



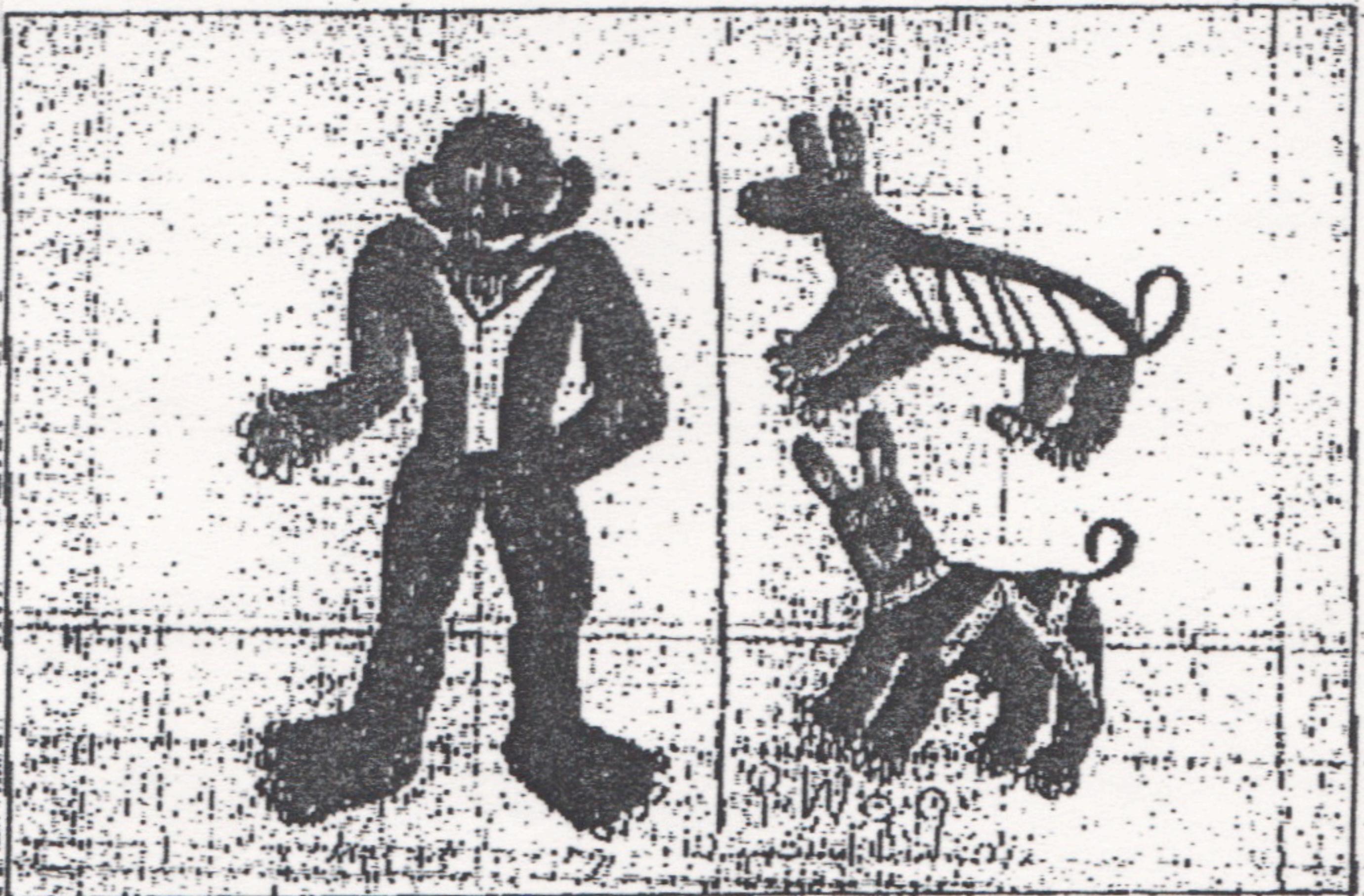
# SOA ISLANDS

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# Bushman art at the Barbican



When Jan van Riebeeck arrived at the Cape in 1652, the territory was occupied solely by nomadic Bushmen and Hottentots, seeking out a living from the land.

The small, compact Bushman people live scattered in the Kalahari desert of south-

Africa in an area about seven times the size of Great Britain. Today they number nearly 100,000, of whom 45,000 live in Botswana. They used to live freely throughout most of southern Africa, but are now struggling to survive in the face of dispossession and poverty. The land which the

Bushmen have always depended upon has been taken over for farms and game parks. They are reduced to living from handouts and attempts to hunt are thwarted and usually end in an arrest for 'poaching'.

Survival International, a world wide movement to support tribal peoples, together with the Rebecca Hossack Gallery are staging an exhibition of contemporary Bushmen art.

African Art is enjoying a revival of interest and the art of the Bushmen, like that of the Australian Aborigines has its origins deep in pre-history.

Showing a full range of the Bushmen's extraordinary artistic achievements, from prints and striking paintings, to hand-crafted baskets and quilts, the exhibition illustrates how the Bushmen have discovered a new sense of cultural awareness, as well as a new voice, through their art.

*Ikulu - Contemporary African Bushmen Art* will be on display in the Barbican Centre's Concourse Gallery from 15 September to 14 October.