

Southern Africans FREE

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Bushmen fight back through their art

THE African Bushmen once roamed most of Southern Africa. Today, those that survived the centuries of killing, enslavement and dispossession live scattered in the Kalahari desert. Now, as a result of their resistance to their repression, a unique showing of their art can be seen for the first time in the UK.

The exhibition is sponsored by Survival International, a worldwide movement to support tribal peoples.

"Survival" represents the right of tribal people to decide their own future, and protect their lands, environment and way of life.

An evening talk at the gallery last week drew a packed audience.

Identity

Aid worker Mara Amats, just back from a visit to Botswana, said despair and suicides were common amongst the Bushmen as they suffered a loss of identity.

The enclosure of land in Namibia, Botswana and through southern Africa has taken away their land.

MONGONGO: Paintings and Works on Paper from the African Bushman

Rebecca Hossack Gallery, 35 Windmill Street, W1.

Until June 19

Mon to Sat 10am to 6pm.

Tel: 071-4093599

Admission free/donations

As nomadic people, they had no concept of private property or of buying and selling the land they considered their mother.

Komtsha, one of the tribal elders who also spoke at the gathering last week, said the Government was not listening to his people, who wanted to preserve their culture and language.

On show at the gallery are a collection of paintings

made at the Kuru Cultural Project, in D'Kar, Botswana, run by missionary Braam Le Roux and his wife Wilhelmine.

Linocuts

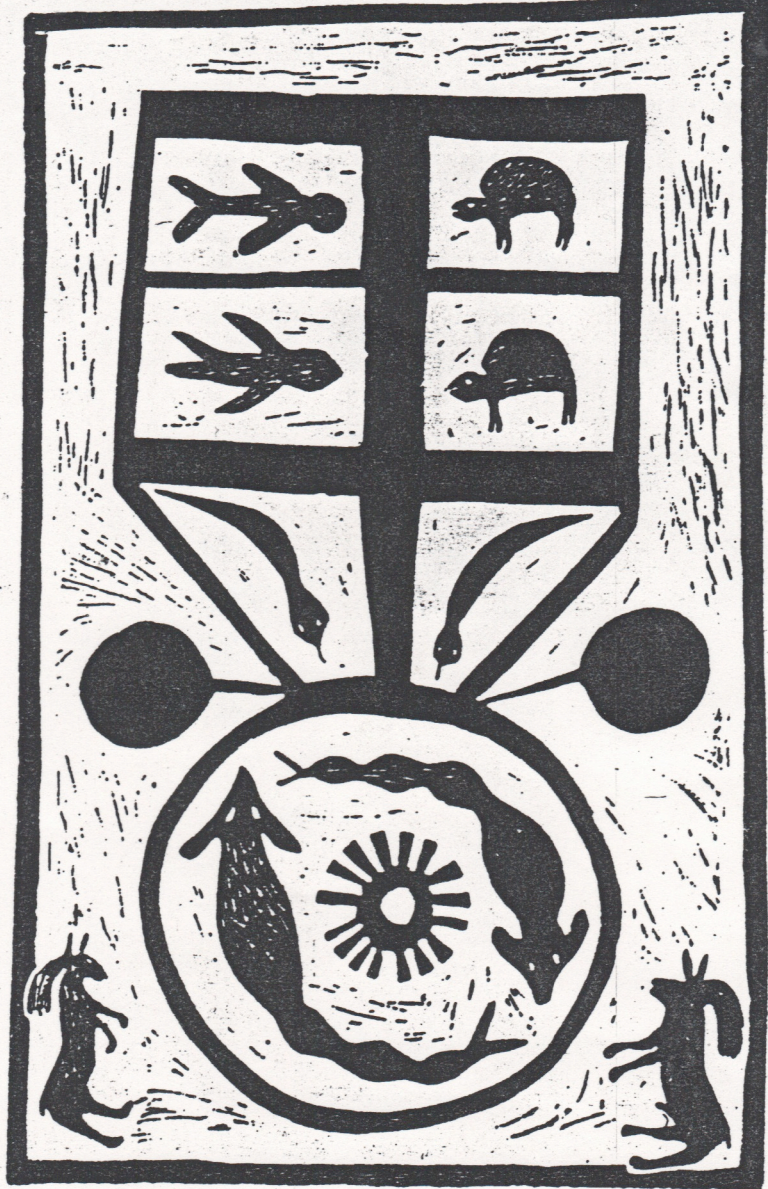
The linocuts and prints depict animals — fish, snakes, zebras, horses, with occasional words or the name of the artist included in the design.

The drawings are powerful images, made by artists of different ages.

Their clarity of vision and bright use of colour is attractive, and has a certain affinity to the work of indigenous Australian artists.

CORINNA GILBERT

ART
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REVIEW



OUT OF ALIENATION: *Tree with Fish and Tortoises.*