

PNG Art

(Non-Digital)

Papua New Guinea

People Origins:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vkri72lvHA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m45odD0Ht00>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Y5rC7kDx3o>

Overview of art:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKjnxr7D85A>



Asmat People

The **Asmat** are an [ethnic group](#) of [New Guinea](#), residing in the [Papua](#) province of [Indonesia](#). The Asmat inhabit a region on the island's southwestern coast bordering the [Arafura Sea](#), with lands totaling approximately 18,000 km² (7,336 mi²) and consisting of mangrove, tidal swamp, freshwater swamp, and lowland [rainforest](#).

The land of Asmat is located both within and adjacent to [Lorentz National Park](#) and [World Heritage Site](#), the largest protected area in the Asia-Pacific region. The total Asmat population is estimated to be around 70,000 as of 2004.^[1] The term "Asmat" is used to refer both to the people and the region they inhabit.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INZUHguslOM>
(faces of Asmat people)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxuHJbesrvI>



Asmat Art

Wood carving is a flourishing tradition among the Asmat, and wood carvers are held in high esteem. The culture hero Fumeripits is considered to be the very first wood carver, and all subsequent wood carvers (known as *wowipits*) have an obligation to continue his work. The Asmat also believe that there is a close relationship between humans and trees, and recognize wood as the source of life.

University of St. Thomas in Minnesota:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VP8uaEJ2_7M
- <https://vimeo.com/458967892> (airport display)











Asmat Skulls

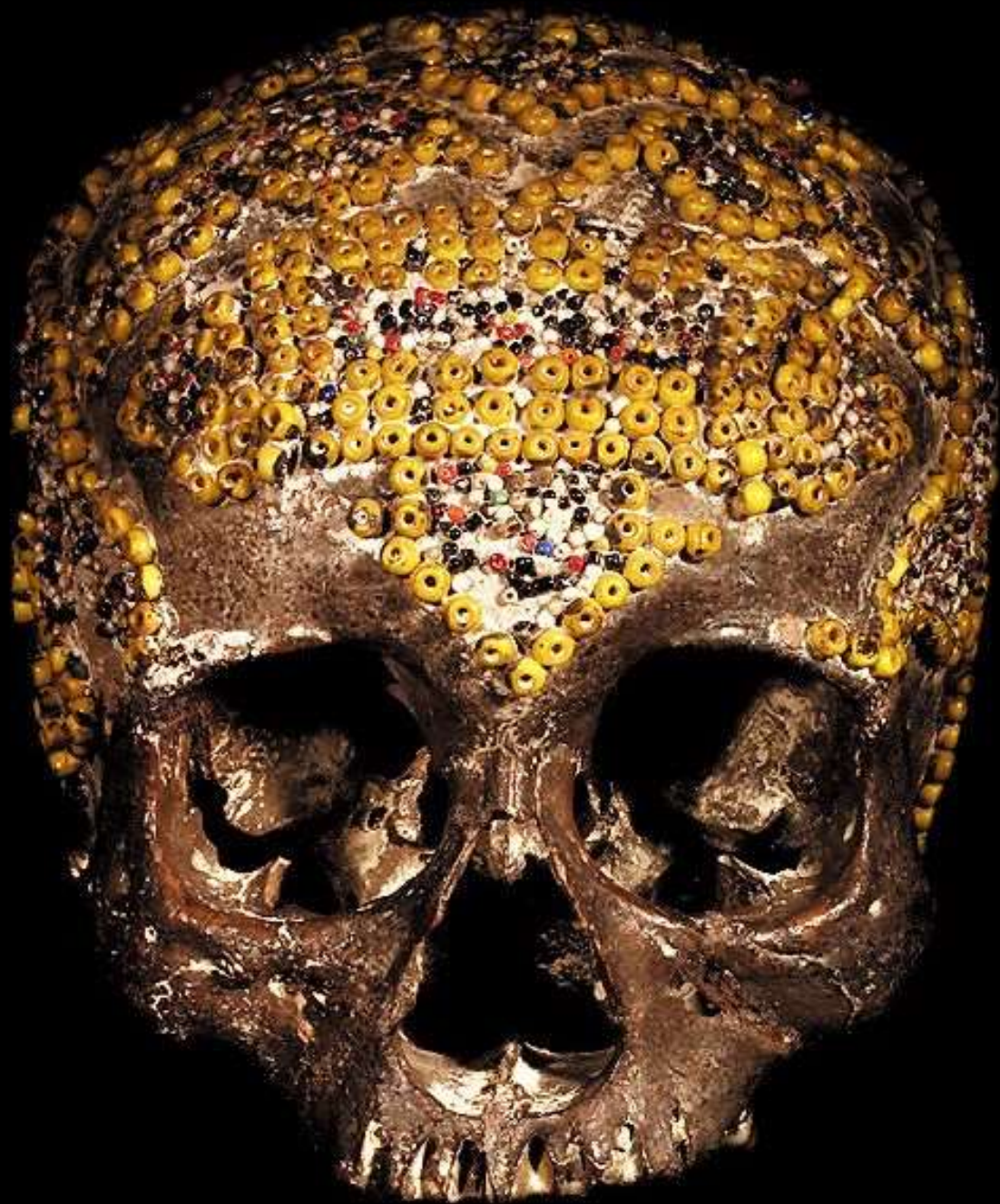
The Asmat, once a very belligerent people on the south-eastern coast of New Guinea, had a distinctive skull cult. They had two types of ritually venerated skull:

1: The skulls of important and honoured ancestors would be decorated (like the present example) and kept within the clan, to be venerated and publicly presented during special ceremonies.

