

Zenith Reflection

Ever since I heard about the Zenith unit, I knew exactly what I wanted to do. Our possibilities ranged from the world of design, however I gravitated immediately towards a particular subject that has always intrigued me: tattoo art. Our bodies are marked from top to bottom with things beyond our control, scars, birthmarks, moles, bumps, bruises, but the beauty of tattoos is the control and liberation we gain over our own bodies. I find tattoos to be a fascinating form of expression, storytelling, and permanence. The styles I was influenced by were fine line and Neo traditional tattoo art. I wanted to try these very contrasting styles to practice outside of my comfort zone.

In design, one of my biggest discomforts is making mistakes. This project forced me to make mistakes and improve on the next tattoo, learning new techniques and tricks to make each tattoo better and technically more beautiful than the last. I learned a variety of things from this project: the layers of the skin, different types of needle cartridges, how to shade in different voltages, and so much more. For research, I talked to professional tattoo artists and observed their processes. I also watched various instructional videos informing me about the technical and medical procedures of tattooing. I even watched TV shows about tattooing competitions to learn more.

Through this project I learned how to implement self-direction into my work by pacing myself, planning ahead, researching details about the project, and practicing for three months straight until I observed improvement. I also explored risk-taking, having never tattooed before this project was a big risk for me, however I am so glad I took this risk and learned a completely new skill I have never learned before.