



YOUR GUIDE TO FREE SPIRITED TRAVEL

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MAGAZINE

ISSUE 361 JULY 30 1990

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WALKING from the street into Rebecca Hossack Gallery to view Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri's Aboriginal paintings is to step into a small world of Possum magic. The walls are aglow with light and colourful paintings that jostle for the best position, while tucked away in a corner can be found small modest works of exquisite elegance. I was also at the gallery to meet the artist, Clifford Possum, as were other guests. I spotted Lord and Lady Harwood (Lady Harwood hails from Melbourne), Malcolm Williamson, Master of the Queen's Music, appropriately dressed in his Aboriginal land-rights jumper. I enjoyed my talk with Clifford — a good bloke, who has a strong presence and carries himself with quiet, unpretentious dignity and a genuineness that he also demonstrates through his art, which in turn represents Aboriginal law, the land and their way very being. Thanks must go to Rebecca for getting Cliff over here. I like visiting her gallery, it alludes a true air of comfortable affluence. Certainly nowhere else in London would you find such a friendly gallery. It lacks the snobbish aspect that permeates many top London galleries. I daresay Rebecca's being Australian has something to do with it.

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IT was the day of the Queen's first garden party of the year. Aboriginal painter, Clifford Possum Thapaltjarri and gallery owner Rebecca Hossack, as guests, made their way to Buckingham Palace. On their arrival they were taken to the rooms of the Queen's private secretary, where they were welcomed to the Palace. Then just before the Queen, Prince Philip, Princess Diana, Princess Anne and Princess Alexandra made their appearance on the lawn, Clifford and Rebecca were placed in a very small group assembled at the foot of the steps leading down from the Palace for special introductions. To be placed there means the Queen actually wants to meet you — an honour given to very few. The Palace invitation specified for men, morning dress, uniform, national dress or lounge suit shall be worn. Clifford Possum was a commanding figure to be 'set before the Queen'. He was dressed in full morning dress except for his special Aboriginal painted shoes and paint brushes stuck in the band of his top hat. Not long after the Queen began moving on to meet the huge crowd (8,000) Rebecca and Clifford were treating themselves to Palace ice-cream in a punnet when Princess Anne's



Aboriginal painter Clifford Possum Thapaltjarri and gallery owner Rebecca Hossack in London

secretary asked them would they mind