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 process 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 Gowllett 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.