

KAREN STEVENSON

A Message from the President of the Pacific Arts Association

This is the Pacific Arts Association's first issue of *Pacific Arts* utilizing an open access on-line journal platform. *Pacific Arts* has been published for more than four decades and has been a valuable vehicle for scholarship focusing on the arts of the Pacific region. For many years it was one of the few journals that would accept Pacific material. Today, however, *Pacific Arts* and *Oceanic Visual Studies* are not only acknowledged with numerous labels, they link with multiple disciplines that investigate the artistic production of the region.

We believe that the move to an open access journal will facilitate disciplinary growth, stimulate innovative scholarship and conversations, and broaden our community of contributors. Unlike a print journal, the on-line format enables us to include an unlimited number of images, sound, and moving images. We hope that the expanded capabilities of this platform will attract both readers and contributors, allowing the Pacific Arts Association to fulfil its mission to facilitate and encourage an awareness and understanding of the arts and cultures of the Pacific region.

We invite you to join us on this new journey.



Karen Stevenson, of Tahitian heritage, was born and raised in Los Angeles. She received her PhD in Oceanic Art History from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1988. She moved to Christchurch in 1995 to take up a position at the University of Canterbury where she is currently an Adjunct Senior Fellow. Her writings and research have focused on the politics and institutionalization of culture, art and identity, the Pacific Arts Festival, and for the past 20 years, on Contemporary Pacific Art in New Zealand. She has published widely and is the author of: The Frangipani is Dead, Contemporary Pacific Art in New Zealand, 1985-2000; Johnny Peninsula, Reinventing Tradition, and Filipe Tohi, Journey to the Present – Makahoko mei Lotokafa.