

Profile

I'm 49 years old, US Army retired, married with three beautiful kids, two girls and a boy. I met my wife 11 years ago while stationed overseas. Now we reside in the Philippines, enjoying my pension.

If I'm honest, this is quite a transition. First time to chart my own direction, determined to move my own way, without following orders. If I had to name the three most important things, they'd be: My family; Creating Art; & Martial Arts. Seeing my family provided for is the best and obviously a no-brainer. Creative pursuits yield another great satisfaction. Working with my hands drawing, designing, writing, and editing.

I lose all track of time. Then at the end, there's something tangible to show and eventually give to the world. (I'm researching & outline a novel, sketching character artwork, & designing a line of martial arts weapons with a friend and local blacksmith.)

Martial Arts practice is my favourite mode of exercise. Feeling the music, getting into flow, for feet, hands, and weapons to glide. It's freedom.

So there's a little of what I'm about. Hope that makes selecting and crafting these beautiful symbols together easier. Looking forward to it all.



Forearm

The last thing I can think of on the forearm is an elbow spiral like this guy's one in the attached photo. I'd centre it better to move it off the bone though. But what do you think? Also, his tattoo ends nicely the way it flows out at the wrist. Can we do something similar?



Another forearm idea.

Turtle Shell:

My thought was to sandwich a Turtle Shell line between the negative space natural patterns. Not sure if it's possible without ruining the Maori aesthetic & flow, which is much more important to me. Attached is a photo example of a tattoo with this pattern on both the forearm and triceps. I realize this tattoo style is totally different. Maybe it can work squeezed in, maybe not. I'm much less attached to this turtle shell than to the spear line. Curious to get your thoughts.



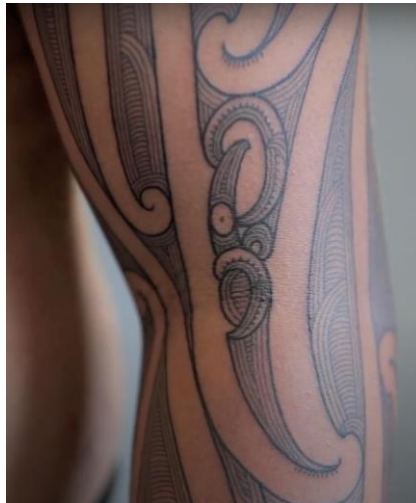
Here's my best sketch to date. Still doesn't look right. Too busy I think. Maybe thicker kowhaiwhai patterns? Anyway I'm sure yours'll look right not to mention have the advantage of actually meaning something. The back tattoo design from your website is a pretty close example in terms of spacing & thicker kowhaiwhai patterns. In the last sketch I highlighted the tattoo canvas area. After a ton of failed sketches I figured out a little empty space might let it breath a little.



highlight back arm too low

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I really like the way it's not too obvious what this Manaia is, almost hidden in plain sight.



Attached first is a photo measuring the approximate area on the back to cover. The attached upper back wrap.png is a good example of how I imagine a below the collar line, upper back shape could work, but absent the heavy black fill. Possibly a section of Python Belly just below the shoulder, above the shoulder blade. Arm empty lines w snake.png has an interesting version of the Python Belly coming off the front shoulder.

Otherwise I hope you can design some natural spirals, carrying over from the chest & shoulder to somehow integrate with three rows of a Filipino diamond pattern coming diagonally up off of the bottom side that stop angled off on the lower back. Perhaps at a similar angle as the back tattoo of the man holding the spear in CP back pattern.png. From the lower back muscle to the inside/side of the body, the three lines of diamonds transition from diagonal to horizontal, then extend into three spikes that wrap around slightly to the front, possibly between the ribs (example underarm Lat wrap.png).

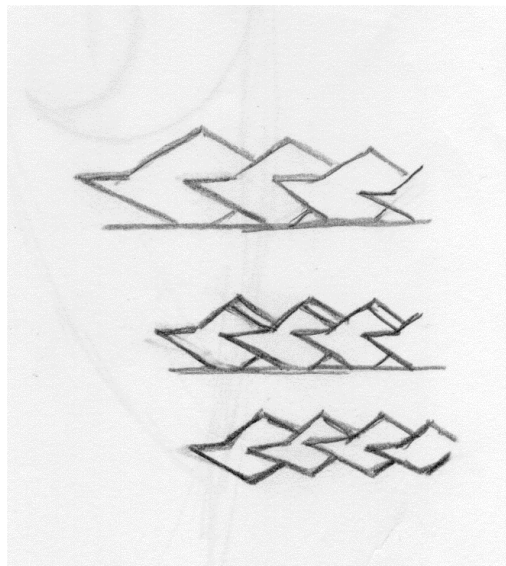
The attached Kayaw Tatu logo shows the Filipino pattern of thin diamonds. From what I've read they represent Day & night to signify passage, & allude to a spirit shield that provides temporal & divine protection; also the many eyes of the ancestors watching over, & an additional sight beyond our own, a spiritual awareness.

Hope all this makes it easier for you to design instead of leaving you with a nose bleed and migraine headache. Take care and best regards,





Here's a photo of a decently integrated spear line. For me it'd be better moving from back to front. Either coming down off the back of the shoulder or from the top of the back arm, whatever fits and makes sense. The last photo has uniquely shaded a spear line/Dog skin, thick on bottom, thin on top. While these two examples are on the shoulder coming down, I thought they might work for me in places lower on the arm. Unfortunately I haven't found a complete mid arm example of exactly what I want.





