

Abstract

The topic of this diploma thesis is body modification culture phenomenon called 'suspension'. It is a voluntary act of suspending a human body from hooks or piercings that have been temporarily pierced through the skin. Suspension is an age-old technique practiced for example by North American Indian Mandan tribe. It has been brought to the modern era and body modification culture by modern primitives. The part of the thesis is a placement of suspension to the broader sociocultural and historical context, there will be also space for development of concept of body, embodiment and pain in the western word and ritual aspect of suspension. The source for this work is mainly accessible literature, internet pages dedicated to body modifications and participant observation completed with interviews with people who had been suspended.