



TRACEY EMIN ARTIST

The mistress of confessional art lays bare her beauty secrets: tweezers, turps and tattoos

How long do you spend getting ready to go out?

Twenty minutes, including shower. Then at least an hour looking for my keys or saying goodbye to my cat.

Do you change your make-up or beauty regime to suit your mood?

I don't wear much make-up, apart from Christian Dior's Long'Optic Mascara. On special occasions, I spend ages washing my face and another age removing any excess facial hair with a pair of tweezers.

Best body part?

That would have to be my hands.

Gym or dancefloor?

Tricky. At the moment, it's the steam room.

Who does your hair?

Guy Healey (tel: 07956 666576). He's brilliant

because he comes to wherever I happen to be. After an appointment with him, people always say that my hair looks good, rather than noticing that I've just had it cut.

If you could look like any supermodel, who would it be?

The cat in the Bacardi Breezer advert.

Do you think beauty has a place in art?

Yes, but not my art.

What beauty products do you keep in your studio?

Christian Dior Eau Svelte Body Treatment Fragrance and Deodorant Spray, and Charles Worthington shampoo and conditioner.

What do you use to get paint off your hands?

A lot of the work in my studio is relatively clean as it involves fabric, sewing and cotton. Occasionally, when I do get printing ink on my hands, I'll use turps or white spirit.

Threading or tweezing?

I have thick, heavy brows, so I tweeze the middle to prevent a monobrow. I used to overpluck, but when I met Mat, my boyfriend,

AFTER 22 YEARS, THE ROSE TATTOO ON MY BUM RESEMBLES A BULLET HOLE

he suggested I let them grow because he thought I wore a constant expression of shock and surprise. The thicker they become the more relaxed I look – like an unfinished drawing being completed.

What beauty products do you always buy?

Billions of pounds worth of Christian Dior – I love all the creams and toners. I buy them for myself and I buy them as presents.

How do you beat stress?

I don't. It eats me up until eventually I become ill and get terrible herpes on my face. It can get so bad that I can't go out. I'm hoping that taking Zovirax tablets will prevent it.

What are your beauty recovery secrets after a big night out?

Three cans of ice-cold Coca-Cola, followed by Nurofen and sunglasses. That's as long as the recovery doesn't involve me having my head stuck down the loo all day.

How do you beat jet-lag?

Flying first class and drinking lots of water. It takes me at least a week to recover from any long-haul flight. I am seriously thinking about travelling to New York by boat.

Do you have any tattoos?

An anchor on my arm, a scorpion on my back and a rose on my bum, which, after 22 years, resembles a bullet hole. It seemed like a good idea at the time, but I'd advise anyone to think very carefully before getting a tattoo.

How would you describe your look?

Full cleavage and lips, big brown eyes, lots of gold, really mashed-up teeth and all veering into middle age. Fiona Jolly