

SMALL MARKS / MOTIF & MEANING NO. 01

Wings & Becoming

Eight butterfly directions for change, return, and self-possession



ORIGINAL SIGNATURE CONCEPT

Concept art for interpretation—not tattoo-ready flash.

Meaning is a direction, not a definition.

A butterfly can carry transformation without pretending change is effortless. Pose, symmetry, damage, and direction decide whether the image feels triumphant, private, restless, or repaired.

03 The emotional spectrum

09 How form changes meaning

04 Signature concept: The Returning Wing

10 Build your own direction

06 Six visual directions

11 An artist-ready interpretation note

A USEFUL BOUNDARY

These readings are creative possibilities, not universal facts. A symbol can hold family, cultural, religious, or personal associations that do not belong to this book. Start with your own connection and let the artist draw the final work.

Four ways the motif can speak

01

BECOMING

The self is still in motion.

02

RETURN

Change brings you back differently.

03

FREEDOM

Movement with intention, not escape.

04

REPAIR

What is mended remains visible.

Choose one route as the centre. A second can support it; four at once usually becomes illustration without hierarchy.

The Returning Wing





READING THE COMPOSITION

Why the image carries its meaning

One natural wing remains fully present. The missing side is not copied back into existence; three stitched arcs hold its place. The gold seam makes repair visible without making damage the whole identity.

SILHOUETTE

Readable before the interior detail.

ASYMMETRY

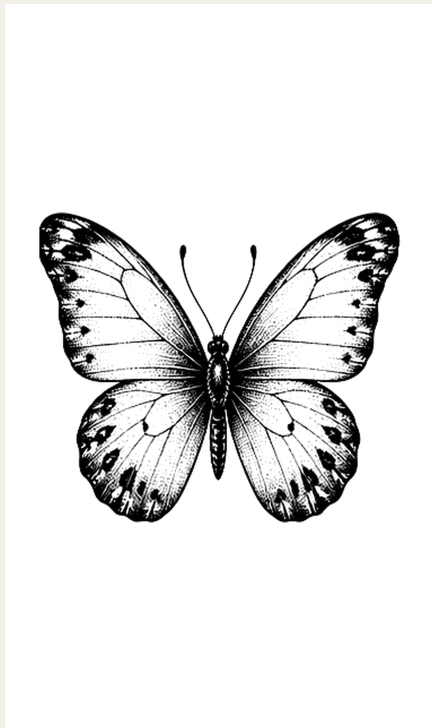
Change is carried rather than hidden.

DIRECTION

The stitched arcs move forward.

Interpretation belongs to the relationship between form and story—not to the motif name alone.

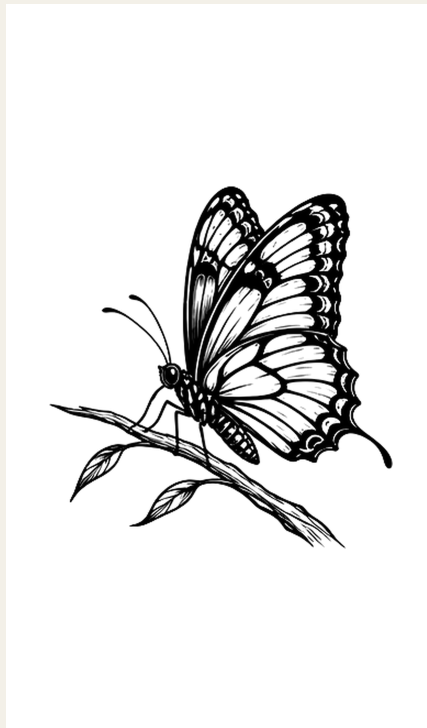
Three directions, three different emotional temperatures



01

Quiet Becoming

Soft change, inward confidence, a new self that does not need an announcement.



02

The Pause Before

Readiness, attention, and the private second before choosing movement.



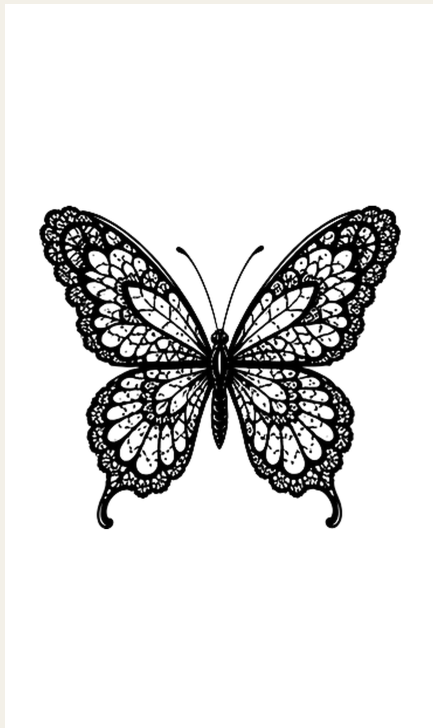
03

Mended, Not Restored

Repair that refuses to imitate the untouched version.

