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Body Ornaments of Kwara ae and Malaita: A Vanishing Artistic Tradition of Solomon Islands (Paperback)

By Ben Burt

University of Hawaii Press, United States, 2009. Paperback. Book Condition: New. New.. 292 x 208 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. The Kwara ae and other peoples of Malaita island in Solomon Islands once dressed for special occasions in ornaments of glistening white shell and pearl shell, intricately carved turtle shell, strings and straps of shell money-beads, and combs and bands patterned with colorful plant fibers. Today these ornaments are easier to find in museums around the world than in Malaita, but the recollections of Kwara ae elders help us to understand how and why they were once made and worn. With contributions from the neighboring Kwaio people who still make such things and examples from other parts of the island in museum and private collections, this book provides the first comprehensive account of Malaitan decorative and body arts. The book reviews the significance of body ornaments in Kwara ae society, and the history of their rejection under the changing circumstances of colonial rule and Christian conversion, illustrated by historical photographs. It describes the materials, techniques, and relationships by which ornaments were produced and exchanged, and then catalogs the great variety of ornaments worn throughout Malaita, fully illustrated in...



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