

MELISSA AUGUSTINE

Age: 49

Volunteer for FURKIDS Animal Rescue
Sink or Swim Studio and Gallery client:
three years



When did you start getting tattoos?

I got my first tattoo in New Jersey with my sister and my first piercing on a camping trip. Throughout my life, I got a few more small tattoos.

How did you first meet Deano Cook

of Sink or Swim Studio and Gallery?

When I first moved to Marietta, I drove past the tattoo studio. Later, my family was begging for a saltwater fish tank. I resisted for years because as the mom, no matter what anybody says, everything falls on you to take care of. Eventually, we ended up really getting into the saltwater aquarium. We got the tank and of course, I've been caring for it. One day, I googled top aquatic tattoo artists and could not believe that one of the top ones in the world was only 15 minutes from my house. I walked into the studio and met Deano. We decided to do a compilation of all the fish in our family tank. Now, my daughter works front desk at Sink or Swim Studio and Gallery and will soon begin an artist apprenticeship with them.

What made you decide to get the bigger tattoos?

When I knew I wouldn't be going back into the workforce, I decided to finally go for the bigger tattoos. When I met Deano, I had a big fairy on my leg that I wanted to cover up. I actually walked out of the first session I had with him having started an aquatic sleeve instead. We've been working on it for about two years. It's been a longer process because I had a tattoo on my arm that I needed to get lasered off first. We just have one section to cover left and it will be complete. Later, Deano did the cover up on my leg with a huge turtle. Over the years, I've had some of the other artist in the studio tattoo me as well. My daughter and I even got matching tattoos.

How has the laser removal been for you?

It's actually been great because they are really working to try to figure out different ways to numb the area we are lasering. A lot of places don't do that. Instead, they only slap on a topical for five minutes and then begin lasering. Personally, I would rather get hundreds or hours of tattoos any day, then get anything lasered. But Sink or Swim Aesthetics has tried very hard to find the best possible product to make the laser process better for me and other clients. Tattoo removal may take several treatments just depending on the tattoo you are trying to remove, the colors, the location, the amount of saturation. My leg only required three treatments.

How did you decide what you wanted to cover up the old tattoo with?

I chose one of the actual turtle photographs that Deano had taken, so that one was a pretty easy cover. It becomes more difficult when all of the color can't be removed and then choosing the right design to cover may require adjusting the design. The cool thing about Sink or Swim Aesthetics is they work directly with the artist to achieve optimum results of the cover up.



Owner Erin Cook
lasering Melissa
Augustine.

“When we first decided to work on my sleeve, I needed to get laser done on my arm and leg.”

In addition to getting tattoos and tattoo removal, you are also a client of the aesthetics side of the business?

When we first decided to work on my sleeve, I needed to get laser done on my arm and leg. At the time, they referred their clients to Melissa Perry for laser tattoo removal. Once I met her, I started using her for microneedling and skin care. When Sink or Swim Studio and Gallery expanded to add the Aesthetics services and Melissa Perry became their in-house technician, I followed her.

What treatments do you continue to do now?

I've done microneedling and fractioning on my face and the laser tattoo removal. I've had a lot of skin damage. I had an obsessive-compulsive picking problem when I was younger which left me with a lot of scarring. The treatments have really started to improve the texture and the discoloration of my skin. It just keeps getting better every time I go.

How long have you been doing these skin care treatments?

I've gone about every six weeks for about a year and have added other skin care treatments, as well. I can feel the overall healthiness of the skin, it feels like the skin has been rejuvenated. I also purchased the line of skin care products that Sink or Swim Aesthetics carries. It's called Societe and I love them. I can actually feel they are physically making a difference in my skin. I have a complete system of products that I use on a daily basis, but it never feels like I have that many layers on my face. It's amazing, the difference that high quality products can make.

There are thousands of products out there, it can be confusing. I've done research but it's so easy to find yourself down the rabbit hole searching for a good product. Knowing I could trust Melissa and Erin's recommendation for their products took the stress out of the process. I've been very happy with the Societe products and I'm sticking with them. When you do find a high quality product that is making a difference, it can take years off your appearance.

Do you have plans for future treatments? Or do we just continue with the plan you are currently following?

For now, I think I'm gonna continue with what I'm doing. We'll see what further recommendations Sink or Swim Aesthetics and Melissa may have for me. My goal is to get rid of the discoloration and smooth out the texture. I know that they offer chemical peels so that is possibility in my future.



Melissa Perry fractioning on Melissa Augustine. Benefits: increases cell turnover rate, evens out skin, texture and tone, great for acne, anti-aging, gives a tightening and brightening effect reducing pore size and fine lines.

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