



TRUE BLUE AUSSIE ART

Aboriginal art comes to London for some much needed exposure.

A boriginal life and culture is an undisputable and important part of Australian life and culture. Unfortunately at present the two are separable, but the tide is steadily turning, and Aboriginal culture and art is gaining the respect and appreciation it deserves.

In recent years in every artistic genre Aboriginal art has been able to break into the Australian mainstream. The most immediate thought which comes to my mind is contemporary music.

The '80s saw the emergence of bands such as No Fixed Address, and the brilliant Warumpi Band. Both of these groups managed to attract a following from every sector of society, and also succeeded in a successful blend of cultural influences.

The Warumpi Band's first album, Big Name, No Blanket, had political content is also fantastic music, with a great variety of sounds. They implemented western electronics with ancient Aboriginal instruments. Unfortunately they have broken up, but not without leaving their mark on Australian music.

Aboriginal art, specifically painting, is presently taking the world by storm. Touring America at this moment is the large exhibition 'Dreamings: the Art of Aboriginal Australia'. This exhibition is attracting collectors from all over the world, as the Aboriginal perception of the world, especially when put visually, is fascinating and beautiful.

Fortunately, for those of us who live in London, there is another Aboriginal exhibition, SONGLINES, taking place at the Rebecca Hossack Gallery, 35 Windmill Street, W1P 1HH. Tel: 409 3599.

Songlines opens on June 12 and ends July 22. This exhibition includes paintings by established artists such as Clifford Possum and Turkey Tolsen. Songlines is also introducing work from a talented 'new generation' of Aboriginal artists, who have never before exhibited outside Australia.

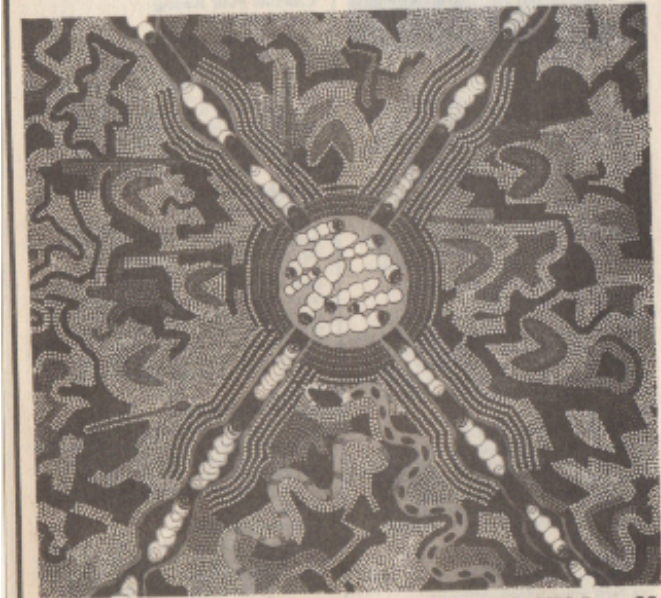
The paintings on exhibition have been described as 'beautiful and extraordinary', which isn't surprising as Aboriginal art is so unique.

The paintings on show have their roots in a tradition of sand painting, which goes back thousands of years. Every picture tells a story; of spirit ancestors, the Dreamings, and creations.

The stories are woven in a tapestry of light, colour and depth, and can be appreciated on many levels. Simplistically you may not wish to see beyond the Bandicoot or the Bushfire, but if you choose to delve, you'll find things on many levels.

Aboriginal art, and specifically this exhibition offers a "fascinating insight into the culture of Aboriginal Australians and their powerful affinity with the land".

If you are a lover of art, or just carry a slight interest, you shouldn't pass up this opportunity to see a part of 'our' world on display over here.



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Western Sight . From time to time there is an artist in residence. Tuition is available.
inquiries: 0703 812273.

REBECCA Hossack Gallery, 35 Windmill Street, London W1.

Until June 10: Suburban Revenge — prints and paintings by Australian artist Graham Francella, including a new series of etchings of parrots.

June 12-July 22: Western Desert Painters — Songliners. These celebrated paintings are contemporary depictions of the ancient Aboriginal Dreamings. The exhibition includes paintings from the Balgo Hills, the first international showing for this highly acclaimed work. Inquiries: 409 3599.

POMEROY Purdy Gallery, Jacob Street Film Studios, Mill Street, London SE1, June 23- July 15, paintings by Caroline Williams, exhibiting for the first time in the UK. Inquiries: 237 6062, 252 0511.

THE Drew Gallery, Canterbury, Kent, is involved in a major exchange of Australian and British sculptors. A group of Australian sculptors will tour Britain, working in galleries, in October 1989, and a British group will visit Australia in May 1990.
inquiries: (0227) 458759.

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