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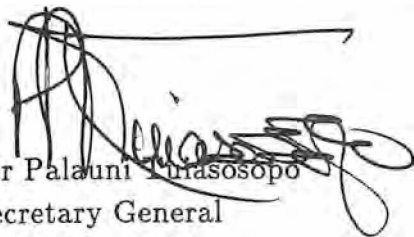
Pacific Arts Exhibition

This Exhibition is the culmination of an Interchange among artists from the island countries of the Pacific which has been in progress at SPC Headquarters since mid-September. The Interchange and the Exhibition were organised by the South Pacific Commission as another response to the desire of member countries to assure the perpetuation of their Pacific identities and to assist in the maintenance of their cultures. It is a programme that recognises Pacific artists while availing them an opportunity to execute their native art forms.

The artists participating in this event were selected by their governments as official representatives. During the time of the Interchange the artists have worked together, sharing and exchanging ideas and skills related to their various art forms in what has been an intimate atmosphere of camaraderie. They have also had the opportunity to understand their different cultural values through their art work and by working together. Coming together from countries scattered so widely across the Pacific Ocean is a rare opportunity for these artists and a unique event in the region. Not only are their works of art on display but visitors to the Exhibition can see the artists working and therefore understand the amount of preparation and work which goes into the creation of these works of art. The Exhibition is enhanced by the participation of the SPC Womens Intercultural Society and members of staff and their families who have contributed items for display.

I see this '87 Interchange and Exhibition as the first in a series of annual Interchanges which will be held in conjunction with the South Pacific Conference and hope that as a result of this exhibition increased appreciation, knowledge and recognition will be given to the arts of this region.

I should like to thank the French government for their generous funding which made this event a possibility.



Mr Palauni Tuasosopo
Secretary General

THE ARTISTS

GUEST ARTIST

-MARY PRITCHARD-

Mary Pritchard of American Samoa began to learn the Samoan art of siapo (tapa) from the old masters in 1929, and is credited for single handedly maintaining the practice of this art after the war when siapo making in the islands began to seriously decline towards possible extinction. At 84 years she is one of the most senior artists in the Pacific, is recognised as the foremost authority of siapo and has conducted workshops in the Pacific islands, New Zealand and the mainland United States. Her work is well known as far away as Russia, Saudi Arabia and in China where she was guest of the government to speak on siapo and on Samoa. Mrs Pritchard directed the making of the largest siapo known in Samoa, 150 ft long and 14 ft wide at the Jean P. Haydon museum in Pago Pago. One of her freehand siapo paintings hangs in the world renown Field Museum in Chicago, USA. She is one of the subjects of the famous Public Broadcasting Service "Artist in America" film series.

For her perserverance and dedication in preserving Samoan culture through the execution, teaching and encouragement of the innovative use of this art, Mrs Pritchard was honoured by the American Samoa Council of Culture, Arts and Humanities, the legislature of American Samoa and the Pan Pacific South East Asia Women's Association. She also received the Governor's award for art in 1985 and the Cultural award in the same year. The Lyons Arboretum of Hawaii honoured her for outstanding contribution to cultural preservation through art.

Her knowledge of this art form of the Pacific is in depth, derived not only from the masters themselves but from her experiments and actual study of siapo in the region. This knowledge led her to visit French Polynesia at the request of the government to conduct workshops during the 1970's. Mrs Pritchard is author of the book "Siapo : the bark cloth of Samoa", the first literary work by a native Samoan on this subject. She is now preparing the second edition of this masterpiece.

Mrs Pritchard's visit to Noumea is a special recognition by the Government of New Caledonia for her dedication to the arts and culture.

AMERICAN SAMOA

-SVEN ORTQUIST-

Born in 1938 in Western Samoa, Sven was an active youngster in the Boy Scouts where his introduction to carving was made. But it was Sister Siena and Sister Rosa of Fiji who are to be credited with actually setting Sven on the road to becoming a highly regarded master artist in the two Samoas. Representing American Samoa in the Artist Interchange, Sven has served as the cultural co-ordinator for carving in the Senior Cultural Center in Pago Pago. He was responsible for the development and implementation of a carving programme to increase the skills and quality of Samoan artisans. At present Sven serves as Master Artist in the cultural programme of the Jean P. Haydon Museum, a programme of the American Samoan Committee on Culture, Humanities and Arts.

Sven's art is an exemplification of quality rendition on wood of the culture of Samoa through its legends, stories and material items. He has toured with the American Samoa National Cultural Programme and has represented his government at the Pacific Festivals of Art in PNG and Tahiti. Some of his renditions of Samoa have been rendered in national stamps and his work with the handicapped was recognised by the Pope in Rome.

