

THREADS: Contemporary Textiles and the Social Fabric

Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane
26 November 2011 – 4 March 2012

MEDIA INQUIRIES
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MEDIA RELEASE

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CONTEMPORARY TEXTILES FROM THE ASIA PACIFIC AT GOMA

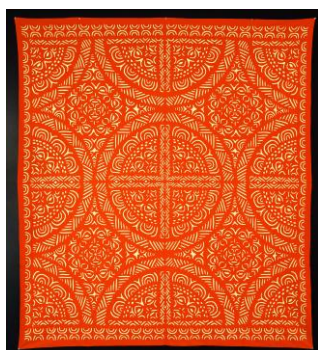


Image: Emma Tamirii / *Tifai fai*
(Marquesan style) 2000 / Collection:
Queensland Art Gallery

Visually striking designs, skilled techniques and richly textured surfaces will be on display in an extensive exhibition of contemporary textiles at the Gallery of Modern Art from October 1, 2011 to February 5, 2012.

Queensland Art Gallery Director Tony Ellwood said 'Threads: Contemporary Textiles and the Social Fabric' is the first time the Gallery has exhibited its contemporary textiles from the Pacific and Australia with those of Asia.

'It's an exciting development and continues our long-term commitment to collecting and presenting contemporary Asian, Pacific and Australian textiles.'

'The 30 spectacular works from the Gallery's collection include batiks, bags, quilts and garments from Laos, China, India, Papua, Papua New Guinea, Hawai'i, Tonga, Tahiti, the Cook Islands and Australia,' Mr Ellwood said.

'The exhibition explores how textiles can carry significant personal and cultural narratives, crossing cultural boundaries and connecting old and new ideas.

'It includes a spectacular 22 metre long Tongan *ngatu tā'uli* (black barkcloth) which was specially commissioned to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the Gallery of Modern Art. This sumptuous work will hover in the centre of the gallery space, evoking the idea of a journey through time and space.'

'Other works include the miraculous pearl encrusted undergarments in Australian artist Kay Lawrence's *No work for a white man* 2006-08 and Tesji Dhana Marwada's *Earthquake* 2010 as well as a new acquisition of bilum-wear dresses by PNG artists Florence Jaukae Kamel and Cathy Kata.'

Mr Ellwood said the exhibition continued the Queensland Art Gallery's series of contemporary textile and fibre art exhibitions, which has included 'The Pacific Textiles Project' as part of the 5th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art in 2006, 'Island Beats' in 2004, and 'Floating Life: Contemporary Aboriginal Fibre Art' in 2009.

'We are excited to present works from our expanding collection of textile works, which exhibits such diversity in both media and geographical scope.'

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‘To emphasise this, some textiles in the exhibition have been taken off the walls to more actively inhabit the spaces of the Gallery. Quilts made by women from across the Pacific will be installed as an immersive installation, highlighting the textural sensuality of cloth.’

The exhibition’s opening weekend will feature talks and tours as well as a free seminar exploring Contemporary Asian textiles, presented in conjunction with The Asian Art Society of Australia.

An ongoing public program features illustrated talks by key academics and local community members, guided tours and an in-conversation series with Gallery curators.

For more information visit www.qag.qld.gov.au/threads