

*For Immediate Release*

Woodbury University School of Architecture to Host Contingent

From Art School in Tahiti; Manava Exhibition of

Contemporary Polynesian Art to Open at WUHO on Dec. 6

***Collaborating with Tahitian-American Artist Alexander Lee,***

***Faculty/Student Group Embraces Traditional and Modern Art and Craft***

LOS ANGELES – (Nov. 25, 2014) – "What is our relationship to history and how can we consider the question of our cultural representation today?"

The question comes from Tahitian-American artist Alexander Lee, who collaborates with students and faculty members from The Centre des Métiers d'Art - Te Pu Haapiiraa Toroa Rima i (CMA), an art school in Tahiti dedicated to teaching students traditional and contemporary art and craft from French Polynesia.

Under the auspices of [Woodbury University](http://www.woodbury.edu)’s School of Architecture, the group of eight Polynesian students and three CMA faculty members will stay in Woodbury’s residence halls from Nov. 26 to Dec. 10, as they organize an exhibition at the Woodbury University Hollywood Outpost (WUHO) gallery ([www.architecture.woodbury.edu/wuho](http://www.architecture.woodbury.edu/wuho)), 6518 Hollywood Blvd. WUHO is the university’s center for experimental exhibitions and multi-disciplinary collaborations. The university will in turn stage digital software and fabrication workshops for the group on campus. Co-hosting the group is Randy Stauffer, former Associate Dean of the School of Architecture and currently Woodbury’s VP of Academic Affairs.

The exhibition, known as *Manava*, consists of contemporary Polynesian art and will open at WUHO on Saturday, Dec. 6, at 6 p.m.  The exhibition revisits the history and heritage of Polynesia as lived by the students and teachers of the CMA, through sculpture, painting, weaving, engraving, photography, video, and installations. The works were originally exhibited at the Musée de Tahiti et des Îles - Te Fare Manaha (MTI), in Papeete, Tahiti in 2013. The exhibition is made possible through donations by Air Tahiti Nui, along with other grants.

For Woodbury, the visit is, in effect, returning a favor extended to the university on three previous occasions. CMA students and faculty hosted Woodbury architecture and interior architecture students in 2010, 2011 and 2013. The current contingent received grants from the French government, and free roundtrip flights for the entire group from Papeete to Los Angeles from Air Tahiti Nui.

“We are honored to welcome Alexander and the CMA faculty and students to the Woodbury campus and the WUHO gallery space,” said Ingalill Wahlroos-Ritter, AIA, Associate Dean of the School of Architecture and Director, WUHO. “The variety of the work on display is certain to surprise and delight. This is a rare opportunity for the community at large to experience the culture of a land too few of us are privileged to visit.”

**About Woodbury University**

Founded in 1884, Woodbury University is one of the oldest institutions of higher education in Southern California.  Woodbury offers bachelor's degrees from the School of Architecture, School of Business, School of Media, Culture & Design, and College of Transdisciplinarity, along with a Master of Arts (MA) in Media for Social Justice, Master of Architecture (MArch), Master of Interior Architecture (MIA), Master of Science in Architecture (MSArch), and Master of Leadership.  The San Diego campus offers Bachelor of Architecture and Master of Architecture degrees, as well as an MSArch degree with concentrations in Real Estate Development and Landscape + Urbanism.  Woodbury ranks 15th among the nation’s “25 Colleges That Add the Most Value,” according to *Money Magazine****.***Visit [www.woodbury.edu](http://www.woodbury.edu/) for more information.

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