices such as: Corsetry or Tight-lacing: Is binding of the waist and shaping of the torso. Cranial Binding: Is the modification of the shape of infant's heads, now extremely rare. Breast Ironing: is the act of pressing (sometimes with a heated object) the breasts of a teenage female to prevent their growth. Foot Binding: Is the compression of the feet of girls to modify them for aesthetic reasons, which is popular in China. (Non-surgical Elongation of organs): An example is Anal-stretching, which performed by prolonged stretching using weights or spacing devices. Some cultural traditions prescribe for or encourage members of one sex (or both) to have one organ stretched till permanent re-dimensioning has occurred, such as: The 'giraffe-like' stretched necks (sometimes also other organs) of women among the Burmese Kayan tribe. Women of the Kayan Lahwi tribe are well known for wearing neck-rings brass coils that are placed around the neck, appearing to lengthen it. The women wearing these coils are known as Giraffe Women. Girls first start to wear rings when they are around five years old. Over the years the coil is replaced by a longer one, and more turns are added. The weight of the brass pushes the collar bone down and compresses the rib cage. The neck itself is not lengthened; however the appearance of a stretched neck is created by the deformation of the clavicle. Branding: Is a controlled burning or cauterizing of tissue to encourage intentional scarring. Ear shaping: Includes Ear cropping and Ear pointing. Scarification: Is seen most widely amongst dark-skinned people, who tend to have so much melanin in their skin, that tattooing isn't very effective, visually. The "crocodile" people of Papua New Guinea's Sepik region, several Aboriginal tribes in Northern Australia, and the Karo people of Ethiopia are just a few of the many cultures who, to this day, participate in traditional rites involving scarification. Scarification: Involves scratching, etching, burning, branding, or superficially cutting designs, pictures, or words into the skin as a permanent body modification. In the process of body scarification, scars are formed by cutting or branding the skin by varying methods. Scarification: Is sometimes called Catrization Is a form of body modification that is gaining popularity but is not yet as popular or well known as other types of body modifications. Scarification is defined as the creative or artistic application of scars in a controlled environment to achieve a desired result and appearance. Various types of scarification have been practiced

for many years in many different tribes throughout the world but have only recently begun to gain popularity in the west. The goal of scarification is to get a raised scar called a keloid scar, which gives the design a three dimensional appearance. Keloid scars can develop in any place where an abrasion has occurred. They can be the result of pimples, insect bites, scratching, burns, or other skin trauma. Keloid scars can develop after surgery. They are more common in some sites such as the central chest, the back and shoulders and the ear lobes. They can also occur on body piercings. The most common spots are earlobes, arms, and over the collar bone. Scarification is most often times used as a rite of passage whether it is during a tribal ceremony, or a personal experience. There are various types of scarifications and different procedures are used to achieve different results. Branding: Is a type of scarification in which heated metal is applied to the skin to create a serious burn which eventually becomes a scar. While scarification is growing in popularity, it is still not a well known procedure and should be performed by a qualified artist. Tooth Filing: Dental modifications are nothing new to Americans, who are practically obsessed with attaining perfectly straight, white teeth via orthodontic appliances and bleaching methods. Not to be outdone, Japan is putting their spin on the trend. While a bright, symmetrical smile symbolizes prosperity and beauty in America, the "Snaggle Tooth", which is generally used to have pointy appearance of some sort of animal look. This practice reminds the Japanese of middle school girls, who are considered desirable in Japan. The Japanese outdo Americans in their over-valuing of youth to the point that looking like a 12-year-old schoolgirl is considered the ultimate in chic and sexy. Anything reminiscent of youth is highly prized, and Japanese women often dress and even behave in adorable, childish ways in order to attract male attention. Another form of body modification is called Leblouh or Gavage: It is the practice of force-feeding of teenage girls, including girls as young as five, in Mauritania, where obesity was traditionally regarded as desirable. Especially prevalent in rural areas, and having its roots in Berber tradition, leblouh is practiced to increase chances of marriage in a society where high body volume used to be a sign of wealth. The practice goes back to the 11th century, and has been reported to have made a significant comeback after a military Junta took over the country in 2008. Older women called "fatteners" force the young girls to consume enormous quantities of food and liquid, including their own vomit, and inflicting pain on them if they don't eat and drink. One way of inflicting pain is to pinch a limb between two sticks. A six-year-old might typically be forced to drink 20 liters of Camel's Milk, and eat two kilos of pounded millet (A group of highly variable small-seeded grasses) mixed with two cups of butter, every day. Body Suspension: Is another type of body modification. It is the act of suspending a human body from hooks that have been put through body piercing. These piercings are temporary and are performed just prior to the actual suspension. The process of surgically implanting a foreign object beneath the skin is a relatively recent development, but genital beading (or "Pearling", as pearls are a very commonly implanted item) has been common among seaman in the South Pacific and the Japanese Yakuza for several hundred years, although specifics about the history of pearling are rather vague. It is also extremely prevalent in the prison systems of the former Soviet Union and in Eastern Europe. Indeed, it's still a commonly requested procedure in many piercing studios in the western world, with biocompatible Teflon or silicone beads and ribs replacing the non-sterile and possibly dangerous organic implants traditionally installed. And, of course, in Western society, plastic surgeons implant foreign objects into people every day in the form of breast, calf, and chin implants. Skull shaping (Cone head): The recent archaeological discovery reported on Dec, 25, 2012 of the 13 Cone-head-shaped skulls in Mexico was considered an amazing discovery. The bones, which are about 1,000 years old, dating back to 945 A.D. to 1308 A.D., were discovered accidentally during a dig for an irrigation system in the northwest state of Sonora in Mexico. While it's not unheard of for archaeological sites to be unearthed during modern excavations, the misshapen skulls

