

Eccentric Beauty and Art of the Indigenous People of Central Borneo

by
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Introduction

Orang Ulu manifest their presence eccentrically, from the elongated earlobe holes, blackened teeth, body tattoo and animal parts for body accessories to symbolize beauty and status of the bearer. This study aims to discover the material culture, the process, the implements/tools and motif designs used in the production of ornamentation. The paper also discusses how Orang Ulu; the Kayan and Kenyah in Central Borneo define aesthetic in the context of their societies. This paper discusses about the diverse resources used to signify beauty and technique of production. The investigation combines elements of ornamentation, this study adopts several methods; observation, interview and secondary sources to trace the data from the nineteenth century to the present. By demonstrating various aspects of what Orang Ulu perceived as beauty, this paper will show how they signify the meaning of identity, social status and wealth between and among the societies.