

# CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF ARTS AND CRAFTS

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## ETHNIC STUDIES PROGRAM

Ethnic art studies began in the spring of 1970 with a Black Studies Institute directed by Michael Wright. Dr. Wright now heads the expanded, multi-cultural program.

This spring there are eleven Ethnic Studies courses balancing art-studio and academic lecture classes on historical, sociological, art history and African, Pre-Columbian, Native American, Asian and Mexican and Chicano visual images.

CCAC has offered a major in Ethnic Art Studies since 1973. Primarily a program of professional training of visual artists, the ethos of the program is born of cultural democratic idealism and the realities of the College and the Bay Area with its many minority ethnic groups in the population.

In 1979 a grant of \$10,000. from the L.J. Skaggs and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation provided support for the core curriculum of multi-cultural ethnic art studies.

Also in 1979, a plan of annual summer field trips was initiated. The purpose of original research into the ethnic tradition of the arts of the U.S. Southwest, Mexico and Hawaii.

(More on Mexican - Chicano ethnic studies on following page)

ETHNIC STUDIES PROGRAM con't.

This spring, the class in Mexican and Chicano Public Art surveyed the Mexican mural which, in the 1920's, was a form of public art to educate and inform the populace. At present, the students are preparing a mural to be installed in East Oakland at La Casa del Pueblo, a typical mercado and fonda -- a private business. The building itself formerly housed the Latin American Library.

Rapport with the business and the community has been one of the predictable effects of the mural project.



*ETHNIC  
STUDIES*

**ccac**

**fall-72**



NEW AND REVISED COURSE TITLES-- ETHNIC STUDIES

CCAC - FALL 1972

- AFRICAN PERCEPTION AND LIFE DRAWING---- GERAN  
*Involves perceiving African images in carvings, color slides, music, dance and relative organic materials. In addition, Black models will be used to supplement the forementioned. (This course was formerly "Black Drawing").*
- SELECTED BLACK PAINTERS---- GERAN  
*Bay Area Black painters (and others if possible) will give lectures and demonstrations of their personal approach to art. Designed to enhance one's personal abilities as well as visual awareness. (This course was formerly "Black Painting").*
- AFRICAN DESIGN AND SCULPTURE---- GERAN  
*We will use African sculpture as the basis for this class; its colors, lines, and modified forms. Intended to provide cultural consistency with the African approaches to sculpture. (This course was formerly "Black Sculpture").*
- CRISIS IN THE CLASSROOM --(ALTERNATIVES FOR SURVIVAL)---- BUTLER  
*Examination and research into the problems of "Ethnic" education vis.a vis. innovative philosophies of primary and secondary education. Review of techniques introduced by Montessori, Neill, Kohl, Silverman, and Holt for use in public, "pod", "free", "experimental" and "alternative" schools.*
- ETHNIC CRAFTS (TEXTILE ARTS)---- BUTLER  
*Study and course work is based on the indigenous crafts of specific Third World cultures, e.g. African, Mexican, and American Indian.*
- BLACK PERSPECTIVES IN PHOTOGRAPHY---- HAMMERS  
*This course stresses the awareness and technique of the photography of Black subjects and culture, as well as the basic techniques of skilled photography. (This course was formerly "Black Photography").*
- AFRICAN ART HISTORY---- CLARK  
*Using lectures, slides, exhibits, and guests, this course acquaints the student with the history of African painting, sculpture, crafts, and design.*
- AFRO-AMERICAN ART HISTORY---- CLARK  
*Stressing the painting, sculpture, crafts, and art theory of Black Americans this course acquaints the student with the African and Afro-American motifs in contemporary Black art and its historical roots.*
- CLASS HISTORY OF THE ETHNIC COLONIES INSIDE THE UNITED STATES---- WRIGHT  
*This is an historical materialist approach to the problem of U.S. history. Heavy emphasis is placed on Black history, but also included are texts, documents, and lectures on Raza, Asian, and Indian history pointing out particularly the history of the exploitation of these peoples and their resistance to it. (This course was formerly "Black History")*
- SURVEY OF BLACK LITERATURE---- WRIGHT  
*Black essays, poetry, classic novels, and the history of Black publishing and thematic in literature. Particular emphasis on Afro-American writing and writers and oral literature such as folktales, songs, and "toasts".*

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NOTE:

Students at CCAC can now major in Ethnic Art Studies and/or achieve a certificate of accomplishment for minorng in it. For an appointment leave a note in the faculty boxes of Michael Wright or Joe Geran.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN ETHNIC ART STUDIES COURSES

We encourage non-students from the Ethnic communities to audit our courses free of charge. However there might be a slight materials fee and the individual instructor reserves the right to decide who will and will not audit the class. Interested persons should obtain a course schedule from the registrars office at CCAC and simply go to the class of their interest. (Be sure to make note of the title changes). College credit is not given for auditing.