discovered on the site are fairly uncommon, especially as far north as Sonora. "This was a Hispanic cemetery with 25 skulls, and 13 of them have deformed heads," Cristina Garcia Moreno, who worked on the project with Arizona State University, told ABC news on Dec, 25, 2012: "We don't know why this population specifically deformed their heads." Pictures of cone-shaped skulls flooded the internet and prompted wild speculations. In reality, these were just regular human beings who, for some unknown reason, decided to shape their growing children's skulls by binding their heads between two boards. Most likely the practice had some sort of cultural or religious origin, but we may never know for sure. What we do know is that the practice was probably not very healthy for the kids, judging from the fact that many of these skeletons were of deceased children. Perhaps that's why the tradition was abandoned. Foot Binding: The practice of binding little girls' feet to prevent growth most likely began during the Song dynasty, when upper-class court dancers bound their feet to make them tiny and delicate. The look was considered so attractive that it became fashionable, and was copied by Chinese families who wished to help their daughters become more beautiful and therefore marriageable. The ideal foot size was considered to be about four inches, and tiny feet were seen as highly erotic by Chinese men. Lip Plates: This type of body modification is exclusively known to the Mursi, Chai, and Tirma tribes, although it was once much more common throughout Africa. A series of plates are worn in order to stretch the lower lip, beginning when a girl reaches 15 or 16 years of age. Most women will persevere until their lips are stretched enough to contain a 12-centimeter plate, and sometimes even larger. There are several speculations as to the purpose of these plates, but it appears to mostly be a rite of passage signifying a girl has become a woman. Wearing a large plate is also considered a standard of beauty. Extra Ocular Implant: The implantation of jewelry in the outer layer of the eye. First developed at the Netherlands Institute, for innovative Ocular surgery (NIOOC) in 2002, as a new form of body modification. Extra ocular implants—rather, "eye jewelry"—involves a piece of platinum alloy molded into a variety of shapes like hearts, Euro signs, or stars, inserted underneath the cornea by a licensed ophthalmologist. Apparently first done in the Netherlands, it has come to the US. According to Dr. Christopher Rapuano, a corneal surgeon at Philadelphia's Wills Eye Hospital, "You can think of it as crazy. I mean this is invasive surgery where you are cutting the surface layer of the eye open to put a little piece of jewelry in. The first time I read about this I said, 'Oh, my God, who is doing this?'" The safety of this procedure will have to prove itself over time, since it hasn't been performed on many people, but the possibility for infection and complications is definitely there. Pierced glasses: James Sooy and Oliver Gibson have come up with Pierced Glasses – the most minimalist eyewear since the Pince-nez was invented in the 1840's.

