

KUO HINA E HIAPO: The Mulberry is White and Ready to Harvest

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A film by Joseph Ostraff and Melinda Ostraff

Tapa cloth or *ngatu* as it is called in Tonga, is cloth made from the bark of the paper mulberry tree. *Ngatu* and its associated patterns continue to carry deep symbolic meaning and ceremonial use. The culminating activity in production of *ngatu* is the weekly *koka'anga*. Women meet together weekly in cooperatives to construct large pieces of bark cloth. This film examines the reciprocal interplay between decisions regarding creative process and maintenance of traditional modes of production of visual culture. (Film)