Sven's greatest wish is to perpetuate Samoan culture by using native themes in works of art for public buildings in American Samoa.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS

-MARIA CRISOSTIMO-

Maria is a weaver from Saipan. In her weaving she uses traditional Carolinian weaving designs. The main fibre she uses is pandanus, however she also uses coconut fibre for some baskets. Maria is at present working as a curriculum and cultural resources adviser with the Department of Education of the CNMI. Previously she taught weaving and art in the schools for many years.

Maria represented her country at the Pacific Festival of Arts in Tahiti and has held displays of her work on the islands of Luta and Tinian as well as in Saipan.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS

-MANUEL PEREZ-

Manuel, from Saipan is working at present as artist-in-residence with the Department of Education in Saipan. Manuel works in both traditional Carolinian crafts and contemporary art forms. These include coconut carving, weaving, wood carving and painting. Manuel has participated in many art exhibitions in Saipan and is actively involved with teaching art to young people.

COOK ISLANDS

-MAHINA TONITARA-

Mahina Tonitara or "Mama Hina" to her friends, lives in Panama on the island of Rarotonga in the Cook Islands and is originally from the northern island of Penrhyn. The women of Penrhyn are renowned for their weaving of fine mats and the famous "rito" hats of the Cook Islands. These hats are worn throughout the Cook Islands and Tahiti by the women each Sunday for church or for other special occasions.

Mama Hina uses the young, unopened coconut leaf fibre for the rito hats - she also weaves with pandanus leaf and other fibres. She sells her handicrafts through the Womens Handicraft Centre in Avarua, capital of the Cook Islands. Mama Hina is also an executive member of the Cook Islands Health Council.

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

-JOHN GUSMED-

John, from Yap State in FSM is a wood carver whose speciality is storyboards. The stories depicted in the storyboards John carves are based on various traditional legends from Yap. He does a lot of his work on a commission basis and his work has taken him as far away from his home as Texas. He has a gallery in his house in Yap where people can view his carvings. FSM hold an annual art competition and this year John was selected from among carvers in the four states of FSM to represent his country in the artists interchange at SPC.

FIJI

-PAULA LIGA-

Paula, from Fulaga Island in the Southern Lau Group in Fiji now lives in Suva where he works as a full time wood carver. Many of Paula's carvings are based on traditional designs and they include tanoas, ceremonial oil dishes, spears, relief work and war clubs. Paula works closely with the Government Handicraft Centre in Suva where he sells most of his carvings. In 1986 he won the prize for the best Fijian carver at the annual Fiji Arts Council Exhibition.

FRENCH POLYNESIA

-LEON AH LO-

Leon is from the island of Uapou in the Marquesas Islands in French Polynesia and now lives in Papeete where he works as a carver. Leon uses varied mediums in his work - wood, pearl shell, coconut, stone and bone. His work includes both modern and traditional designs from the Austral and Marquesas Islands.

Leon is a teacher of carving at the "Centre des Metiers d'Art" in Papeete. He has represented his country at many overseas exhibitions, including the Exhibition of Local Artists in Paris in 1975, the inauguration of the Fare Tahiti Nui in New Caledonia in 1979 and at the Pacific Arts Festival in Papua New Guinea in 1980.

KINGDOM OF TONGA

-SINISIA TAUMOEPEAU-

Sinisia, from Nuku'alofa in Tonga paints on tapa, the cloth made from the bark of the paper mulberry tree. In Tonga the ladies are renowned for their tapa which is usually made in large pieces used for ceremonial occasions or more recently for wall hangings. Sinisia uses the traditionally prepared tapa and in her painting has adapted traditional designs and uses Tongan legends. Sinisia also screen prints tapa which she exports to Hawaii and New Zealand.

Apart from managing the Manulua Handicrafts shop in Nuku'alofa, Sinisia also sells her work through the Langafonua Womens Handicraft shop in Nuku'alofa and has an outlet for her work in Vava'u, the northern island group in Tonga.

KIRIBATI

-TEAA RATINTERA-

Teaa is from Buarika village on the island of Aranuka in Kiribati. Teaa's speciality is weaving with pandanus and coconut fibres. On her island she works for AMAK (Aia Maea Ainen Kiribati), the main womens organisation in Kiribati. AMAK have a handicraft shop in Bikenibeu on Tarawa and Teaa works with the women guiding them with design and new methods of weaving and assists them preparing their handicrafts for sale by AMAK. Teaa represented Kiribati at the Pacific Arts Festival in Rotorua in 1976.

