



Special to THE GAMECOCK

A customer receives permanent eye makeup via tattooing. Such tattooed makeup usually lasts from one to three years and might need to be touched up at least once.

The ART of Beauty



Permanent makeup tattoos are becoming popular, but not without possible side effects

Lauren Jones
FOR THE GAMECOCK

Of all fashion trends, perhaps none is as permanent as tattooing. For decades people have used tattoos to show off personal style.

Recently tattoo art has taken a different turn. Instead of creating an accessory or colorful artwork, the tattooing process can be used to apply makeup permanently.

Eyeliner, lip color and eyebrows are the most common forms of permanent cosmetics and can last for around one to three years. Touch-ups are sometimes done six to eight weeks after the procedure, often referred to as micro-pigmentation, to ensure correct coloring and shape.

During micro-pigmentation, technicians place colored pigments on the upper layer of the

skin. Methods used to place pigments include traditional tattoo machines and the pen method.

Possible side effects can include swelling and a possibility of bleeding or bruising during the procedure. Doctors say most swelling should disappear within 72 hours of the procedure.

The Society of Permanent Cosmetics Professionals claims the tattooing could cause some discomfort, and there are some pain management options available to the clients, including topical anesthetic ointments or nerve blocks. The SPCP also states that with today's medical standards there are usually no problems or reactions from the procedure.

These procedures can become costly.

Marks of Distinction, a Wilmington, North Carolina studio, quoted their prices at around \$170-\$900 for eyebrows, \$225-\$900 for eyeliner and \$250-\$900 for lips. The process can take three or four hours for full face tattooing, but times will vary accordingly for the individual procedures.

Hopie Qual, a licensed practical nurse from Marks of Distinction, said her patients love the results.

"Personally I have not seen any large disappointments. The thing that I hear most often is that they wish they had done it many years ago, especially with eyebrows."

Qual has noticed that mostly middle-aged women come for the procedure, but lately the trend has expanded to other age groups.

"It has become more and more

popular with more media coverage," Qual said.

Qual said Marks of Distinction has not experienced any health problems.

"There's always a risk anytime there are humans involved. They are minimum if the person is trained," Qual said. "Most of the time the only faults that I see are that the person needs a touch up. I haven't run into any health risks."

Sherri Watts, an Aiken resident, had full lip service performed at another cosmetic tattooist and experienced some of that human error. After experiencing successful eyeliner tattooing two years ago, Watts decided it was time to get her lips done as well. She was hoping for the same results with the second tattooing.

"I wasn't very worried about

getting my lips done since I had my eyeliner done a year before. But when I was done, my lips were swollen for weeks and the pain was horrible."

Watts' experience left her wary of getting more procedures done. However, she still is planning on getting her eyeliner redone.

"The eyeliner looks good. It's really nice to not have to put in on every morning. I'll stay away from the lip treatment and continue with the eyeliner as long as I continue to see positive results," she said.

Along with makeup, clients can get hair imitation and can have their scars hidden.

The service is offered locally in South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia.

