



Short St. Gallery

Lila Warrimou (Misaso)

Born: c.1944

Language Group: Ömie

Region: Papua New Guinea



Biography

Lila has been painting for Ömie Artists since its establishment in 2004. As the Paramount Chief of Ömie women, her Dahorurajé clan knowledge and uehore (wisdom) is extraordinary. She was a young girl when the volcano Huvaimo erupted and recalls being very scared when her old village Sidonejo, which was situated close to the sacred Mount Obo, was surrounded by lava. She remembers her parents keeping her and her siblings safely together, and she was carried by one of her mothers, Guamo, away from the volcano to higher ground. Her birth mother was Eronay Atai and her father was Chief Warrimou Moiwa, both Dahorurajé clanspeople. She was formerly married to Fabian Jerrirumu to whom she had four children but after he passed away she remarried Nathan Gama, Duvahe (Chief) of Ematé clan men. Lila's aunt Joyce-Bella Mujorumo, former duvahe of Dahorurajé clan women, taught her to paint many important Ömie designs and clan symbols and also taught her about the origins of Ömie art, culture and history. In turn, Lila has taught a number of Ömie women to paint including her sister-in-law Jean-Mary Warrimou (Hujama).

Exhibitions

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	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	Stories Art Forever, presented by Vivien Anderson Gallery at Merricks House Gallery, Mornington Peninsula VIC



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- 2016 Moonlight, Mountains and Pig Tusks: Painted Wisdom of the Ömie Chiefs, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne
- 2016 The Sacred Mountain, Illuminated: Ömie Barkcloth Art of Papua New Guinea, Aboriginal Signature - Estrangin Fine Art, Brussels, Belgium
- 2016 Mionomehi Oriseegé (Ancestral Paths), Short Street Gallery, Broome
- 2016 Art of the Pacific, National Gallery of Victoria International, Melbourne
- 2015 Hijominöe Modéjadé (Guided by Ancestors): Ömie Artists 10th Anniversary Exhibition, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane
- 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 Under the Volcano: Art of Ömie from Papua New Guinea, Museum Fünf Kontinente, Munich, Germany
- 2014 Ömie Artists: Contemporary Tapa Art from Papua New Guinea, ArtKelch, Freiburg, Germany
- 2014 New Paintings by Ömie Chiefs and Senior Artists, Aboriginal & Pacific Art, Sydney
- 2014 Nohi jajwe boromu mai dahoru Huvaimo va'ene (Our Culture is Strong like Our Mountain, Huvaimo), Harvey Art Projects, Sun Valley, ID, USA
- 2013 Volcanic Visions: Barkcloth Art of the Ömie, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York
- 2013 Suja's Daughters, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane
- 2013 Tapa: Barkcloth Paintings from the Pacific, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham UK
- 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 Second Skins: Painted Barkcloth from New Guinea and Central Africa, Fowler Museum at UCLA, Los Angeles
- 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
- 2010 Rweromo garé niogehu mamabahe ajivé (Come and see the beauty and brightness of our barkcloths), Chapman Gallery, Canberra
- 2010 17th Biennale of Sydney: The Beauty of Distance - Songs of Survival in a Precarious Age, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney



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2010	The Art of Ömie, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne
2009	Wisdom of the Mountain: Art of the Ömie, National Gallery of Victoria International, Melbourne
2009	Ömie: Barkcloths from New Guinea, Annandale Galleries, Sydney
2007	In the Shadow of a Volcano: The Barkcloth Art of the Ömie, Holmes à Court Gallery, Perth
2007	Cloth That Grows on Trees, Textile Museum of Canada, Toronto
2006	Ömie: The Barkcloth Art of Ömie, Annandale Galleries, Sydney

Bibliography

- Adams, Julie; and Thomas, Nicholas, Tapa: Barkcloth Paintings from the Pacific, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham & Cornerhouse Publications, Manchester, UK
- Balai, Sana; Modjeska, Drusilla; and Ryan, Judith, Wisdom of the Mountain: Art of the Ömie, National Gallery of Victoria International, Melbourne 2009
- Baker, Andrew, PNG, It's Dynamite [catalogue], Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane, 2017
- Child, Charlie; Guerrini-Maraldi, Jennifer, Art of the Ömie [exhibition catalogue], JGM Gallery, London, England, 2018
- Cheng, Scarlet, 'Prized barkcloth shown in 'Second Skins' at UCLA's Fowler', LA Times, 1 April 2012
- Elliott, David (ed.), 17th Biennale Of Sydney: Beauty Of Distance - Songs Of Survival In A Precarious Age, Thames & Hudson, 2010
- Gregory, Bill; Modjeska, Drusilla; and Mora, William, The Art of Ömie [exhibition catalogue], William Mora Galleries, Melbourne & Annandale Galleries, Sydney 2010
- Gregory, Bill; and Ryan, Judith, Ömie: The Art of Ömie [exhibition catalogue], Annandale Galleries, Sydney 2009
- Gregory, Bill; and Modjeska, Drusilla, In The Shadow of a Volcano: The Barkcloth Art of Ömie [exhibition catalogue], Holmes à Court Gallery, Perth & Annandale Galleries, Sydney 2007
- Gregory, Bill; and Modjeska, Drusilla, Ömie: The Barkcloth Art of Ömie [exhibition catalogue], Annandale Galleries, Sydney 2006
- 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, 'This Place, Our Art: The Barkcloth Art of Ömie', Art & Australia Vol. 43 No. 2 Summer 2005, pp.250-255
- Modjeska, Drusilla, Suja's Daughters [exhibition catalogue], Andrew Baker Art Dealer, 2013
- 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



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Wilson, Natalie, 'Barkcloth revival: Women who paint their wisdom', LOOK, Art Gallery Society of New South Wales, December 2012/January 2013, pp.18-19

Collections

National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge, UK
High Commission of Papua New Guinea, Canberra
The Gordon & Helen Heslop Collection