Tattooing:

Tattooing can be dated as far back as 3300 BCE as seen in the discovery of Otzi the iceman in 1991 and ancient Egyptian mummies bearing tattoos of animals and various creatures. The practice, however, is believed to have originated over 10,000 years ago. The mechanics of tattooing have changed over the years, and the pigments and inks used have wildly improved in recent times, but whether hand-tapped, poked with a single needle, or administered with the telltale buzz of a modern tattoo machine, the basic reasons behind the choice to become tattooed haven't changed much in all that time: Fashion, function, or just to make a statement, and to stand out among the rest. When Christianity began to gain popularity, tattooing was increasingly associated with criminals as well as the Pagan religion and was prohibited in Europe by Constantine, the first Christian Roman emperor. By the late eighteenth century, tattoos were no longer prohibited and started to become popular with British sailors and seamen, and then gained even more popularity when King George V got tattooed. King George's tattoo led to a plethora of tattoos among royalty in the nineteenth century. Tattoos have long been used not only as a form of expression but as a form of identification.

Nazis tattooed numbers on the arms of Jews during the Holocaust, and the Romans tattooed their slaves and criminals. People have also been forcibly tattooed to identify them permanently not only as criminals but also as undesirables in a society, and that associated stigma of tattooing as "lowbrow" or undesirable still exists in the minds of many. Today people generally use tattoos to tell their personal stories and express themselves. Throughout history there have been times that tattoos were thought of as taboo but currently they are becoming more main-stream every day, and the art of tattooing is ever improving due to the introduction of new techniques and technology. Famous movie stars and important athletes, show off their tattoos in the Oskar and during photo shoots. Tattoos are considered sexy and a sign of beauty in some cases. A great example is the movie star Angelina Jolie, who makes a statement from each tattoo on her body as she tells a story, or explains a situation in her life. She is proud of her tattoos, and she makes sure that she shows them off in all occasions. There are meanings behind her tattoos. For example: The vertical rows of tattoos on her left shoulder blade which looks like the tiger tattoo, done by tattoo artist Noo (aka Sompong) Kanhphai in a hotel in Pathum Thani, 16 miles north of Bangkok, is a Buddhist Pali incantation written in Khmer script. The language of Cambodia is there to protect her and her adopted Cambodian son Maddox from bad luck. The translation is: May your enemies run far away from you. If you acquire riches, may they remain yours always? Your beauty will be that of Apsara. Wherever you may go, many will attend, serve and protect you, surrounding you on all sides. However, the Arabic tattoo on her right arm means determination. The tattoo on her left underarm is the Roman number 13. She had it done because she doesn't believe in superstitions. Later she had V MCMXL added to the tattoo. 13 May 1940 is the date when Winston Churchill gave a famous speech, in which he said: "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat". In addition, the tattoo on Jolie's left arm is inspired by the words of Tennessee Williams: "A prayer for the wild at heart kept in cages." Angelina Jolie had this tattoo done in the presence of her mother. The big cross tattoo covers the little dragon with the blue tongue she had done in Amsterdam. Next to it is a phrase in Latin: "Quod me nutrit me destruit", meaning "What nourishes me destroys me." Angelina Jolie had the cross tattoo done the day before she married Johnny Lee Miller in 1995. In her own words: "It was all symbolic, and it was a good thing, nothing dark." In fact, the rune style tattoo on Angelina's wrist is the letter H. It is to remind her of her ex-boyfriend Timothy Hutton or her brother, James Haven. These numbers are the geographical coordinates (longitudes and latitudes) from the locations where her children first entered her life. N11° 33' 00" E104° 51' 00": the place in Cambodia where Angelina Jolie's eldest son Maddox was born. N09° 02' 00" E038° 45' 00": The place is in Ethiopia where her daughter Zahara was born. S22° 40' 26" E014° 31' 40": The place in Namibia (Swakopmund) where Angelina gave birth to her biological daughter with Brad Pitt, Shiloh (Hebrew for "the peaceful one"), was born. N10° 46' 00" E106° 41' 40": The place in Vietnam where Angelina's son Plax Then was born. N43° 41' 21" E07° 14' 28" N43° 41' 21" E07° 14' 28": 5 and 6 are a place in France for the twins Knox and Vivienne. Angelina added a 7th line of coordinates for Brad Pitt's place of birth in Oklahoma. The coordinates tattoo covers the place where the dragon tattoo and name of her ex husband Billy Bob used to be before they got lasered off. One can still see the dragon a bit. The 12-inch long, 8-inch wide Bengal tiger tattoo on her lower back is Angelina Jolie's latest. It was done in Bangkok on July 8, 2004, during a 2 hour session by tattoo artist Sompong Kanhphai who also blessed it by chanting an ancient hymn. Sompong also did her Khmer tattoo. She had the tiger tattoo done to celebrate her Cambodian citizenship. The tiger tattoo was done in the traditional Thai tattoo style with a manual needle. The tiger's tail covers her blue window tattoo. Angelina wants to have yet another tattoo done in Thailand. Many people will follow the trend of the famous movie stars and athletes and copy the same tattoos they have as a form of expression to their love to their idols. Such as the NBA star Kobe Bryant who prefer stylish tattoo designs like