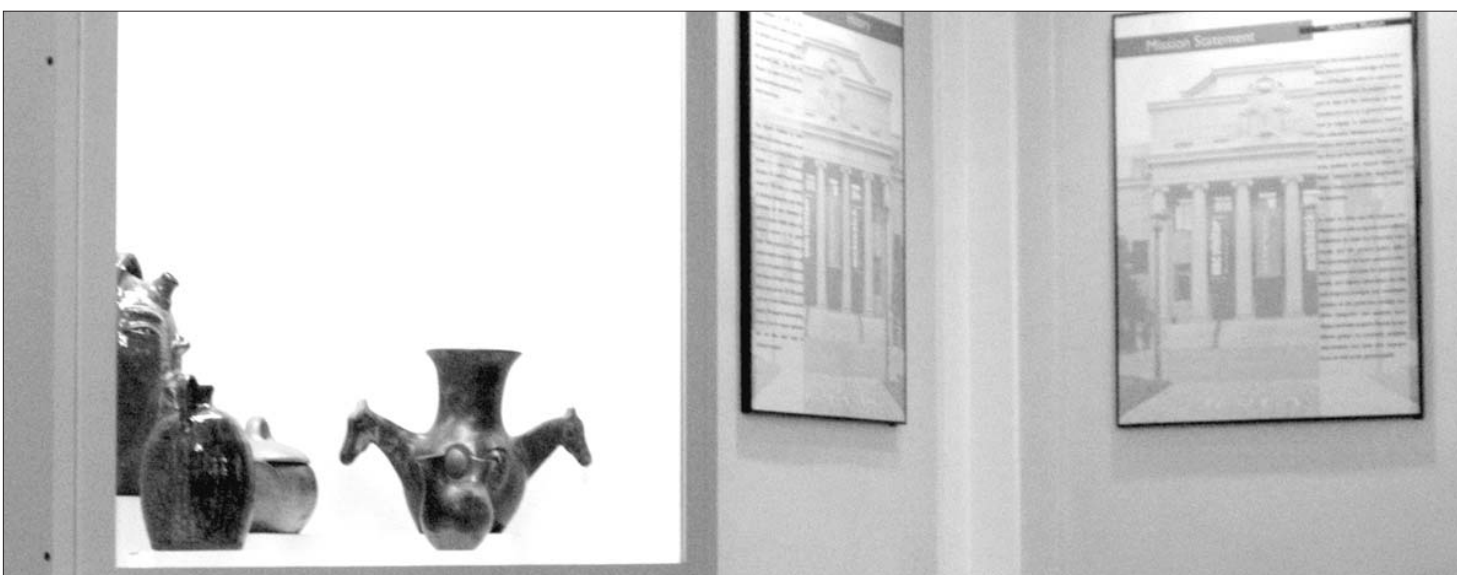


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Cosmetic tattooing could cause bleeding, bruising or swelling. Pain management options include anesthetic ointments and nerve blocks.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@gwm.sc.edu

Students revamp McKissick lobby



Laura-Joyce Gough / THE GAMECOCK

The recently reorganized second floor of McKissick Museum features historical information and Catawba pottery, above, and a handmade quilt, right, among other displays. During the summer three students rearranged the lobby to make it more attractive.

Julia Sellers
FOR THE GAMECOCK

McKissick Museum, one of the main buildings on the Horseshoe, sits proudly at the end of the leafy quad, welcoming all campus visitors and prospective students.

But on the inside, the historic building is changing.

This summer, the museum began revamping the second floor lobby, so much so that it made navigating the building difficult.

"If people were coming to visit, there was no indication of where they needed to go," said Nathan Stalvey, curator of temporary exhibits and graphic design.

Unless extensive inquiries were made at the front visitor's desk,

visitors might end up in the bathroom instead of the oil painting gallery, he said.

Instead of having staff members do the work themselves, Stalvey used the lobby project as a way to encourage student involvement with the museum.

Stalvey found three volunteers, all from different schools, willing to give up a portion of their summer to work on the project. Recent art studio graduate Sylvie Martinez, first-year museum graduate student Janet Obenshain and second-year public history graduate student Ashley Bowden mapped out plans once a week with Stalvey.

"It sounded like fun, and it was hands on," Bowden said. "I'd

never done anything like this before."

Bowden said it was a chance for her to work on something different.

But she didn't have to devote eight hours a day to the job, so it was the perfect flexible summer schedule for her.

The students combed the McKissick collection for pieces to highlight the strong points of the museum: history, art, natural science and material culture.

Each piece is displayed on one of four columns in the lobby.

Students chose a locket featuring a picture of USC's second president, Thomas Cooper, and a 20th century quilt, each square made by a different

person.

Stalvey said choosing pieces for the art display was probably the most difficult task, because everyone wanted something three-dimensional. They chose a white bust that sits beside a shell from the Charleston coast representing natural history.

New directional panels were made to go over entryways into the north and south galleries.

One gallery houses oil paintings from USC professor David Voros and the natural history collection. The other features work by USC alumnus Sigmund Abeles.

Two glass displays in the lobby rotate displays every six months. Stalvey said students chose sweet



grass baskets and Catawba pottery for the first display.

While wandering the second floor, visitors can also learn about the museum's mission and history.

The three students will continue to work on choosing art

for the rest of the lobby and showcasing student museum participation in phase two of the project.

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