

TWO EXHIBITIONS OF PHOTOGRAPHS

JUNE 27—JULY 14, Weekdays 9 am—4 pm

**FINE ARTS GALLERY
UNIVERSITY CENTRE
UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

Photographs of Aboriginal Rock Paintings of Western Arnhem Land

Some aboriginal rock paintings of Western Arnhem Land. The colour photographs show examples of paintings in the Alligator River region. Typical gallery locations in the sandstone outliers of the Arnhem Land escarpment are illustrated. Motifs include finely detailed ritual paintings associated with food renewal, sorcery, and legendary spirit beings. There are also examples of Mimi Art, drawn by an early race of aborigines whose artists drew simple stick-like figures mostly depicting tribal activities. Some photographs show related aboriginal tribal lands in which uranium mining is under consideration.

ATHOL BESWICK
Photographer

Photographs from the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

Photography has had to fight a long and hard battle to gain acceptance as an art form worthy of a place in art museums along with painting, sculpture, drawing, and print-making.

The first victories were won in the United States where the earliest museum departments of photography were established, most notably in the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

The National Gallery of Victoria was the first art museum in Australia to collect photography and is still the only one to employ a Curator of Photography.

Although the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery has in its collections some fourteen thousand early photographs these have been regarded only as historical records although many of them are also of great interest from an aesthetic point of view.

The Museum only started to purchase photographs as works of art from the 1976 Festival of Tasmania exhibition of Australian Photography. In 1977 that exhibition became an international invitation exhibition and important works from Europe and the United States were added to the collection.

This group of photographs is a small sampling of the Museum's collection.

CARL ANDREW
Curator of Art

