



REX WARRIMOU (SABÏO)

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*DAHORU DOR'E JIJE (STAR ON THE MOUNTAIN)*



REX WARRIMOU (SABŌ) AND LILA WARRIMOU (MISASO):  
THE ORIGIN OF ÖMIE *NIOGE* (BARKCLOTH) 2014  
*Sihoti'e nioge* (mud-dyed barkcloth) and natural pigments on *nioge* (barkcloth)  
Triptych



**SUJA GEM SIHOTI'E NIOGE (THE FIRST MUD-DYED BARKCLOTH OF SUJA) 2014**

*Sihoti'e* (mud-dyed barkcloth)

64 x 46 cm

(Triptych detail)



***Aduvahe Nioge—GEM SIHOTI'E TALIOBAME'E (CHIEF'S PRESTIGE CLOTH—THE FIRST  
APPLIQUÉD MUD-DYED BARKCLOTH DESIGN) 2014***

Natural pigments on barkcloth

48 x 94 cm

(Triptych detail)



**AHERUAHĒ'Ē (CHIEF'S PRESTIGE CLOTH—THE FIRST PAINTED BARKCLOTH) 2014**

Natural pigments on barkcloth

120 x 76 cm

(Triptych detail)





**REX WARRIMOU (SABÏO): OUR CREATION (ÖMIE) 2014**

Natural pigments on barkcloth

131 x 66 cm



REX WARRIMOU (SABÏO): OUR CREATION (ÖMIE) 2014

Natural pigments on barkcloth

88 x 75 cm





REX WARRIMOU (SABÃO): MINA AND SUJA AT MOUNT OBO 2014

Natural pigments on barkcloth

67 x 62 cm





REX WARRIMOU (SABĪO): MINA STEALING THE FIRST FIRE FROM INSA,  
THE OLD WOMAN OF MOUNT MADORAJO'AMOHO 2014

Natural pigments on barkcloth  
61 x 59 cm



REX WARRIMOU (SABIO): THE LOST BOY AND NINIVO,  
THE BIRD-OF-PARADISE OF MOUNT ÖMIE 2014

Natural pigments on barkcloth  
68 x 60 cm





REX WARRIMOU (SABÃO): THE TRICKSTER SPIRIT AND THE VANISHING BOY 2014

Natural pigments on barkcloth

67 x 63 cm





**REX WARRIMOU (SABIO): THE BROTHER AND LIZARD-BROTHER AT LAKE HIJORO 2014**

Natural pigments on barkcloth

65 x 62 cm



**REX WARRIMOU (SABIO): THE TRICKSTER SPIRIT AND THE VANISHING BOY  
(WITH LAKE İWEBUREH AND MUNÉANU) 2014**

Natural pigments on barkcloth  
62 x 45 cm





**REX WARRIMOU (SABŌ): THE TRICKSTER SPIRIT AND THE VANISHING BOY;  
AND SORU'E (TATTOO DESIGNS) 2012**

Natural pigments on barkcloth  
44 x 62 cm



## REX WARRIMOU (SABĪO)

### BACKGROUND

Born c.1945, Sidonejo village, Ömie territory, Oro Province, Papua New Guinea  
Language: Ömie  
Clan: Dahorurajé (Sidorajé)  
Lives/works: Ömie territory, Oro Province, Papua New Guinea

### BIOGRAPHY

Rex Warrimou (Sabĭo) is the *Jagorai* (Law Man) of the Dahorurajé clan. He is the senior custodian of Ömie creation knowledge and the 'keeper' of many important Dahorurajé clan stories. Rex's father, the late Chief Warrimou, entrusted him with this prestigious role.

By the late-1940s, missionaries had encroached into Ömie territory and were endeavouring to stamp out customary Ömie cultural practices. Sadly, they had already forbidden important rituals such as initiation and funerary ceremonies. Consequently, Warrimou was a key figure in the preservation of Ömie cultural traditions and time-honoured visual arts production.

The volcano Huvaimo is a sacred and powerful place where Ömie Ancestor Spirits reside. It erupted in 1951 and Warrimou believed the Ancestor Spirits were warning his people that their culture was being lost. In order to appease these forebears, Warrimou actively encouraged women Ömie artists to continue painting barkcloth. Additionally, he urged them to transfer customary men's tattoo designs onto barkcloth.

To this day, the survival of Ömie barkcloth art is largely credited to Warrimou (along with his sister Nogi). Warrimou instilled in his son Rex the importance of preserving and maintaining traditional cultural practices and he is now considered the 'keeper' of the profound knowledge taught to him by his father. Late in 2012, Rex began painting these sacred stories onto barkcloth using his unique (for Ömie) figurative style. He is currently the only male artist painting for Ömie Artists.

Rex Warrimou's traditional lands encompass the southern and eastern sides of Huvaimo itself, and the surrounding mountain ranges. With his family, Rex tirelessly watches over and cares for his homelands. Rex maintains the vital balance between his 'people' (including past, present and future generations) and the sacred environment from which they were created and of which they are so intrinsically a part. Rex is married to artist Jean-Mary Warrimou (Hujama) and together they have seven children. His sister Lila Warrimou (Misaso), with whom he sometimes collaborates, is the Paramount Chief of Ömie women.

### SOLO EXHIBITION

2015 *Dahoru dor'e Jije (Star on the Mountain)*, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane

### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2013 *Volcanic Visions: Barkcloth Art of the Ömie*, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY, USA  
*Of Spirit and Splendour: Barkcloth Art of the Ömie*, ReDot Fine Art Gallery, Singapore

## Andrew Baker Art Dealer

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