

Pacific displays – The Sea Defines Us

1. 11/1983 handbag
2. 100/1996/3 sand painting
3. 219/1996/3 painting
4. 186/2008 'Genealogy'
5. 88/1986 paddle
6. 59/2000/18 necklace
7. 23/1986 Mai mask
8. 127/2001/1 barkcloth
9. 59/2000/24 fan
10. 100/1996/5 ornamental plaque
11. 83/2005/7 bracelet
12. 168/2005/1 figurehead
13. 16/1996/6 walking staff
14. 38/1923/2 beaked battle hammer
15. 129/1972/25 poncho
16. 58/1994/1 barkcloth sample
17. E1820 lock of hair souvenir
18. 29/1948/12 dagger
19. 1186/1974 copper sheathing
20. 574/2007/8/1 & 5 barkcloth sample and package
21. E1206 square-ended club
22. 350/1996/2 multi-pointed javelin
23. 26/1959/2a paddle
24. 18/1956 model canoe
25. 119/1937/16 fishing net
26. 33/1953/23 fishing spear
27. 1898/7/2 model canoe sternpost
28. 165/1907 canoe prow ornament
29. 71/1924/1 canoe prow ornament
30. 57/1926/31 & 44 fishing float and weight
31. 83/2005/2 trolling lure
32. 16/1996/102 fishing net
33. 46/1908 canoe spear rest

34. 110/1931/1b hatchet
35. 386/1990/6 strung bow
36. E1623 staff of authority
37. 386/1990/3 multi-pronged arrow
38. 110/1931/8 treasure box
39. 101/1994/2 beaded bandolier
40. 49/1994 shell necklace
41. E1913 money beads
42. 31/1926/4/2 shell money
43. 83/2005/9 money ring
44. E1803 shell ornament
45. 106/1996/6 shell pendant
46. 29/1950/13 presentation tooth
47. 574/2007/7 shell pendant
48. 57/1926/55 shell pendant
49. 57/1926/53 nose ornament
50. 57/1926/52 chest pendant
51. 57/1926/56 nose ring
52. 83/2005/10 nose pin
53. 83/2005/8 whale tooth pendant
54. 136/1993/60 fish hook
55. E1758 fish hook
56. E1627b trolling lure
57. E1739 shark hook
58. 66/1915 fish hook
59. E1764a fish hook
60. E1270a fish hook
61. E1154 line and hooks
62. 57/1926/43 inshore fish hook
63. 16/1996/3 pa, bonito and tunny lure
64. E1818 inshore mackerel hook
65. E1272c pa, bonito and tunny lure
66. E1762 hook and line
67. E1269f fish hook

1.

11/1983

Handbag

Made early 1980s

Tonga

"This handbag reflects modern innovation from traditional basket making and plaiting or rope making techniques. This style has gone out of fashion but you still see them being made today, this is a great example which would have been made for the tourist trade but no doubt the locals would have loved it as well, it is very well constructed and made from pandanus."

Pacific artist Rosanna Raymond, 2014

2.

100/1996/3

Sand painting

Made circa 1983

Watu Lopo (1953 – present)

Enga province, Papua New Guinea

Watu Lopo was largely responsible for the development of contemporary Papuan art. Lopo himself had to look beyond his clan identity and explore what is meant by being Papuan. Papua New Guinea became independent from Australia in 1975. To make it more accessible this painting depicts traditional Enga life using a modern art style.

3.

219/1996/3

Painting

Made in the 1970s

George Liwukan Bukulatjpi (c.1927 – 2007)

Galiwin'ku, Elcho Island, East Arnhem Land

Australian Aborigines developed a variety of artistic expressions; paintings on rock surfaces, sand drawing and painting on bark. After the Second World War, Aboriginal art became highly commercialised. In this painting Liwukan used paint pigments made from red and yellow ochre, white pipe clay and charcoal.

4.

186/2008

Genealogy

Commissioned in 2007

Rosanna Raymond (1967 – present)

Created to address the question about cultural identity, continuity and change in the modern Pacific world. *Genealogy* highlights women's traditional craft techniques but also reflects the influence of bike gang culture in New Zealand who patch their jeans with leather.

5.

88/1986

Paddle

Early 20th century

Massim district, Milne Bay, Papua New Guinea

There is a human face carved on this paddle. Decorations often help to establish a connection between the supernatural world and the sea.

6.

59/2000/18

Necklace

Made 1990s

Hawaii

This necklace is decorated with *kukui* nuts (*Aleurites moluccanus*) which is widespread in Hawaii. *Kukui* nuts and its extracted oil have a long history of use in Hawaiian culture; as a source of light, as an ink for tattooing, as a varnish and as medicine.

7.

