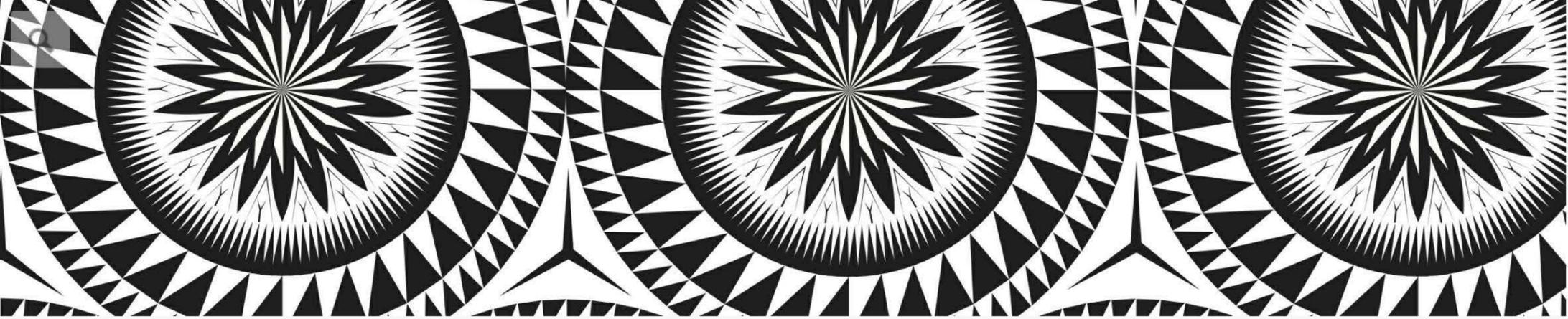


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Navigating the values of Siapo

Through Identity, Le Va and Textile Design

Introduction Part 1 Part 2 Part 3 Part 4 Part 5 Opening Conclusion
Subject 1 - Tav Subject 2 - Ali Subject 3 - Nick Acknowledgements

Introduction

Growing up as a child of mixed race, I was never aware of the major influences my ethnic identity would play upon my existence as a designer today. Looking back now I have seen how important the teachings of my elders and Samoan relatives have become in providing me with a sense of respect for tradition, Samoan culture and faith. Yet, I am always reminded of my European and Scottish heritage when encountering differences.

From the experiences I have attained through my involvement in the Pasifika Arts community, my professional role in high-end menswear, and a daughter to a father of European Scottish heritage, I have begun to question where these values around tradition and culture will lie in the future.

The interconnected culture of Siapo has been a prominent medium in navigating this journey.

About this Exegesis

This exegesis is constructed through five main parts and a progressive conclusion. Each part consists of a short film and supporting text as an attempt to provide a glimpse into the experiences and context gained throughout the project.

It should also be noted that the use of Talanoa has been a prominent research methodology throughout this journey. (1)

~ **Part 1**

(1) *Talanoa* - a tongan term meaning “a personal encounter where people story their issues, their realities and aspirations” (Vaioleti, 1999-2003). Several talanoa with Rev. S.L. Vaioleti, Head of the Church of Tonga, USA, in Palo Alto, Oakland, San Francisco.

