



# Short St. Gallery

## Brenda Kesi (Arire)

**Birth Year** c.1937  
**Birth Place** Enope Vilalge, Oro Province, Papua New Guinea  
**Language Group** Omie  
**Region**

### 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 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 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
- 2018 Art of the Ömie, JGM Gallery, London, England
- 2018 Toi Art, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington
- 2017 Ömie Barkcloth Art of Papua New Guinea, Aboriginal & Pacific Art, Sydney
- 2017 Strasbourg Art Fair 2017 (brenda Kesi presented by ArtKelch, Germany), Strasbourg, France
- 2017 Nom'e Javavamu Darugé l'jové (We Dance Our Designs To Life), ReDot Fine Art Gallery, Singapore
- 2017 PNG, It's Dynamite, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane
- 2017 Ömie Women Artists, Tunbridge Gallery, Perth
- 2017 Stories Art Forever, presented by Vivien Andreson Gallery at Merricks House Gallery, Mornington Peninsula VIC
- 2016 Moonlight, Mountains and Pig Tusks: Painted Wisdom of the Ömie Chiefs, Vivien Andreson Gallery, Melbourne
- 2016 The Sacred Mountain, Illuminated: Ömie barkcloth Art of Papua New Guinea, Aboriginal Signature - Estrangin Fine Art, Brussels, Belgium



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- 2016 New Paintings: Ömie Artists of Papua New Guinea, Harvey Art Projects, Sun Valley, Idaho, USA
- 2016 Ömie Artists of Papua New Guinea, Aboriginal Signature - Estrangin Fine Art, Brussels, Belgium
- 2016 Mionomehi Oriseegé (Ancestral Paths), Short Street Gallery, Broome
- 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
- 2015 Mein Freund Der Baum (My Friend, The Tree), ArtKelch, Schorndorf, Germany
- 2015 Duvahe Nioge: Barkcloths by the Senior Ömie Artists of Papua New Guinea, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne
- 2015 An Exploration of Bark (in association with Ömie Artists and Maningrida Arts & Culture), Outstation Gallery, Darwin
- 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 presented by ArtKelch), Kunstverein, Freiburg, Germany
- 2014 Luminous Mountain, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane
- 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
- 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
- 2013 Painted and Woven in Song: Ömie Barkcloths and Bilums, RAFT Artspace, Alice Springs
- 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
- 2012 Barkcloth Paintings by Ömie Chiefs and Elders, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne
- 2011 No si hijomiono'o jabesi sor'e jajivo (We are painting the designs of our ancestors), ReDot Fine Art Gallery, Singapore



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- 2010 Rweromo garé niogehu mamabahe ajivé (Come and see the beauty and brightness of our barkcloths), Chapman Gallery, Canberra  
2009 Ömie: Barkcloths from New Guinea, Annandale Galleries, Sydney  
2008 Ömie Art of Mt. Lamington, New Guinea Gallery, Sydney

## Bibliography

Appel, Michaela; Kelch, Robyn; and King, Brennan, Ömie Artists [exhibition catalogue], ArtKelch, Freiburg & Staatliches Museum Für Völkerkunde München, Germany, 2014

Balai, Sana; Modjeska, Drusilla; and Ryan, Judith, Wisdom of the Mountain: Art of the Ömie, National Gallery of Victoria International, Melbourne 2009

Gregory, Bill; and Ryan, Judith, Ömie: The Art of Ömie [exhibition catalogue], Annandale Galleries, Sydney 2009

King, Brennan, Hijominöe Modéjadé (Guided by Ancestors): Ömie Artists 10th Anniversary Exhibition [exhibition catalogue], Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane, 2015

Leub, Oliver; and Mesenhöller, Peter (eds.), Made in Oceania: Art and Social Landscapes, Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum – Cultures of the World, Cologne & Nünnerich-Asmus Verlag, Germany

Modjeska, Drusilla, Suja's Daughters [exhibition catalogue], Andrew Baker Art Dealer, 2013

Nelson, Robert, 'Geometric gems with kinetic jive', The Age, 8 February 2012, p.15

Luminous Mountain [exhibition catalogue], Andrew Baker Art Dealer, 2014

## 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