Occasionally these skulls were also used as a pillow for sleeping or as a neck rest by the 'reigning' family head. These skulls were called 'ndambirkus'.

2: The skulls of enemies who had been killed, however, were kept in the central mens' house as trophies, as proof of the bravery and skill of a warrior, proudly displayed and decorated similarly to become a 'ndambirkus'. These, however, were called 'ndaokus'; they have two features that make them easily recognisable: these 'war trophies' always have a hole in one of the skull's temples. Through this hole, the brain of the enemy was removed. In addition, 'ndaokus' skulls generally lack a lower jaw. This is because the jaw bone was removed and given to the women as a pendant for their necklaces – as a final, humiliating insult toward the defeated enemy.







Bis Poles

The Asmat honored their dead with feasts and rituals, which both commemorated the deceased and reminded the living to avenge their deaths. The towering Asmat "bis" poles were made for these funeral feasts. The basic form of the bis is an openwork pole incorporating several ancestor figures and a winglike projection that represents the pole's phallus.

<https://smarthistory.org/bis-poles/>











Sepik River

The **Sepik River** is the longest [river](#) on the island of [New Guinea](#). From the headwaters to the mouth, the river basin flows through the territories of spoken of dozens of [Sepik languages](#),^[9] each corresponding to one or more culture regions of related villages that exhibit similar social characteristics. The largest language and culture group along the river is the [latmul people](#).

The Sepik-[Ramu](#) basin is home to the [Torricelli](#), [Sepik](#), [Lower Sepik-Ramu](#), [Kwomtari](#), [Leonhard Schultze](#), [Upper Yuat](#), [Yuat](#), [Left May](#), and [Amto-Musan](#) language families, while local language isolates are [Busa](#), [Taiap](#), and [Yadë](#).^{[10][11]} [Torricelli](#), [Sepik](#), and [Lower Sepik-Ramu](#) are by far the three most internally diverse language families of the region.

[Dances in Sepik River – YouTube](#)

[Inhabitants of Sepik | Tribes & Ethnic Groups - Planet Doc Full Documentaries - YouTube](#)



Sepik Art

Roughly 200 separate groups speaking distinct languages live around the Sepik River. As might be expected, the variety of artistic styles found among these groups is bewildering, but three visual elements seem to be basic to nearly all the styles in varying degrees: (1) designs in which two triangular forms are connected at their bases or apexes, often with further design elements in the angles so formed, (2) [sculpture](#) based on vertical series of hooklike forms that can be either unidirectional or in opposed groups, and (3) naturalistic representation of natural objects.

- Sepik Ramu Art River New Guinea
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3blpKLYfSBU>
- [Sepik Men Make Use of Carving Skills - YouTube](#)

Sepik painting:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2J_phrp1ms

Iatmul Sculpture

The art of Iatmul people is the most well represented of all the indigenous peoples of Papua New Guinea. However, few people have much knowledge or understanding of the complex culture that produced these appealing sculptures, carvings, and masks. The Iatmul were cannibals and headhunters in the times before contact with European missionaries in the 1930s. The violence in traditional Iatmul society was necessary for males to gain status. However, after the arrival of the Europeans, Iatmuls who practiced cannibalism and headhunting were labeled as murderers. After some of the men were publicly executed, these violent practices ended.

Read more: <https://www.everyculture.com/wc/Norway-to-Russia/Iatmul.html#ixzz6oIImbbqe>

The distinctive mai masks of the Iatmul people of the Middle Sepik region are characterized by oblong faces with elongated noses that often merge into arch-like forms that join the nose to the chin or extend below it. Mai masks are carved and danced in pairs, portraying elder and younger supernatural siblings, either brothers or sisters. Worn by young men and boys, the masks are attached to conical basketry costumes that cover the dancer's head and upper body. Mai mask performances begin with the construction of a fenced compound. Within it, the men build a raised platform, with a backdrop depicting the mountains where, according to oral tradition, the masks originated, and a ramp that extends over the wall to the ground outside. As the performance begins, the mai maskers burst from behind the backdrop and stride down the ramp. Reaching the ground outside, they are joined by the women, who accompany them to the dancing ground, where a lengthy performance ensues before the dancers finally retire into the men's ceremonial house.

