

## Feel comfortable in your own skin: the philosophy of Witomska Agnieszka Barbara

*‘Linee di Agnese’ is a dermopigmentation clinic in Narni (province of Terni), specialising in skin treatments designed to correct or enhance certain facial features and other areas of the body*



“When you have a good idea of yourself, of the way you are; when you’re at ease with your body, then you feel better as a person too – you can deal better with everyday life.” Witomska Agnieszka Barbara is a dermopigmentation specialist – in other words, a professional who treats the skin using pigments in various different ways: from permanent make-up, used to naturally highlight and enhance the main facial features and correct small imperfections, to paramedical aesthetic dermopigmentation, aimed at correcting skin blemishes. For some time she has also specialised in tricropigmentation, a tattooing technique used for scalp imperfections.

Of Polish origin, Agnese, as she prefers to be called, opened her own studio 18 months ago in Narni. She called it ‘Linee di Agnese’ (or ‘Agnese’s Lines’), because, she says, “our faces are composed of an infinite number of lines – my job is to enhance their beauty.” Her training in this specific field began many years ago, following courses organised by the best clinics in the business: “Behind my work is a very detailed study of colour and its use – you can’t improvise. Each pigment has a different effect according to the skin type,” she explains. Shortly after becoming a freelance professional working at beauty salons and plastic surgery clinics, Agnese decided to open a centre of her own. “It’s something I’ve always had in my blood, since I was a child. I’ve always been fascinated by the care and beauty of the body.”

Before beginning treatment of any kind, it is essential to have a consultation, in order to understand the client’s aims, what type of result they wish to see, and whether there are any contraindications:

“The client needs guidance; each one has their own story. My hope is that when they leave after talking to me, they know exactly what they want to do. The face is our first form of communication; it’s how we present ourselves to others.”

Agnese offers three kinds of treatments. The first is cosmetic dermopigmentation, or permanent make-up. There are various different applications: eyes (between lashes, eyeliner, shading, highlighting); lips (shaded contouring, volume enhancement, filling); eyebrows (thickening, reshaping, 3D effect, reconstruction). “Most of my clients ask for eyebrow definition. The treatment is done using pigments that can be absorbed by the skin, with the advantage of being able to mould and adapt the design to the face, which changes over time,” explains Agnese.

However, small skin corrections can also be used to improve the appearance of body parts that have been damaged. The second aspect of Agnese’s work involves paramedical aesthetic dermopigmentation, which allows for the improvement of scarring, vitiligo, epidermal defects and surgical scars. One of the most common requests for treatment concerns the mammary areola following a breast implantation surgery or a mastectomy: “This technique is vital in restoring femininity to women who have unfortunately been through experiences of this kind. After one of the most recent procedures I did, the lady saw herself in the mirror and began to cry with emotion – before, she’d been afraid to look at herself. Seeing the smiles and the satisfaction of my patients is very moving for me,” says Agnese.

The third aspect of her work is perhaps the least well known, but highly effective: micropigmentation. This is a tattooing technique used for scalp imperfections. By way of this innovative solution, it is possible to reproduce a shaved or filled-in effect in areas where hair is sparse due to hair loss or scarring. Baldness is a problem that is often underestimated, especially when it comes to the self-esteem and self-image of many men. Agnese is one of a handful of professionals who deals in this technique: she is able to recreate a shaved effect, avoiding the shiny look that is hated by many bald men.

Each treatment needs to be reinforced every 12 months or so, to ensure that the colour remains fresh and realistic: “Once I have a good understanding of what the client wants in the consultation phase, I carry out the treatment in two sittings scheduled 30-50 days apart, then I perform the annual reinforcements,” concludes Agnese.