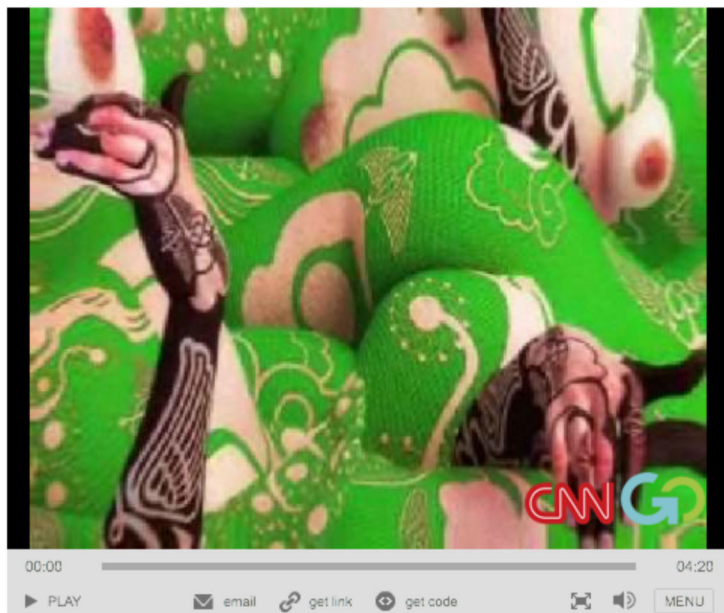


## Video: Korean artist Kim Joon and his show 'Tattoo and Taboo'

*Korean artist Kim Joon explores the human skin as an extension of canvas and tattoos as a manifestation of human desire*

By Zoe Li, Diego Laje 19 November, 2009



Kim Joon's "Neverland"

Korean artist Kim Joon is in town today for his exhibition entitled "Tattoo and Taboo" at the [Sundaram Tagore Gallery](http://www.sundaramtagore.com/) (<http://www.sundaramtagore.com/>).

Using animation photography, Joon creates three-dimensional human figures over which he meticulously grafts human, animal and artificially-created skin. These figures are then covered in bright patterns of "tattoos" made from logos of designer labels and traditional Asian imagery. His work explores the idea of the tattoo -- a major taboo in Korea -- as an expression of secret desires and hidden pain.

The pictures are also just really cool. Joon is the type of dude who will put a hairy man's leg and butt onto a curvy, Botticelli-esque female figure, and who draws inspiration from pop, such as in "Neverland," a pile of zombie-like limbs for his Thriller-inspired homage to Michael Jackson.

Joon says, "The visual aesthetic elements of Eastern culture are ingrained in my consciousness and naturally comes out when I'm working with this 20th century, very modern, hip, technology. So there's always this fusion of Western and Eastern in my work. The meeting, conflict, and struggle of the two cultures just comes out very naturally."

We caught Kim Joon at Sudaram Tagore Gallery, before he left Hong Kong, and asked him a few questions about his work with translation help from his curator Inhee Iris Moon.