

Yuki Kihara's *Going Native* at Museum Volkenkunde

Sofia Miorelli

To take care may be understood as giving time and space to understand each other better, and to do this with a spirit of generosity. This form of care informs interdisciplinary artist Yuki Kihara's practice, including during her residency at the National Museum of World Cultures in the Netherlands. Kihara has long engaged with questions of how colonialism has shaped, and continues to shape, our contemporary human and more than human world, with a special focus on the Pacific. In her work, she explores issues of race and gender, but also of climate justice. As part of her ongoing inquiry into representations of the Pacific, its histories, peoples, and cultures, in Western art and historical narratives, Yuki Kihara's film installation *Going Native* offers a multifaceted and gentle probing of what it may mean to be a practitioner of performance tradition from a culture that is not one's own. As Kihara asks, might we be implicated in caring for the heritage of another?

Photo source credits

Page 1: Art installation: Ella Weehuizen; collection: RV-1222-15, Nationaal Museum van Wereldculturen (NMVW).

Page 2: Art installation: Ella Weehuizen; collection visit: Sofia Miorelli; collection: RV-A109-1-94, NMVW.

Page 3: Art installation: Ella Weehuizen; collection visit: Sofia Miorelli; collection: RV-350-484, NMVW.

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Quoted texts are taken from the *Going Native* video works.

Going Native thoughtfully navigates the ideas of cross-cultural exchange, representation and identity. The installation work by Yuki Kihara introduces us to Dutch people who are committed to aspects of Oceanic heritage: Hawaiian hula, Yolŋu yidaki and the Māori waka. Through ceremonial songs and dances, we are gently prompted to ponder on these cultural intersections and what they might mean.

Going Native





The haka that we're going to do is the Tangaros haka, which was written especially for us.

May my hoe (paddle) devour the tides of Tangaroa
And breaking crests
He! (rise)
Smashing through tidal swells
Smashing through crests
May I never be overcome (overturned)
He!
No matter how large the objective
Even though I may be small and insignificant
I will never let my hoe lie in idleness
A mountainous ocean can be conquered by a canoe!
A mountain of people can never be conquered!
Because it is sacrosanct!
I am Njord the frenzied!
The awe!
The powerful!
Rise up your hoe!
He!





