

Where to buy...

The Week reviews an exhibition in a private gallery

Contemporary Art from Papua New Guinea & Rebecca Jewell

at Rebecca Hossack Art Gallery



Carved Coconut Charm for Protection
(28cm x 32cm, £200)

This exhibition of five contemporary artists from Papua New Guinea is a first in this country. The sculptors use shells, bush fibre, wood and recycled metal in objects which combine the ingenious craftsmanship, vitality, ferocity and humour of traditional Oceanic art. There's also a fascinating collection of traditional *bilum* bags and modern

fashion items woven from fur, feathers and shells: one major piece incorporates recycled coffee sacks, possum jaw, boar tusks and junk food wrappers. The work of Rebecca Jewell (artist in residence at the British Museum) is shown alongside. It celebrates objects once used as working charms by the peoples of the Pacific islands, now in the British Museum, and explores the bond between creator and collector in a series of tiny etchings and paintings. The functions of magic pebbles are identified in the anthropologist's careful writing on the stones themselves: eg *Stone Charm to Give Strength to Knee (When Climbing a Mountain)*. Prices range from £50 to £20,000.

2a Conway Street, London W1
(020-7436 4899), until 17 October.