<https://moa.ubc.ca/museum-shop/edward-dumoi-iatmul/>

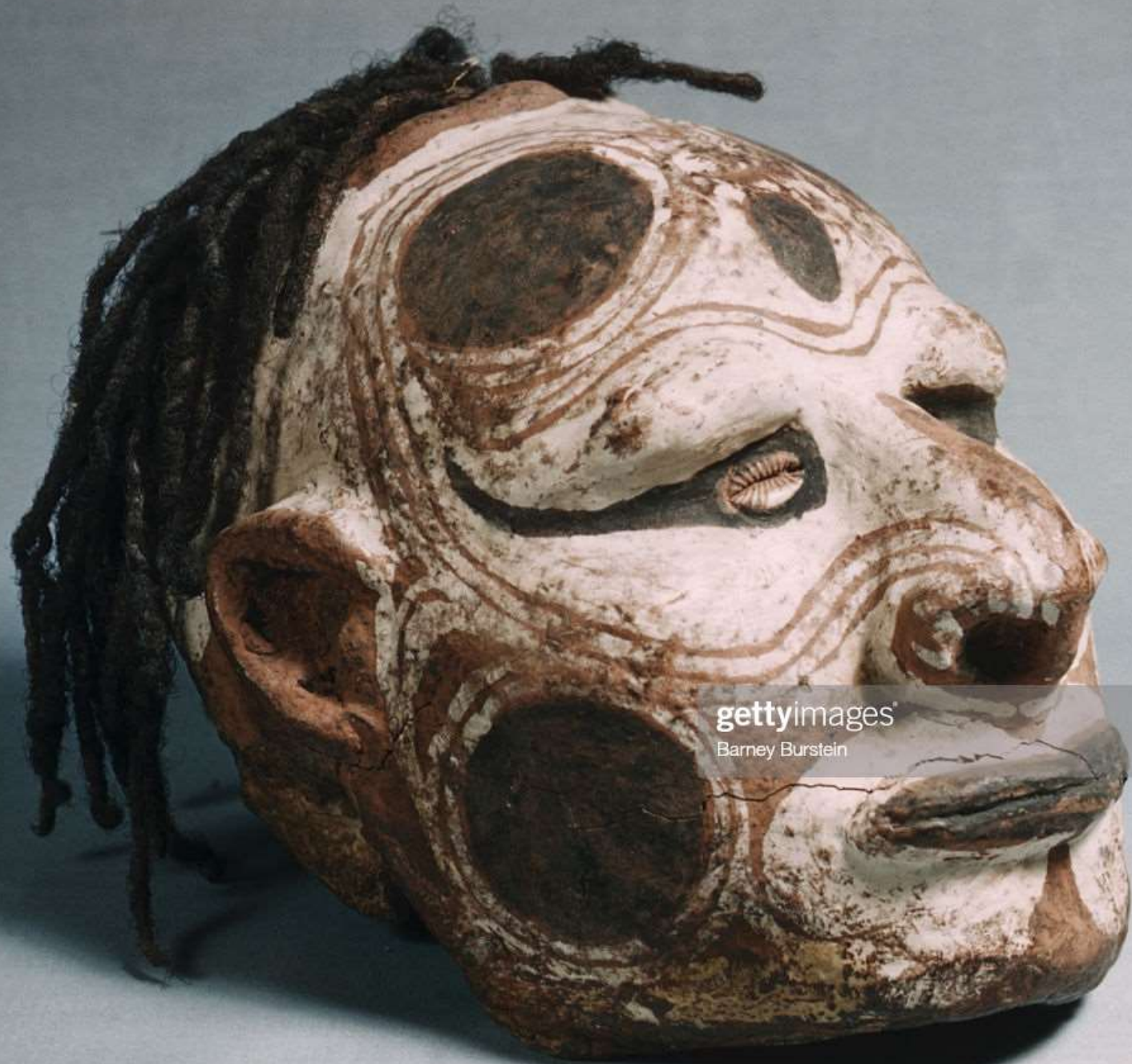




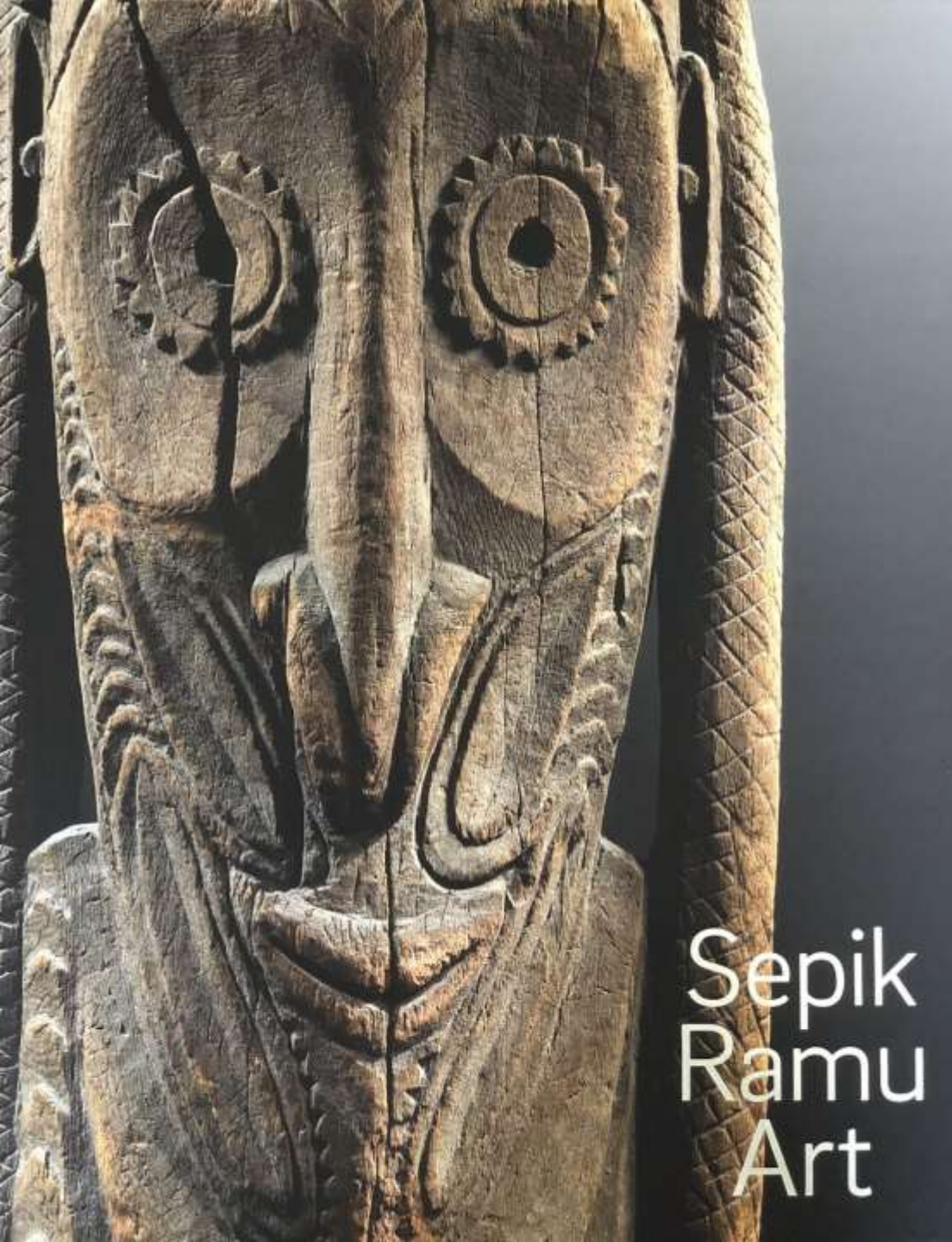












Sepik
Ramu
Art



MYTH + MAGIC

ART OF THE SEPIK RIVER, PAPUA NEW GUINEA









New Ireland

New Ireland is a narrow, tropical island only a few degrees south of the Equator. There are two primary seasons: a hot and dry period lasting from March to around November, and a rainy monsoon in December, January, and February. There are two modest towns on the island, but the majority of people live in rural villages. These indigenous residents spend the majority of their time in their beautiful gardens, where they grow sweet potatoes, cassava, bananas, various greens, and taro. In the village, they raise pigs, feeding them the white meat of dried coconuts. A significant part of their diet comes from the sea.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OckCknP4qgU>



Malagan

The term *malagan* (also spelled *malangan* or *malanggan*) usually refers to one or more intricate carvings from the island of New Ireland in Papua New Guinea. These carvings may take the form of a mask, a wooden board or “frieze,” a sturdy housepole, a circular, woven mat, or a scaled model of a dugout canoe with or without human figures inside. In many such forms, *malagan* can be found in museums throughout the world. All of these well-traveled carvings were born in New Ireland, a place of extraordinary diversity. There alone, over thirty distinct languages are spoken. In most of these languages, the word *malagan* means “likeness,” or otherwise “to carve, or inscribe.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-IU0mG-LQDc> (malagan explained)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dhpvd1FtfOA> (malagan creation)































gettyimages

Bertrand Linet



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Tolai

The Tolai are the indigenous people of the Gazelle Peninsula and the Duke of York Islands of East New Britain in the New Guinea Islands region of Papua New Guinea. They are ethnically close kin to the peoples of adjacent New Ireland and tribes like the Tanga people and are thought to have migrated to the Gazelle Peninsula in relatively recent times, displacing the Baining people who were driven westwards.

[Tolai Money Ring – YouTube](#)

Tolai Duk Duk

Duk-Duk is a [secret society](#), part of the traditional culture of the [Tolai](#) people of the [Rabaul](#) area of [New Britain](#), the largest [island](#) in the [Bismarck Archipelago](#) of [Papua New Guinea](#), in the South Pacific.

