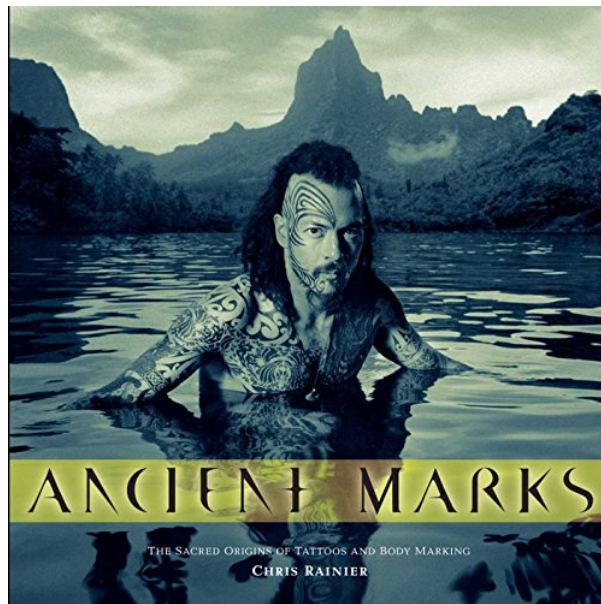
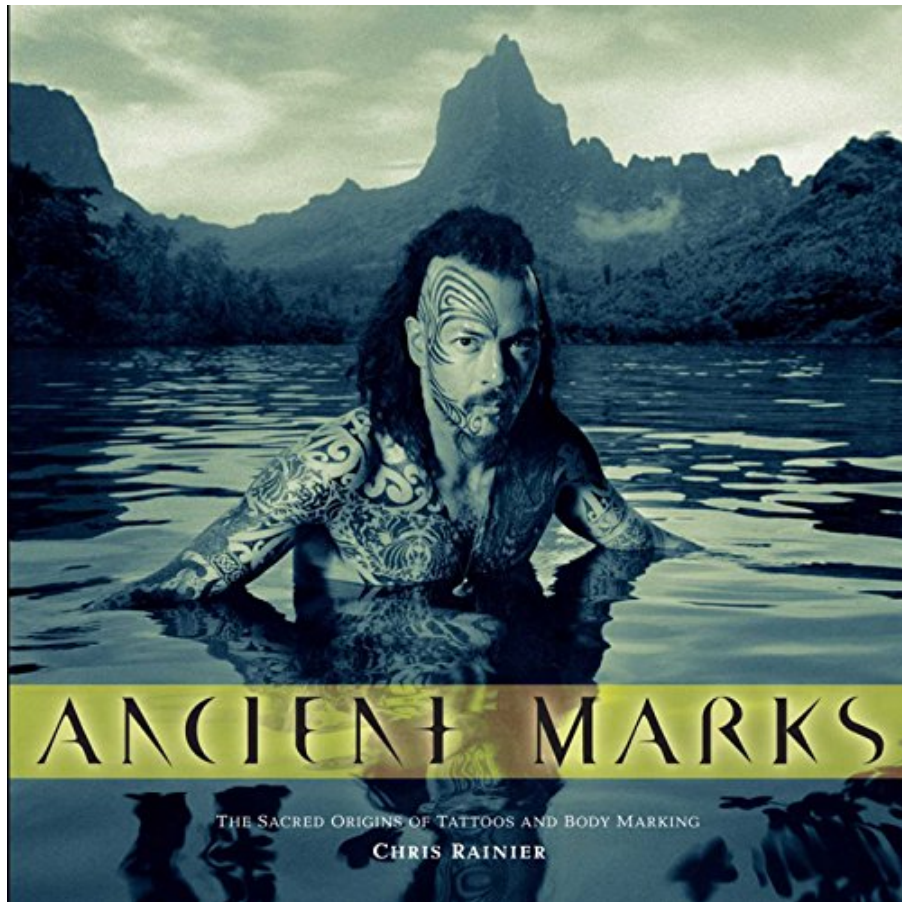


ANCIENT MARKS: THE SACRED ORIGINS OF TATTOOS AND BODY MARKINGS BY CHRIS RAINIER



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From the Publisher

* A timeless photographic homage to the art of tattoos, portraying modern and ancient body art in more than 30 countries and cultures. * Includes eight gatefolds and more than 100 stunning black-and-white images.

About the Author

Former apprentice to Ansel Adams, award-winning CHRIS RAINIER is considered one of the leading documentary photographers working today. He is co-director of the National Geographic Societies Cultural Ethnosphere Program, and his photography has been featured in Time, Life, Smithsonian, the New York Times, and more. He is based in Washington, D.C., and teaches workshops worldwide.

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Seven years, seven continents, and thirty countries, from the African savannah to the barrios of Los Angeles, from New Zealand to Egypt, and Brazil to Burkina Faso, Chris Rainier documented the traditions of tattooing, scarification, piercing, and other forms of body altering art, the origins of which date back to the dawn of humankind. Ancient Marks reveals not only the haunting beauty of these often mystical forms, but also connects them to humanity's enduring efforts to tell stories, forge identity, and create links to the divine. "The human form became, through the brilliance of inspired artistry, a sacred geography of the soul, a map of culture and myth expressed by forms painted, carved, or incised upon the canvas of the body" — Wade Davis. A former apprentice to Ansel Adams, award-winning Chris Rainier is considered one of the leading documentary photographers working today. Co-director of the National Geographic Society's Cultural Ethnosphere Program, he has traveled to all seven continents, including extensive expeditions throughout Africa, Antarctica, and New Guinea. Rainier's photography has been featured in Time, Life, Smithsonian, The New York Times, Outside, and is a contributing editor for National Geographic Traveler, a contributing photographer for National Geographic Adventure and a contributing correspondent for NPR's Day to Day.

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Most helpful customer reviews

10 of 11 people found the following review helpful.

Absolutely stunning!

By L. Bass

The subtlety and artistry of this book is apparent from the very first turn of a page. Chris Ranier, one of the world's foremost documentary photographers, has created a artful, evocative record of the human canvass posed against the natural landscape. The photographs focus mostly on tattoing and scarification, and are oriented toward the tribal, both traditional and modern. This is an essential addition to any body art library, and at less than \$30, the paperback version (which also includes a DVD) is a real bargain. I cannot recommend this enough.

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

Awesome book by a great photographer

By Michael Tounian

I bought this book as a gift for my girlfriend but stole it back. It isn't all about tattoos, which it may lead you to believe, but includes bits about all types of body modification techniques. The photographer is a well known National Geographic photographer, and his work certainly doesn't fail here. Good coffee table book if you have stuck up inlaws like I do that would be made uncomfortable by the sight of it.

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Another Masterpiece

By Elizabeth Pakula

This is truly a wonderful book. Rainier's other book, "Where Masks Still Dance: New Guinea" was fabulous in its presentation and images, but this book goes one better with a dvd enhanced with music by Anoushka Shankar which can be viewed on its own. The music perfectly complements the starkness of the haunting images. Tattoos,scarification, and other bodily modifications of many cultures are showcased here without calling unnecessary attention to these adornments as bizarre/freakish as in some other books which are designed to shock/titillate.

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