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updated 10:36 p.m. EST, Mon January 19, 2009

D.C. tattoo parlors offer lasting inaugural memories

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- Tattoo parlors offering permanent memories of Barack Obama's inauguration
Most popular tattoos: Obama logo, "hope," iconic red-and-blue Obama poster
Owner: "A lot of people are feeling very inspired and taken by this moment"
Temporary options include Obama piercings, airbrush tattoos

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By Kristi Keck CNN

TEXT SIZE

WASHINGTON (CNN) -- Sometimes, a T-shirt just doesn't cut it.



KRISTI KECK/CNN

Allie Tompkins, 19, gets her first tattoo at Fatty's Tattooz on Monday.

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For those who want a more permanent way to showcase their support for Barack Obama, Washington's tattoo parlors are ready to help.

"There's nothing more memorable than a tattoo," said Matt Jessup, better known as "Fatty," the owner of Fatty's Custom Tattooz and Body Piercing.

His shop is celebrating what it has dubbed the "Obamathan," where customers can get a free "Obama '08" logo tattoo if they buy another tattoo worth \$200. The Obama tattoo, Fatty says, is worth \$70.

"A lot of people are feeling very inspired and taken by this moment in our nation's history. And for many people, they are in town for this historic event, they want something to remember it by," he said.

At Fatty's and other tattoo shops in the area, there have been multiple inquiries about getting inked with an Obama image, they say, but only a few people have actually gone through with.

The most popular choices so far have been the Obama logo, the word "hope," and the now iconic red-and-blue Obama hope poster by Shepard Fairey.

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T.J. Mohler, who works at Jinx Proof Tattoos, said business has been up as people flood the city, but only "about two or three" customers have gotten an Obama tattoo. One of those people is Mohler himself, who opted for a 5 x 7-inch Obama image on his leg.

"When I look back in 50 years, it will remind me of the time and how excited everyone is," Mohler said.

None of the shop owners reported any history of George W. Bush tattoos.

"No such thing," said Jason Anthony, owner of Midtown Tattoo.

Fatty says he's hoping the number of people getting Obama art will grow as more visitors arrive and word about the Obamathan gets out.

"We're still rolling with it through the week, so I'm hoping that we'll get more interest," he said.

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On Wednesday, Fatty has plans to tattoo a portrait of Obama's face on one customer. That piece of art is worth \$600, but the customer is getting it for free because she was the winner of one of the shop's promotions.

But for those wary of permanent ink, there are some alternatives available.

Glam Rock Art is a Washington business specializing in airbrush tattoos and body art. Owner and artist Nicole Graves has ordered custom Obama stencils in response to requests from customers.

Fatty's also offers a removable option -- the Obama piercing. It's an orbital ring with a blue bead that costs \$44. in honor of the 44th president.



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And if a customer has a change of heart post-tattoo, Fatty says all is not lost.

"Come on back and I'll cover it up with something else," he said. [E-mail to a friend](#) | [Mix it](#) | [Share](#)

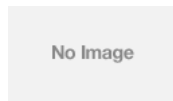
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