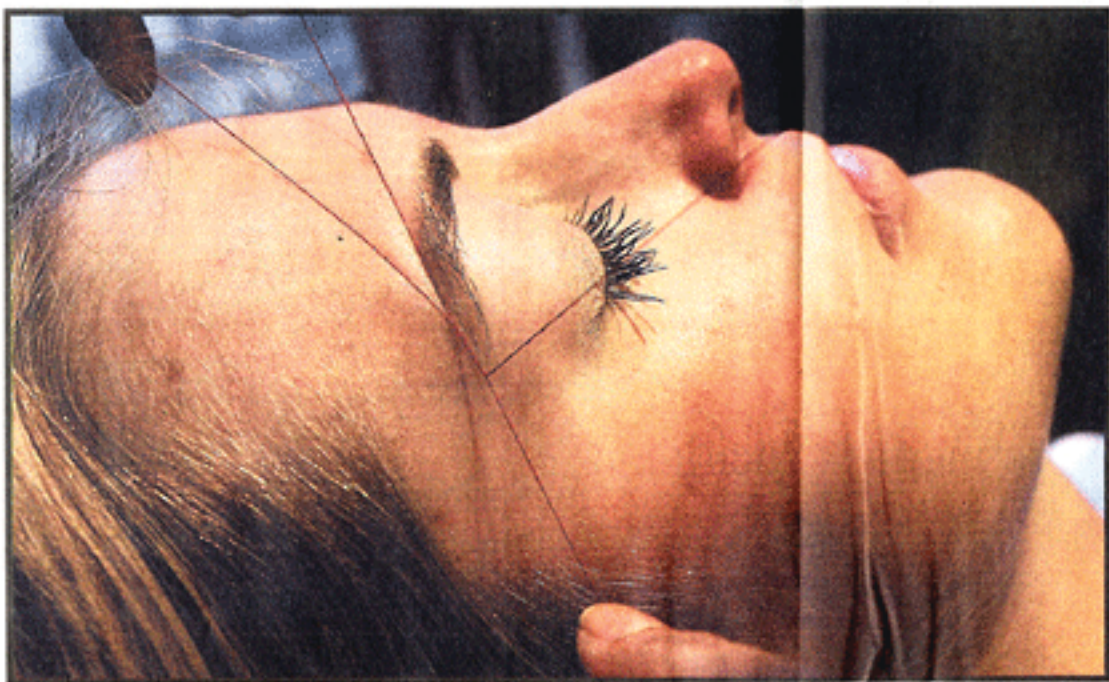


BY A THREAD

Indian art of hair removal replacing waxing and tweezing



Jennifer Shaw is threaded at Sobha Salon in Manhattan. This is the second time that Shaw, 29, has been threaded, which she describes as "much better than tweezing." Pearl Gabel/CNS 60

By **LEELA DE KRETSER**
Columbia News Service

Threading, the ancient Asian art of hair removal, has moved out of the back rooms of Indian immigrants' houses to high-end salons around the country. Fans say the method is kinder to the face than waxing or tweezing.

Josie Carbone used to travel from salon to salon in Manhattan looking for the perfect wax for her bushy brows.

She had long given up on plucking with sharp tweezers and had yet to find a beautician whose technique could lure her return business.

Then Carbone, 31, heard from a friend about the ancient south Asian method of hair removal called threading.

"All my friends in the city get threading done," Carbone said, sporting perfectly shaped eyebrows after a recent appointment. "Most of those who did waxing have now switched."

Bollywood brows have overtaken Brazilian bikini lines

as the hottest depilatory fad. What once was relegated to the back rooms of immigrant women's houses in Indian enclaves around the country is now a major drawing card for high-end spas and salons around the country.

A beautician holds the end of a thread in her mouth and then uses both hands to make it taut. She quickly winds the strand around individual hairs, like a lasso, twisting and pulling them out of their follicles by the root.

Beauty therapists say the technique, which is usually used on the face, rather than the more delicate nether parts, is less painful, more precise and more natural than waxing. Threading is quicker and less likely to irritate the skin.

It is also a relatively inexpensive hair removal method, with prices around the country ranging from \$5 to \$15 for the upper lip and eyebrows.

Shobha Tummala, who has salons in trendy SoHo and the Upper East Side of Manhattan, has built a business

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Soma Chakroborty, 31, threads the eyebrows of Shaw. Chakroborty, who is originally from India, has been threading for three years.



Chakroborty uses thread to remove clients' facial hair at Sobha Salon in Manhattan.



Shaw admires the new shape of her eyebrows after her threading session.