

The Community Arts Project (CAP) fulfills a vital role in the broader Cape Town community. Formed in 1977 and based in Woodstock, CAP's aim is to encourage the development of the arts in and around Cape Town.

CAP provides opportunities for people to develop their creativity and skills by supporting grassroots cultural activities, such as community drama groups, and running part-time and full-time art classes.

Four to five hundred students participate in weekly classes at the main venue in Chapel Street, Woodstock, as well as five other township venues. More than 20 different classes are offered from painting, pottery, drama, dance and music, to ceramic sculpture, yoga, creative writing and etching.

Trish de Villers, Projects Co-ordinator, said that a priority is to increase activity in the various local communities by extending the Outreach programme.

A wide dispersal of teaching skills in the general community is hoped for, and to this end, three workshops are planned this year for young adults in the skills of arts and crafts necessary for teaching young children.

Lionel Davis, one of the handful of CAP's full-time staff, co-ordinates this project.



Lionel became involved in CAP 10 years ago. He had very little formal training, but had always been interested in art. Now he is deeply involved in two of CAP's brightest successes - a thriving poster workshop and the co-ordination of art education programmes for children.

Speaking from experience, he said that unless there is encouragement, stimulation and the opportunity for creativity, any natural artistic ability is lost.

At the dynamic poster workshop, posters for CAP's many dramatic presentations are created, as well as a great variety of posters for cultural and community organisations. Workshops are organised to teach organisations screen printing for posters and t-shirts.

Sophie Peters is one of the six young artists who have recently completed CAP's first full-time two-year art course. She has also had a longstanding interest in art, and supported herself for



#### CAP art.

years in Johannesburg by doing woodcarvings on mirror frames before coming to Cape Town and becoming involved with CAP.

She and the other participants found the two-year course a fruitful, enriching experience. They learnt to work in various media, including drawing, landscape and portrait painting in oils, ceramic sculpture and lino cuts, which Peters has adopted as her preferred medium.

Peters and another artist, Eunice Sefako

whose preferred medium is sculpture, are both full-time trainee teachers at CAP. This is part of a move towards critical art education and training.

The two year course is running again this year with eight young artists involved (two of whom need accommodation.)

CAP is a dynamic and progressive organisation which is achieving its aims through the dedication of its organisers and the enthusiasm and involvement of the community as a whole.

VARSITY 25 March 1987