

IN PREVIEW

ART

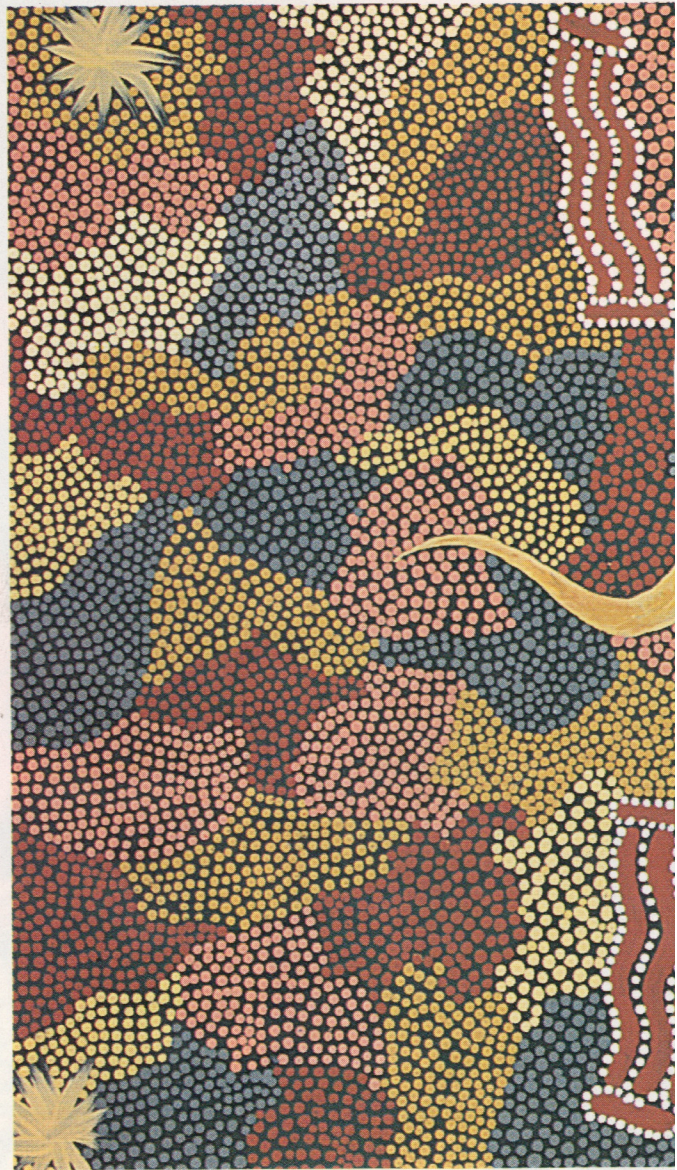
SONGLINES

The exhibition at the Barbican has been put together in conjunction with the Rebecca Hossack Gallery; Australian-born Hossack is London's authority on Aboriginal art. On show are prints, graphics, photography, textiles, batiks, boomerangs, weaponry, bark paintings and – of particular interest – a wide-ranging display of the famous dot and circle paintings. While the contemporary art movement started in the early Seventies, Aboriginal art is the oldest continuous artistic tradition in the world. Dating back some 40,000 years and an integral part of the culture, it is imbued with a sense of mystery and timelessness rooted in that mythical golden age – the Dreaming. The modern paintings continue to celebrate the drama in the Australian landscape – the contours of its



hills, harsh rockfaces, parched deserts and unexpected water-holes, and with ancient symbols for every bulge and blip they act on one level as a complex kind of map. Of primary importance, however, is the sacred nature of the terrain – the underground streams, ceremonial grounds

and sites and wildlife associated with Aboriginal myth. Much of this is hard for the Westerner to interpret, as details of locations and ceremonial rites can only be disclosed to initiated men. But accessible to all is the captured essence of the land – the rich, warm colours of the earth, and the flickering intensity of the dots and circles, like light through rising heat. Until 4 September. **Concourse Gallery** Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2, 071-638 4141





Dreamings by Mirium
Olodoodi (*far left*), Clifford
Possum (*left and above*) and
Robert Campbell Junior
(*below*)

