



# Short St. Gallery



## Dapeni Jonevari (Mokokari)

Born 1949  
Language Ömie  
Region Papua New Guinea

"I paint from my observations of the mountains and forests and creatures. Dreams give me inspiration... I paint to record traditional Ömie waus 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 Duvahé (Chief) she also painted uehorèro (her own wisdom), confidently reimagining her inherited repertoire of customary Ömie designs through sophisticated, progressive compositions. Since 2002, Dapeni has been teaching her daughter, Dyna Kimari, as well as her daughter-in-law, Diona Jonevari, to paint traditional Ömie barkcloth designs.

## Group Exhibitions

- 2023 Ömie barkcloth: Pathways of nioge, Chau Chak Wing Museum, Sydney, Australia
- 2023 Unseen Secrets of the Mountain Rainforest: Ömie Women's Art of Papua New Guinea, Aboriginal Signature-Estrangin Gallery, Brussels, Belgium



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- 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
- 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
- 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' Javavamu Darugé I'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 Piq Tusks: Painted Wisdom of the Ömie Chiefs, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- 2016 The Sacred Mountain, Illuminated: Ömie Barkcloth Art 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, Australia
- 2016 The Barn Project 3: Seeing the Unseen, Harvey Art Projects, Sun Valley, Idaho, USA
- 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, Australia
- 2015 Hijominöe Modéjadé (Guided by Ancestors): Ömie Artists 10th Anniversary Exhibition, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane, Australia
- 2015 Duvahé Nioge: Barkcloths by the Senior Ömie Artists of Papua New Guinea, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- 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, Australia
- 2014 Ömie Artists: Contemporary Tapa Art from Papua New Guinea, ArtKelch, Freiburg & Stuttgart, Germany



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- 2014 New Paintings by Ömie Chiefs and Senior Artists, Aboriginal & Pacific Art, Sydney, Australia
- 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, Australia
- 2013 Of Spirit and Splendour: Barkcloth Art of the Ömie, ReDot Fine Art Gallery, Singapore
- 2012 Nohi Dahoru'e - Nohi Nioge (Our Mountain - Our Art), The Depot Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- 2012 Contemporary Ömie Bark Cloth, de Young Museum, San Francisco, USA
- 2012 Art of the Ömie: Barkcloth Paintings from Papua New Guinea, Harvey Art Projects, Sun Valley, Idaho, USA
- 2012 Second Skins: Painted Barkcloth from New Guinea and Central Africa, Fowler Museum at UCLA, Los Angeles, USA
- 2012 Nohi niogero aru'aho ma'ene munomehi jajuho (Our barkcloth holds the spirit of our culture), Raft Artspace, Alice Springs, Australia
- 2012 Barkcloth Paintings by Ömie Chiefs and Elders, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne, Australia
- 2011 No si hijomiono'o jabesi sore 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, Australia
- 2010 17th Biennale of Sydney: The Beauty of Distance - Songs of Survival in a Precarious Age, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia
- 2010 The Art of Ömie, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne, Australia
- 2010 Miami International Art Fair / Art Palm Beach (presented by Osborne Samuel, London), Miami, USA
- 2010 Wisdom of the Mountain: Art of the Ömie, National Gallery of Victoria International, Melbourne, Australia
- 2009 Ömie: Barkcloths from New Guinea, Annandale Galleries, Sydney, Australia
- 2007 In the Shadow of a Volcano: The Barkcloth Art of the Ömie, Holmes à Court Gallery, Perth, Australia
- 2006 Ömie: The Barkcloth Art of Ömie, Annandale Galleries, Sydney, Australia

## Collections

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, Australia  
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia  
Chau Chak Wing Museum, The University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia  
Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom



# Short St. Gallery

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

## Bibliography

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

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, Australia, 2017

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

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

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, Australia, 2010

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

Kelch, Robyn; and King, Brennan, Niugini - Land of the Unexpected I, ArtKelch, Freiburg, Germany ArtKelch, Freiburg, 2019

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



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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

Modieska, 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, UK, 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, Brisbane, Australia, 2014