

"Quetzacoatl y Sus Flores
On My Back" ^{Carlos} Cabrera-Loredo

For my tattoo, I choose
the Aztec winged-serpent god,
Quetzacoatl and to locate it on
my back. Growing up, I watched
this cartoon called "Knights of the Zodiac"
where one of the characters had a
tattoo of a dragon on his back.
It was meant to represent his strength
and weaknesses as well. I
wanted to create my own dragon,
my own zodiacal source of strength.
I tried to break away from classical/
cliche Quetzacoatl imagery by
making Quetzacoatl less fierce
and of stone, but full of
life and beauty.

The winged serpent
becomes enveloped in
leaves and feathers,
 fauna of
Mexico and
Latin America.

The calla lily,
the maize flower,
the aloe vera
plant and others
all decorate the serpent.

The serpent is in form
of a knot - representing strength
in Aztec philosophy. The
knot represents the idea of
"ometeotl", of harmony in strength.

Lastly, to have Aztec imagery on
my back is an honor as it is in
urban Latinx tattoo parlors where
where various forms of
Pre-Columbian art have thrived
and been developed. This is
a proud personal and social tradition
I carry.