Original direction studies / use to identify a visual route, not as finished work to reproduce.

Three directions, three different emotional temperatures



04

Soft Armour

Delicacy with structure; vulnerability that has learned its boundaries.



05

Growth With Boundaries

Freedom can coexist with caution, memory, and self-protection.



06

Returning to Self

Movement toward what feels familiar, alive, and personally true.

Original direction studies / use to identify a visual route, not as finished work to reproduce.

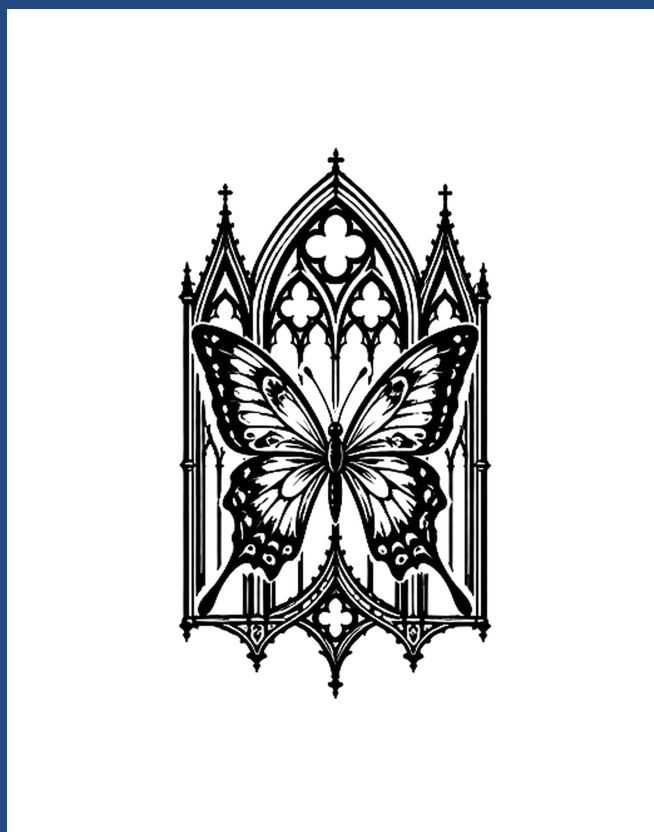
The motif can hold relationship or threshold



07

Separate, Still Held

Connection without collapse; two lives sharing a field rather than a shape.



08

A Sacred Threshold

Transformation framed as a passage, promise, or private rite.

A stronger frame or pairing changes the story before any extra symbol is added.

Shape is part of the story

Before choosing detail, decide how the motif should behave.

01

Open wings

balance / declaration

The change is visible and centred.

02

Side profile

privacy / readiness

Meaning feels quieter and directional.

03

In flight

momentum / release

The eye follows where the motif is going.

04

Fragmented wing

repair / adaptation

Absence becomes part of the composition.

Pose and composition usually change the emotional reading more than adding another object or word.

Start with a sentence, not a saved tattoo

01 / THE MEMORY

What person, season, place, or change gives the motif weight for you?

02 / THE FEELING

Choose three words. Avoid style labels such as 'fine line' at this stage.

03 / THE VISUAL RULE

Name one form decision: open, rising, guarded, paired, repaired, loose, or contained.

04 / THE BOUNDARY

What must not be copied, crowded, made literal, or explained to a stranger?

My motif is about _____. It should feel _____, _____, and _____. The visual idea I want to protect is _____. I want the artist to decide _____.

Clear enough to guide. Open enough to draw.

SAMPLE DIRECTION

I want an asymmetric butterfly that feels repaired rather than perfected. Keep one wing botanically grounded, let the other be suggested by three stitched arcs, and preserve enough open space that the silhouette reads first. I am open to your interpretation of the stitch path, line weight, and final scale.

KEEP OPEN FOR THE ARTIST

Species detail, stitch rhythm, exact asymmetry, final scale, and how the design follows the body.

SEND ONLY WHAT THE PROCESS ASKS FOR

A short note and a disciplined reference board are enough for a first enquiry. The artist may prefer their own form, ask different questions, or wait until consultation to see visual material.

THE FINAL EDIT

Keep the meaning personal. Keep the drawing open.

Choose the emotional centre, the visual rule, and the boundary. Then let a tattoo artist translate the idea for your body, their craft, and the scale the design needs.



Every artwork in this book is an original concept or direction study. It is not healed-tattoo photography or tattoo-ready flash. Personal planning use only.

SMALL MARKS

ORIGINAL CONCEPT STUDY