

ARTH 214

ART IN THE PACIFIC



Tattooed Marquesan warrior (Langsdorff 1804)

ART HISTORY

**School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies
Victoria University of Wellington**

Trimester 3 2006-7

ARTH 214

ART IN THE PACIFIC

Course co-ordinator: Dr Peter Brunt, OK (Old Kirk) 311
Tel. 463 5805
Email: Peter.Brunt@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Wednesday 3 – 4pm and
Thursday 12 – 1pm (or by appointment)

Lectures: All lectures are in **Murphy 220 (MY LT 220)**
Monday and Wednesday 11.00am – 12.50 pm.

Tutorials: Tutorials are in **Old Kirk, Room 319 (OK 319)**

Wednesday 2.10 – 3.00 pm or
Thursday 10.00 – 10.50 am or
Thursday 11.00 – 11.50 am

Blackboard: All course information and lecture materials are posted on Blackboard (<http://blackboard.vuw.ac.nz>).

For more information: See Blackboard (<http://blackboard.vuw.ac.nz>)
Art History is located on the 3rd (ground) floor of the Old Kirk building. The Art History Office is in OK 306. The Art History administrator is Pippa Wisheart (tel. 463 5800). Notices regarding the course will be posted on the board adjacent to her office. For general information about Art History see: www.vuw.ac.nz/Art-History

Course outline

ARTH 214 is a selective survey of the art and visual culture of the Pacific focusing mainly on Polynesia, Melanesia, Micronesia and indigenous Australia. The course will introduce students to a range of visual practices from a variety of locations and historical periods. It will look at those practices through various critical frameworks, including: the relationship between art and power within different political and social formations; the role of art in ritual; the relationship between art and gender; the response of Pacific arts to colonisation and modernity; and contemporary Pacific art in the 'postcolonial' era. In general the course will approach Pacific art not as a series of discrete styles and traditions but as a dynamic phenomenon that is conditioned by and responsive to local and global processes of social interaction and historical change.

In line with the Art History teaching objectives, this course will:

- **introduce you to the chronology and range of artistic practises in the Pacific region;**
- **develop your skills in visual analysis and awareness of the materials and techniques used in the art of the Pacific;**
- **develop your ability to analyse and interpret art within relevant social, political and theoretical contexts;**
- **introduce you to some of the major themes and currents in the literature of art history in the Pacific;**
- **develop your ability to gather and organise relevant information and evidence from published material and further your ability to use this material to construct an argument;**
- **develop your ability to present material which is coherent and well-written and which demonstrates an understanding and application of the conventions of academic writing;**
- **encourage you to participate in group discussions in tutorials;**
- **encourage you to view relevant art exhibitions and collections**

Lecture programme

- 1 'The observer observed': A short history of perceptions and approaches
- 2 Is Art a European idea? Aesthetics in context
- 3 Art in the ancient Pacific
- 4 *Kula: Ring of Power* (film screening).
- 5 Sites of Power, Emblems of Authority: Marae complexes and the aesthetics of power in early Polynesia, Part I
- 6 Sites of Power: Part II
- 7 The art of the body I: Polynesian tattooing
- 8 The art of the body II: Polynesian tattooing (cont'd)
- 9 The art of the body III: Jewellery, adornment and display
- 10 Barkcloth and matwork: Exchange, sanctity and history
- 11 Art and ritual I: Spirit houses and male initiation ceremonies
- 12 Art and ritual II: Life, death and the art of the mask

TEST 1 (lectures 1-12)

Mid-trimester break

- 13 Negotiating colonialism I: Appropriation, narrative and the painted Maori meeting house
- 14 Negotiating colonialism II: Quiltmaking in Hawaii, the Cook Islands and French Polynesia
- 15 The Pacific in the colonial gaze
- 16 Imagining the nation: Decolonisation and Contemporary art in Papua New Guinea
- 17 Tourist art
- 18 *Cannibal tours* (Film screening)
- 19 Settler nations and the art of indigenous minorities
- 20 Pacific art and the postcolonial museum
- 21 Contemporary Pacific art I: Migrants and new ethnicities
- 22 Contemporary Pacific art II: Pacific artists in the Contemporary art world

TEST 2 (lectures 13-22)

End of course/end of third trimester

Tutorial Programme

- 1. Curiosities and enchantment**
- 2. Tatau/tattoo**
- 3. Thinking about art and ritual**
- 4. Class, gender and the division of artistic labour**
- 5. Tourists and tourist art**
- 6. New ethnicities/migrant identities**

Assessment

ARTH 214 is internally assessed by means of one essay and two slide-based in-class tests..

- 1 Test 1 (30%)
- 2 Essay (40%)
- 3 Test 2 (30%)

Attendance at lectures and tutorials

Lectures cover the basic course content and include material not covered elsewhere. While attendance at lectures is not compulsory, it is strongly recommended. **You are required to attend 4 of 6 possible tutorials**, and it is recommended you attend them all. Attending lectures and tutorials will prepare you to pass the course tests. Also, a good contribution to tutorials can make a positive difference to borderline grades.

Mandatory course requirements

Mandatory course requirements are defined in the University Calendar. These will be fulfilled:

- On the sitting of **two in-class tests**.
- On the completion and handing in of **one essay**
- **With satisfactory tutorial attendance**; that is, at least 4 out of 6 tutorials. A good contribution to tutorial discussions will make a difference to borderline grades.

