



*'Dead Tree with Zebras' by Thamae Setshogo.*

## African Bushmen

REBECCA HOSSACK

... and women: notably, Coinx'ai Qgam, known as Dada, whose work — particularly a lithograph of trees — is perhaps the best here. This show is confusing: not because of the work, which is wonderful (especially the lithographs and linocuts), but because of the questions it raises. I liked the graphic qualities: the spaces, the line. But are these the same things that concern the artists? Does this matter? Is the extreme vitality of their work the result of innocence about Western culture? If we think it is (the facts of the matter are irrelevant) we will want to keep the artists in that state: benign others.

There are pictures of trees, insects and animals: stylised or schematised. Through an interpreter, Thamae Setshogo explained a little how he works: it took him four days to produce a linocut representing a tree, for example. The up-and-down symmetry seems to represent both crown and roots, death and re-growth (hence wet and dry seasons). And so on. This didn't really help much: the meanings remained essentially mysterious. But I could share the interest in rhythm and the basic seriousness of the work, which is what you come away with: the understanding of the forces and cycles of nature. All I know is that some of these pictures are the most exciting I've seen in a long time.

*David Lillington*

# Time Out