Brenda Kesi

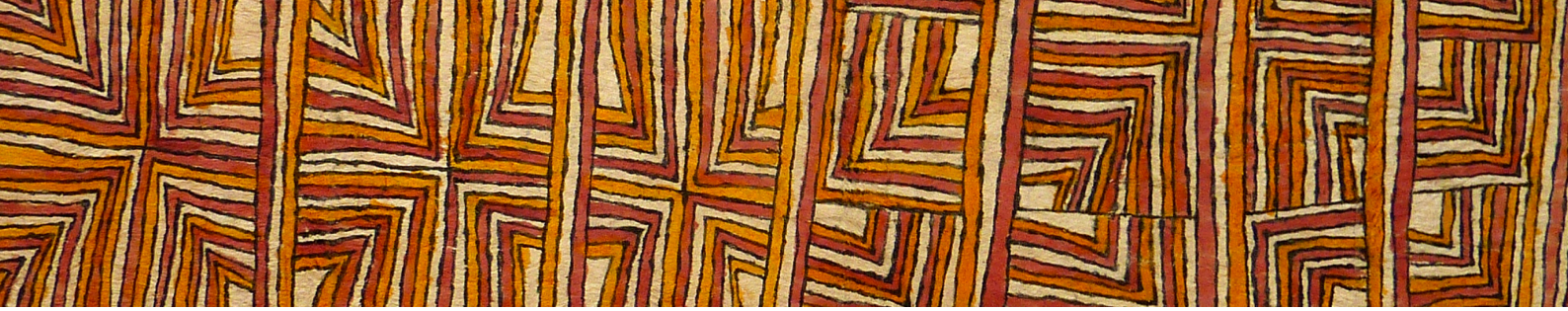
Circa 1937, Enope Vilalge, Oro Province, Papua New Guinea

BIOGRAPHY:

Brenda was a young girl during the turmoil of World War II and she remembers the 1951 eruption of Dahore Huvaimo (Mount Lamington). Brenda's mother was Go'ovino and her father was Valéla, both Emataé clans people from old Enopé village between the Jordan and Maruma Rivers. It was here that her mother taught her how to sew her grandmother, Munne's, sihoti'e taliobamë'e - designs of the mud. This method of appliquéing mud-dyed barkcloth was first practiced by Suja, the first woman and mother of the world, as told in the Ömie creation story. Brenda has begun to teach her sister Teresa Kione (Avur'e) to sew the ancestral Ömie sihoti'e designs such as wo'ohohe - ground-burrowing spider and taigu taigu'e - ancestral tattoo designs. Brenda lives happily by the Jordan River with her husband Robinson Kesi.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

2018 Ömie Barkcloth Art - Papua New Guinea, Japingka Aboriginal Art, Perth, Australia
2018 Art of the Ömie, JGM Gallery, London, UK
2018 Toi Art, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington, Australia
2017 Ömie Barkcloth Art of Papua New Guinea, Aboriginal & Pacific Art, Sydney, Australia
2017 Strasbourg Art Fair 2017 (brenda Kesi presented by ArtKelch, Germany), Strasbourg, France
2017 Nom'e Javavamu Darugé I'jové (We Dance Our Designs To Life), ReDot Fine Art Gallery, Singapore
2017 PNG, It's Dynamite, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane, Australia
2017 Ömie Women Artists, Tunbridge Gallery, Perth, Australia
2017 Stories Art Forever, presented by Vivien Andreson Gallery at Merricks House Gallery, Mornington Peninsula VIC, Australia
2016 Moonlight, Mountains and Pig Tusks: Painted Wisdom of the Ömie Chiefs, Vivien Andreson Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
2016 The Sacred Mountain, Illuminated: Ömie barkcloth Art of Papua New Guinea, Aboriginal Signature - Estrangin Fine Art, Brussels, Belgium
2016 New Paintings:Ömie Artists of Papua New Guinea, Harvey Art Projects, Idaho, USA
2016 Ömie Artists of Papua New Guinea, Aboriginal SignatureEstrangin Fine Art, Brussels, Belgium
2016 Mionomehi Oriseegé (Ancestral Paths), Short Street Gallery, Broome
2016 Parcours des Mondes, Paris: Omie Artists presented by Aboriginal Signature - Estrangin Fine Art, Brussels, Belgium



2015 Hijominöe Modéjadé (Guided by Ancestors): Ömie Artists 10th Anniversary Exhibition, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane, Australia
2015 Mein Freund Der Baum (My Friend, The Tree), ArtKelch, Schorndorf, Germany
2015 Duvahe Nioge: Barkcloths by the Senior Ömie Artists of Papua NewGuinea, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
2015 An Exploration of Bark (in association with Ömie Artists and Maningrida Arts & Culture), Outstation Gallery, Darwin, Australia
2015 Art Karlsruhe 2015 (Ömie Artists presented by ArtKelch), Karslruhe, Germany
2015 Under the Volcano: Art of Ömie from Papua New Guinea, Museum Fünf Kontinente, Munich, Germany
2014 Das soll Kunst sein Vol. 12 (Ömie Artists), Kunstverein, Freiburg, Germany
2014 Luminous Mountain, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane, Australia
2014 Ömie Artists: Contemporary Tapa Art from Papua New Guinea, ArtKelch, Freiburg & Stuttgart, Germany
2014 New Paintings by Ömie Chiefs and Senior Artists, Aboriginal & Pacific Art, Sydney, Australia
2013 Made in Oceania: Tapa – Art and Social Landscapes, Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum, Cologne, Germany
2013 Volcanic Visions: Barkcloth Art of the Ömie, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, USA
2013 Suja's Daughters, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane, Australia
2013 Painted and Woven in Song: Ömie Barkcloths, RAFT Artspace, Alice Springs, Australia
2013 Of Spirit and Splendour: Barkcloth Art of the Ömie, ReDot Fine Art Gallery, Singapore
2012 Art of the Ömie: Barkcloth Paintings from Papua New Guinea, Harvey Art Projects, Sun Valley ID, USA
2012 Nohi niogero aru'aho ma'ene munomehi jajuho (Our barkcloth holds the spirit of our culture), Raft Artspace, Alice Springs, Australia
2012 Barkcloth Paintings by Ömie Chiefs and Elders, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne, Australia
2011 No si hijomiono'o jabesi sor'e jajivo (We are painting the designs of our ancestors), ReDot Fine Art Gallery, Singapore
2010 Rweromo garé niogehu mamabahe ajivé (Come and see the beauty and brightness of our barkcloths), Chapman Gallery, Canberra, Australia
2009 Ömie: Barkcloths from New Guinea, Annandale Galleries, Sydney, Australia
2008 Ömie Art of Mt. Lamington, New Guinea Gallery, Sydney, Australia

COLLECTIONS:

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
University of Queensland Anthropology Museum
Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington, New Zealand
Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge, UK
Museum Fünf Kontinente, Munich, Germany
Drusilla Modjeska Collection, Sydney
Private Collections