

THEMES

ANTHROPOLOGY
CULTURAL HISTORY
SOCIOLOGY
PREHISTORY

AVAILABLE FORMAT

LIGHT VERSION



PIERCING

An anthropological approach to piercing. Featuring artistic representations, prehistoric objects, photographs and jewellery, the exhibition presents piercing practices covering 45,000 years through a colourful graphic design.

A CENTURIES-OLD HISTORY

Drilling a hole in the skin and placing a visible object in it dates back to prehistoric times and traces can be found on every continent. Visitors can discover prehistoric and modern piercings, with varied and inventive forms, testifying to an ancestral practice that has endured through time.

TRADITION

Belonging to a group, signs of prestige, marks of infamy, submission, beauty or strength... piercing takes on various meanings throughout the world, for the people who practice it. Four current examples are developed in the exhibition, illustrated by photographs, filmed interviews, and the presentation of objects.

RENEWAL

Originating in libertarian California in the 1970s, the revival of this practice was inspired by precursors who sought to liberate the body. Surgical steel jewellery, magazines, photographs and archives throw the guests into the atmosphere of this period of "renaissance".

EXPLOSION

Initially reserved for nascent subcultures, piercing progressively spread to all of Western societies. From punk movement to haute couture shows, the exhibition relates the mass diffusion of this practice. Finally, a series of original photographic portraits show the current diversity of piercing in the West.



Original exhibition, Balcon des sciences, Musée de l'Homme, from 13 March 2019 to 2 March 2020 (120 m²)