



# BISHOP MUSEUM

November 9, 2021

## **MEDIA CONTACT:**

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### **Bishop Museum Opening “Tatau: Marks of Polynesia”**

*New exhibit showcases the work of traditional tatau masters alongside that of younger practitioners and artists utilizing new media and art forms.*

**Honolulu, Hawai‘i** — Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum will open a new exhibit in its J. M. Long Gallery on Saturday, November 13, 2021: *Tatau: Marks of Polynesia* will be on view through July 4, 2022.

#### Media Preview Opportunity

Bishop Museum invites members of the media to a pre-opening, closed-door preview of *Tatau: Marks of Polynesia*, with access to the exhibit, as well as interview opportunities with the exhibit curator, photographer, advisors, and Bishop Museum management.

- *Tatau: Marks of Polynesia* Media Preview
- Thursday, November 11, 2021
- 2-4 p.m.
- Bishop Museum | J. M. Long Gallery (adjacent to Hawaiian Hall)

Available for interviews (only during the Media Preview):

- Clement Hanami, Japanese American National Museum
- Takahiro Kitamura, Exhibit Curator
- John Agcaoili, Exhibit Photographer
- Steve Looney, Exhibit Curatorial Advisor
- Danielle Looney, Exhibit Curatorial Advisor
- Brandon Bunag, Bishop Museum vice president of public programs and interim director of education

Please RSVP with Lance Aquino via the contact information above.

Tattooing has long been held as not just a practice in art but also a way to tell stories through art, through the intimate painting of one’s body. Sāmoa’s tatau is one of the world’s most distinct

tattoo traditions. An indigenous art form, it dates back 2,000 years and has played a pivotal role in the preservation and propagation of Sāmoan culture.

Through photographs taken in a studio and on location in Sāmoa, *Tatau: Marks of Polynesia* will showcase the work of traditional tatau masters alongside that of younger practitioners and artists who are adopting tatau's motifs and styles for new media and art forms.

This exhibition is an opportunity to learn what tatau signifies in Sāmoan culture, and how it helps Sāmoans and other Polynesians living abroad stay connected to their identity and heritage.

“Storytelling is key to fulfilling Bishop Museum’s mission. Through stories, we’re able to open doors to our past, better understand the present, as well as prepare ahead for the future,” said Brandon Bunag, Bishop Museum vice president of public programs and interim director of education. “Bishop Museum understands that storytelling comes in many forms, whether through the spoken word, musical performance, or visual symbolism. We’re proud to share this exhibition with our local ‘ohana and visitors alike, and showcase an art form that resonates with many different cultures around the world.”

Additional photographs featured in the exhibition, taken in Hawai‘i, New Zealand, California, and Nevada, demonstrate the spread of the tatau art form outside of Sāmoa and some of its newer interpretations.

Like tatau, Japan’s irezumi is also a distinct living tattoo tradition. This exhibition is curated by master tattoo artist Takahiro “Ryudaibori” Kitamura, who previously curated *Perseverance: Japanese Tattoo Tradition in a Modern World* for the Japanese American National Museum, which organized *Tatau*.

As the *Tatau* exhibition highlights Sāmoan tattooing implements, Bishop Museum has also curated its cultural collection items to highlight implements from both Hawai‘i and Samoa, as an added feature to the exhibition. Through this effort, the Museum aims to show the connections between the cultures of Polynesia through the lens of tattooing practices and traditions. These select items are rarely on view from Bishop Museum’s collections.

Tickets to *Tatau: Marks of Polynesia* are available at [BishopMuseum.org/Tatau](https://BishopMuseum.org/Tatau).

The traveling version of *Tatau: Marks of Polynesia* is organized by the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, California, and is supported, in part, by Mariko Gordon and Hugh Cosman.

Bishop Museum would like to thank the following generous sponsors:

Contributing Sponsor:  
Pasha Hawaii

Media Sponsor:  
FLUX Hawaii

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### **Bishop Museum Admission, Parking, and Hours**

To control museum capacity, we will be offering a maximum of 125 tickets per hour of operation.

