

POWER & TABOO

SACRED OBJECTS FROM THE PACIFIC

Power & Taboo explores the power of the gods in the Polynesian islands of the eastern Pacific. Displaying part of the British Museum's remarkable early collections from this region, together with images made in the early period of European settlement (1760 – 1860) the exhibition investigates Polynesian ideas about the gods and how to manage them. Rare examples of feathered cloaks and intricate jade ornaments from places as diverse as the Cook Islands, Aotearoa New Zealand and Hawaii are also included in the exhibition. Many of these objects had a lasting influence on 20th century artists such as Henry Moore and Pablo Picasso.


EVENING LECTURES & DEBATE

£5, concessions £3 

Pacific Art & European Culture in the Age of Empire

Thursday 28 September, 18.30

Professor Nicholas Thomas explores the profound changes experienced by both Europeans and peoples of the Pacific following their mutual encounters in the 18th and 19th centuries.







Taboo and the West  in partnership with
Thursday 23 November, 18.30
Panel discussion on art, psychoanalysis and anthropology.

In Search of Paradise?

Thursday 7 December, 18.30


Travels in India and the Pacific with writers, readings and images.

Key to venues

-  BP Lecture Theatre, Clore Education Centre (CEC)
-  Stevenson Lecture Theatre, CEC
-  Claus Moser Room, CEC  ICT Room, CEC
-  Great Court  Room number

FILMS

£5, concessions £3 (unless otherwise stated) 

Free lunchtime films are in collaboration with the Royal Anthropological Institute 

The Last Navigator

Friday 17 November, 13.30

Director: Andre Singer

USA, 1989, 50 minutes

Admission free, booking required

Paradise Bent: Boys will be girls in Samoa

Friday 24 November, 13.30

Director: Heather Croall

Australia, 1999, 51 minutes

Admission free, booking required

Mutiny on the Bounty (1935)

Friday 1 December, 14.00

With Charles Laughton and Clark Gable

Director: Frank Lloyd

USA, 1935, 132 minutes

Samoaan Wedding

Friday 1 December, 18.30

Brand new urban romantic comedy set in Auckland.

Director: Chris Graham

New Zealand, 2006, 97 minutes

Matai Samoa

Friday 4 December, 13.30

Director: George Milner

Samoa 1989, 65 minutes

Admission free, booking required

Moana

Friday 8 December, 17.00

Director: Robert J. Flaherty

USA, 1926, 85 minutes

Tabu

Friday 8 December, 18.30

Directors: F.W. Murnau and Robert J. Flaherty

USA, 1931, 84 minutes

BOOKING

Unless otherwise stated, book events through the Box Office 10.00–16.45 daily
Telephone +44 (0)20 7323 8181
Facsimile +44 (0)20 7323 8616
Minicom +44 (0)20 7323 8920
boxoffice@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

WHAT'S NEXT AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM?

The Past from Above:

Through the lens of Georg Gerster

16 November 2006 – 11 February 2007

Admission £5, concessions available 

A New World: England's First View of America

15 March – 17 June 2007

Admission £7, concessions available 

La Bouche du Roi:

an artwork by Romuald Hazoumé

22 March – 20 May 2007

Admission free 

First Emperor

Autumn 2007

Admission charge

THE
BRITISH
MUSEUM

POWER
& TABOO
SACRED OBJECTS
FROM THE PACIFIC

28 SEPTEMBER 2006 –
7 JANUARY 2007

ADMISSION FREE

Promotional partner:
AUDLEY TRAVEL

EXHIBITION & RELATED GALLERY TALKS

Admission free


Curator's introduction to Power & Taboo

Friday 29 September, 13.15 
Lissant Bolton

Visions of the Pacific: historical and contemporary images

Thursday 5 October, 13.15 
Julie Adams

An introduction to Power & Taboo

Friday 20 October, 13.15 
Julie Adams and Kaori O'Connor

Power & Taboo: dangerous gods

Wednesday 25 October, 13.15 
Jenny Newell (sign interpreted)