the dragon or tiger or other religious symbols, so that most of his fans will go to make the same tattoos.

Body piercing:

Is another popular form of body modification that has been around for thousands of years. Nose piercings were first recorded approximately 4,000 years ago in the Middle East, and are mentioned in the Bible in Genesis 24:22. Sometime in the 16th century, nose piercing was brought to India from the Middle East. Nose piercings did not appear in the west until the 1960's when hippies traveled to India and brought the trend back to the states. Tongue piercings originated with the ancient Aztecs in the form of a ritual where the tongue was pierced to draw blood for the gods and to create an altered state of consciousness so shamans could communicate with the gods. Lip piercings were also popular among the ancient Aztecs, and were reserved for male members of higher castes. There are also numerous tribes throughout Africa in which pierced lips have a religious significance. Tongue piercings are now one of the most popular of all types of piercings. Ear piercings are thought to have originated for magical purposes. Primitive tribes believed that demons and spirits could enter a body through the ear, and these demons and spirits are supposed to be repelled by metal so ears were often pierced. In many societies ear piercing is also done as part of a ritual such as in Borneo where the mother and father each pierce one ear of their child as a symbol that the child depends on their parents. Body piercings, much like tattoos, are becoming more popular with modern culture, and new techniques and procedures are taking the art to a whole new level. Piercers now have the ability to insert surgical implants under the skin, pierce new areas of the body, and perform micro dermal anchoring. But there are other types of piercings that are a little more extreme. Nipple piercing dates all the way back to Ancient Rome. Indians practiced genital piercing all the way back in 320 A.D. This type of piercing is done by poking (another) hole in the tip of the penis or, for women, the clitoris. Supposedly it makes sex even better. According to Namir, Sheila, Aug, 2006, our bodies are made in relation to other bodies, and body modifications affect these relations. However, some modern subcultures have come up with their own variations on body piercing, such as the corset piercing. A series of piercings is performed on the skin of the back – generally a woman – and then they can be laced up just like an old-timey corset

Risks of Tattooing and Body Piercing:

Since tattooing and body piercing regulations are not always properly enforced, some artists do not follow simple health rules that are designed to prevent infection. As a result, there is always a risk of some type of infection when getting a tattoo. The following are some serious infections that are associated with tattooing and piercing: Allergic reactions to dyes used in tattoos and metals used in piercing, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, HIV, Tetanus, Tuberculosis, Methicillin-resistant staph aureus (per CDC), Exposure to mercuric sulfide (also known as cinnabar), a red pigment (per CDC), Leprosy (per CDC), Endocarditis, Condom rupture from genital piercing, E. coli infection from genital piercing, Increased risk of STI's due to tissue damage from genital piercing.

Individuals known for extensive body modification:

Fakir Musafar: Born Roland Loomis, August 10, 1930 in Aberdeen, South Dakota. He is considered the father of the modern primitive movement. He has experimented on his own body with body modification techniques such as body piercing, tight-lacing, scarification, tattooing, and suspension. He has documented, shared and taught others as part of his life's work. He is the icon in BDSM (A variety of erotic practices) in kink and fetish communities. Rick Genets: (born August 7, 1985) is a Canadian artist and fashion model born in Lasalle, Montreal. He is also known as Zombie Boy for the skeletal tattoos covering the majority of his body. Pete Burns: Born 5 August 1959. Is an English singer-songwriter, author and television personality, who founded the band (Dead or Alive) in 1980, in which he was vocalist and songwriter, and which

