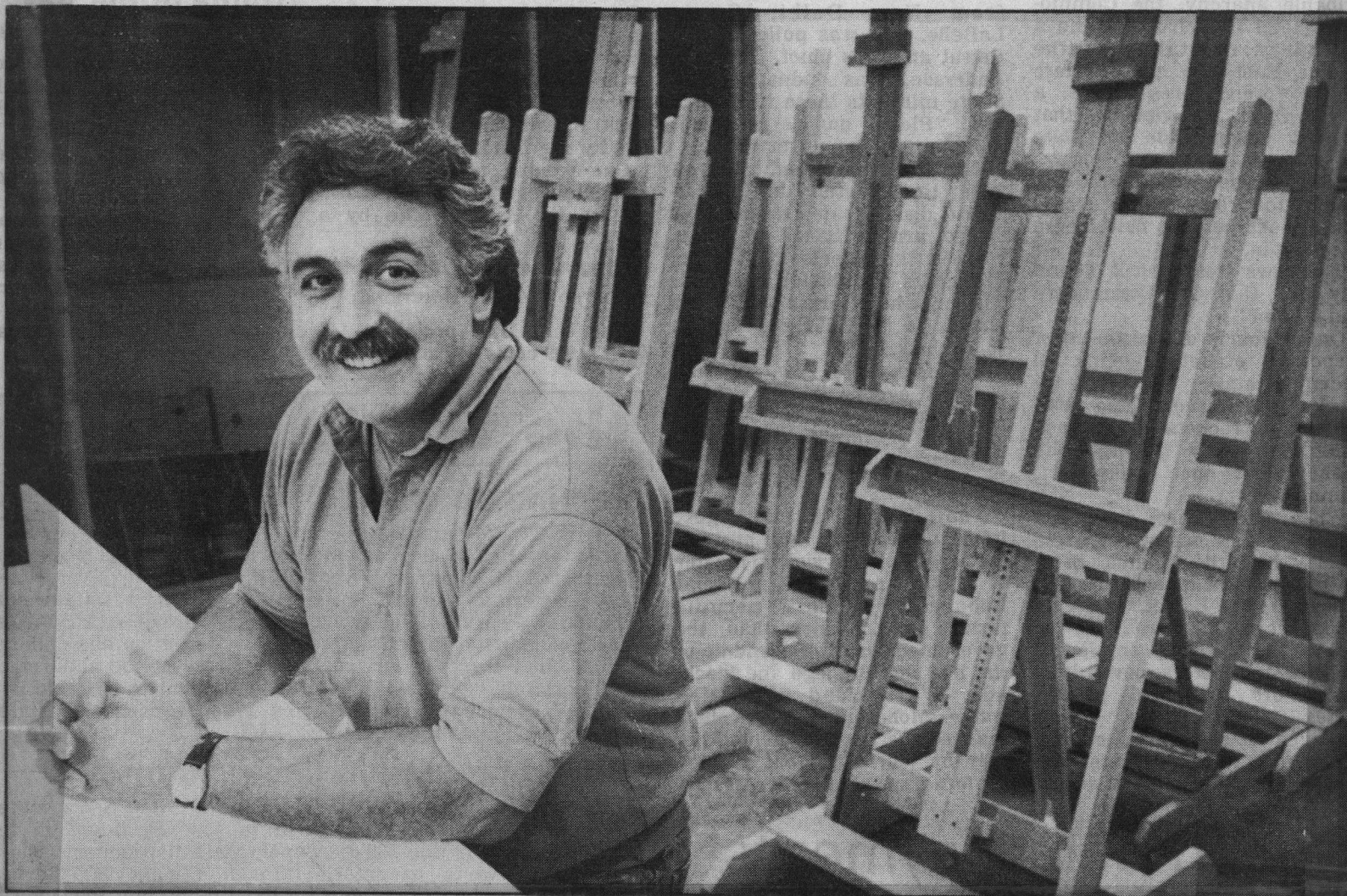


Grab those brushes and palettes: New art school open in Santa Cruz



Kurt Ellison

Angelo Grova, a Santa Cruz sculptor, has realized a dream — he just opened Artschool Santa Cruz.

By CANDACE ATKINS
STAFF WRITER

ANGELO GROVA must answer two callings — art and teaching.

The Santa Cruz sculptor has enjoyed years of successful sales and commissioned art works, but his satisfaction has been incomplete.

He needs to teach. Next week, he'll begin meeting that need when "Artschool Santa Cruz" opens for adults and young people.

"I've had this dream a long time, for years," Grova said. "Finally, it has happened."

It took six months to arrange finances, find a location and work out the endless details. Grova wanted to be centrally located, but not downtown. He wanted classes that would attract artists, but also appeal to those with little or no background in painting, drawing or sculpture.

It was a huge order, and Grova feels he's met the challenge.

Artschool Santa Cruz is located in the Sash Mill

neighborhood at 250-B Potrero, in the vicinity of a number of artists' studios, framers and craftspeople.

"It's an ideal spot," Grova said.

There is exhibit space, which is now filled with Artschool instructors' works. In addition to Grova, Robert Chiarito and Andrea Borsuk are on the Artschool faculty.

"It's a nice introduction, we can show people the (instructors') artwork," he said.

For now, Grova will schedule six shows a year, featuring work by California artists. Plans are to double the number of exhibits, so that shows change monthly.

Public reception and reaction by other galleries has been favorable, Grova said. He's convinced this area is ready for and can support an art school.

Even though Santa Cruz County has two excellent art departments in area colleges, Grova said there are years-long waiting lists for classes at UC-Santa Cruz, and that Cabrillo's popular art depart-

ment is overtaxed.

"We really need a school like this in Santa Cruz," Grova said.

Efforts are underway to have the school accredited on the college level. The process, he said, will take about three years.

Tuition is \$100 per eight-week class. That works out to \$5 per hour. There are plans for an Artschool foundation to give those who can't afford classes an opportunity for scholarships.

"We're planning to have students from different walks of life," Grova said. "Anyone who wants to be creative is welcome."

Instruction isn't entirely creative. Without exception, course descriptions include lectures and slide shows. The classes sound active and demanding — willingness to learn appears to be more important to staff than great talent.

Classes will be limited to 15 participants, with everyone working at his or her own pace and ability. There are morning, afternoon and eve-

ning sessions during the week, and Saturday classes.

Demonstrations and workshops will be scheduled in addition to regular courses. Grova said the Artschool has contacted a number of excellent artists, including printmaker Paul Rangell, for special events.

"The Artschool of Santa Cruz is founded on the principle that everyone has creative potential," reads a press release. "Its purpose is to provide quality art instruction that develops and expands the individual creativity of each student. Courses are designed for those with previous art experience and for those who have always wanted to try a course in art, but have never had the time."

"This dream has been in my head for a number of years," Grova concluded. "I'm a prolific artist as well as a teacher. Teaching art is part of my existence."

Information on Artschool classes and other events is available by calling 426-5500.