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## SCARIFICATION AS A FORM OF VISUAL IDENTITY: ADORNMENT USING THE BODY AS A CANVAS FOR CULTURAL AND VISUAL IDENTIFICATION

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### ABSTRACT

This study sought to explore the utilization of the body for cultural and visual identity through scarification. It explored the historical and contemporary practices of scarification in Africa and South African tribes. This research was an effort to document and understand the cultural visual identity of South African tribes through the use of the skin. To reach the study objectives, the study employed a qualitative method using secondary sources and a qualitative content analysis. The artworks which form part of this study are a practical depiction of the different designs of the scarification.

**Keywords:** Scarification, Identity, Cultural significance, Body/Skin, Tribal markings.