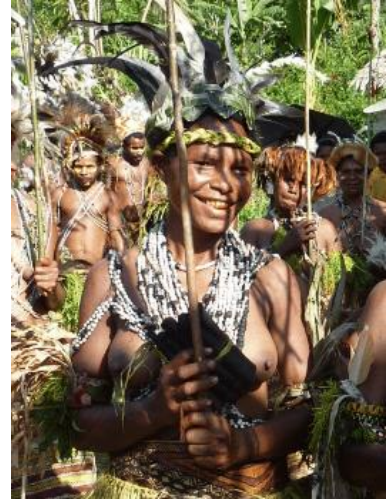


Short St. Gallery



Ilma Savari (Ajikum'e)

Birth Year c1968
Language Group Ömie
Region Pacific Region

Biography

Ilma Savari is the daughter of venerated elder and pre-eminent Ömie artist Sarah Ugibari. In recent years, Sarah (the oldest living Ömie, at approximately ninety-seven years of age), has begun the crucial task of imparting her store of ancient wisdom to daughter Ilma. Among other things, this has involved Sarah teaching Ilma to paint and sew a number of enduring Ömie and Managalasi barkcloth designs. Both mother and daughter began working with Ömie Artists Inc. in 2009. These days, Ilma spends much of her time preparing barkcloths and painting and sewing the many ancestral designs Sarah has handed down to her. She also enjoys preparing for (and singing and dancing at) tribal celebrations.

At the dawn of time, Managalasi and Ömie Ancestors emerged from the underground cave Vavago as a single people. Over time, these first people migrated across the greater Huviamo region and into Hydrographer's Range above Managalasi Plateau. Subsequently this group split into separate tribes which both still celebrate "Mina and Suja", a shared ancestral creation story about the first man and woman. They also have many customs and barkcloth designs in common. Ilma creates works originating from both tribes because her mother Sarah was born Managalasi but later married an Ömie man. It was she who brought knowledge of Managalasi culture into the Ömie realm.



Short St. Gallery

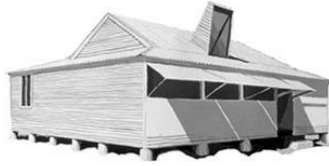
Ilma's painted Ömie designs depict traditional Sidorajé clan tattoo markings, while her painted Managalasi designs originate from Koruwo and Kiara villages high on Hydrographer's Range. Her appliquéd mud-dyed barkcloth designs, in the form of Chiefs' prestige barkcloths, are derived from both tribes. Along with abstract paintings and appliquéd mud-dyed barkcloth designs, Ilma also paints important stories relating to sacred sites of Gora, such as those relating to Uborida (Jordan River), and her surrounding homelands. She uses a unique (for Ömie) combination of figuration and symbolism to create these compelling images.

Solo Exhibition

- 2017 Ilma Ssavari (Ajikum'e): Lore and Mud of Uborida, Andrew Baker Art Dealer Brisbane
- 2016 Ilma Ssavari (Ajikum'e): Aréro Ajivé (A New Light), Andrew Baker Art Dealer Brisbane

Group Exhibitions

- 2023 Jungle Geometry: New Ömie Paintings from Papua New Guinea, Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA, Australia
- 2022 Unseen Secrets Of the Mountain Rainforest: Ömie Women's Art Of Papua New Guinea, Aboriginal Signature—Estrangin Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
- 2021 Spirit in Bark: A Celebration of Bark Art from Across Oceania (group exhibition with Maningrida Arts & Culture and Elcho Island Arts_, Koskela, Sydney, Australia
- 2021 Sydney Oceanic Arts Fair (SOAF), National Art School, Sydney, Australia
- 2019 Art Paris Fair [Ömie artists' Brenda Kesi (Ariré), Sarah Ugibari, Ilma Savari (Ajikum'e) presented by ArtKelch, (Freiburg, Germany) With John Mawurndjul of Maningrida Arts & Culture, and Malaluba Gumana Of Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre, Arhem Land, NT, Australia], Paris, France
- 2019 Niugini - Land of the Unexpected, ArtKelch, Freiburg, Germany
- 2019 Oceanic Art Society Tribal Art Fair, National Art School, Sydney, Australia
- 2018 Ömie Revealed, Short Street Gallery, Broome
- 2018 Oceanic Art Society Tribal Art Fair, National Art School, Sydney, Australia
- 2018 From Across the Coral Sea: Ömie Tapa Art from PNG, Pandanus Gallery, Palm Cove, Australia
- 2018 Oceanic Art Society Tribal Art Fair, National Art School, Sydney, Australia



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- 2018 Ömie Barkcloth Art - Papua New Guinea, Japingka Aboriginal Art, Perth
- 2018 Art of the Ömie, JGM Gallery, London, England
- 2017 Ömie Barkcloth Art of Papua New Guinea, Aboriginal & Pacific Art, Sydney
- 2017 PNG: It's Dynamite (Papua New Guinea Art 1968-2017), Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane, Australia
- 2016 The Sacred Mountain, Illuminated: Ömie Barkcloth Art of Papua New Guinea, 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 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 presented by ArtKelch), Kunstverein, Freiburg, Germany
- 2014 Ömie Artists: Contemporary Tapa Art from Papua New Guinea, ArtKelch, Freiburg & Stuttgart, Germany
- 2013 Painted and Woven in Song: Ömie Barkcloths and Bilums, RAFT Artspace, Alice Springs, Australia

Bibliography

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

Baker, Andrew, PNG, It's Dynamite (exhibition catalogue), Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane 2017

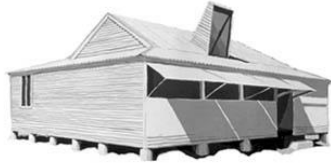
Child, Charlie; Guerrini-Maraldi, Jennifer, Art of the Ömie (exhibition catalogue) JGM Gallery, London, England 2018

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

Aréro Ajivé (A New Light) (ex.cat), Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane, Australia 2016

Collections

Ross Bonthorne Collection, Sydney, Australia



Short St. Gallery

The Aurthur Roe Colleciton, Melbourne, Australia
Private Collections