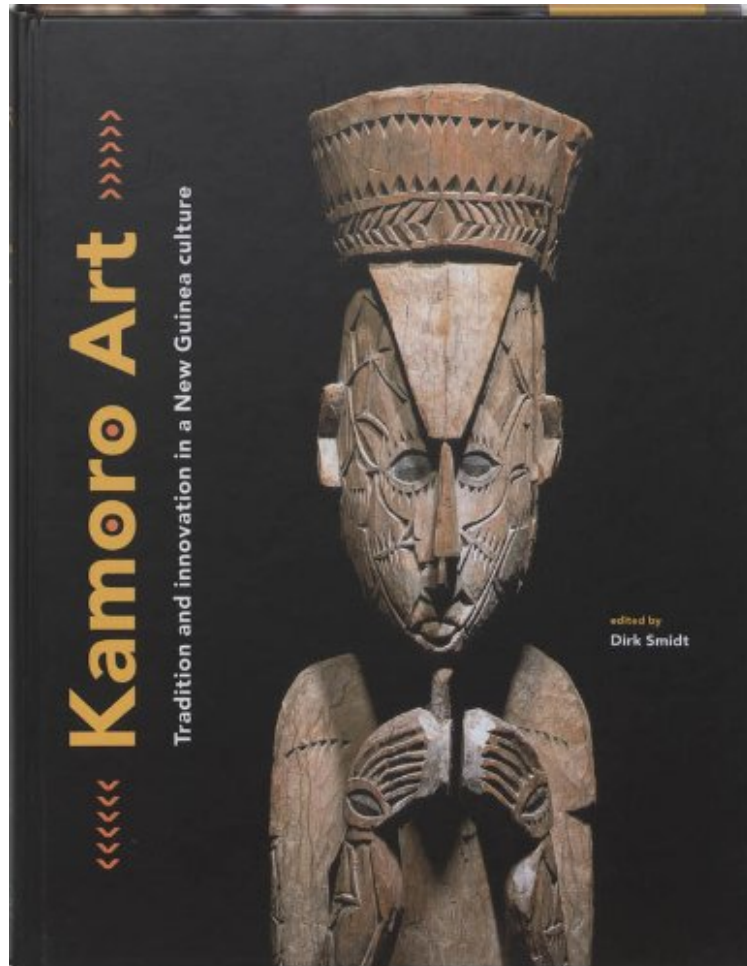


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## Kamoro Art: Tradition and Innovation in a New Guinea Culture

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**From KIT Publishers :** **Kamoro Art: Tradition and Innovation in a New Guinea Culture** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Kamoro Art: Tradition and Innovation in a New Guinea Culture:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Exceptional Artifacts In Cultural Perspective By James I. Cole Hardback, illustrated boards, less DJ as issued, 157 Pages, 12" x 9.5", 129 artifacts in full color, and 75 color field photos of the Kamoro People and artists. 1 map, Bibliography. Edited by Dirk Smidt. Published by KIT publishers on behalf of Rijksmuseum voor Volkerkunde - Leiden, 2003. One of my favorite books amongst the hundreds of tribal art books I own, this wonderfully illustrated book documents the lives and art of the Kamoro, a people living along the southwest coast of West Papua. (AKA Irian Jaya.) An interesting and informative essay by Jan Pouwer accompanies superb photos depicting Kamoro life and ritual, and the quality artifacts shown are rarely published. Simply superb masks, figures, textiles, spirit poles, sago pounders, panels and doors, and wonderful field photos to put the artworks

into cultural perspective. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Accompanied by a fine essay on major ceremonies By Midwest Book Review Kamoro Art: Tradition And Innovation In A New Guinea Culture will find its place in any art history collection with special focus on primitive tribes and peoples in general and Asia in particular, covering the neglected art of the Kamoro peoples living in Papua. Major pieces from the collection of the Rijksmuseum voor Volkenkunde supplements other pieces from other Netherlands holdings to provide a comprehensive visual coverage accompanied by a fine essay on major ceremonies by Jan Pouwer and other contributions.

This book celebrates the long neglected art of the Kamoro, a people living along the southwest coast of Papua. Traditional Kamoro culture was characterized by an almost uninterrupted series of feasts and ceremonies. Some of these feasts are still celebrated today. Woodcarvings made in a distinct style play an essential part in the proceedings. For the first time, a selection of major pieces from the collection of the Rijksmuseum voor Volkenkunde, augmented by rare objects from other museums in The Netherlands, has been brought together. Many of the objects, some collected as early as 1828, are unique. Recently collected woodcarvings show the versatility of the Kamoro in continuing the tradition while adding innovation changes to their repertoire. This book, edited by Dirk Smidt, includes a substantial essay by Jan Pouwer on major ceremonial feasts, and contributions by other experts in the field, including Todd Harple, Karen Jacobs, Methodius Mamapuku, and Hein A. van der Schoot.

"The catalog is illustrated with 127 good color photographs of the objects. There are also about 74 excellent black-and-white and color field photographs of Kamoro people making and using art. Some of the objects in the exhibition were collected as early as 1828, and the most recent pieces are only a few years old, so the exhibition spans a broad period of cultural creativity. Editor Smidt and principal author Jan Pouwer are both well-known and respected scholars of the Kamoro, and there are excellent essays by Todd Harple, Karen Jacobs, Methodius Mamapuku, and Hein A. van der Schoot. This first substantial study of Kamoro art is extremely useful for understanding the creative abilities of an interesting people of Melanesia. The book will be very helpful to any students or scholars of the art of the Pacific islands. Summing Up: Highly recommended. General readers; lower-division undergraduates through faculty."