rose to mainstream success with their 1985 single "You spin Me Round" (Like a record). He had extensive polyacrylamide injections into his lips, along with cheek implants, several nose re-shapings and many tattoos. Elaine Davidson: Is the "Most Pierced Woman" according to the Guinness World Records. The Enigma: Born Paul Lawrence, is a sideshow performer, actor, and musician who has undergone extensive body modifications, including horn implants, ear reshaping, multiple body piercings, and a full-body jigsaw-puzzle tattoo. Lolo Ferrari: born Eve Valois on February 9, 1963. She was a French dancer, sex star, pornographic actress, actress and singer billed as "the woman with the largest breasts in the world" though their size was artificially achieved. Julia Gnuse: Also called the Illustrated Lady. Born in 1959, has 95% of her body (including her face) covered in tattoos. She holds the Guinness world record for being the most tattooed woman in the world. In her mid 30s, Gnuse developed porphyria, a condition in which sunlight results in blistering of the skin. As the blisters often result in scarring, she began getting tattoos as a way to cover up the scars. Cindy Jackson: Had more cosmetic surgery procedures than anyone else in the world. Cathie Jung: Has the smallest waist in the world as a result of corsetry. Katzen: the Tiger Lady is the stage name of a female performance artist and tattoo artist, whose full body tattoo theme is that of a tiger. (Katzen is the German word for cats). Tom Leppard: Also known as Leopard Man or the Leopard-man is a former soldier previously considered by the Guinness Book of world record, to be the world's most tattooed man. He is said to have spent £5,500 on his extensive body modifications, which cover his skin nearly entirely with a leopard-like colored pattern. Eric Sprague: Born June 12, 1972. Better known as the "Lizard-man", is a freak show and sideshow performer, best known for his body modification, including his sharpened teeth, full-body tattoo of green scales, bifurcated tongue, sub-dermal implant and recently, green-inked lips. The Scary Guy: His nose, eyebrows and ears are pierced and tattoos cover 85 percent of his body. Lucky diamond Rich: Holds the Guinness world record as "the world's most tattooed person" as of 2006. Hao Lulu: is a Manchu Chinese woman who has become well-known for having undergone extensive cosmetic surgery in 2003 to alter her appearance, tagged "The Artificial Beauty". Horace Ridler: tattooed in a pattern of curved black stripes, often described as zebra-like. Pauly Unstoppable: The first person to get the white of his eye tattooed. Dennis Avner: (Born August 27, 1958 – November 5, 2012) of Tonopah, Nevada, United States, was widely known as "Cat Man", though he preferred his Native American name, Stalking Cat. Avner spent considerable resources to surgically modify his body to resemble that of a tiger. He held the world record for the most body modifications. He worked as a computer programmer. Stelarc: Born Stelios Arcadiou in Limassol in 1946, but legally changed his name in 1972, is a Cypriot-Australian performance artist whose works focuses heavily on extending the capabilities of the human body. As such, most of his pieces are centered on his concept that the human body is obsolete. He got a cell-cultivated ear implanted into his left arm. Heidi Montag: Had ten plastic surgeries in one day. Steve Haworth: is a body modification artist based in Phoenix, Arizona. He is responsible for the popularization of sub-dermal and trans-dermal implants, as well as the invention of the "Metal Mohawk". He designed specialized medical instruments called dermal elevators for this process. He has also done pioneering work with surface bars, ear shaping, tongue splitting, magnetic implants, and artistic branding (using electrosurgical units). He has worked on individuals noted for their extensive modifications such as The Enigma, Katzen, Stalking cat, and the lizard-man. He is listed in the Guinness World Records as "Most Advanced Body Modification Artist", 1999 to present.

