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Day 7 Highlights of the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture

The seventh day of the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture (FestPAC) continued its celebration of the rich and diverse cultures of the Pacific islands. The day was filled with displays of visual arts, captivating film screenings, and dynamic dance performances, offering attendees an immersive experience into the artistic expressions and traditions of the Pacific.

Visual Arts - Talanoa's Completed Piece

One of Talanoa's art pieces, completed during the FestPAC features a man and a woman has not yet been given a title. The original idea that inspired the artwork did not materialize as he had envisioned, but the emotional expression led his artistic direction towards a deeper connection with the rhythm of our culture and its people. The young artist explained that this piece depicts a man and a woman linked by flowers in a way that symbolizes the essence of being Samoan. The flower embodies the beauty of Samoan culture, while the traditional attire of the woman, adorned with the *malu* (female tattoo or *tatau*) design, signifies her as a Samoan woman. Additionally, a classic Samoan haircut is depicted on the man in the painting, subtly expressing the artist's pride in showcasing this representation to the Pacific community.

Short Film Showing of 'Daughter of Barkcloth' by Gabrielle Faaiuso

The FestPAC hosted the premiere of Gabrielle Faaiuso's compelling short film, "Daughter of Barkcloth," at the Hawaii Convention Center. The film, featuring the extraordinary talent of Regina "Reggie" Meredith Fitiao, captivated audiences with its narrative on the traditional art of making Siapo and the challenges of preserving this ancient knowledge in the modern era.

"Daughter of Barkcloth" delved into the intricate process of creating Siapo, the traditional Samoan barkcloth, through the eyes of Reggie Fitiao, a master Siapo artist and cultural advocate.

The film captured her meticulous work and dedication, highlighting the beauty and significance of Siapo in Samoan culture.

Director Gabby Faaiuso, known for her evocative storytelling and dedication to Pacific arts, brought to life the rich heritage of Samoan craftsmanship. The film not only showcased the technical aspects of Siapo-making but also addressed the broader issues of cultural preservation and the transmission of traditional knowledge to future generations.

Reggie's journey stood as a testament to resilience and passion. Through her, the film explored the complexities of maintaining cultural practices in an age where globalization and technological advancements often overshadow traditional ways. "Daughter of Barkcloth" served as a tribute to those who strive to keep their cultural heritage alive, emphasizing the importance of intergenerational learning and the communal responsibility of preserving such knowledge.

Performance Group took to the stage one final time at FestPac

All good things must come to an end, would be the most fitting proverb to close out the Amerika Samoa's Performance Group's journey at FestPAC. The final performance took place at Capitol Modern, Hawaii State art museum on Thursday, June 13, 2024.

Prelude to Samoan Heritage Festival

Tomorrow will kick-off the 2024 Samoan Heritage Festival with an opening ceremony at Keehi Lagoon Park at 8:00 AM. A ceremonial pass-in-review parade will take place. The Amerika Samoa FestPac Performance group were invited to perform at the opening of the Samoan Heritage Festival. This event is open to the public.

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REGGIE MEREDITH-FITIAO
Master Siapo Maker



PC: Sherry Satele Eti; Capital Modern Capture



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