



# Brenda Kesi

Born 1937, Enope Village, Oro Province, Papua New Guinea.

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## BIOGRAPHY

Brenda Kesi grew up during the turmoil of World War II, she also remembers the 1951 eruption of Dahore Huvaimo (Mount Lamington). Her mother was Go'ovino and her father was Valéla, both Ematé 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 bark-cloth was first practiced by Suja, the first woman and mother of the world, as told in the Ömie creation story. Kesi has begun to teach her sister Teresa Kione (Avur'e) to sew the ancestral Ömie sihoti'e designs such as *wo'ohohé* (ground-burrowing spider) and *taigu taigu'e* (ancestral tattoo designs).

Kesi has exhibited extensively throughout Australia, Europe and the United States and is part of multiple public and private collections.

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## EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Ömie*, JGM Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 2018 *Ömie Barkcloth Art - Papua New Guinea*, Japingka Aboriginal Art, Perth, Australia
- 2018 *Art of the Ömie*, JGM Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 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 *Nomë 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*, Vivien Andreson Gallery at Merricks House Gallery, Mornington Peninsula Victoria, 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, United States
- 2016 *Ömie Artists of Papua New Guinea*, Aboriginal Signature, Estrangin Fine Art, Brussels, Belgium
- 2016 *Mionomehi Oriseegé (Ancestral Paths)*, Short Street Gallery, Broome, Australia
- 2016 *Parcours des Mondes, Paris: Ömie 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)*, Art Kelch, Schorndorf, Germany
- 2015 *Duvabe Nioge: Barkcloths by the Senior Ömie Artists of Papua New Guinea*, 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)*, Karlsruhe, 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, United States

- 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, United States
- 2012 *Nohi niogero aru'aho ma'ene munomehi jajubo (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 mamababe 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
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## 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, United Kingdom

Museum Fünf Kontinente, Munich, Germany

Drusilla Modjeska Collection, Sydney

Private Collections

# JGM GALLERY

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