



Non-Western Art History

The Art of Oceania

Part Two

1 Art of Oceania 2 End



The Art of Oceania



2 Art of Oceania 2 End



The Art of Oceania




- ✦ Melanesia
 - Settled by 40,000 BC
 - Includes Australia, Papua New Guinea and part of Indonesian
- ✦ Micronesia
 - Settled by 1500 BC
 - Includes 2,500 islands between Australia & Japan
- ✦ Polynesia
 - Settled 1150 BC – 900 AD
 - Includes New Zealand, Hawaii and Easter Island

3 Art of Oceania 2 End



Common Characteristics of Oceanic Art

- ✦ Developed regionally with many distinct cultures, belief systems, rituals and art styles.
- ✦ Major purpose is religious, for rituals, and includes oratory, poetry, dance and music
- ✦ Artworks enable Pacific Islanders to interact with supernatural forces and operate their societies
- ✦ Many Pacific Islanders believe that the human body is the meeting place of the everyday world and the divine world of the ancestors and the gods.

4 Art of Oceania 2 End



Common Characteristics of Oceanic Art

- ✦ Two spiritual ideas are central to the majority of people in Oceania:
 - *Mana* – sacred power in individuals, works of art and a wide variety of objects.
 - *Marae* – sacred places with large amounts of *mana*. These are focal points for rituals dedicated to the gods and ancestors.
- ✦ People acquire *mana* through lineage and skillful and courageous deeds.
- ✦ *Mana* can be decreased through cowardice or enslavement.
- ✦ *Mana* in artworks comes from the materials, artist, quality of workmanship and care and correctness of rituals preceding work.

5 Art of Oceania 2 End




Canoe Figurehead (Nguzu Nguzu).
Late 19th – early 20th century,
Solomon Islands, H: 5.5 inches,
Wood, chambered nautilus shell,
nut paste, paint,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

6 Art of Oceania 2 End



7

Canoe Ornament
19th – 20th century, New Ireland,
H: 21.5 inches, Wood, pigment,
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Art of Oceania 2

End



8

Pendant (Ulute or Papfita), 19th – early 20th century,
Solomon Islands, H: 2.5 inches, Tridacna shell,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

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End



9

Shield (Greve'o)
Early to mid-19th century, Solomon
Islands, H: 33.75 inches, Fiber, nut paste,
chambered nautilus shell, pigment,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

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End



10

War Charm
19th century, New Guinea, Papua,
Wood, frigate bird feathers,
glass beads, pigment,
Indiana University Art Museum

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End



11

Figure (Uli)
Mid 19th – early 20th century,
Central New Ireland People,
H: 52 inches,
Wood, paint, fiber, shell opercula,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

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End



12

Funerary Carving (Malagan)
Late 19th – early 20th century, Northern New Ireland Islands,
W: 34 inches, Wood, paint, shell opercula,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

Art of Oceania 2

End



Funerary Carving (Malagan) detail, left
Late 19th – early 20th century, Northern New Ireland Islands,
W: 34 inches, Wood, paint, shell opercula,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

13 Art of Oceania 2 End



Funerary Carving (Malagan) detail, right
Late 19th – early 20th century, Northern New Ireland Islands,
W: 34 inches, Wood, paint, shell opercula,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

14 Art of Oceania 2 End



Figure (Malagan),
Mid-19th - early 20th century,
Northern New Ireland People,
H: 52 inches,
Wood, paint, shell, resin
Metropolitan Museum of Art

15 Art of Oceania 2 End

Micronesia

- ✦ These areas north of Melanesia were settled by 1,500 BC
- ✦ Includes:
 - Federated States of Micronesia, Caroline Islands
 - Republic of Belau (Palau)
 - Guam and Northern Mariana Islands (US protectorates)
 - Republic of the Marshall Islands
- ✦ The Pacific Ocean plays a central role in the lives and art of Micronesians
- ✦ Artworks known for functional forms, streamlined designs and complex surface decorations

16 Art of Oceania 2 End



Weather Charm (Hos)
Late 19th – early 20th century,
Caroline Islands, H: 13.25 inches,
Wood, stingray spines, fiber, lime,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

17 Art of Oceania 2 End



Seated Figure
Late 19th – early 20th century,
Caroline Islands, H: 8.25 inches,
Wood, shell, traces of paint and resin,
Metropolitan Museum of Art

18 Art of Oceania 2 End



19

Art of Oceania 2

End

Woman's Valuable (Toluk), Late 19th – early 20th century,
Belau, Caroline Islands, H: 7 inches, Turtle shell,
Metropolitan Museum of Art



20

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Machiy (Sacred Burial Cloth), Josephine Waisemal, 1976-7,
Caroline Islands, W: 27 inches, Banana and hibiscus fiber,
Source: Scan, *Art Beyond the West*



21

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The Bai-ra-Irrai (Ceremonial House)
1700, Caroline Islands
Wood, paint, grasses,
Source: Scan, *Art Beyond The West*

Polynesia

- ◆ These areas east of Melanesia were settled last, 1150 BC – 900 AD
- ◆ Includes:
 - ◆ Fiji, Tahiti, Samoa, Marquesas Islands
 - ◆ New Zealand
 - ◆ Hawaii
 - ◆ Easter Island
- ◆ Highly stratified societies and multi-level deities; earth (female) and sky (male).
- ◆ Artworks in noble families facilitated transfer of *mana* to successive generations.

