

Cover-Up Scars with Camouflage Tattooing

by Lisa Bruce

Permanent Cosmetics for many is considered a beauty treatment with convenience and the luxury of always looking your best as an added benefit. But eyebrows, lips or eyeliner is not the only service that permanent cosmetics offers. Camouflage tattooing is a much sought treatment for diminishing or hiding a scar due to an accident, fire or surgical procedure.

“Camouflage tattooing can reduce the appearance of scars through ‘tattooing them away,’” explains permanent cosmetics artist, Lisa Bruce, owner of Lisa Bruce Studios (www.lisabrucestudio.com). “Many find scars embarrassing and hurt their self-esteem making them feel uncomfortable when in public. With the right protocol of tattooing, we can help scars blend into the skin tone and in many cases almost make them disappear,” she adds.

It is important to remember not everyone or every type of scar is a good candidate. For this reason it is essential to choose an artist that has this type of tattooing experience and understands what will and will not work. Prior to seeking this type of protocol, Lisa suggests that clients understand what types of scars are candidates for camouflage tattooing, what skin types work the best and the process.

Not every scar or every skin type can benefit from camouflage tattooing. Those with extremely fair skin are difficult to make a perfect match. To work with a scar it needs to have healed to white before they can be treated, which can be six months to years after the scar occurred. Stretch marks and vitiligo can also be difficult to work with.

Working on burn scars can have successful results. “I have found that tattooing burn scars are very satisfying for the client. There is also an added benefit that the treatment can relieve some of the tightness of the scar giving a better range of motion, though not in every case” says Bruce. Surgical scars also do well with tattooing, particularly ones from cosmetics procedure such as a face lift or breast reduction when they have moved the areola.

The process of camouflage tattooing is not a quick fix. Covering a scar is a long term commitment by the client. It begins by the artist examining the type of scar and the skin tone of client to ensure the scar can be “hidden” and there is enough color in the client’s skin to blend pigments to match. Once it has been determined that the visibility of the scar can be reduced to the satisfaction of the artist and client, a color test patch is done to ensure creating the right mix of pigments to give the most natural look that will blend the scar into the skin tone. Once the test patch is done, a client will need to wait six weeks to see the best results of the different mixed pigmentations. When the pigments have been determined, they are tattooed layer upon layer to create a natural look, thus the time commitment for optimal results by the client.

The client needs to avoid sun to the area once work has begun as the sun fades tattoos and spoils the work that has just been done. “This is very satisfying work but it is only successful when the client is committed to the journey since depending on the size of the scar area, can take months to several years,” Bruce says.



Lisa Bruce Studios is located in Albany, CA, where owner Lisa Bruce has been practicing the art of cosmetic and para-medical enhancements known as permanent makeup, micro-pigmentation or cosmetic tattooing since 1992. Lisa’s experience enables her to create “your face” with realistic eyebrows, eyeliner and full lip color. She also specializes in areolas and nipples post surgery along with camouflaging scars and birth defects. Lisa is an acclaimed artist who has shown her work both locally and internationally; and prides herself in making her clients feel beautiful and considers what she does an honor and a privilege.

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