Tattoo Traditions of Polynesia

Tattooing was far more than body decoration in traditional Polynesian cultures. It was intricately woven into the social, political and religious systems of the Polynesian people. Tattooist, author and historian Tricia Allen will present a three-part series of beautifully illustrated presentations on the cultural practices in early historic times.

October 11th, 12:30 - 2:00 pm  A TATTOO TOUR OF POLYNESIA
is a fun, fast moving overview of tattooing in each of the primary Polynesia island groups, giving a glimpse into the history, origins, cultural complexes and art of Samoa, Tonga, the Society and Marquesas Islands, Aotearoa Rapa Nui and Hawai’i.

October 18th, 12:30 - 2pm  TATTOO TRADITIONS OF THE MARQUESAS
provides an in-depth look into one of the most complex tattoo traditions found anywhere in the world. Marquesan tattoo was very extensive in the amount of the body covered and was strictly culturally prescribed. This presentation includes the art, meanings and motifs, as well as the cultural complexes behind the art.

October 25th, 12:30 - 2pm  TATTOO TRADITIONS OF HAWAI’I
is an examination of the early records from both western observers and native sources on the practice of tattooing in Hawai’i. Although Hawaiians enjoyed more freedom and flexibility in their tattooing, there were certain tattoos that were part of an ancient pan-Pacific cultural tradition and were closely tied into the social and religious systems of ancient Hawai’i.

Tricia Allen is a tattooist and anthropologist who has first hand experience in the art as she has tattooed well over 10,000 individuals. In addition, she has traveled the Pacific extensively documenting the revival of the art.

Windward Community College
Hale Akoakoa Room 101-103

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