

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

SIXTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215 extension 224

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SPECIAL EVENTS TO MARK 3-MO. EXTENSION
OF "STUPENDOUS" PACIFIC ISLANDS SHOW

WASHINGTON, D. C. September 13, 1979. The Art of the Pacific Islands, the National Gallery of Art's major international loan exhibition originally scheduled to close on October 14, has been extended to February 17, 1980. A group of related performances will be presented without charge by the Gallery in the coming weeks.

Described by a critic as a "stupendous eye-opener," this historic exhibition, the most comprehensive ever devoted to the visual arts of Polynesia, Melanesia, Micronesia and New Guinea, has been praised in public reviews and private comments for the quality of the objects selected and the effectiveness of their installation.

More than 170,000 visitors have seen the exhibition since it opened on July 1. Most of the more than 400 objects, which are on loan from over 70 public and private collections throughout the world, are so fragile that they may never again leave their home institutions.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Gallery will present several events during September. From Friday, September 14, through Sunday, September 23, the Halau O Kekuhi, a Hawaiian Island group renowned for its presentation and preservation of traditional Hawaiian music, chant and dance, will perform twice daily at the National Gallery's East Building. Also, on Tuesday, September 18, John Rangihau, an eminent authority on the Maoris of New Zealand, will discuss Maori cul-

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tural history at 11:30 a.m. in the East Building's small auditorium, and Rangimarie Hetet, a master weaver of Maori basketry, fabric and featherwork, will demonstrate the craft from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. on the Concourse level near the entrance to the exhibition.

The Halau O Kekuhi, led by Master of Hula Nalani Kanaka'ole, will offer thirty-minute programs of chants, invocations and traditional dances at noon and 1:30 p.m. each day except Tuesday, September 18, when the first performance will be given at 11:00 a.m. These presentations of authentic Hawaiian dances will be co-sponsored by the State Council on Hawaiian Heritage and the (Hawaii) State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. Transportation of the group will be provided through the generosity of Continental Airlines.

Most of the performances will be given on the East Building's Concourse level, near the entrance to the exhibition. On the weekends, September 15, 16, 22 and 23, the noon performances will be offered on the East Building lawn at 4th Street and Madison Drive, N.W., weather permitting. If the weather is inclement, those performances will also be presented inside, on the Concourse level.

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