

Community arts in focus

AN open day of art exhibitions, poetry reading, dance, drama and music will be held at the Community Arts Project (CAP) arts resource centre at No. 106 Chapel Street, Woodstock on Saturday November 29.

The art works and various performances are the culmination of a year's work by some 400 part-time and five full-time Fine Art students. There will be works for sale, among them some quite beautiful pieces.

Open Day starts at 10 am with stalls from a number of organisations including Molo Songololo, Open Books, Careers Resource and Information Centre, Children's Resource Centre and the School of Advancement.

Paintings, sculpture, etchings, lino-cuts and photographic works will be on display throughout the day. Visitors will also have the opportunity of having caricatures done of themselves. Face painting will also be done.

The afternoon programme will include a variety of performances of poetry reading, music, drama and dance.

CAP will also be hosting the Arts Festival '86 events in the evening.

The Community Arts Project was formed in 1977 to encourage the development of the arts in and around Cape Town. It is an organisation that provides opportunities for people to develop their creativity and skills as well as providing a forum where people divided by apartheid laws can meet and generate activities in the arts.

CAP serves the broader Cape Town community by not only operating from the Woodstock centre but also various venues in the surrounding townships.

The organisation functions in many different ways, from giving part-time classes in the arts, to supporting grassroots cultural activities.

Several hundred regular members attend week-

ly part-time classes, mostly in the evenings. These range from painting and pottery to dance, drama and music. More than 20 classes are offered including ceramic sculpture, creative writing, photography and etching. Fees are nominal and bursaries are made available in certain cases to meet the cost of fees and transport.

CAP's part-time evening art classes are taught by Cecil Skotnes and Barbara Pitt, at CAP, while afternoon classes, mainly for teenagers, are taught by Hamilton Budaza at three township venues.

On Saturday mornings the children's classes at CAP are often more than full with about 90 children from Langa and Guguletu. Hamilton also holds a class on Saturday mornings at Elukhanyisweni.

The dance workshop is well-attended, with graded classes in contemporary dance both at CAP and in Langa and Guguletu. Ballet is also taught.

Open drama workshops are held at CAP on Saturday afternoons and a Thursday evening drama group consisting of local children recently held a concert. Drama

classes are also being given in Langa by Thobeka Maqutyana, a graduate from CAP's 1983-5 full-time drama course.

Students in both the part-time and full-time Fine Arts Diploma Course are encouraged to pass on what they have learnt.

One-off workshops in printing, painting and drawing, especially for children, are frequently held on request in outlying areas. These are taught by volunteers from among CAP's past and present students and teachers.

Grassroots cultural activity is encouraged and supported with financial and administrative help on a short-term basis to groups who want to create plays or run art workshops.

CAP's thriving poster workshop and its off-shoot the T-shirt printing project, teach skills and provide equipment to people publicising community activities. Training workshops in printing skills are run on request at CAP and in other areas.

Funded mainly by overseas church bodies, CAP has a handful of full-time workers and more than 20 part-time teachers.