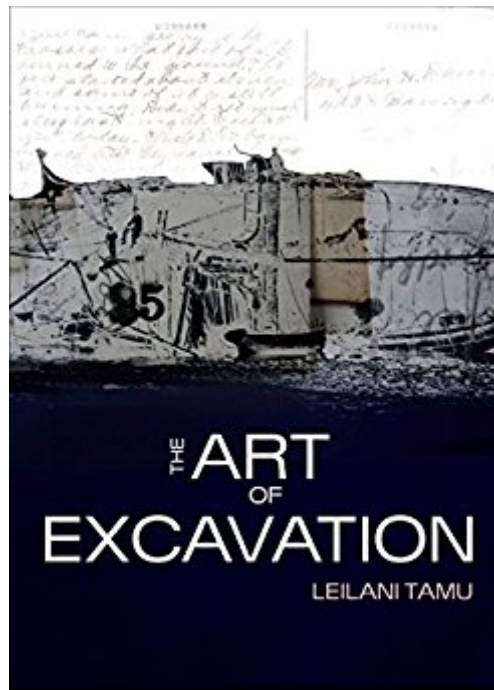


The book was found

# The Art Of Excavation



## Synopsis

In *The Art of Excavation*, poet Leilani Tamu delves into the complex and multifaceted nature of the region that we know as the Pacific. In poetry that is by turns fierce and political, tender and insightful, contemplative and intimate, Leilani creates a beautiful *tā'ga* (woven mat) that weaves together living memory in a way that also acknowledges and places the past at the centre of the narrative. Challenging the popular orthodox approach of *digging up* the past, Leilani reclaims the process of excavation as a creative metaphor for reframing and retelling Pacific stories from her own perspective, as a Pacific woman. This book is a vibrant and challenging offering from a young Pacific writer who is also a mother, historian, former New Zealand diplomat and columnist. *The Art of Excavation* is her first poetry collection.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I chose Mrs. Leilani Tamu as my author of choice for my Samoan Writing Class at University. I read through *The Art of Excavation* more than several times, and how amazing is it that I got something different from it on every occasion. This book has started a movement within myself as a young

Pacific Islander who grew up in a place where I was indigenous to the region but not the island. This book includes a glossary and notes that helped me immensely with some history or background on particular poems. This helped me in that this knowledge is not easily accessible for foreign born Samoans such as myself. This book has started a movement within myself to begin a journey of excavation of my own, with where I am from, who I am and how I define that. It is beautifully written, and covers a wide space of Oceania while still being specific enough to be relate able. Highly recommended book for those who study the Pacific and for those new to the region.

This beautiful book has a haunting quality and I think it might be the first time in my entire life that I've sat down and read a whole book of poetry from beginning to end without stopping. I even went through the glossary at the end looking for familiar terms from my days of island hopping in the South Pacific countries. By the end I felt I had gained new insight to neighbouring South Pacific thinking. I look forward to reading more by this highly original and dynamic young author.

Poet Leilani Tamu obviously has a deep understanding of the islands of the Pacific, their treasures, trials, and tragedies. This collection of poems is beautifully written and compelling reading.

This is a thoughtful, intriguing, and revealing book of poetry.

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