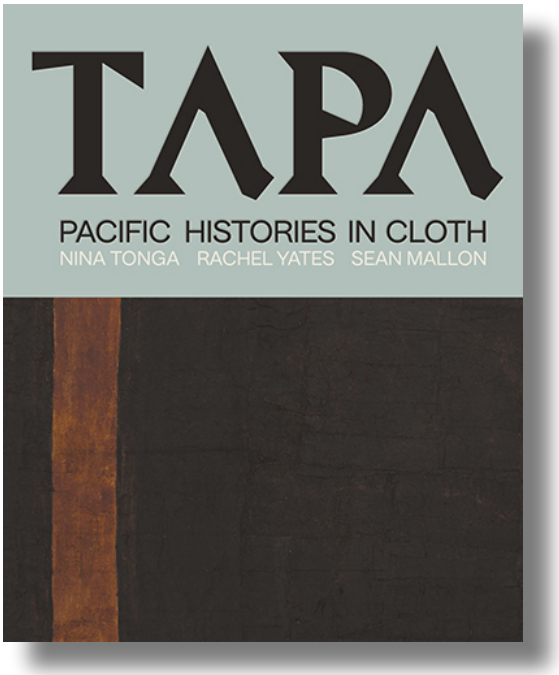
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Tapa

Pacific Histories in Cloth

NINA TONGA, RACHEL YATES AND SEAN MALLON



Over five years in the making, *Tapa: Pacific Histories in Cloth* is well worth the wait and is the most significant contribution of knowledge about tapa in a generation.

Much like the making of tapa, this book has been a collective effort, gathering expert opinion and showcasing the vast collections of the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa. Featuring over two hundred tapa from 18 Pacific island nations, from Taiwan to Hawai'i, this book explores the lineages of tapa making across the Pacific. Placing artists and makers at its centre, the authors and contributors of *Tapa* explore the processes and cultural politics of contemporary tapa making alongside experiences of migration, art, dress, conservation and curatorship that reflect the complex social and cultural lives of tapa cloth.

Many tapa featured in the book have never been published or displayed before. Captured by specialist detailed photography these taonga are brought into glorious focus, with the larger tapa cloths featured on fold-out pages.

Co-author Rachel Yates says of the selections for the book, "We had to balance things like visual impact, provenance and style, while doing our best to be attentive to representation. It's important to note that our choices were shaped not only by the cloths themselves, but also by the histories of collecting that brought them into Te Papa's care."

The highly illustrated spreads of this book will invite any reader to delve deeper into the rich and varied world of tapa and will come away knowing tapa is much more than just a textile. Nina Tonga considers many tapa histories as, "living histories held in memory and practice by makers, families and communities. Being able to connect and capture some of this in the book has been one of my highlights and a good reminder that there are so many tapa stories left to tell."

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Dr Nina Tonga is from the villages of Vaini and Kolo fo'ou, Tonga, and is Assistant Professor of Art History at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She has worked as an art curator in Aotearoa and the wider Pacific for over fifteen years.

Dr Rachel Yates is a Pacific historian whose gafa connects her to the Sāmoan villages of Vaisala and Sataua. She works as a historian for Manatū Taonga, the Ministry for Culture and Heritage.

Dr Sean Mallon is of Sāmoan and Irish descent and is Senior Curator Pacific Cultures at Te Papa. He is the author of articles and books on the history of Pacific peoples in Aotearoa, Pacific arts and museology.

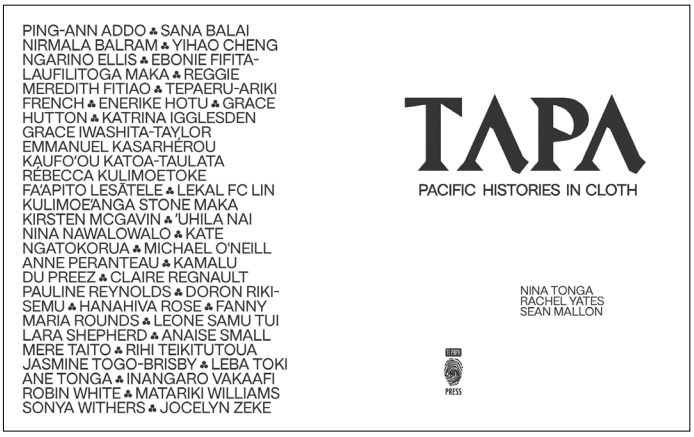
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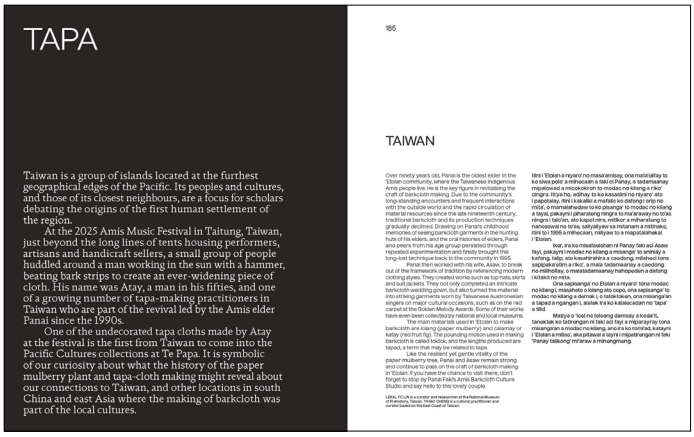
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THE AUTHORS ARE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW / EXTRACTS & IMAGES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Look inside *Tapa*:

https://tinyurl.com/39625v5j

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