

Exhibitions reviewed by Zena Farel

Sisters Doing It For Themselves

Gertie Huddlestone and the Joshua Sisters

THE Aboriginal communities scattered across the vastness of Australia, although linked by a common mythology - that of the dream time - have their own highly distinct and varied cultural forms: different languages, ceremonies, different tunes and ways of painting, from the intricate bark-painters of Arnhem to the 'dot-and-circle' practitioners of the Central Desert.

One of the most remarkable painting communities to develop in recent years is at Ngukurr on the

Roper River in the Northern Territory. Artists from this region have evolved a style that combines broadly conventional representation with bold acrylic colours.

Gertie Huddlestone and the other Joshua Sisters are amongst the community's most exciting artists. This is the first time that all five have exhibited together and their work shares a common verve: myriad details and vibrant colours are held in place by a commanding sense of design and an extraordinary assurance and con-

trol.

Huddlestone and her sisters take as their subjects the everyday activities and sights of country life - fishing trips, food-gathering, local flora and

fauna - but they infuse them with a mystical sense of wonder. Theirs is a world where insects and plants dwarf the human inhabitants and the colours vibrate to the pulse of life.

The exhibition can be seen at The Rebecca Hossack Gallery, Windmill Street, London W1P until 2 May. Contact: 0171 436 4899



Missionary by Gertie Huddlestone and the Joshua Sisters