

# LONDON

## FASHION

### Designs From Down Under



The celebrated work of Aboriginal artist Jimmy Pike arrives at the Rebecca Hossack Gallery this month. His vivid designs, each based on a traditional Aboriginal story, have now been incorporated into a range of fabrics, rugs and clothing.

Pike's art tells the story of his land and the relentless extinction of his culture. He combines ancestral Aboriginal motifs with images of birds, snakes, trees and people, and uses the rich, vibrant colours of the Australian landscape. The exhibition runs from 5 February to 2 March at the Rebecca Hossack Gallery, 35 Windmill Street (off Tottenham Court Road), W1 (071-409 3599).

Teresa Kasia

It has been condemned as superficial, commercial and the last refuge of the failed artist, but no one could say that fashion photography isn't glamorous. A new exhibition at the **V&A** now intends to dispel the former opinion, sustain the latter and give fashion photography its rightful place in cultural history with 200 glossy examples from post-war Europe and the USA. The work does chart changing perceptions of women and men, and the movements in the fashion industry – from the decline of *haute couture* to the ascendancy of leisure wear – that reflect wider social change. But maybe more importantly, the exhibition shows that fashion photography has allowed some of its exponents to pursue their individual obsessions: William Klein's juxtaposition of up-market mannequins and down-market street scenes (right); and Richard Avedon's alienating interpretations of 1960s emancipation. The results prove that some are indeed artists – and by no means failures. 'Appearances: Fashion Photography Since 1945' is at the V&A Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7 (071-938 8500) from 13 February to 28 April.



Caroline Roux



**ART** 'Ecstatic Antibodies' is a reaction to the media's portrayal of the Aids crisis, and includes 'Every Minute Counts' (above) by Rotimi Fani-Kayode. Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill, SW11 (071-223 2223) from 23 January to 24 February.

### DESIGN: GIANNI VERSACE

Kiri te Kanawa's costume for the London premiere of Richard Strauss's opera *Capriccio* is the result of a deepening involvement in the theatre world by one of the world's greatest couturiers, Gianni Versace. *Capriccio* is at The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (071-240 1200) on 19, 23 and 26 January. There's just time to catch an exhibition of Versace's previous theatrical experiences – his creations for opera and ballet – at the Henry Moore Gallery, Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, SW7 (071-584 5020). The exhibition, 'Versace Teatro', runs until 18 January, admission free.

Bazyli Solowij



### EXHIBITION

#### Quality Time

The worldwide tour of 'Art of Breguet' stops off in London at Chaumet, 178 New Bond Street, W1 (071-493 5403) from 5 to 8 February. The exhibition celebrates the work of the brilliant and innovative watchmaker Breguet, and contains 200 timepieces crafted by him. Responsible for many inventions, including the self-winding watch, Breguet was appointed watchmaker to the French Navy under Napoleon and made timepieces for, among others, Marie Antoinette and Queen Victoria.

Jenny Barnett