



Robin Trimarchi/DN



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Primitive

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postmodern, postindustrial culture. We've all been doing it for years.

The acceptable levels of modification, however, are normative and function as the imposition of an illusion of homogeneity.

Normative modification ranges from fraternity boys with both ears pierced and greek letter tattoos to circumcision to the incomprehensible, gender-specific, oppressive practices of clitoridectomy and foot binding.

The potential of even the slightest perceived deviation in any member of a culture such as ours can be enormous. As we wallow in an impenetrable miasma of xenophobia, homophobia, racism, sexism, speciesism and an overall paranoid fear of difference, these transgressions against a stultifying, arbitrary "reality" provide those who desire it with a constant reminder of their deliberate disassociation from "reality".

And what happens to a culture based on oppression and the simultaneous glorification and negation of individuality when people start playing around with their bodies on their own terms? What happens if people stop wanting to look the same as everyone else, stop trying to fit in? What kinds of implications might this have for the boy-gods of mass production, consumerism and the Gross National Product? Hmm?

Get it? You have the power to do whatever you want with the only thing you really have any control over — your body. And once you come to the conscious realization of this relatively simple fact, you probably can do anything you want with it.

Anything.

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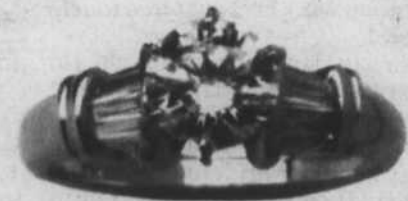
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