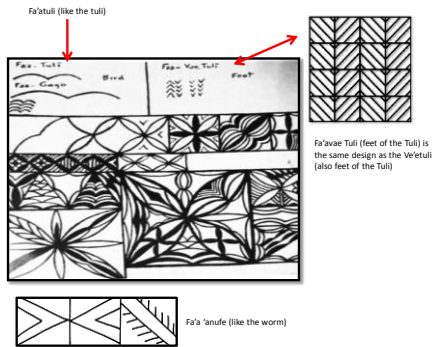


According to the myth, the god *Tangaloa 'Atulongolongo* (in the form of a bird) pecked the first humans (depicted in the story as worms) out of a rotten creeper branch. This correlation with worms, who are literally dwellers in the earth, also recalls the designation of *tu'a*, commoners, as *kau kaifonua*, 'the people who eat place'. The association of worms and earth is further enhanced by reference to the rotten creeper branch, which brings with it images of deterioration and decay, but also of growth as the process of decomposition, facilitated by the worms, enriches the earth and promotes further growth (Francis 2006, p350).

4



Fa'avae Tuli (feet of the Tuli) is the same design as the Ve'etuli (also feet of the Tuli)

(Pritchard 1994; Ministry of Education Tonga, 2012; www.slapo.com)

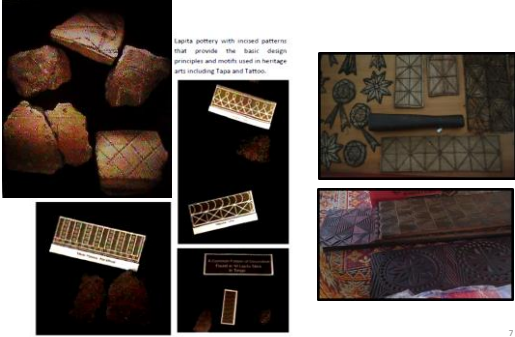
5



L. E. Vaka'uta, 2006
"Kohai, Koau, mo Momo"
Oil on Canvas

6

Indigenous Arts as Epistemological Sites



7





9

The challenge is therefore to look carefully at what we have before we dismiss it, to search for meaning and substance within ourselves before going abroad...**What matters in the pursuit of indigenous Pacific knowledges is that it survives – and survives because it gives us meaning and belonging.** Everything else is clutter

(“Clutter in Indigenous Knowledge, Research & History: A Samoan Perspective”, Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese Taisi Efi 2005, p68).

19

...art gives people soul whether the ‘words’ are painted, carved, sung, spoken, written, filmed or performed. Some words need a brush; others a pen and still others movement, gesture and intonation. Art connects island people to the vast Pacific Ocean and to each other. However, it is their cultures that sustain and help define them and so they need to continue to look towards their cultures while they try and weave useful and fragrant *kakala* for their journey to the future.

*Come!
Take this kakala
Sacred symbol of our oneness
Tie it gently around you
Where it will remain fresh
In the nourishing flow
Only
the sky knows*

(“LE’O E PEAU: Towards Cultural and Cognitive Democracy in Development in Pacific Islands Communities” Thaman, 2008 p.45)

20



Manulua/ Manuua

Birds, the Ocean , Climate Change



Good omen – two white birds soaring high in the sky – good luck or good news – one bad news.. Miti tala ‘ua (green) - 2002



Installation at Climate Change & Creativity Conference 2010, USP

21



1angrynative (in search of critical mass)

22
