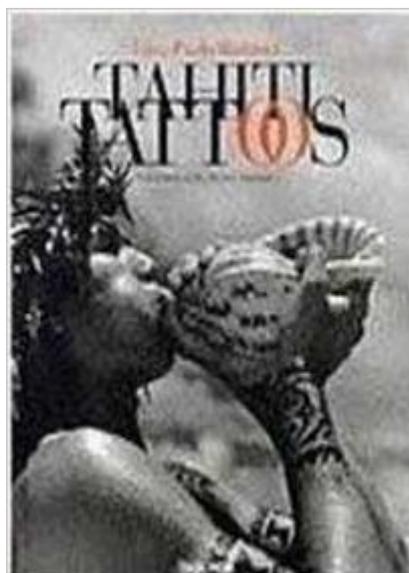


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# Tahiti Tattoos



## Synopsis

Gian Paolo Barbieri's photographs of the tattooed people of Tahiti provide a record of an unspoken Polynesian language left on the skin of the people.

## Book Information

Series: Photobook

Hardcover: 128 pages

Publisher: Taschen (February 1, 1998)

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Product Dimensions: 10.8 x 0.8 x 13.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #877,642 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #232 in [Books > Arts &](#)

[Photography > Other Media > Body Art & Tattoo](#) #755 in [Books > Reference > Encyclopedias &](#)

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[Photojournalism & Essays > Photo Essays](#)

## Customer Reviews

This book has the most beautiful photographs of men that I have ever seen. The images are sensual and sensitive. That these images are rendered wholly in black and white is also significant. I am not particularly interested in tattoos, and when I saw this book in the bookstore, I wasn't into it. Then I went to Bora Bora and became fascinated by the men who are fire dancers. I have shown this book to my friends and they are all blown away by these images of men and want to go out and buy the book. The images are alluring and evocative, whether you are into tattoos or not. For those who are TOTALLY into this subject, there is another book which I saw in Bora Bora but have not been able to locate on the Internet, called *Tatouage*, which is in French. It includes detailed documentation and GORGEOUS images of Polynesian tattoos - hundreds of color illustrations.

The book is good but I got disappointed with some pictures. The reason is that some of those Polynesian guys aren't really tattooed - those tattoos are FAKE. Pay attention and you'll see some of their designs being erased by the water. So many tattooed people there and the author decided to pick a non-tattooed guy to draw some fake tattoos just to take his pictures, probably because he

found those guys handsome. What a shame.

I found this book to be more in line for artists and photographers, but I purchased it for the tattoos, information on Tahitian tattoos, and ideas for my own. If you are interested in Pacific culture, tattoos, or artistic photography this book is a must have as it covers ALL these like none other I've seen.

Aloha

The book is quite beautifully done in a sepia coloring with artfully done photography of tattoos with a narrative of the history of tattoos throughout Tahiti and Polynesia

The "Robinet D'Amour" tattoo is so witty and amusing. There are some good line drawings for references to study. Page 112 does show that the tattoos were painted on and washing off in the ocean. Aloha!

In this kind of books is very difficult to organize the history, the pictures and the theme. The author made a very good job, the photographs are great and the tattoos beautiful. I hope to see soon another work like this one.

Hardcover. Cloth over boards, 120 pp, 3.5 pounds. Illustrations throughout, including many full-page photographs. TABLE OF CONTENTS  
When Skin Speaks  
The History of Tattooing in Polynesia  
The Reasons for Tattooing  
The Tattooing Operation

I'm an artist, alright? I bought this book for the tattoos.... Yeah... Really! Just joking. Frankly, this is a nice photo book featuring pictures of hot looking Tahitian men in next to nothing. There are guys swimming, catching fish, and just hanging out. Sure there are few women in these pictures but frankly given the amount of cheesecake out there, there are plenty of books you can buy if you want to look at hot tattooed women. I particularly like the photos towards the end in the water, and the photos with more than one guy in it are twice as cool. This book has an honored place in my art reference section. It gets 5 stars from me for the sheer hotness factor of the men. 5 stars

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