Timed General Admissions can be booked on the hour from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at [BishopMuseum.org/Tickets](https://BishopMuseum.org/Tickets).

Once a timed admission is booked, please arrive at any time during your check-in hour. Arriving after your hour reservation check-in window by more than 15 minutes may require entry on a space-available basis. All admissions once checked in, are welcome to stay until close of business.

If you currently hold a pre-purchased Admission ticket that is still valid, those tickets will be honored on a space-available basis on the day of attendance.

The safety and health of our visitors and employees remains our highest priority, and new measures have been enacted to keep the Museum a safe place to visit. Please visit our [Health & Safety](#) page.

Per the City & County of Honolulu's recent order\*, effective Monday, September 13, 2021 all visitors to Bishop Museum age 12 and older must provide the following:

- Proof of full COVID-19 vaccination, and a valid photo ID; or
- Proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken within 48 hours, and a valid photo ID

Proof of vaccination includes:

- A hardcopy of a Hawai'i State-approved vaccination card (photocopies and digital copies are acceptable); or
- A Hawai'i State-approved app confirming full vaccination status

A map of COVID-19 testing sites can be found on the City & County of Honolulu's [OneOahu.org](https://OneOahu.org) website. Not all sites offer free testing and their hours may fluctuate from day to day, so please call them to confirm their hours and pricing.

Please note that the negative test result required must be from an FDA approved, or FDA EUA approved, molecular or antigen test. The Museum is not able to accept any undated negative COVID-19 test results.

Prior to entering the Museum, guests will be asked to undergo a temperature check. Guests are also asked to wear face masks and practice social distancing, both indoors and outdoors, during their visit.

\*Order 10, Sections A and B, of the City and County of Honolulu Emergency Order No. 2021-11 dated August 30, 2021. More information can be found [here](#).

General Admission

Adults: \$24.95

Seniors (65+): \$21.95

Youth (4–17): \$16.95

Children (3 and under): Free

Children age 16 and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

Hawai'i Residents, Hawai'i College Students & Military with ID

Adults: \$14.95

Seniors (65+): \$12.95

Youth (4–17): \$10.95

Children (3 and under): Free

Bishop Museum Annual Membership levels include free general admission and parking for 12 months. Learn more at [BishopMuseum.org/Membership](https://BishopMuseum.org/Membership).

### Parking Rates

Daytime Rate: 6 a.m.–5 p.m. \$5.00

Evening Rate: 5 p.m.–10 p.m. \$3.00

### Hours

Open every day from 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Closed on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day

Bishop Museum Café by Highway Inn offers a limited menu of bowls, sandwiches, and snacks from 10:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m. daily. Bishop Museum Members receive a 10% discount with their membership card.

### **About Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum:**

Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum's mission is to inspire our community and visitors through the exploration, celebration and perpetuation of the extraordinary history, culture, and environment of Hawai'i and the Pacific. The museum was founded in 1889 by Charles Reed Bishop in memory of his wife Bernice Pauahi Bishop, a royal descendant of King Kamehameha I. Today, the museum thrives as an educational center for the community and is widely regarded as the world's premier institution for Hawaiian and Pacific content. Its vast collections of more than 25 million objects and specimens represent nine disciplines and include more than 22 million biological specimens, over two million cultural objects, 115,000 historical publications, and one million photographs, films, works of art, audio recordings, and manuscripts. These collections tell the stories of the cultures and biodiversity of Hawai'i and the Pacific as well as the proud legacy of scholarly research spanning 130 years. Bishop Museum proudly serves more than 200,000 visitors each year, including 20,000 children on school visits. To learn more about the museum's research, collections, exhibits, and programs, visit [BishopMuseum.org](http://BishopMuseum.org), follow @BishopMuseum on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), become a fan of Bishop Museum on [Facebook](#), visit Bishop Museum's [YouTube channel](#), or call (808) 847-3511. Bishop Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.