# NEWS RELEASE

California College of Arts and Crafts  
5212 Broadway • Oakland, California 94618 • 853-8118  
Evelyn Johnson, Director of Public Information

April 26, 1972

For: Education Editors

Contact: Above or Harriet Ainsworth,  
254-2192

For Immediate Release (preferably  
use by May 1 p.m. although  
may be used later - see below)

Major in Black Art Studies at CCAC next fall — counseling for entry begins May 1 . . .

Starting next fall California College of Arts and Crafts will offer a major in Black Art Studies, Michael Wright, director of the Division of Ethnic Studies at the campus at 5212 Broadway in Oakland, announced today.

Counseling of interested students will begin May 1, with Wright and co-director of Ethnic Studies, Joseph Geran. Past credits will count toward the new major, and a Certificate of Accomplishment will be awarded to all who have successfully completed 25 to 30 units of Black Studies, the division director said.

Black Studies, until now offered only as a minor to Bachelor degree aspirants at CCAC, now will offer its majors candidates the chance to select their required 27 units from each of three blocks of specialties: art and studio courses, social sciences and education, according to Wright.

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CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF  
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NEWS RELEASE

Fvelyn Johnson, Director  
Office of Public Information

Monday, Nov., 27, 1978

Contact: Above

For: Education/City Editors

Release as convenient

THE L. J. SKAGGS AND MARY C. SKAGGS FOUNDATION GRANT AWARDED FOR ETHNIC ART STUDIES  
AT CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF ARTS AND CRAFTS, OAKLAND, CALIF. . . . .

A grant of \$10,000 has been awarded to the California College of Arts and Crafts (CCAC) for its Ethnic Art Studies Program by The L. J. Skaggs and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation.

Dr. Michael F. Wright, director of the program at CCAC, specifies that the funds will provide support for the Spring 1979 core curriculum of multi-cultural ethnic art studies balancing art-studio and academic-lecture courses. He further states, "beginning in 1971 as a 'Black Studies Institute', our program has now reached its fullest multi-ethnic stature with courses representing Blacks, Chicano-Latino, Asian-American and American Indian groups. Our College administration views us as a necessary and timely contribution to professional training in the visual arts."

While the program focuses on the contributions and social problems of America's major ethnic minority groups, Dr. Wright stresses: "We are not unmindful, nor could we ever be, of the 'ethnic' backgrounds of virtually all Americans. Most of these are reasonably well represented in existing college curricula-- at CCAC as well as elsewhere. We have chosen to speak to an important part of the cultural legacy of America which is still very much under-represented."

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Skaggs Foundation Grant - page 2

Speaking of the social-cultural need for study of historical and contemporary ethnic art, CCAC's president Harry X. Ford says, "It is apparent to the faculty of the College that most studio experiences of art students are based on the techniques and concepts of the traditional art academy of Western Europe to which has been added technological innovations of the 20th century. Little or no attention has been given to the art techniques of the Orient, Africa, or Ancient Mid-America.

"Since we are situated in the San Francisco Bay Area, a melting pot for Far Eastern, African and Latin cultures, our faculty felt that, in the interest of its students' cultural identity, greater attention should be paid to these traditional studio concepts, especially as they relate to contemporary means of artistic expression -- not only for the benefit of the relatively high percentage of minority art students on this campus, but for the student body as a whole."

The California College of Arts and Crafts is a fully accredited, four-year institution, offering undergraduate and postgraduate study in the visual arts, preparation for California State Teaching Credentials and a three-year non-degree program of specialization. Degrees offered are: BFA, MFA and MEd. Current enrollment is 1136. Thirty-one foreign countries and the four chief ethnic groups are represented in the makeup of the student body.

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