

# IN PREVIEW ART

## SONGLINES

The exhibition at the Barbican has been put together in conjunction with the Rebecca Hossack Gallery; Australian-born Hossack is London's authority on Aboriginal art. On show are prints, graphics, photography, textiles, batiks, boomerangs, weaponry, bark paintings and – of particular interest – a wide-ranging display of the famous dot and circle paintings. While the contemporary art movement started in the early Seventies, Aboriginal art is the oldest continuous artistic tradition in the world. Dating back some 40,000 years and an integral part of the culture, it is imbued with a sense of mystery and timelessness rooted in that mythical golden age – the Dreaming. The modern paintings continue to celebrate the drama in the Australian landscape – the contours of its hills, harsh rockfaces, parched deserts and unexpected waterholes, and with ancient symbols for every bulge and blip they act on one level as a complex kind of map. Of primary importance, however, is the sacred nature of the terrain – the underground streams, ceremonial grounds



Dreamings by Mirium Olodoodi (far left), Clifford Possum (left and above) and Robert Campbell Junior (below)