Attached are four photo examples. The first has a very interesting spiral shape. The second three pictures have nearly identical spirals atop the shoulder, right at the shoulder joint which come off the chest really nicely.



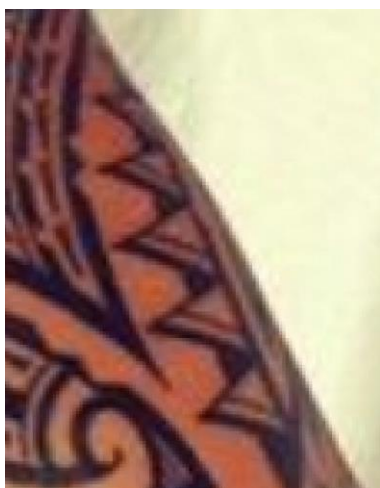
Here's a bit more to play with. On the back arm I thought to put five Shark Teeth poking out to symbolize protection for my wife, three kids, & myself. Based on the shape of my arm I figured they'd look best positioned diagonally between the side and back of the arm (dependent of course on the flow of your over all design).

Nest, at the very bottom of the triceps I wanted a strip of Python Belly. In the Philippines this design is used to fortify the body with the armor of the snake skin, representing protection, safety, health, a shield, strength, stealth, & prowess; also a symbol of the ancestors & success in battle (taken from Lane Wilken's book: Filipino Tattoo Ancient to Modern).

As a Filipino Martial Arts practitioner, I thought the Python Belly pattern would be good positioned bottom inside triceps as this area is key to weapon manipulation.

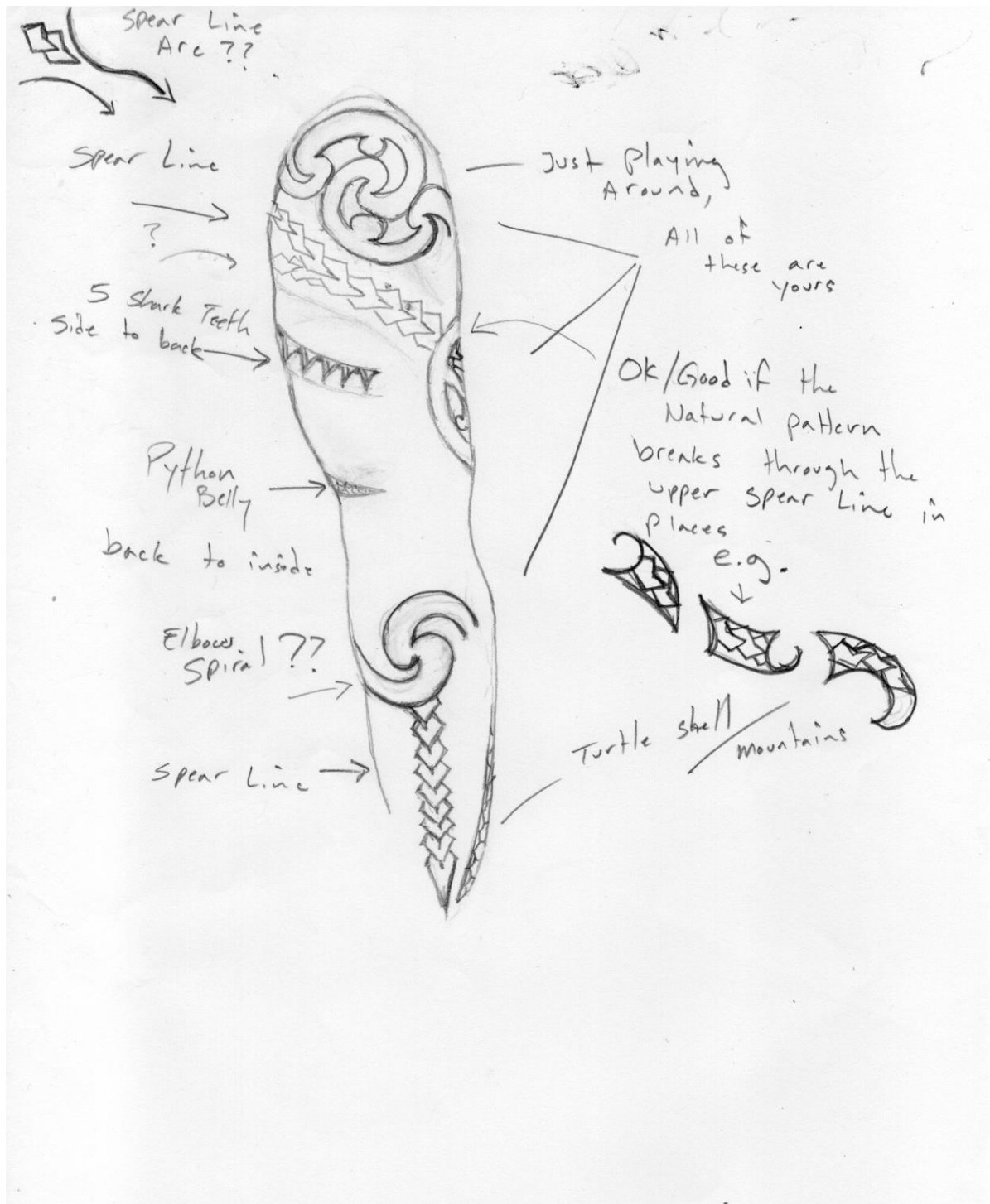
I hope this helps you better craft and integrate these elements into the overall tattoo without overshadowing the Maori meanings and aesthetic. Look forward to hearing your thoughts.





Python Belly style





Attached are the best examples of Maori chest tattoo.











Forearm ideas

