Art Aims at Loyola Voiced

British Schools Exert Influence

By DIANE SUSTENDAL

Calvin Harlan, future chairman of the Loyola University Visual Arts Department, said recently in a letter to Loyola head, the Rev. Homer S. Jolley, S.J., "I don't want to have a 'fun' department, an orphan department or a glamor department at Loyola. I want the art department to stand proudly beside the other departments..." This is the end that the present and the future staff of Loyola are striving for.

The Visual Arts Department, so called because Fine Arts seems to be a term somewhat out of touch with contemporary society, has begun, in its first year of formation, by patterning on the British art education system.

One of the first and most surprising of the new system's ideas is to push the art history courses, usually studied in the freshman year, to the upper division. The freshman, instead, will study drawing extensively. Drawing, according to the Rev. Whitney Engeran, S.J., acting chairman of the Visual Arts Department, is a term that incorporates both graphics and painting.

The main emphasis will be placed on the contemporary arts—the progression and development of the arts from 1850 to the present. It is the wish of this department that its students become totally involved in the communications media of today—literature, radio, television and cinema—in order to bring a sensitive, intellectual approach to their designs and drawings. "The emphasis will definitely be on the man and woman of today registering the world of tomorrow," says Father Engeran.

The courses offered in the 1967-68 term will include not only "formal" art but also "serviceable" courses—commercial art, art education and photography, to name a few. The department plans to experiment with all fields of the visual arts from the composition of a still life to the creation and understanding of art films. Loyola does not want to duplicate the system of art education used in other colleges, universities and art schools in our Southern region but will work in cooperation with these schools and with the various galleries.

Loyola's Visual Arts Department will boast of a well-known and competent staff this fall. Harlan, who is currently professor of fine arts at the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette and slated to head the department, received his bachelor of fine arts degree from Memphis Academy of Arts and his MFA from the University of Mississippi. He has also studied under such noted artists as Fernand Leger, Max Beckmann and Mirko Basaldella.

Father Engeran is a graduate of Spring Hill College in Mobile and studied at the Art Students League in New York; he is now working on a plastic and neon exhibit to be shown in the fall at the Orleans Gallery; his present and future duties at Loyola are the instruction of the philosophy of art. Ignatius D'Aquila will also come to Loyola from USL and teach courses in painting and drawing. Anthony Jones, a native of South Wales who is presently a Fulbright Fellow acting as graduate assistant in the Tulane-Newcomb school of fine arts, will be sculptor-in-residence; Robert Gordy, who exhibits his paintings at the Glade Gallery, will instruct courses in his field; and rounding out this program, will be Michel Thomas Blouin of English Department, who will educate his students in cinematic arts; and Dr. Donald Brady, chairman of the Drama and Speech Department, who will give instruction in costuming and set designing.

As the Loyola department of Visual Arts strives to become an integral part of the university, it also strives to bring each student to the realization of his own potential and his relationship with his God, his country and the world he lives in.