23/1986

Mai mask

Purchased in 1970

Korogo village, East Sepik region, Papua New Guinea

Based on initiation masks, from the 1960s onwards, masks became increasingly produced for Western tourists as wall decorations.

8.

127/2001/1

Barkcloth

Made before 2001

Fatu Hiva, Marquesas Islands

Decorative barkcloth (*hiapo*) designs are based on traditional tattooing motifs which are associated with the warrior, power and authority. The turtle is associated with the world of the dead travelling between the land and the sea.

9.

59/2000/24

Fan

Made 1990s

Hawaii

Using *hala* leaves (*Pandanus tectorius*), this fan was made for tourists. Souvenirs highlight the use of traditional materials which continue being hand-woven by women.

10.

100/1996/5

Ornamental plaque

Made between 1975 - 1996

Mount Hagan area, Papua New Guinea

As a result of independence in 1975, artistic traditions flourished in Papua New Guinea to celebrate the event. Local artists increasingly began to include national symbols of unity on souvenirs.

11.

83/2005/7

Bracelet

Made 1950 – 1967

Solomon Islands

A turtle-shell ring that was made for the local or the export market. Solomon Island art includes turtle-shell, a material considered precious and worn to signify status and rank.

12.

168/2005/1

Figurehead

Made from 1970

New Georgia group, Solomon Islands

Protective figureheads (*ngusungusu* or *totoisu*) of polished hardwood with pearl shell (*Nautilus pompilius*) inlay have been popular since about 1970. Carvers reproduce the figureheads found on western Solomon Islands war canoes.

13.

16/1996/6

Walking staff

20th century

Solomon Islands

Art is connected to the everyday and ceremonial life of the people and no distinction is made between a work of art and a functional artefact; all items have a social, economic or religious function.

14.

38/1923/2

Beaked battle hammer

19th century

Vitu Levu, Fiji

This war club (*totokia*) bears a typical Maori surface engraving on the handle grip. It is not known who this Maori carver (*tohunga whakairo*) was but it seems likely that he jumped ship or was marooned in Fiji by a whaling vessel or other merchantman.

15.

129/1972/25

Poncho

Acquired from 1878

'Upolu, Samoa

Ponchos (*tiputas*) were introduced to many island groups by Christian missionaries from Tahiti. Decorative colours normally include the *o'a* tree dye (*Bischofia javanica*) for brown, turmeric for yellow but the purple is very likely to come from carbon paper instead of the *soa'a* sap from the banana tree.

16.

58/1994/1

Barkcloth sample

Early 19th century

Hawaii

Barkcloth from Hawaii (*kapa*) was made from the bark fibres of the paper mulberry tree (*Broussonetia papyrifera*). Although used locally to wrap important people and to contain objects it was also traded with Europeans who enjoyed the cloth's rich designs.

17.

E1820

Lock of hair souvenir

19th century

Pitcairn Islands

The alleged hair of Dorcas Young, a descendant of English mutineers from the HMS Bounty in 1789. Her grandparents were Edward Young and John Mills and their Tahitian consorts Toofaiti and Vahineatua respectively. In the Society Islands, hair was associated with ancestral power and bundles were exchanged to establish reciprocal relationships.

18.

29/1948/12

Dagger

Early 20th century

Admiralty Islands, Bismarck Archipelago

Obsidian blade technology on this island group is over 4,000 years old. Obsidian was traded along the coast and the island interior. New markets developed in response to the first Europeans coming ashore in the late 19th century. Daggers and spears normally made in abundance for the domestic market were being produced for trade as early as 1860.

19.

1186/1974

Copper sheathing

Possibly 18th century

Pitcairn Island

This item is believed to be copper sheathing from the HMS Bounty. The wooden hull of sailing ships was often exposed to infestation by marine organisms in warm seas. Clinging barnacles and seaweed also reduced the ship's speed. In the late 1770s a thin layer of copper was applied to ship's hulls to counter these effects.

20.

574/2007/8/1 & 5

Barkcloth sample and package

Collected 19 November 1835

Tonga

This plain barkcloth sample had its fibres slightly pulled apart so that the observer could better understand how the cloth was made.

21.

E1206

Square-ended club

Donated in 1868

Tonga

The square-ended club (*apa'apai* - 'enforcer of respect') was carved from *toa* wood (*Casuarina equisetifolia*). Its appearance mimicked the shape of the coconut leaf stem. Its form symbolised a chief's legitimate authority and power. These high-status clubs were gifted and traded with the commanding officers of European ships. This *apa'apai* was acquired by Captain Cook on his second or third voyage, later donated by Henry Vaughan.

22.

350/1996/2

Multi-pointed javelin

Likely early 20th century

NW Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu

Fascinated by other people's beliefs, this weapon was acquired as a souvenir. The long bone points are traditionally fashioned from human bones as the potency of the weapon relied on the spirit (*mana*) of the dead person being present.

