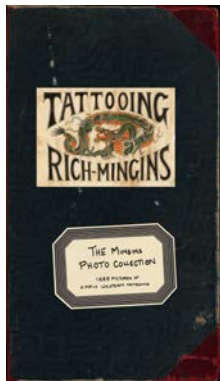




8 november 2011

## PRESS RELEASE



### The Mingins Photo Collection

*1288 Pictures of Early Western Tattooing from the HenkSchiffmacher Collection*

Rich Mingins (1916-1968) is considered to be one of the biggest tattoo-artists of all time. Not much is known about this enigmatic artist. Silent and smoking he did his work in a small room in the back of his house at 59 Redfern Road, Harleston, in London, while his wife busied herself in the kitchen. And yet, Mingins work was extremely popular at his time. His artistic work and custom designs were of high quality, and really stood apart from work of other tattooists.



Mingins' daughter Margaret donated his legacy (photo books, scrapbooks, drawings etc.) to the Amsterdam Tattoo Museum. This first publication is a facsimile edition of a book with photos, collected by Mingins himself, some of them with handwritten captions. Hundreds of people show their tattoos with pride on almost every area of their body. The images provide a wonderful overview of the world of tattoo during the first half of the 20th century.

The photos are preceded by a short English-language introduction to Mingins and his work. Here, among other things, it is shown that attitudes towards tattoos changed through time and that these colourful images were not only the 'poor man's jewelry', but were also appreciated by members of the royal elite in Europe as well as women and girls of the higher classes.



#### Amsterdam Tattoo Museum

On the 5th of November the Amsterdam Tattoo Museum has opened its doors to the general public. The largest collection in the world of 'the mother of all art': tattoo, is on exhibit. Founder and inspirator of this museum in the three monumental buildings on the Plantage Middenlaan, is tattoo phenomenon/artist HenkSchiffmacher.

It is the first and largest professional museum to represent tattoo culture in the entire world. The museum exhibits tattoos from all cultures and subcultures, from Prehistoric times up to the present; tattoos from the army, gangs and jailbirds, sailors, hookers, circus artists and even those from high society and royal families are all on display.

The personal -over thirty year old- collection by Henk Schiffmacher forms the backbone for the museums exhibits. Hundreds of tattoo machines and hand tools, countless photographs, flash (tattoo examples), drawings, statues and even human tattooed flesh, are part of this unique collection.

#### Meer informatie

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This museum offers more than just a space for presenting unique artifacts. HenkSchiffmacher: "Here lays the epicentre of the tattoo: the 'Tatican'. The museum has an information center and a library which holds the world's largest archive of tattoo books. Workshops, seminars and expeditions are held to unravel tales of lost tattoos. And there is a tattoo shop that offers guest tattoo artists from all corners of the world to show off their skills. Schiffmacher: " The museum is alive! The public can even add to the museum's collection by contributing a personal story or experience through crowd sourcing".

**About the book**

*The Mingins Photo Collection*

*1288 Pictures of Early Western Tattooing from the Henk Schiffmacher Collection*

Authors: Henk Schiffmacher, Arlette Kouwenhoven

ISBN 9789491394010

Language: English

Hardcover, 320 pages, € 69.50

Publisher: ATM Publishing. ATM Publishing is an imprint ofKIT Publishers

More information about publications from KIT Publishers can be obtained from the following website: [www.kitpublishers.nl](http://www.kitpublishers.nl)

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