The society has religious and political as well as social objectives.^[1] It represents a form of law and order through its presiding spirits. In ritual dances, members of the society invoke the male spirit *duk duk* and female spirit *tubuan* depending on which mask the dancer wears. The dancers are always male despite the fact that some are performing the role of female spirits. Women and children were forbidden to look at these figures.^[3] Both types of mask are cone-shaped and are constructed of cane and fibre, with short, bushy capes of leaves. Traditionally the *duk duk* was taller than the *tubuan* and was faceless. The *tubuan* had circular eyes and a crescent-shaped mouth painted on a dark background. In addition to the mask, leaves cover the torso of the dancers so that only their legs are visible.^[2]

Only males could belong to Duk-Duk, with an entrance fee (in [dewarra](#), small [cowry](#) shells strung on strips of cane, often 100 metres or more).

The society has its secret signs and rituals, and festivals which were in past times closed to strangers on pain of death. Duk-Duk only appeared with the full moon.





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DN0zmGMwHQc>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vAaDZlw0y3c>



Turtle Shell Mask Torres Straits



https://human.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Art/SmartHistory/10%3A_Oceania/10.04%3A

Contemporary PNG Artists

Sir Mathias Kauage (1944-2003) was a Papua New Guinean artist. In 1998, Kauage was awarded the [Order of the British Empire](#) for services to the arts by [Queen Elizabeth II](#).^[3] The [National Gallery of Australia](#) has described him as "Papua New Guinea's best-known contemporary artist".^[4] He was still holding regular exhibitions abroad shortly before his death,^[5] in Australia, Europe and Africa.^[2]

Kauage's art included drawing, painting and [woodcuts](#). His career as an artist was reportedly inspired by visiting an exhibition of [Timothy Akis'](#) in 1969.









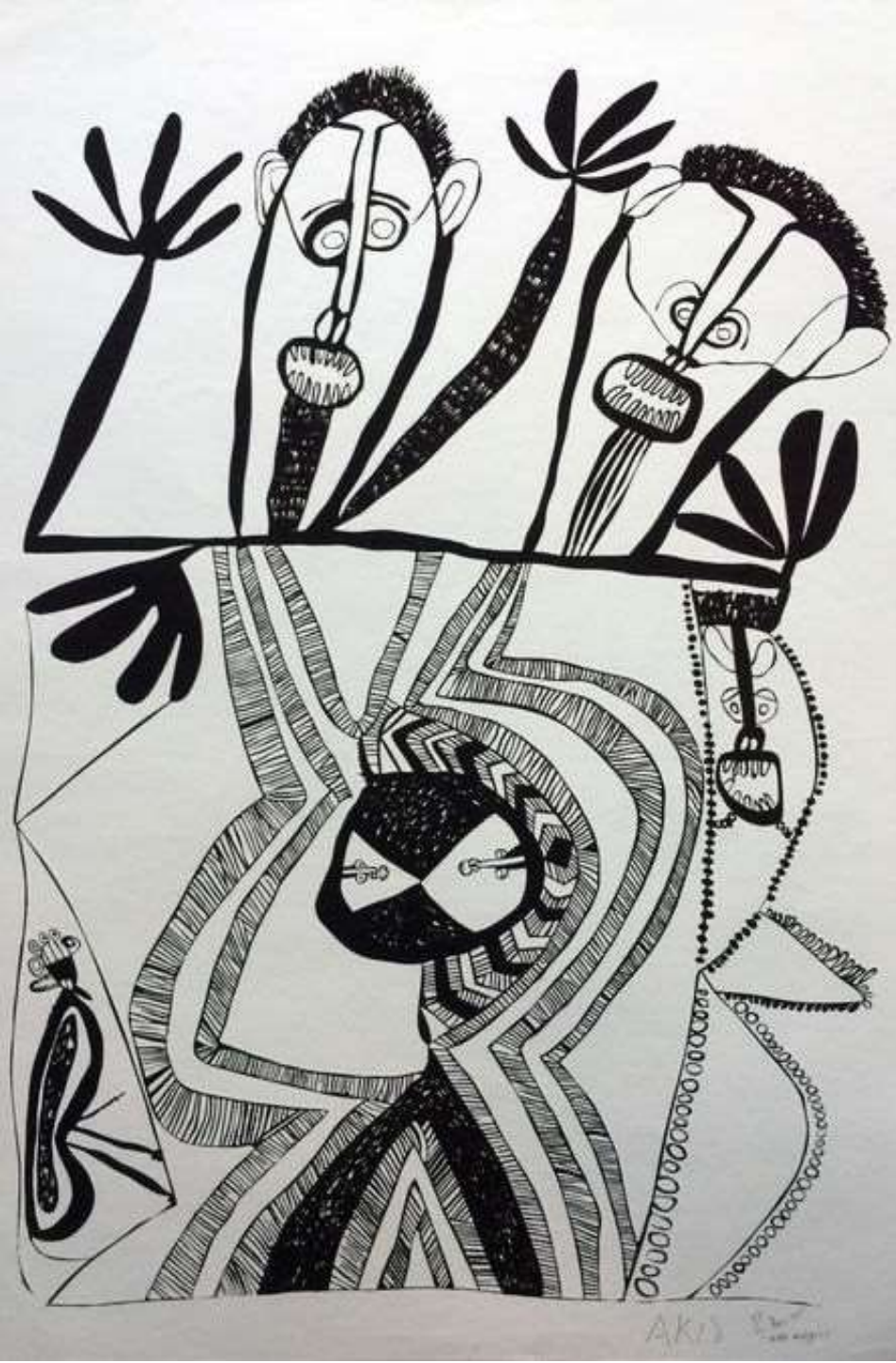
Timothy Akis (1944-1984)

