

A Study on Corporal Decoration in Modern Dress

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It can be said that a body reflects oneself in a social life. When a body used to express, it indicates a society itself, a degree of human development, and social control. Edmund Leach emphasized the humans desire which is one of the important psychological elements. In the aspect of technique, It's hard to find any meaning in decoration. On the other hand, it connotes social and cultural meaning in the aspect of the custom of decorator. Its hard to understand the corporal decoration and tattoo that were practiced as a social custom in the past. As the expression of beauty is in all different forms, the effort to reach the beauty is totally subjective. And the foundation of this is the combination of concept of ancestors and individual experience.

The purpose of the study is to take a close look at how the corporal decoration of the past is expressed in modern dress design and to accomplish a revival of corporal decoration of the past in modern fashion.

The study involves the consideration of the form in Flugels Decoration and analyzes the data between 1997 and 1998 in professional fashion magazine, Collezioni which deals mainly with five world great fashion shows.

In the aspect of the forms of decoration, it can be divided into two: Corporal decoration and External forms of decoration.

1. Corporal Decoration

- ① Corporal scar: Design is made by scarring the skin. Scar was considered to be a mark of ones intrepid spirit rather than damage.
- ② Tattoo: This is the most widely spread decoration that looks like a real dress and can be kept permanently.
- ③ Painting: It can be found in all culture. The color that is darker is used to emphasize. For example, lipstick, rouge, and beauty mark.
- ④ Transformation: Changing the form of body by making a hole on lip or nose such as foot-binding and corset.

2. External forms of decoration

- ① Vertical decoration: It began from the desire for height. The vertical decoration is used to express power and authority.
- ② Dimensional decoration: It emphasizes the size of outfit. The chlinolyn in 19th century is one of them. It is used to extend the size of body such as a mans shoulder pad.
- ③ Circular decoration: It concentrates on the round parts of the body. Rings decorated waist, wrist, leg, or finger.
- ④ Directional decoration: It emphasizes movement of the body. For example, a feather on hat or coat string on the Korean traditional cloth.
- ⑤ Sartorial decoration: It is made by sewing technique. For example, the slash in Renaissance or *hui-jang jugori* in Korea.
- ⑥ Local decoration: It emphasizes special parts of the body.

We can find the origin of the concept of decoration in the primitive age. As generation changes and the technique develop, there has also been a change in forms of decoration. And we also can find the beauty in changes. As in general art, the decoration is emphasis of forms and revival of an object. This study concentrated on corporal decoration rather than external forms of decoration. The primitive decoration appears in modern fashion in a form of origin and a transformed form. Therefore, It's not just out-dated decoration but a great source of in a modern fashion. However, there is a need of specific study on decoration every ten years.