

# Athlone sculptor Vania wins another bursary

By HENRY LUDSKI

**A PROMISING** Athlone artist has been awarded a bursary for a second year of study at the Accademia de Belle Arte in Perugia, Italy.

Vania Holt, 22, left South Africa for Perugia in November, after getting a bursary for a year through the Italian Consulate — he had been sculpting for only seven months, at the time.

Vania completed his first year of study a short while ago, and starts his second at the academy, next month.

He started at CAP (Community Arts Project) in February, last year, after working in textile printing for about a year.

## Happy

His mother, Mrs Nazley Gaidien, said this week: "We are very happy, but we are going to miss him."

She said Vania had always been interesting in art, which he did as a subject when he was at the Alexander Sinton High School.

Vania's talent for sculpting was spotted by Cecil Skotnes, the well-known artist who teaches at CAP in his spare time.

He watched Vania's life-drawing progress and, after three months, advised him to do sculpture.

In June, last year, a few months after starting at CAP, artists from the project exhibited at the Gowlett Gallery and Vania sold all his work.

## Talented

After that, he also exhibited at the University of the Western Cape and at Worcester.

Cecil Skotnes this week described Vania as a highly-talented artist who had a natural understanding of form.

"He just seems to understand form best. He is highly talented, otherwise they wouldn't have extended his bursary," said Mr Skotnes.