Timothy Akis, born in Tsembaga village, Simbai Valley, [Madang Province](#), [Papua New Guinea](#),^[2] was a Papua New Guinean [artist](#).^[2] His art consisted primarily in imaginative pen and ink [drawings](#) and [batiks](#) inspired by his country's wildlife.^{[1][3]}

Akis had the distinction of being the second Papua New Guinean artist to hold an exhibition, at the [University of Papua New Guinea](#) in 1969.^{[1][3]} He later held exhibitions in the [United States](#), the [United Kingdom](#), [Switzerland](#), the [Philippines](#) and [Australia](#)









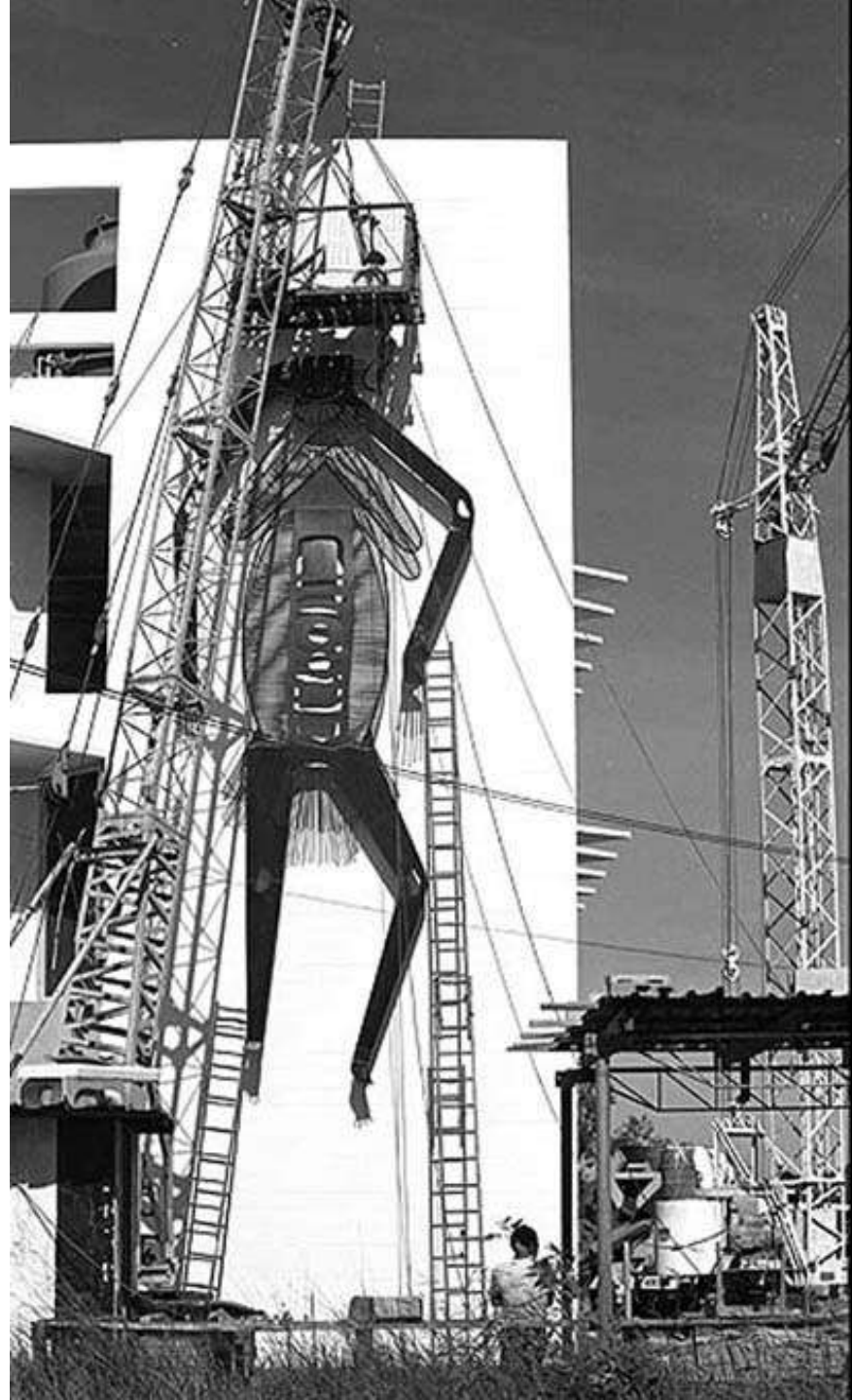


Ruki Fame

Ruki Fame certainly lives up to his surname when it comes to the world of art. He is believed to be PNG's first metal sculptor. He began his career as a welder but was 'discovered' by an Australian expat artist who was attracted by his ability to create amazing artwork using metals such as iron. He went on to train at the National Art School in PNG and soon forged his way into a new career as a metal sculptor. He's created major art sculptures for the University of PNG and the Agricultural Bank but also exhibited at museums in Australia and Switzerland. Of his work, Rumi says he prefers to create using his imagination as his guiding stick and doesn't sketch his pieces first. He just puts pedal (or should we say hands!) to the metal and sculpts, sometimes for 12 hours a day. While his artwork may be considered contemporary by many, his style is very much traditional and based on the stories of PNG, its people and native wildlife.