22

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End



23

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Ornament, Ivi Pa'o (Bead)
No date, Marquesas Islands,
H: 2 inches, Bone,
Indiana University Art Museum



24

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Inlaid Bird Bowl, Possibly 18th century, Marquesas Islands
H: 21 inches, Wood, shell inlay, The British Museum



25

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Barkcloth Panel (Masi Kesa)
Fiji, Late 19th – early 20th century,
H: 165 inches, Barkcloth, pigment,
Metropolitan Museum of Art



26

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Bark Cloth with Naturalistic Impressions of Fish
Tonga, Polynesia,
Collected 1927-1932,
H: 14 feet 1 inches,
Auckland Museum,
Source: Scan, *Art Beyond The West*



27

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Tattooed Marquesan Warrior
Engraving of Naukahiwa in
N. Dally's *Customs and Costumes
of the Peoples of the World*
1845, Etching,
Source: Scan, *Art Beyond The West*



28

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Standing Ancestor Figure
Maori People, New Zealand,
1800-1840, H: 18 inches, Wood,
Kimbell Art Museum

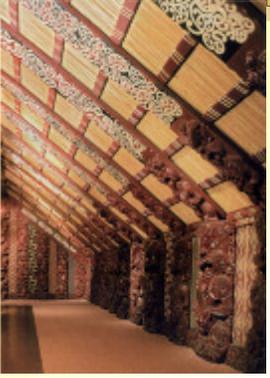


29

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Pendant, Hei Tiki
Maori People, New Zealand
19th century, H: 9 inches,
Nephrite, halotis shell,
Indiana University Art Museum

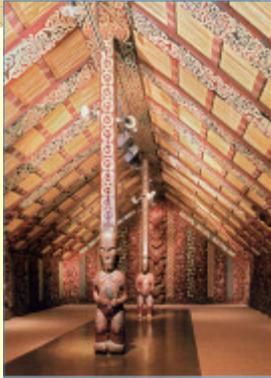


30

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Te Hau-ki-Turanga
(*Spirit of Turanga*) Meeting House
Maori People
1842-45, Restored 1935,
Wood, shell, grass, flax and pigments,
National Museum of New Zealand



31

Te Hau-ki-Turanga (Spirit of Turanga) Meeting House
Maori People, 1842-45,
Restored 1935, Wood, shell, grass,
flax and pigments,
National Museum of New Zealand

Art of Oceania 2

End



32

Self-Portrait in the House
Te-Hau-ki-Turanga, 1842-45,
Raharuhi Rukupo, (1800-1873)
H: 50 inches, Wood,
National Museum of New Zealand

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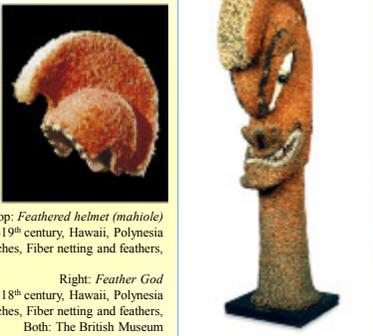


33

Feathered Cloak, Hawaii, Polynesia, Possibly 18th century,
W: 102 inches, Fiber netting and feathers, The British Museum

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End



34

Top: *Feathered helmet (mahiole)*
Pre-19th century, Hawaii, Polynesia
H: 15 inches, Fiber netting and feathers,

Right: *Feather God*
Possibly 18th century, Hawaii, Polynesia
H: 42 inches, Fiber netting and feathers,
Both: The British Museum

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End



35

Figure of the War God Ku-ka'ili-moku,
Hawaii, Polynesia, Probably 1790-1810,
W: 107 inches, Wood,
The British Museum

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End



36

Moai Stone Figures
1100 - 1650, H: Average 13 feet,
Rapa Nui People, Easter Island,
Volcanic Tuff,
Source: Wikipedia

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37 Art of Oceania 2 End

Moai Stone Figures, 1100 - 1650, H: Average 13 feet, Rapa Nui People, Easter Island, Volcanic Tuff, Source: Wikipedia



38 Art of Oceania 2 End

Moai Stone Figures, Hangarua Beach, 1100 - 1650, H: Average 13 feet, Rapa Nui People, Easter Island, Volcanic Tuff, Source: Wikipedia



39 Art of Oceania 2 End

Ia Orana Maria (Hail Mary), 1891-92, Paul Gauguin (1848 - 1903), H: 44.75 inches, Oil on canvas, Metropolitan Museum of Art

✦ This is the end of our presentation on the Art of Oceania Part Two



40 Art of Oceania 2 End