



manuia

The American Indian Community House,
11 Broadway, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10004,
March 15 - May 29, 2010.

Stereotypical banality,
cultural dimensionality &
the key to contemporary
pacific art

Featuring Artists;

Michel Tuffery, Michael Tavioni,
Jerome Sheddon, Mahiriki Tangaroa,
Andy Leleisi'uao and Kay George

Curated by Ben Bergman & Mahiriki Tangaroa



The Pacific Ocean and her Islands are historically notable, usually in the romantic un-realities of literature, movies and tourist photography.

Swaying palm trees, exotic islanders and primitive landscapes are the archetypical images that provide the foundation of the dominant stereotype.

18th Century English painter William Hodges typified this perspective in his works aboard the second voyage of Captain James Cook. Much later American entertainment icon Elvis Presley brought this 'reality' to American living rooms with such notable film experiences as 'Blue Hawaii'.

'Manuia' has been curated in the Cook and is a visual statement that responds to institutionalized theories and Western dialogues that characterize contemporary art practice in the South Pacific.

Confronting these challenges, Manuia delightfully proffers a definition of banality in the form of identifying, deconstructing and obliterating persistent institutionalized definitions of pacific contemporary art.

