Exhibit Of Children's Art
Intriguing And Refreshing

By ANN VINCENT
Adviser Staff Reporter

The youthful artists, ranging in age from 5 to 14, utilized a wide variety of mediums to convey their ideas and aspirations. Mixed Media, chalk, watercolor, tempera, charcoal, crayon were used on such diverse surfaces as paper, cloth, watercolor paper, cardboard, wallpaper, and floor paper, wood, scraps and discarded objects such as cleaner cans, candy tins and paper bags.

Imaginative treatments of animals and equally imaginative and unusual use of materials and techniques prompted some starting off the majority of them being both amusing and delightful, while a few of the apparent mainstay, more complex, are exceptionally adult in tone and execution. Virtually every piece on exhibit was appreciated by someone who likes art, whether he is an amateur appreciator or a connoisseur.

Glass Mosaic

"Country paintings," fairly remonstrant of Pennsylvania Dutch designs, was used by a number of the youngsters on various objects and an eight-year-old even tried his hand at a glass mosaic, with surprisingly good results. Decompositional, paper mosaic and transfer are other examples art included in the show.

Lafayette and surrounding areas are and states of three Mrs. Carl Jacobson and Mrs. Olga Melina, both of Lafayette, and Mrs. Beulah Smith of Crowley. Mrs. Jacobson expressed her views on art (which coincide with the opinions of leaders in art education) by showing that "it is very important for children to have the opportunity to try raw materials for art. One way to help them is to develop a studio in which they can practice and develop an interest in art which will be a form of relaxation and recreation." Mrs. Melina stressed the enthusiasm of the abstract concept of art by the youngsters. "Art should be dealt with and given the love to do things they enjoy," and there's no fun in what they don't. "They love to do things like this, and they love to have something they can take home," she said.

She finds children much easier to teach than adults and much more eager to learn. "They just sit down and talk an assignment, while adults ask nine million questions before they start," she comments.

"Children should be helped to express themselves - not show, not tell, not judge. But help them to express themselves. "Early art experience with elementary materials like clay and crayons help to develop the young child's hand muscles as well as his coordinations and integration of hand and eye."

A few individual youngsters interpret a subject in a child's manner (which one child draws in an almost Picasso-like manner) or a poem titled "Who Has Seen the Wind?" points to his highly individualistic views and characteristics of each child. The use of color is often bold, often in unique combinations which are unashamedly direct yet surprisingly harmonious. Some drawings and paintings are almost realistic, including a fruit still life by an 11-year-old girl, a tree almost in the exact in design by a seventh-grade student and a nature study by a 14-year-old girl of a doe with a pink elephant and a smiling green frog.

AT LAFAYETTE MUSEUM

Exhibit Hours

The exhibit may be viewed at the Lafayette Museum at 127 Lafayette St. (across from Mt. Carmel) Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 12 noon Tuesday through Saturday and p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.