23.

26/1959/2a

Paddle

Early 20th century

Solomon Islands

Carved plain wooden paddle that was commonly used by men when fishing or trading goods locally.

24.

18/1956

Model canoe

Made before 1956

Tabiteuea Island, Kiribati

A full-sized inter-island outrigger would take up to three months to construct and consists of three parts; a body constructed of finely linked planks (*te kuia*), an outrigger that hangs to the windward side and a triangular-shaped sail of pandanus leaves.

25.

119/1937/16

Fishing net

Obtained in 1884

Papuan Gulf, Papua New Guinea

Many Pacific cultures have developed elaborate techniques of trap-making. Techniques of trapping are also often associated with the capacity for spirits to entice or seduce living beings.

26.

33/1953/23

Fishing spear

Early 20th century

D'Entrecasteaux group, Papua New Guinea

Fishing was an activity sometimes associated with male initiation rites. Multi-pronged spears were used to catch large fish such as bonito and even sharks.

27.

1898/7/2

Model canoe sternpost

Late 19th century

Aotearoa (New Zealand)

Canoes have sacred associations since they carried the Maori to Aotearoa. This sternpost (taurapa) includes a *manaia*, or guardian spirit figure. According to one Maori tradition spiders were said to have carved the stern and prow of the first canoe (*waka*), which is why web-like spiral forms feature so prominently on them.

28.

165/1907

Canoe prow ornament

Acquired before 1893

Admiralty Islands

Carved in the form of a double head, it symbolized the protection of the ancestors and their ability to see in all directions, which is especially important on sea voyages.

29.

71/1924/1

Canoe prow ornament

Acquired 1912

Santa Ysabel, Solomon Islands

"Acquired on board the SS Southern Cross... the ship belonging to Melanesian Mission... it was, I believe, attached to a war canoe, and... head hunting expeditions by sea are hardly possible these days, it is presumed that such articles are now seldom or never made." Donor C.V. Molony

30.

57/1926/31 & 44

Fishing float and weight

Acquired 1912

South Malaita, Solomon Islands

With a line and a gorge, floats of this type were used for catching flying-fish. A stone weight fastened to its base ensured that the float was partially submersed.

31.

83/2005/2

Trolling lure

Collected 1950 - 1967

Florida, Solomon Islands

Fishing is a male occupation in the Pacific. The tuna-like bonito (*atu pari longa*) is an important source of food in shallow waters. Trolling lures require no bait as the reflective surface and size of the shell body resembles a small fish the bonito normally feeds on.

32.

16/1996/102

Fishing net

Date unknown

Solomon Islands

Fishing relied in part on the skill of the fishermen but also on the observance of ritual that encouraged powerful spirits who had the power to provide or withhold food. Nets were made of strong vine and tree bark fibres.

33.

46/1908

Canoe spear rest

19th century

Hawaii

This rare spear rest (*haka*) would have been fixed to a canoe to hold barbed spears. The human-like figures were made by a specialist carver (*kahuna kalai wa'a*), and possibly represents the *menehune*; the mythical ancestors and builders of Polynesian folklore.

34.

110/1931/1b

Hatchet

19th century

Aotearoa (New Zealand)

This short-handled hatchet (*patiti*) is fashioned from whalebone and iron. Whalebone became increasingly available in the 19th century through large scale whale hunting. Just off North Island's south coast, Kapiti Island supported at least 5 whaling stations.

35.

386/1990/6

Strung bow

20th century

Dany, West Papua, New Guinea

Bows are used for fishing, hunting and in warfare and are normally constructed from the heart of a black palm tree because it is a strong and flexible wood.

36.

E1623

Staff of authority

Donated in 1870

Aotearoa (New Zealand)

This staff (*hoeroa*) was carved from the lower jaw of the sperm whale. Carried upright in a canoe, *Hoeroa* were prestigious and rare heirlooms considered treasures, and were associated with high ranking men. The staff represents their potency (*mana*) and chiefly authority.

37.

386/1990/3

Multi-pronged arrow

20th century

Grand Bahern, West Papua, New Guinea

Tri-pronged arrows are used for fishing. Fish (*khele*) are traditionally shot with arrows and are caught using bait such as an ant's nest resting on the surface of the water.

38.

110/1931/8

Treasure box

19th century

Aotearoa (New Zealand)

The treasure box (*waka huia*) would have been suspended from the roof of a house. These boxes were used to store precious belongings such as prized *huia* feathers, nephrite ornaments and ceremonial items associated with someone of high rank like a chief. Treasure boxes were collected on early voyages.

39.