Religious views on Body Adornment and Modification:

Islamic perspective on bodily modifications, tattooing, body piercing, branding, etc. all fall in the category of unnecessary interference, alteration and mutilation of Allah's creation. Therefore, no Muslim, who is conscious of his or her religion, should ever contemplate such activities. In his well-known

book, *The Lawful and the Prohibited in Islam*, the prominent Muslim scholar, Sheik Yusuf Al-Qaradawi, states: "Islam denounces excesses in beautifying oneself when it alters the physical features that Allah created him with. The Glorious Qur'an considers such alterations as inspired by Satan, who "...will command them (his devotees) to change what Allah has created..." (An-Nisa': 119). However, tattooing is one of those excesses. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) is reported to have cursed the tattooer and the tattooed. "Reported by Muslim". It is permissible for women only to pierce their ears as a form of enhancing their beauty. The proof of this permission is based on the Hadith of Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, when he prayed on the day of 'Eid and came with Bilal, his Companion, he ordered the women to pay Zakah, and some of them took their earrings off and threw it (donated it) to the Prophet. "Reported in Bukhari". As to the piercing of the nose, isn't allowed for both sexes because it is a type of deformation to Allah's creation. Focusing more on the question in point, Sheikh Ahmad Kutty, a senior lecturer and an Islamic scholar at the Islamic Institute of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, states: "According to the teachings of Islam, our body - including all of our physical faculties - is a trust from Allah and we are required to protect and preserve it according to the best of our ability. Consequently, we are not allowed to alter or tamper with our physical faculties unnecessarily; we are only permitted to interfere with them in order to correct a natural deformity or repair or remedy an ailment. Any other form of interference or tampering with our body is akin to altering Allah's creation which has been condemned in the Qur'an. We read in the Qur'an that Satan, the accursed one, has pledged to Allah that he will be tirelessly working to lead humans into ways of perdition and self-destruction: 'And I will surely lead them astray, and arouse desires in them, and command them and they will cut the cattle's ears, and I will surely command them and they will change Allah's creation.' Whoever chooses the Devil for a friend instead of Allah is assuredly a loser, and his loss is manifest." (An-Nisa': 119). While reflecting on the above verse, we must also read the following statements of Allah in the Qur'an: "There is no altering Allah's creation." (Ar-Rum: 30); "And do not cast yourselves into destruction by your own hands." (Al-Baqarah: 195). In light of the above, body piercing, tattooing, branding, etc. all fall in the category of unnecessary interference, alteration and mutilation of Allah's creation. Therefore, no Muslim, who is conscious of his religion, should ever contemplate such activities. The only exception some scholars and jurists have made in this context is the case of ear piercing specifically for females. This is so because of the specific need of women to wear jewelry. Men, however, according to Islam, have no such need. In fact, Islam forbids men from copying styles that are distinctively feminine. The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "Allah has cursed men who copy women as well as women who copy men." It should be remembered here both men and women have different roles in Islam. It is also worth mentioning in this respect that ear piercing is somewhat different; for there are fewer hazards in ear piercing as compared to piercing of tongues, lips and eye-lids, etc. However, Circumcision, which is a type of body modification, is highly recommended in Islam. In Arabic, circumcision is also known as tahara, meaning purification or cleanliness. Islam strongly emphasizes on cleanliness and purification both spiritual and physical. Generally, the ritual of circumcision is traced back to the time of the greatest of prophets Ibrahim (peace be upon him) when Allah commanded him to circumcise himself, his son Ishmael and all his male family members, and he followed Allah's order. Today Muslims are the largest religious nation to circumcise their male offspring. This ritual shows their belonging and closeness to their spiritual ancestor and the physical forefather, Prophet Ibrahim (peace be upon him). But unlike the Jewish tradition, in Islam circumcision is not a symbol of Allah's covenant with humans. The Holy Qur'an does not impose an obligation on parents to circumcise their children, but the prophet Mohammed is reported to have stated that "Circumcision is a Sunnah (customary or traditional) for the men. Most references to male circumcision occur in

the examples and traditions of the Prophet (peace be upon him). Therefore the scholars strongly recommend circumcision for male. From this point of view, traditionally, adult male converts to Islam are encouraged to undergo the operation. In Judaism However, circumcision is commanded in Genesis 17:10-14 as an outward sign of a man's participation in Israel's covenant with God, as well as a sign that the Jewish people will perpetuate through him. The commandment is incumbent upon both father and child - fathers must see that their sons are circumcised, and uncircumcised grown men are obligated to perform the rite. Those who are not circumcised suffer the penalty of kareit, no matter how otherwise observant they may be. Circumcision is so important that it may be performed on the Sabbath or a holiday, despite prohibitions of drawing blood on those days. Yet the ceremony may be postponed for health reasons, and then it cannot be performed until seven days after a physician has declared the child healthy. If this occurs, the rite cannot be performed on the Sabbath or holiday, because there is no longer sufficient reason to violate the general law of the holy days. Circumcision is performed by a mohel, an observant Jew who has been trained in the relevant Jewish law and surgical techniques. Only the father and the mohel must be present. In Christian religion: As Christian churches developed, the practice of infant circumcision was abandoned by Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox churches. The Ecumenical Council of Florence even condemned the practice in the winter of 1442, and the New Testament is filled with passages that reflect the belief that circumcision is unnecessary. However, the Church of Body Modification (or COBM) is a non-theistic religion with approximately 3,500 members in the United States. The church practices body modification in order to "strengthen the bond between mind, body, and soul" and to experience the divine.