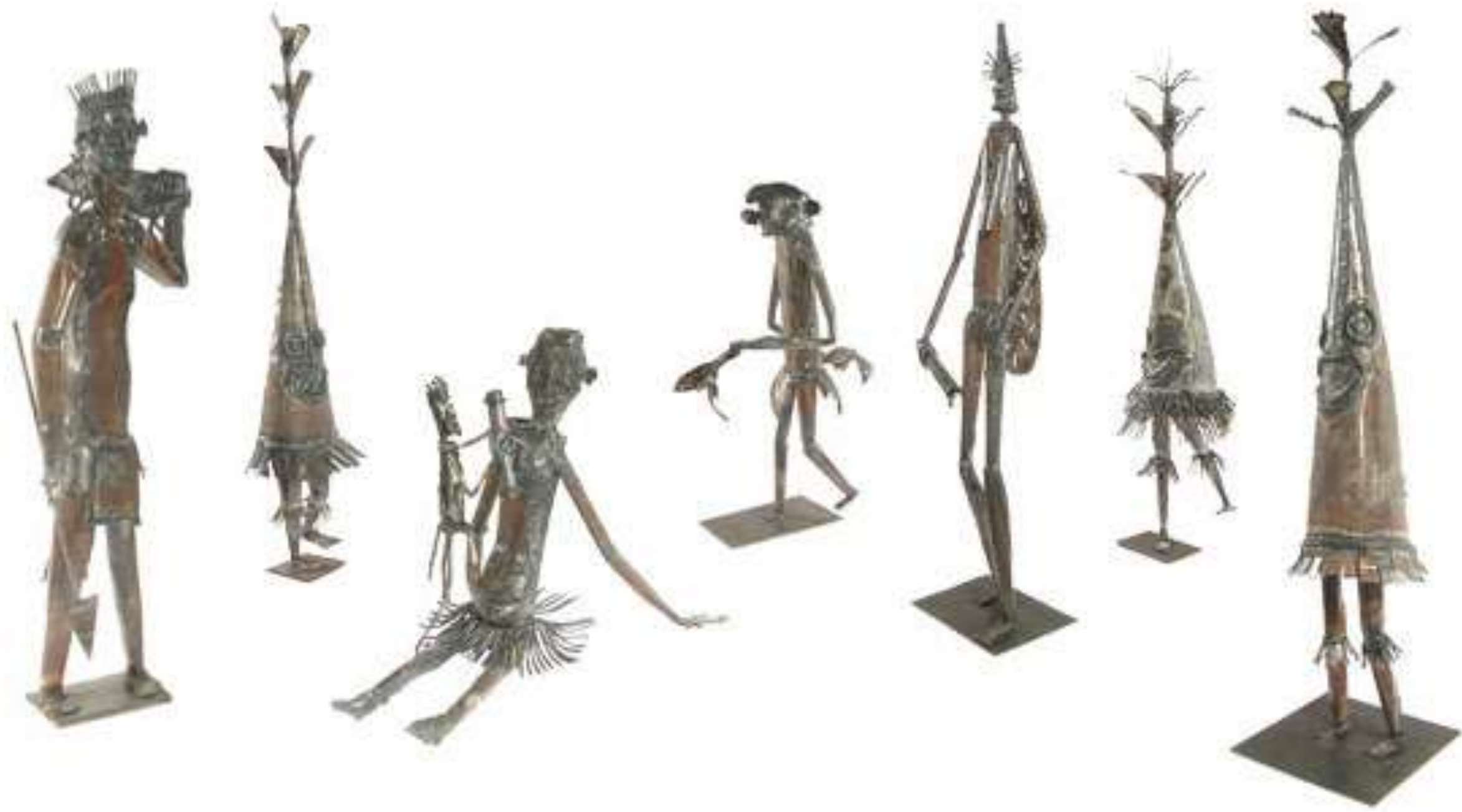


RUKI FAME, Karim Lek (Courtship), 1988, Metal Sculpture, Height: 35cm









Simon Gende

Born 1969 Chimbu Province, Papua New Guinea
Lives and works in Goroka, Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinean artist Simon Gende is known for his often humorous and insightful commentary on international events and icons. Working with saturated colour and stylised or silhouetted figures, Gende paints subjects as diverse as the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Centre in New York, and Diana, Princess of Wales, lifting them from the pages of major print media and presenting them in an alternative universe — the urban and rural landscape of Papua New Guinea. Gende was born in Gere in the Gembogl district of Chimbu province and is from the Kuman language group. Inspired by fellow Chimbu artist, the late Mathias Kauage, he began painting in 1989 and is now one of Papua New Guinea's most respected artists.



