



The Landing of Captn. Cook &c. at Middleburgh, One of the Friendly Isles

Date
1784-1786

Primary Maker
Artist Unknown

Medium

engraving

Description

In Hogg’s interpretation of Sherwin’s engraving, the scene has been significantly altered, with the chief standing on land, gesturing in peace towards Cook rather than on the boat facing his own subjects. In this way, Ataongo becomes less of a proactive leader brokering a peaceful encounter on behalf of his people, and more of a willing subordinate, ready to accept Cook’s arrival without first investigating his intentions. The Tongans, with their flowing robes and graceful, serpentine poses, appear all the more classical in comparison to Cook’s contemporary military costuming as they accept the new arrivals without question or threat of violence.

Dimensions

Sheet: 9 3/4 x 14 1/4 in. (24.8 x 36.2 cm)