

UNE CONTRIBUTION À LA  
DÉFINITION DE L'ART DANS LE  
CONTEXTE TAHITIEN

*Jean Daniel Tokainiua Devatine*



*Illustration by Cecelia Faumuina*

## Author



### Jean Daniel Tokainiua Devatine

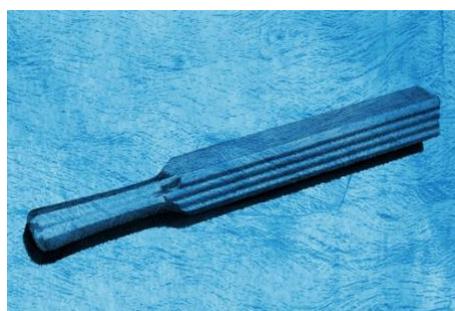
is a Professor at the Centre des Métiers d'Art de la Polynésie française.

He is from Tahiti with ancestral ties to Rotuma and several European countries. A trained anthropologist and visual artist, he has co-authored books and published articles on Indigenous contemporary art from French Polynesia.

His teaching is based on the sharing of knowledge on Oceanian heritage, tangible and intangible, cultural and natural, with young people, in order to enlighten their present times and make them realize the wider world, so as to build a response to challenges that globalization reveals.

His academic engagement is focused, like Indigenous writers and academics before him, on the acknowledgement of an Oceanian consciousness into the expressions of culture and local and current initiatives. This allows him to contribute to the elaboration of a more balanced discourse on the Tahitian world understanding, past and present. His previous and actual research leads him to elaborate works about Tahitian research dance, literature, traditional festivals and visual art.

### Front image caption & credit



**Name:** l'e

**Place:** Tahiti

**Photo:** Axel Killian

**Artist:** Jean Daniel Tokainiua Devatine (author of the paper)

**Description:** This i'e (tapa beater), made from polished aluminium, is inspired from a traditional Tahitian i'e. It is part of the artist's own art collection and has featured in several exhibitions in Tahiti such as at the Museum of Tahiti as well as in art galleries. Beating the bark of trees was a very

important traditional activity in ancient times that almost disappeared. The artist plays with the codes of traditional representation of heritage and offers a renewed way of perceiving and staging the i'e. He made it a contemporary work by using a modern material that questions our current relationship to the past as well as to art.