NEW CALEDONIA

-ITREMA LOPEZ-

Itrema, from Thuahaik village in Lifou is a painter and wood carver. In his carvings he uses traditional Melanesian themes and designs including the "Fleches Faitieres", the spire at the cente of the "case" - the traditional house in Lifou and other areas of New Caledonia. As well as carving Itrema also paints and he has held over 35 Exhibitions of his work in Lifou, Noumea and Vanuatu. At present Itrema works as an art teacher at Nedivin College in Houailou, on the east coast of New Caledonia.

NIUE

-MELEMOKA SIAVALE-

Melemoka from Namukulu village in Niue uses both pandanus and coconut fibres in her weaving. She prepares her own materials and makes a wide range of handicrafts using the traditional Niuean methods of weaving. Melemoka sells her handicrafts in the Niue Handicraft Centre in Alofi. Melemoka also represents her village in the Niue Womens Group.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

-MAKALE AETUL-

Makale is from Tami Island, Morobe Province, PNG. Makale is at present working on various commissioned projects for the National Arts School in Port Moresby as a wood carver. His earlier work, as Senior Carver on the carvings incorporated into the architecture of the new National Parliament Building, included carving the Speakers chair, furniture and other decorative pieces.

Makale has represented PNG in both Thailand and Australia. He learnt his carving from his father and in 1978, at the invitation of the Creative Arts Centre he went to Port Moresby to work at the Centre.

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

-AGNES LAKIEN-

Agnes, from Majuro, the capital of the Republic of the Marshalls, works as a handicraft instructor for the ageing programme in the Ministry of the Social Services. In her handicrafts Agnes weaves coconut and pandanus fibres and she also prepares her own materials. Crafts from Agnes's work and her programme are sold in the Marshall Islands Handicraft Shop in Majuro and are also sold privately. Agnes represented her country at the East West Center in Hawaii in 1986 for a Micronesian States weavers workshop.

REPUBLIC OF PALAU

-SAMUEL ADELBAI-

Samuel is from Netkip village on Babeldaob Island in Irai State in the northern part of Palau. His speciality is the carving of storyboards. Storyboard carving is a tradition in Palau - they were traditionally used to decorate "bai", the traditional meeting houses regarded as "the heart" of the Palauan culture. Samuel carves storyboards which depict stories which range from the traditional to the modern. He also teaches young people the traditional Palauan carving.

As well as being a wood carver Samuel is a painter and also writes prose. Samuel obtained his Masters degree in Fine Arts from the California Institute of the Arts in 1984 and during 1984-85 he was artist-in-residence with the East-West Center in Hawaii. At present he is working as an art consultant for the Palau National Museum.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

-SELWYN BALU-

Selwyn comes from Ndende Island in the Santa Cruz group of islands in Solomon Islands. Selwyn is a weaver of banana fibre, an art which is only practised on his island in Solomon Islands and now, Selwyn is the only weaver still practising this art. Selwyn uses a loom for his weaving and

the items he makes include shoulder bags, lavalavas and wall hangings. Selwyn travelled to Brisbane, Australia in 1967 where he spent time teaching his weaving.

Selwyn's weaving is featured in the Kastam Haus, the Solomon Islands museum in Honiara and he sells his work through the Solomon Islands Handicraft Centre.

TOKELAU

-SELAFINA PETELO-

Selafina, from Nukunono island in Tokelau is an active member of the Weavers Committee Council of Tokelau. She is well known for her mixture of traditional and modern Tokelauan weaving. Selafina travelled to New Zealand in 1976 with a group representing Tokelau Islands and on her return began to teach the young weavers of her island her knowledge of weaving. Selafina uses both pandanus and coconut fibres in her weaving. She sells her handicrafts through the Tokelau Handicraft Centre in Apia, Western Samoa.

TUVALU

-KAUSELE KAISAMI-

Kausele, at present living in Funafuti, the capital and main island in Tuvalu is from the island of Nukulaelae. Kausele is the Nukulaelae representative on the National Womens Council which runs the Tuvalu Womens Handicraft Centre in Funafuti. Kausele sells her handicrafts to the Centre in Funafuti. Kausele uses pandanus and coconut fibres in her weaving and she also makes shell decorations and uses shells in the baskets she makes.

VANUATU

-ELI FIELD-

Eli is a wood carver from Vetuboso village on Vanualava Island in the Banks Group in Vanuatu. In the Banks Group he is employed as a field worker for the Vanuatu Cultural Centre, collecting stories, artefacts and photographing dancing and ceremonies for the Vanuatu Museum which is a part of the Cultural Centre. Eli represented his country in Australia in 1975 when he demonstrated his carving as part of a tourist promotion. Eli sells his carvings at the Vanuatu Handicraft Centre in Port Vila.

