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Local artists exhibit at US Cultural Centre

THERE is an interesting exhibition of work by four local artists in the American Cultural Centre in Plein Street. Both the artists' backgrounds and their work vary considerably.

Peter Clarke, well-known from his one man show in Cape Town in 1977, trained with the District Six Art Group in 1947.

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to 1948, at Michaelis in 1961, and later at the Rijks Academy, Amsterdam in 1962 to 1963. On current display are about eight works in collage and mixed media. He is familiar as a graphic artist, and his work, realistic and involved with people, entices a rapport with the public.

While many individual artists have been more concerned with the search for ideal form, there have been those whose art declares their identification and awareness of operating social forces. Such awareness is often expressed with figurative imagery, evident in works by both Livingstone Gocini and Boyskin Spoko.

Spoko has on display numerous pencil works, which are organic and abstract in form and express a social realism. Self-taught, Boyskin Spoko currently teaches at the St Francis Cultural Centre in Langa and expresses among the growing community centres in Cape Town, the commitment to so-

cial and cultural anxieties. In the work of both Spoko and Gocini mystique is replaced with unromanticized reality.

Gocini, current resident artist at the Mowbray Community Arts Project focuses on linocuts and woodcuts which diarize, and record. His art closely interacts with his social experiences. Gocini grew up in Langa, and studied in Natal at the Evangelical Lutheran Church Art and Craft Centre in Rorke's Drift for two years in 1976 and 1977. His work, bold and contrasting in its blacks and whites, reveals both detached observation and subjective involvement. The quality of the art and the truth of the subject matter have merit.

Frank Brown, a sculpture instructor at the Cultural Arts Programme in Baltimore City, Maryland, US, completes this four-man exhibition. He has exhibited work internationally as well as in South Africa and has been awarded numerous scholarships.

The pictures range in price from R20 to R55 and a tapestry and sculpture by Mphati Gocini are also on display. Initially aided by a sympathetic market, black art now undergoes broader artistic evaluation and criticism, and the merit of this exhibition will flow from its display of a wider range of artist's work.

Hopefully, it will be an incentive for further artists to come forward.

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