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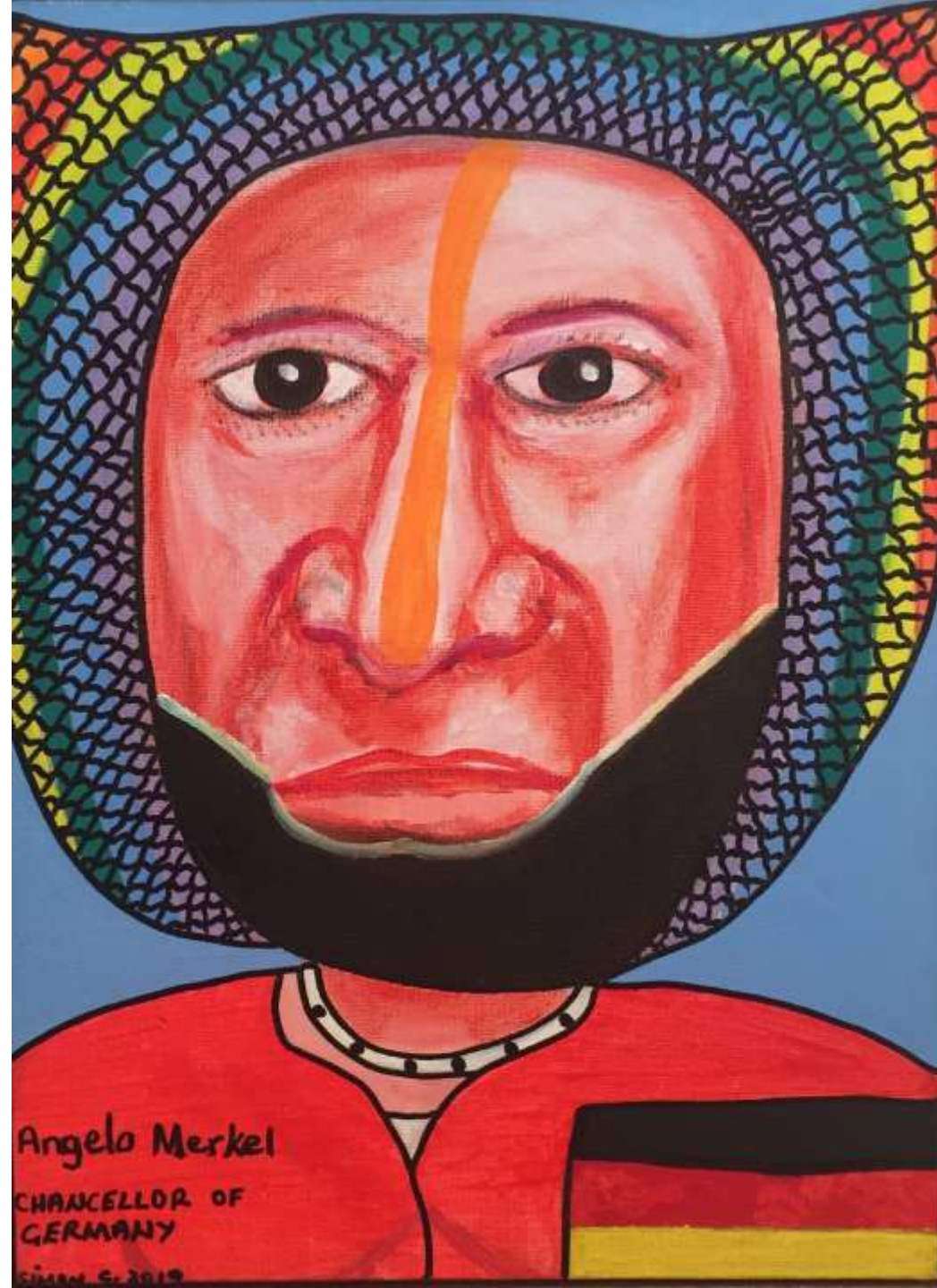


ASYLUM SEEKERS MANUS ISLAND PNG





Leadership Tussle in Australia
"RUD V GILLARD" 27-2-2012





NO I TIME SIP BLONG
CAPTN COOK KAM LONG
GRAUN BLONG OL ABORIGINAL
OL TNG SPIRIT BLONG DAI MAN KAM.

SHANEY G
PM. 2018

Assignment Suggestions...

- Create a mask from cardboard, burlap and raffia. Paint in traditional ochres, black and white. Or use modern bright colors instead.
- Create a painting or print inspired by one of the PNG masks.
- Create an artwork inspired by the filigree work on the Asmat shields or Bis poles.
- Paint on burlap or fabric.
- Consider feathers and shells