WALLIS AND FUTUNA

-SOANE PATITA LAKINA-

Soane is a wood carver from the village of Toloke in Futuna . In his work he uses the traditional Wallisian and Futunian designs. Soane also promotes the construction of traditional Wallisian and Futunian houses.

Soane was honoured with the "Chevalier des artes et des lettres" by the French Government in Paris in 1984. He recently participated in the Exhibition of Wallisian Arts at the Ko We Kara centre in Noumea. Soane sells his work at the Galerie des Artistes in Noumea and at his workshop in Ahoa in Wallis.

WESTERN SAMOA

-LUKA SASULU-

Luka is from Fugalei in Western Samoa where he works as a wood carver. Luka uses both traditional and modern themes in his carvings and his work includes Samoan tanoas, bookends, trophies, statues and panels. Luka sells his carvings through the Government Handicraft Shop in Apia as well as at Aggie Greys Hotel and the Tusitala Hotel. As well as carving Luka also paints, however in this exhibition he is represented only by his carvings.

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

-SAU UELIGITONE-

Sau is at present working at SPC as artist with the Health Education Programme - he is on leave from the Government of American Samoa for whom he works as artist-in-residence. Sau started his formal education in art at the SPC Training Centre in Samabula in Fiji where he undertook a course on audio visual aids in 1967. He has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the California College of Fine Arts, majoring in graphic design and illustration - he is the first Samoan to receive this qualification. Sau has worked as a graphic artist, designer and display artist.

Sau is also a creative artist and he paints and draws in oils, acrylic, charcoal, watercolour and pen and ink. Many of his works reflect Samoa's physical environment, culture, history and legends. Sau has represented his country at the Pacific Festival of Arts in Tahiti, where he was a "live canvas" tattooed in the traditional Samoan way. In 1985 Sau attended the Pacific Artists workshop at the Atelier of Michoutouchkine and Pilioko in Port Vila in Vanuatu. He held an exhibition of his work in Suva, Fiji in 1981 which was supported by SPC and he has travelled extensively in the USA.

ARTISTS' THOUGHTS ON THIS PACIFIC ARTS EXHIBITION

"This should be the beginning of a get-together of Pacific artists and I hope it will be continued every year if possible."

-Mary Pritchard, American Samoa

"I think we have enjoyed the closeness and togetherness of the family of Polynesia, the good harmony and the sharing of crafts among each other."

-Selafina Petelo, Tokelau

"This is nice to meet and understand each other. I like this."

-Maria Cristostimo, CNMI

"It is very good to be here. I like my work and I learn at the same time. I also like Noumea."

-Selwyn Balu, Solomon Islands

"For me this is very beneficial - I'm learning about the carving techniques and the tools which are used by the other carvers. I look and observe so that I can transmit this information to the people I teach."

-Soane Patita Lakina, Wallis and Futuna

"Everything's good and I'm happy to be here."

-Mama Hina, Cook Islands

"Very interesting. Its an eyeopener to see the different techniques of the other carvers."

-Leon Ah Lo, French Polynesia

"It is good for my future carving to see other people using different tools and it is good to work with people from other islands."

-Luka Sasulu, Western Samoa

"It's a good idea for Pacific Islanders to take part in this sort of occasion and learn more."

-Paula Liga, Fiji

I think it is very educational being able to learn from one another - its a learning experience."

-Sven Ortquist, American Samoa

"We can learn something from each other and encourage traditional art."

-Makale Aetul, PNG

"I think it is a success. I have been learning too much. I am glad to be here with the others."

-Eli Field, Vanuatu

"For our experience as artists coming from all nations it's the best we have had. It is my wish that we continue this in the future so we can get together and share more of our ideas."

-Samuel Adelbai, Republic of Palau

"I thoroughly enjoyed it and the people are lovely."

-Sinisia Taumoepeau, Tonga

"We have enjoyed it because we have learnt about the customs and handicrafts from different places."

-Kausele Kaisami, Tuvalu

"It's good to come together and learn from people from different countries."

-Agnes Lakien, Marshall Islands

"It's very good - we have learnt from each other. I enjoyed meeting the other people."

-Tea Ratintera, Kiribati

"I'm happy to be here to do my weaving and see everything different in Noumea."

-Melemoka Siavale, Niue

"It is very good. It should be repeated."

-Itrema Lopez, New Caledonia

"It is very interesting -lots of different carving and I've learned lots of things."

-John Gusmed, FSM