

viously looking at this as an experimental development and, of course, the money is very experimental at this age as well," Vile said.

Some of the events would be free and some for others would be kept to a minimum.

Vile said the aim was to make it an annual event that eventually would involve other churches.

"I hope it's going to be really exciting, a partly spiritual, partly sacred, partly secular way," he said.



JIM Vile, artistic co-ordinator for the August festival, at St John's Cathedral... 'I would love to have a big gospel concert'.

26/3/97 *Caroline MAIL*

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EVITA (PG) Till Fri 6.30
Sat 4pm & 6.30, Sun 3.30, Mon-Tue 6.30
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Larry Flynt (MA) Finally Wed 9.15

By LISA YALLAMAS
MANY people - including his father - thought Peter Bonner was mad when he gave up a successful international business career to become an artist.

Bonner, whose family lives at Aspley in Brisbane's northern suburbs, won this year's national \$10,000 Dobell drawing prize announced in Sydney on March 21.

The former accountant worked in London for Price Waterhouse restructuring large companies to cope with the recession during the 1980s.

By the age of 27, a partnership in the company was in sight. "I was happy but I did not love my job," he said.

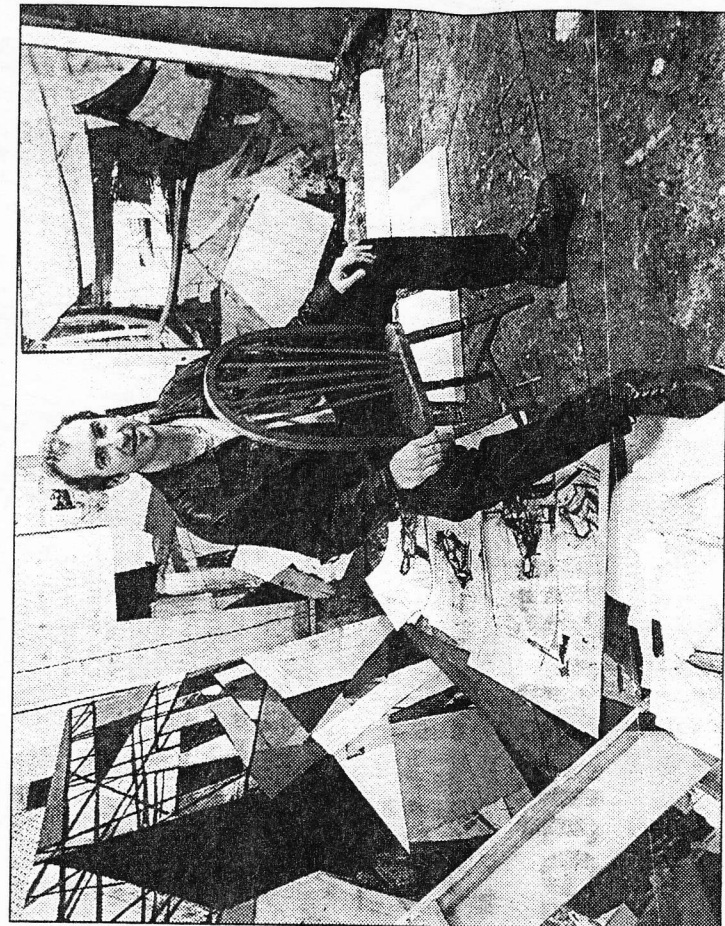
The Brisbane-born accountant, who always dabbled in drawing and painting, spurned the business world in 1992. He now tutors in business at Melbourne's Monash University and is completing a fine arts honours degree.

Bonner, 33, entered the charcoal line drawing of the interior of his Fitzroy studio in the Dobell Prize competition at a friend's urging.

The prizemoney will pay rent he owes on his studio dating back to October, 1995, and cover the cost of drawing lessons in New York.

It is the second art prize he has won. He won a pure-bred corgi pup, Trixi, when he was aged nine with a drawing of a dog.

Bonner said he thought about swapping careers for years but made



ARTIST Peter Bonner in his Melbourne studio, a charcoal line drawing of which won him the \$10,000 Dobell Prize.

the commitment to art while staring at a painting called *Nigredo* in the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

"I was emotionally moved by this painting," he said. "It was sort of like I had no choice. I always knew I was not

doing what I should be doing. Winning this award is just another indicator that I made the right decision.

"My father was not really behind my decision when I gave up my business career. He thought I was mad."