

## Art of the Pacific

LEVEL 3, NGV INTERNATIONAL

26 MAR – AUG 2016



This NGV Collection display showcases the arts and diverse cultures of the Pacific, New Zealand and Australia, across time, place and space. It reveals new ways of thinking about the region's continuous history and its dynamic transformation in the face of enormous social change. This display honours the customary shields, figurative sculptures and masks that inspired the European avant-garde to invent new forms of modernism. It also unveils a dynamic range of body ornaments in customary and digital media, encompassing contemporary Polynesian *lei*, headdresses and jewellery, bark cloths and photographs of Samoan *tatau*.

Selection of Melanesian shields  
from *Art of the Pacific*

The arts of the Pacific are part of a global art world and one that is far closer geographically to Australia than Asia, Europe or North America. Pacific Islander artists, whether working in their home countries or in settler colonies in a state of diaspora, are exposed to all kinds of visual and technological media and embrace modern mediums of painting on canvas, printmaking, photography, video and installation. This collection display does not kowtow to the chronological paradigm that governs Western thinking about history, but constantly shifts across time and place and the specificity of cross-cultural encounters, collections and art forms that bear witness to different contexts, philosophies and happenings.

## Student Programs

## Meet the neighbours

## All levels

This exhibition introduction features the diversity of art of our neighbouring countries such as Papua New Guinea, West Papua, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Vanuatu, Tonga, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Cook Islands and the Torres Strait Islands. Artworks on display include post-colonial contemporary art including traditionally inspired artworks such as headdresses, dance capes, drums, masks and shields.

Cost \$7

## Reverse Art History

## Recommended for Years 5 to 10

In the early 20th century, artists such as Pablo Picasso looked to the stylised art of the Pacific and Africa for inspiration. Drawn to the lack of three-dimensional depth, simplified shapes and unrealistically vibrant colours of these artworks, the early 20th century artists embraced these elements and principles in their art making and created an aesthetic which marked the beginning of early Modernism. Many of the artworks in *Art of the Pacific* feature the stylised forms which inspired these early Modernist artists. Join us to explore a selection of these artworks.

Cost \$7

## What material is that?

## Recommended for Foundation – Year 2

Birds and their feathers, teeth, human hair, bones, spider webs, moss, mud, grasses, metal, wood, plastic bags, paper, bamboo, barks, glass and shells – these are just some of the materials used to make an array of artworks on display in the *Art of the Pacific*. Look, discover and record what the artists have used and gain inspiration to make your own artworks.

Cost \$7

**Workshop 1 – Costume designing****All levels**

Following a viewing and discussion of this exciting exhibition, students will use a range of materials and techniques to create their own imagined symbols of protection which will be incorporated into a costume design or accessory.

**Cost** \$16 (2 hours)

**Workshop 2 – Many ways to make a lei****All levels**

Leis are a symbol of welcome in many Polynesian countries. After exploring artworks in *Art of the Pacific*, including leis from several Pacific islands, students will use a range of materials and techniques to create their own interpretation of a lei.

**Cost** \$16 (2 hrs)

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**Professional Learning**

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**Art of the Pacific for Teachers**

**Sat 11 Jun, 9.15 – 10.30am**

Before **Contemporary Pacific Art and Community Day**, join artist educator Ella Benore Rowe and NGV educator Rosemary Etherton for a discussion about the arts and diverse cultures of the Pacific. This program will also include inspiring art making activities to immediately enliven your primary and secondary curriculum. *Art of the Pacific for Teachers* supports the new Victorian Curriculum and Australian Professional Practice Standards for teachers.

**Cost** \$20 (Booking required)

**Contemporary Pacific Art and Community Day**

**Sat 11 Jun, 11am – 3pm**

Join in a celebration of Melbourne's vibrant Pacific community and experience contemporary Pacific culture and art with music, performances, workshops and talks led by international and local artists, community leaders and curators in this special program marking the opening of exhibitions *Sui I Moana: Reaching Across the Ocean*, *Greg Semu: The Raft of the Tagata Pasifika (People of the Pacific)*, *Lisa Reihana: In Pursuit of Venus* and display of the NGV Collection *Art of the Pacific*.

Commences with a traditional welcome and blessing ceremony and harmonies by the Pasifika Victoria Choir, formed especially for this public event.

**Cost** Free

**NGV Education Bookings**

Bookings and enquiries

03 8620 2340, 12–5pm weekdays

edu.bookings@ngv.vic.gov.au