



Short St. Gallery

Dapeni Jonevari (Mokokari)

Born 1949
Language Ömie
Region Oro Province, Papua New Guinea



Biography

"I paint from my observations of the mountains and forests and creatures. Dreams give me inspiration... I paint to record traditional Ömie ways for dancing performance and feasting ceremonies."

Dapeni was one of the pioneering senior master painters of Ömie Artists and began painting since the establishment of the cooperative in 2004. Her mother was Yéwo and her father was John Koré, both Sahuoté clanspeople from Budo village. She was born two years before the eruption of Huvaimo (Mount Lamington) and grew up at Budo and Jiapa villages. As a young girl Dapeni was taught to paint traditional Ömie barkcloth designs by her aunts at Budo Village. Primarily, Dapeni painted soru'e (tattoo designs) she saw on her grandfather's body and was held in high regard as the pre-eminent authority of these sacred body designs. As a duvahe (Chief) she also painted uehoréro (her own wisdom), confidently reimagining her inherited repertoire of customary Ömie designs through sophisticated, progressive compositions. Since 2002, Dapeni has been teaching her daughter-in-law Diona Jonevari to paint traditional Ömie barkcloth designs.

Group Exhibitions

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2021 | Sydney Oceanic Arts Fair (SOAF), National Art School, Sydney, Australia |
| 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 |
| 2020 | The Feeling of Mountain Forest: Ömie Art of New Guinea (Online Christmas Exhibition) |
| 2020 | Where Clouds Are Spirit Parrots: Art of the Ömie Women, Delmar Gallery, Sydney, Australia |
| 2019 | Niugini: Land of the Unexpected I, ArtKelch, Freiburg, Germany |
| 2019 | 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 |



Short St. Gallery

- 2018 Ömie Barkcloth Art - Papua New Guinea, Japingka Aboriginal Art, Perth, Australia
- 2018 Art of the Ömie, JGM Gallery, London, England
- 2017 Ömie Barkcloth Art of Papua New Guinea, Aboriginal & Pacific Art, Sydney, Australia
- 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, Australia
- 2017 Stories Art Forever, presented by Vivien Anderson Gallery at Merricks House Gallery, Mornington Peninsula, Victoria, Australia
- 2016 Moonlight, Mountains and Pig Tusks: Painted Wisdom of the Ömie Chiefs, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- 2016 Ömie Artists of Papua New Guinea, Aboriginal Signature - Estrangin Fine Art, Brussels, Belgium
- 2016 Parcours des Mondes, Paris: Ömie Artists presented by Aboriginal Signature - Estrangin Fine Art, Brussels, Belgium
- 2016 Mionomehi Oriseegé (Ancestral Paths), Short Street Gallery, Broome
- 2016 BRUNEAF (Brussels Non-European Art Fair): Ömie Artists presented by Aboriginal Signature - Estrangin Fine Art, Brussels, Belgium
- 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 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 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



Short St. Gallery

- 2012 Nohi Dahoru'e - Nohi Nioge (Our Mountain - Our Art), The Depot Gallery, Sydney
- 2012 Contemporary Ömie Bark Cloth, de Young Museum, San Francisco
- 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
- 2010 The Art of Ömie, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne
- 2010 Miami International Art Fair / Art Palm Beach, USA, presented by Osborne Samuel, London
- 2010 Wisdom of the Mountain: Art of the Ömie, National Gallery of Victoria International, Melbourne
- 2009 Ömie: Barkcloths from New Guinea, Annandale Galleries, Sydney
- 2009 Dapeni Jonevari (Mokokari) Chief of Ematé clan women
- 2007 In the Shadow of a Volcano: The Barkcloth Art of the Ömie, Holmes à Court Gallery, Perth
- 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

Aguirre, Edward; and Beran, Harry, The Art of Oro Province: A Preliminary Typology, The Oceanic Art Society, Sydney 2009

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

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



Short St. Gallery

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

Grishin, Sasha, 'Bark cloth with bite', Canberra Times, 3 December 2009, p.9

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

Nugent, Mary-Lou, 'The Ömie Barkcloths', Artonview, Winter 2007, p.41

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

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

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

Collections

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, Australia

National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia

Chau Chak Wing Museum (Macleay Collections), The University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia

Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

Museum Fünf Kontinente, Munich, Germany

Linden-Museum, Stuttgart, Germany

Sammlung Alison & Peter W. Klein, Eberdingen-Nussdorf, Germany

Michelle Picker Collection, Melbourne, Australia

Pacific Islands Trade & Invest, Sydney, Australia

Private Collections