

Tätowierkunst e. V. who are we

This goes out to the readers of Tattoo Today, informing you about a society that started working in 1977, in Germany. Founded by Manfred Kohrs, Samy Streckenbach, Theo Vetter and Eddy Szustak after a gathering of Tattooists in Hannover and being named National Tattoo Club Germany.

On the evening of Oct.26th 2018, Lyle Tuttle and I were sitting on the back porch at Fort Notch in Marl, Germany. Lyle had spent the past 5 days at our humble Fort, enjoying homecooked food, Jose Cuervo with grapefruit juice and other people's smokes. During his stay Lyle had viewed the complete estate of his close friend Samy Streckenbach, who he had met as a prisoner of war on Treasure Island in 1945. Lyle and Samy, that deceased in June 2001, were very close friends. Manfred Kohrs once an apprentice of Samy, presented a very well-organized voluminous collection of photographs, flash, machines, and bits of his former teacher. Watching my friend Lyle walking down an emotional memory lane, looking through decades of an intercontinental ardent Tattooing friendship, struck me with awe. On our last evening he asked me. "What's next Doctor?" We talked about worrying developments on many aspects of Tattooing and the dangers of an accessory industry walking all over us. We discussed the advantages of cultural and social acceptance of Tattooing as an art, compared to being forced into the inflated regulation framework of trade and commerce standards. We agreed on Tattooing being better off with spontaneous development through its cultural heritage, the humankind's first art. "Well, you go out there tell them!" Lyle said... The next day I gave the old man a ride to Amsterdam where he spent a few more days before returning to his Northern California home. This was the last time Europe saw Lyle... he followed his friend Samy on March 25th 2019... Lyle!!! I've been telling them...

In January 2019, the original society was handed over by Manfred Kohrs to a group of new members, it was renamed to Tätowierkunst e.V. and registered as a non-profit organisation. We do not want to be known as another association of tattooers, our purpose is to focus on recognition as an intangible cultural heritage and the establishment of Tattooing as an appearance form of fine arts. In January 2021, we are counting over 150 members, composed of tattoo artists, art historians and collectors. Developments in regulation throughout many aspects of Tattooing all over Europe made us decide that there is a need for a broader acceptance of man's first art, especially within legislative power. Without the cultural acceptance that is granted to other art forms, we feel an inequality towards Tattooing. We believe that more rules and standards do not support Tattooing, but the industry that has grown around it. Further development should mainly come from the performing circle related to the art of Tattooing. The experts of an art shape its development, not the accessory industry and/or policymakers. A better artistic education of tattoo artists in ethics and responsibility is certainly more beneficial to an overall positive development than further regulation. We demand freelance exercise



of Tattooing, as an independent, artistic activity in accordance with existing laws. The past decade and its developments, mainly created by multi cooperation's interest, starting to affect the underlying circumstances of performing tattoo artists increasing alarmingly. We do not believe in bloated hygiene standards nor questionable interventions in approved pigments and techniques, securing the livelihood of the regulatory body and feeding a proliferated industry. Many nations secure the freedom of art in their fundamental laws, we demand that liberty for man's first art as well.

To improve perception and raise awareness about significance of Tattooing's integrity, we use the networks given through our society, to organize expositions, educate and connect tattoo artists and preach the gospel of the undisputed positive social impact Tattooing has in countless cultures across the planet. We are working meticulously to regain control of regulating bodies, cultural acceptance on equal terms compared to other arts and participation on general affairs concerning our art.

For further information or questions feel free to drop us a line:
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Heiko Gantenberg aka Dr.Notch - Board Chairman TKV Feb. 2021