Conclusion:

Body adornments are accessory or ornaments worn to enhance the beauty or status of the wearer. They are often worn to refer to a cultural belonging, social status, or a certain religious belief. They are also used by warriors, and by other members of the military to show rank or achievements. On the other hand, Body modification is the deliberate alteration of the body for non-medical reasons such as rites of passage, aesthetic and religious reasons, and to show self expressions. Body modification is a term that is generally associated with tattooing and piercing but can also include branding, scarification, surgical implants, pearling, and neck or lip stretching, tooth filing, leblouh, body suspension, foot binding, and 3-d implants. While many cultures look at tattoos and different types of body modifications as acceptable, and fashionable, others extreme forms of body modification are frequently viewed as symptomatic of body dysmorphic disorder, other mental illness. Unlicensed surgery performed outside of a medical environment can often be life-threatening, and is illegal in most countries and states. There are also symbolic meanings to some of these body modifications as well as rituals and religious reasons behind it. For example: Body piercing is symbolic of death and rebirth, and is usual-

ly performed for magical protection. In certain African tribes, scarring of the face and body is practiced by an elder religious leader. The pain and the discomfort caused by the scarring is considered a form of sacrifice as the wearer is proudly going through the rituals showing his sense of belong to his tribe. In some groups in India and South Asia, genital modifications are a sign of devotion of love to the partner. As ear piercing are thought to have magical purposes, as primitive tribes believed that the demons and spirits could enter the body through the ear, tongue piercing, however, which is now the most common type of piercing, has a history of ritual in both Aztec and Maya cultures. It was intended to draw blood and to inflict pain as part of religious rituals. Tongue splitting was actually a popular practice amongst ancient yoga practitioners. It is gaining its popularity in the western culture. Some athletes and movie stars such as Angelina Julie, show off their tattoos, and are viewed by their fans as sexy and fashionable. While tattoos were used in history in various ways, to identify criminals and undesirable people, they are now gaining popularity and are used to tell a story, or to make a statement. There are people however, who go to the extreme, and break world Guinness records, such as Elaine Davidson "The most pierced woman". Others create new ways and invent new methods of body modifications such as body lacing, and 3-D skull implants, which are considered extreme and hard core even within the body-mod community, which are generally of interest to those body modification enthusiasts motivated to push the boundaries of social acceptance. Furthermore, some cultures force body modifications on the children as in the case of force-feeding of teenage girls and girls as young as five, in Mauritania, where obesity was traditionally regarded as desirable. Religion has its own views regarding to body adornment and modification. As Islam prohibits all type of body modifications. No Muslim, who is conscious of his or her religion, should ever contemplate such activities. The only exception some scholars have made in this context is the case of ear piercing specifically for females. Circumcision, which is considered a type of body modification, however is recommended in Islam, as it is considered Sunnah (customary or traditional), while it is not necessary in Christianity as they are not following the old testament, but it is mandatory in Judaism. However, the Church of Body Modification (or COBM) is a non-theistic religion with approximately 3,500 members in the United States. The church practices body modification in order to "strengthen the bond between mind, body, and soul" and to experience the divine. In many cases we find that body modifications, whether it is tattooing, splitting and removing body parts, or piercing, is becoming more mainstream and is becoming more acceptable every day, and the artists that perform these modifications are constantly learning new techniques and becoming more skilled at their crafts. Las Vegas holds the biggest Tattoo conference on earth every year, and people are accepting what used to be unheard of as a new fashion today. The question remains? What is next on the agenda of the artists and surgeons who are performing such body modifications, and to what extent humans can tolerate such acts?

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