



Short St. Gallery

Jean-Mary Warrimou (Hujama)



Birth Year c. 1967
Language Group Omie
Region Pacific Region

Biography

Jean-Mary's mother was Lita Numeré of Gorabuna village (Sahuoté clan) and her father was Michael Kokia of Duharenu village (Ematé clan). She is married to Rex Warimmou, a strong jagor'e (law) man for the Dahorurajé clan. Jean-Mary and Rex have seven children. She was originally taught to paint by her sister-in-law Lila Warimou (Misaso), the Paramount Chief of Ömie women but is now a confident and talented painter in her own right. Jean-Mary is one of the few Ömie artists who paints uehoréro (her own wisdom). Accompanied by her husband, she loves to visit the lands of his ancestors around Mount Ömie, the first mountain, where the mighty Girua River begins and also where the sacred creation site of Mina and Suja, the first man and woman of the world, can be found. She draws much inspiration from her observations of the natural environment such as rocks forming from minerals in volcanic waters and the sensuous curls of fern leaves. The designs she creates are always loaded with a powerful relationship to her culture - to her people's origins, her beliefs, customs and those of her ancestors. Jean-Mary is now teaching her eldest daughter Alison Hinana to paint barkcloth designs.

Exhibitions

2016 Mionomehi Oriseegé (Ancestral Paths), Short Street Gallery, Broome
2015 Hijominöe Modéjadé (Guided by Ancestors): Ömie Artists 10th Anniversary Exhibition, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane
2014 SEAM (Sustain Educate Art Melanesia) Fundraiser, 'Tusculum', The Australian Institute of Architects, Sydney



Short St. Gallery

2014 Luminous Mountain, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane
2014 New Paintings by Ömie Chiefs and Senior Artists, Aboriginal & Pacific Art, Sydney
2013 Volcanic Visions: Barkcloth Art of the Ömie, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, USA
2012 Nohi Dahoru'e - Nohi Nioge (Our Mountain - Our Art), The Depot Gallery, Sydney
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 We hold our mother's teachings in our hearts and hands, Short St. Gallery, Broome
2010 Rweromo garé niogehu mamabahe ajivé (Come and see the beauty and brightness of our barkcloths), Chapman Gallery, Canberra

Bibliography

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
Thomas, Nicholas, 'Spiderweb and Vine: The Art of Ömie', Brunt, Peter; and Thomas, Nicholas (eds.), Art in Oceania: A New History, Thames and Hudson, London, 2012, p. 484-5
King, Brennan, Hijominöe Modéjadé (Guided by Ancestors): Ömie Artists 10th Anniversary Exhibition (exhibition catalogue), Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane, 2015
Luminous Mountain (exhibition catalogue), Andrew Baker Art Dealer, 2014

Collections

Sammlung Alison & Peter W. Klein, Ederdingen-Nussdorf, Germany
High Commission of PNG
Private Collections