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# ***FITZROVIA*** news

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## **Pavement artist with a difference**

**T**HE PAVEMENT and wall outside the Rebecca Hossack Gallery at 35 Windmill Street has been brightened up with some colourful painting, valued at £125,000.

It is the work of aboriginal artist Jimmy Pike whose paintings were being exhibited there and selling for £25,000 each. While visiting the gallery he decided to extend the exhibition into the street.

The Fitzroy Tavern in the same street sounded familiar to him as it was at Fitzroy Crossing in the Australian outback that he got his first settled job on a cattle station.

There must have been something about the area because it also spawned other artists including Butcher Cherel, Boxer Yankarr, Ivy Nixon, and Paji Honeychild Yankarr, whose works are being displayed in the Hossack gallery until October 8.

Jimmy was raised among the nomadic Walmajarri people but did not start painting until 1980 when he was in prison for murder. There he met the prison psychologist Pat Lowe, an English woman. After his release in 1986 they got married and lived in the desert together.

*MP*