101/1994/2

Beaded bandolier

20th century

Langalanga, Malaita, Solomon Islands

This bandolier consists of white clam shell (*Arca* sp.); the black mussel (*Atrina vexillum*) and the red thorny oyster (*Spondylus* sp.). Red is the most highly valued shell as it is the most difficult to obtain. This bandolier was worn in a ceremonial gift-giving associated with marriage.

40.

49/1994

Shell necklace

20th century

Tasmania

The best known and traded Palawa ornament is the shell necklace of maireener (*Phasionotrochus irisodontes*) shells. The shells were stripped of their external layer by being smoked over grass fires, then rubbed back and finally polished with penguin or muttonbird oil. This process exposes the iridescent core. Necklace making is a significant continuing tradition.

41.

E1913

Money beads

Donated 1880

Nggela, Solomon Islands

This is a standard five-string denomination of money-beads for wear and trade. Likely acquired by John Gould Veitch, a nurseryman who travelled with Julius Brenchley in 1865 on the HMS Curaçoa.

42.

31/1926/4/2

Shell money

19th century

Malaita, Solomon Islands

The name translates from the north Malaita term '*abagwaro*'. The design on this example is unusual and was collected by James Edge-Partington before 1926.

43.

83/2005/9

Money ring

20th century

Santa Isabel, Solomon Islands

This is a high-value money-ring of fossilised tridacna shell. The common name for rings like this is called *poata* ('money ring'). It would have been worn on the chest from a braided cord of red-stained pandanus strip extending from the binding.

44.

E1803

Shell ornament

Donated in 1875

Tonga

This is a very old style of beaded ornament (*lei*) that is no longer seen, made or worn today but would have originally been made as a gift for wear. It consists of cylindrical disks of trochus or clam shell and possibly black coral strung on coconut fibre thread.

45.

106/1996/6

Shell pendant

20th century

Mount Hagen, Papua New Guinea

The *kina* shell pendant is considered the most valuable item of the Papuan highlands and consists of the rare gold-lipped oyster shell (*Pinctada maxima*). Pearl shell was brought from the coast to the interior through a series of exchange networks until first contact with Australian prospectors in the 1930s.

46.

29/1950/13

Presentation tooth

Early 20th century

Fiji

A sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*) tooth, which is usually attached to a cord of coconut fibre. *Tabua* are used as presentation gifts at weddings, funeral and other important occasions. Acquired from European traders in the early 19th century, they became highly important in strategic and dynastic exchanges.

47.

574/2007/7

Shell pendant

20th century

Malaita or Makira, Solomon Islands

This crescent black-lipped pearl shell (*Pinctada margaritifera*) pendant (*dafe*) was worn by men. The finest examples, however, were made from the gold-lipped pearl shell.

48.

57/1926/55

Shell pendant

SS *Southern Cross*, 1912

Solomon Islands

Pearl shell crucifixes were not worn everyday by men but on special occasions or were exchanged for shell money.

49.

57/1926/53

Nose ornament

Acquired 1912

Santa Cruz, Solomon Islands

An ornament for ritual occasion or for exchange, made of turtle-shell and pearl shell inlay in the form of fish.

50.

57/1926/52

Chest pendant

Acquired 1912

Santa Cruz, Solomon Islands

This ornament (*tema*) is made from the shell of the giant clam (*Tridacna gigas*) and overlaid with delicate turtle-shell (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) in the abstract form of the frigate bird and bonito. As a symbol of high status it was worn by senior men.

51.

57/1926/56

Nose ring

Acquired 1912

Santa Cruz Islands, Solomon Islands

This turtle-shell nose ring was traditionally worn by senior men of high status. Nose and ear ornamentation would have been worn with shell-beaded armlets and a clam shell chest ornament (*tema*).

52.

83/2005/10

Nose pin

Acquired 1950-67

Makira, Solomon Islands

Male adornment made from the giant clam shell (*Tridacna gigas*).

53.

83/2005/8

Whale tooth pendant

Acquired 1950 – 67

New Georgia, Solomon Islands

This whale tooth pendant is worn on the chest. It is considered a valuable and like shell rings were used for exchange and were kept as heirlooms.

54 - 67.

Fish hooks

18 - 19th century

Constructed from wood, bone, whale tooth and shell, hooks were used to catch a variety of fish. However, some were finely made and considered high status and were therefore gifted and traded.

54 *matau*, Aotearoa (New Zealand)

55 *makau*, Hawaii

56 kahawai lure, Aotearoa (New Zealand)

57 shark hook, Tahiti

58 *matau*, Tahiti

59 *matau*, red fan shell (Pinna), Tahiti

60 *matau*, pearl shell, Tahiti

61 line and hooks, Prince of Wales Is., Papua New Guinea

62 inshore mackerel hook, Solomon Islands

63 *pa*, bonito and tunny lure, Tonga

64 hook and line, Tonga

65 - 67 *makau*, Hawaii