No assignments will be accepted after due date. All requirements are strictly enforced.

Art History has a policy that no extensions will be granted. If you have medical or other problems preventing you from meeting a deadline, you must contact your course coordinator at the earliest opportunity. Without arrangements having been agreed to, essays will be penalised by the deduction of **two percentage points for each day** beyond the due date. The reasons **exceptions are not made** are that we cannot privilege some students over others; we must adhere to a defined programme of marking; and results must be furnished to the central Registry on time. It is also important that we ensure students keep up with the course.

Workload

The University usually recommends that 15 hours/week, inclusive of lectures and tutorials, be given to a 200-level course in order to maintain satisfactory progress. However, given that this is a concentrated summer course with double the usual number of lectures per week, it is recommended you give **20-25 hours/week** during lecture periods. Please make sure you can set aside

at least this amount of time throughout the course – it is not worth taking on a greater workload than you can manage.

Presentation of essays

You must pay attention to **setting out, correct spelling and grammar**. Essays should be **typed in double space on one side of the page only**. **A wide margin should be left on the left side of the page**. Essays should be fully and accurately documented and spelling, punctuation and grammar checked before handing in. Always proofread your essay carefully, or get a friend to do so. All titles of works of art should be underlined or *italicised* (whichever you choose, be consistent). For guidance on presenting your essays correctly, please read *Writing Art History Essays* available from the Victoria Book Centre's Student Notes (\$4.70) and via Blackboard under Course Documents. Essays may be handed in directly to your Course coordinator or placed in the art history assignment box in the ground floor foyer of Old Kirk by 5pm on the due date.

Essays are marked by your course coordinator. A second opinion may be requested in the final assessment of any piece of written work.

Criteria for assessment of essays: Assessment of essays will be based on the following criteria:

- understanding and definition of question
- formulation and development of argument
- use of visual and written resources
- originality and independence of thought
- mechanics (legibility, fluency, presentation, grammar, spelling, documentation)

General Information

General University policies and statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar available in hard copy or under 'About Victoria' on the VUW home page at www.vuw.ac.nz.

Student and staff conduct

The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps are to be taken if there is a complaint. For information about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor or refer to the statute on the VUW policy website at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct

The Policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/staffconduct

Taping of Lectures

All students in the School of Art History, Classics and Religious Studies are welcome to use their own audio-tapes to record lectures. If you want to do this, please see your lecturer, tutor or the relevant programme administrator and complete a disclaimer form, which advises of copyright and other relevant issues.

Class Representatives

Class representatives are elected early in the course. They are supported by the VUW Students' Association, and have a variety of roles, including assistance with grievances and student feedback to staff and VUWSA. Contact details for your class rep will be listed on the Art History noticeboard and on Blackboard.

Academic grievances

If you have any academic problems with your course you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned; class representatives may be able to help you in this. If you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the relevant Associate Dean; VUWSA Education Coordinators are available to assist in this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set

out in the Academic Grievance Policy which is published on the VUW website at: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/academicgrievances

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means **no cheating**. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk.

Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- suspension from class or university
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course.

Find out more about plagiarism and how to avoid it, on the University's website at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html

Students with Impairments (see Appendix 3 of the Assessment Handbook)

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities the same opportunity as other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, please contact the course coordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively, you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services (DSS) to discuss your individual needs and the available options and support on a confidential basis. DSS are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building:

telephone: 463-6070

email: disability@vuw.ac.nz

The Art History Disability Liaison Person is Pippa Wisheart telephone 463 5800, email art-history@vuw.ac.nz.

Student Support

Staff at Victoria want students to have positive learning experiences at the University. Each faculty has a designated staff member who can either help you directly if your academic progress is causing you concern, or quickly put you in contact with someone who can. In the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences the support contact is **Dr Allison Kirkman, Murphy Building, room 407**. Assistance for specific groups is also available from the Kaiwawao Maori, Manaaki Pihipihinga or Victoria International.

In addition, the Student Services Group (email: student-services@vuw.ac.nz) is available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/st_services/

VUWSA employs Education Coordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support, advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class representatives and faculty delegates. The Education Office (tel. 463-6983 or 463-6984, email at education@vuwsa.org.nz) is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building.

Dealer and public galleries in the Wellington region

Check out Wellington's dealer and public galleries. Many of them show Pacific art and work by Pacific artists. This is the best way to gain first-hand experience of works of art and an important means to develop your skills in visual analysis. Here is a selected list to help you locate them.

Public galleries

Adam Art Gallery, Victoria University of Wellington

City Gallery, Civic Square

New Zealand Film Archive, Cnr Ghuznee and Taranaki Streets

National Library Gallery, National Library, Molesworth Street

Dowse Art Museum, 35 Laings Road, Lower Hutt

Pataka Porirua Museum of Arts and Cultures, Cnr Norrie and Parumoana Sts, Porirua

Te Papa Tongarewa/Museum of New Zealand, Wakefield Street, Wellington

Dealer galleries

Bowen Galleries (and Christopher Moore Gallery), Ghuznee Street

Hamish McKay Gallery, First floor, 50 Willis Street

Janne Land Gallery, 21 Marion Street

Peter McLeavey Gallery, First floor, 147 Cuba Street

Also try visiting the tourist art shop '**Oceanic Art**' at Wellington airport.