Pacific objects in the Enlightenment Gallery

Wednesday 1 November, 13.15 
George Nuku, artist in residence

Celebrating Pacific Islands Day

Saturday 4 November, 13.15 
George Nuku, artist in residence

Curator's introduction to Power & Taboo

Wednesday 6 December, 13.15 
Lissant Bolton

Gods and ghosts in Solomon Islands

Tuesday 12 December, 13.15 
Ben Burt

An artist works with the Pacific collection



Tuesday 19 December, 13.15 
Rebecca Jewell



Kou wood bowl, from the Hawaiian Islands, 18th century

WORKSHOPS

Power & Taboo: drawing in the exhibition

Friday 29 September or 8 December, 11.00–14.30
29 September 
8 December 

The Polynesian collections in the British Museum have a continuing influence on both indigenous and Western-trained artists. This workshop will examine the work of some of these artists, including Henry Moore. Participants will be able to handle objects and draw in the exhibition.

Tutor: Rebecca Jewell

£15, BM Friends and concessions £12

SCHOOLS

Power & Taboo: Teachers' Preview Evening

Tuesday 26 September, 18.30–20.30 

An opportunity to preview the exhibition and to meet the exhibition curators and the British Museum schools team. This exhibition is specially recommended for secondary Art and Design Groups and there will be an online guide for teachers who are planning visits. Refreshments provided. Free, but booking required. Telephone +44(0)20 7323 8510/8850 or learning@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

*For information about tours for ESOL groups contact the Learning & Information Department
Telephone +44 (0)20 7323 8510/8850
learning@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk*

FAMILIES

Admission free, just drop in 

The Big Draw

Saturday 14 October, 11.00–16.00

An annual celebration of drawing. This day will see contemporary artists working in the exhibition as well as workshops for families and individuals across the Museum in galleries relating to the Pacific.

Artist in residence: George Nuku

30 October – 4 November,
11.00–13.00 and 14.00–16.00

George Nuku is a highly regarded Maori artist who works in bone, wood, shell, polystyrene and perspex. Also a performance artist, he will be based in the Great Court for six days demonstrating his art.

Pacific Islands Day

Saturday 4 November, 12.00–16.00

A day of celebration of the best of Pacific art and culture including sculpture with George Nuku, storytelling, performance and craft demonstrations.

Events in Room 5, Enlightenment and Wellcome Galleries, Reading Room and the Great Court.

LUNCHTIME LECTURES

Admission free, booking required 

Encounters in Polynesia: chiefs, priests & powerful objects

Monday 2 October, 13.30
Dr Steven Hooper

The Shark God: encounters with myth and magic in the South Pacific


?? October, 13.30
Charles Montgomery

Title tbc

Monday 4 December, 13.30
Professor Adrienne L. Kaeppler


STUDY DAY & CONFERENCE

Study Day: An introduction to Power & Taboo

Saturday 30 September, 14.00–16.30 

An afternoon with the curators of the British Museum's *Power & Taboo* exhibition, introducing the history and culture of Polynesia and the ideas behind its presentation in the exhibition.
£15, BM Friends and concessions £12

Pacific Islands Conference

Friday and Saturday 1 and 2 December 2006 
Convened by the British Museum and the Sainsbury Research Unit for the Arts of Africa, Oceania & the Americas, University of East Anglia.

Friday 1 December, 10.00–17.00

Taboo in the Pacific: managing sanctity

Talks and academic papers relating to the exhibition *Power & Taboo*.

Saturday 2 December, 14.00–20.00

The Pacific Islands in Britain

Talks and demonstrations by Pacific Islands' artists and cultural groups, followed by performances.

In partnership with the Pacific Islands Society of the UK and Ireland (PISUKI)

Each day £18, concessions and members of PISUKI £12
Book through the Box Office

For further information telephone +44 (0)20 7323 8045 or email pacific.conference@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

COURSE

Patterns of the sun: Pacific fibre arts and textiles

11 Monday evenings from October, 18.30–20.30 

Feathered gods, Hawaiian shirts, magical threads and colourful quilts that inspired Matisse and Gauguin are among the fibre arts and textiles of the Pacific.
Tutor: Kaori O'Connor.

For further information and booking, contact Tim Russell:
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t.russell@bbk.ac.uk