



Get it now

BT

Only at M&S

Free UK Delivery

WHEN YOU SPEND £30

shop now

L'ORÉAL CASTING Creme Gloss

STAR IN OUR NEW ADVERT

CAST YOURSELF NOW

48h FAC's apply

Take one small step

BARCLAYS

See our parents' guide to student money.



Ads by Google:

53 YR Old Mum Looks 30

Local Mum Reveals £3 Trick to Erase Wrinkles: Shocking Results Exposed.

DailyMail.co.uk

Manchester Hair Clinic

Effective & Affordable Techniques.

Dedicated Clinic. Find Out More...

www.londonhairtransplant

## How medical artists are faking hair, retouching scans and even creating nipples

By NIKKI MURFIT  
Last updated at 9:59 PM on 28th November 2011

Comments (16) Share 0 Tweet 8 Like 46

Our eyebrows play a huge part in the way we look. Take them away, and we appear other-worldly.

So it is understandable men and women are left reeling when, as a result of gruelling chemotherapy or other medical conditions, they lose the facial framework so many of us take for granted.

'I started losing my hair at the age of eight,' says Miranda Luxford, 33, a communications manager who suffers from alopecia, a condition in which the body attacks its own hair follicles and suppresses hair growth.



Work of art: Miranda Luxford having her eyebrows drawn on by permanent make-up artist Tracie Giles

'Until the age of 13, I wore wigs, and then my hair started growing normally until I was 25 when it fell out again. I'd learned to live with my hair loss but when my eyebrows started falling out last Christmas, it seemed worse. The definition to my features was gone and I thought I looked like an alien. It really affected my confidence.'

Initially she tried pencilling them in but Miranda, who lives with partner Matt, 29, in North London, says: 'I'd usually get one that looked perfect while the other was lopsided. After a day at work I'd be left with smudges. It was very frustrating.'

Miranda contacted Tracie Giles, an expert in medical tattooing. As well as making realistic eyebrows – for men and women – she can camouflage scars and create nipples for those who have undergone a mastectomy.

Medical tattooing has become an established part of medicine, says Nigel Mercer, consultant plastic surgeon and former president of the British Association of Aesthetic and Plastic Surgeons.

'Heavy scarring on the body can be devastating to self-confidence, especially when it occurs as a result of mutilating surgery,' he says. 'Patients want to look normal. This type of tattooing isn't about vanity, it's about looking natural and feeling confident.'

'Tattoos can create realistic facial hair. Losing eyebrows can be particularly distressing. They provide a demarcation between two thirds of the face and are crucial to the proportions of the face. Without them, people look odd.'

Although breast cancer patients will receive tattooing on the NHS, other procedures may only be available privately.

From her boutique in Central London, Giles and her technicians use iron oxide-based pigment that naturally starts to fade after 12 months to create life-like eyebrows.

'We discuss the colour, shape and placement of the eyebrows and take into account a client's skin tone,' says Giles.

After numbing the brow area with anaesthetic gel, the artist uses a digital, pen-shaped applicator with four tiny needles to apply the pigment. The brushstrokes allow the pigment to settle under the upper reticular dermis (second layer of skin). A sharper, single needle is then used for the fine detail which gives the brows their life-like appearance.

An initial procedure costs between £395 and £795, and clients return within three months for any additional definition. It will last 12 months before requiring a re-touch, which costs from £175 to £295.

Miranda, who had her first treatment earlier this year, says: 'The needles feel like a pin being dragged across the skin. I had to keep the area clean and apply Vaseline for five days to stop any irritation afterwards, but there was no discomfort. I walked out feeling 10ft tall.'



Work of art: Miranda Luxford having her eyebrows drawn on by permanent make-up artist Tracie Giles

Site Web bing

WELLA PROFESSIONALS

WITH VIRTUALLY NO WEIGHT



### FEMALE TODAY

► Why DO young women go out dressed like this? The fake tans hide the goosebumps on a freezing November evening in Manchester



► Family join hospital vigil at George Michael's bedside as singer battles pneumonia  
Father, sisters and ex Kenny Goss flew in



► I'm so sorry for crying... I'm being so rubbish!  
Tearful Victoria Beckham overcome at British Fashion Awards  
Finally accepted by fashion elite



► 'I feel sexier than ever!' Loose Women's Andrea McLean poses nude after losing a stone on cabbage soup diet  
Mother-of-two shed her clothes for Closer



► Forget the Vajazze! - it's all about the 'Scouse Brow'  
Desperate Scousewives' Jodie unleashes the Liverpool Comical and not cute!



► 'With every every mouthful of food I've always felt guilty': Gary Barlow on how he went from 'the fat one' to 'the hot one'  
Yummy daddy shaped up



► Proud Kate and brave William reunite at Palace party after his daring sea rescue  
Duchess of Cambridge dazzled in emerald green



► 'I need to learn to trust Lucy again': TOWIE's Ilario Falcone admits he and Mecklenburgh have a long way to go  
They posed for Twilight-inspired shoot



► Peter Crouch's No1 girl... sorry Abbey!  
Footballer takes charge of Sophia during daddy-daughter bonding  
Mum Abbey partied at fashion bash



► You CAN take the boy out of Essex: Ex-TOWIE star Kirk Norcross enjoys romantic winter date... with porn star Gemma Hasser  
She dressed up



► 'It's not something I regret': Guy Ritchie ends his three-year silence about 'soap opera' marriage to Madonna  
He finally open up about the Material Girl



► 'Lee, I'm coming to get you': Jessica-Jane is delighted to be going home from the jungle  
She's looking forward to seeing her fiancé (. but

