

Give Peace a Chance — Dottie McElhiney

In September, 1984 the C.E. Smith Museum announced to the schools of Alameda and Contra Costa counties a search for poster artwork for our December exhibit to be entitled "Give Peace a Chance" — A Vision of Peace Through Young People's Art. One 5-page informational packet was sent to local schools with a letter of invitation to teachers for their participation. The letter stated our interest in exploring through this art project the commonality and/or diversity of vision of peace of young people of the Bay Area growing up in the 80's.

By mid November we had received over 600 pieces of artwork from students ranging from kindergarten to high school seniors from schools throughout the East Bay, both public and private, and also a few individual entries.

The vision of peace by these young artists in a large number of cases expresses a concern that adults may let nuclear war happen, and with the simplicity of children, sought answers in greater communication and unification with the children of the world, we should love God, we should abolish prejudice (racial) and we should feed the hungry world. Concern for the environment is also clearly shown. One nine year old by whose entry was entitled "Radiation is Forever", depicted nuclear submarines in the ocean spilling out radiation causing the fish to die along with fisherman in their boats who would be expected to die from eating these fish.

The Selection Committee certainly had their work cut out for them! With the wide variety of artwork submitted, the Committee, made up of Dr. Mark Luca, Teacher Ed Dept., Dr. Joseph Pugliese, Art Dept., Dr. Georgia Bassen, Philosophy Dept., Mrs. Joan Miller, parent and Jr. H.S. teacher, Maureen D'Souza, Curator of the exhibit and myself spent many hours pondering the selection. Additional help was received from Dr. Lindy Mark, Dr. Robert Forthman, Mrs. Lynn Forthman, Mari Martinez (Lynn and Mari are public school teachers in the area.) and Darrah Roy, CSUH student. Leesa Evans, Victor Wong and Joel Brackett lent assistance in the hard work of clerical support and Dr. Paul Bassen is presently working on the video-tape of the exhibit and of the opening reception. The completed project

will be used for promotional purposes as well as for teaching purposes by various departments of the University. Public school teachers have also expressed an interest in being able to view this video in their schools.

In her installation of the exhibition, Maureen D'Souza did an exceptionally fine job and deserves special recognition for her sensitivity and understanding of the difficulties involved. The feeling of unity of the people who worked together on the 4th floor of Meiklejohn and elsewhere in the University made the task of preparing this exhibition so much easier. Also lending their support and volunteering their suggestions were members of the University Peace Action Group.

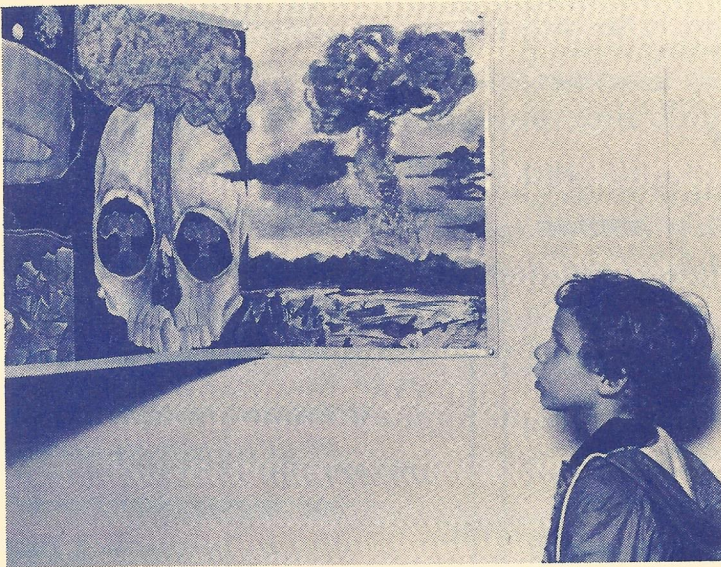
The opening reception on December 7 was highly successful and well attended by the children/artists, their teachers, families and friends, as well as the students, faculty and staff of CSUH. Paul Harkness from CSUH Purchasing Office provided entertainment by singing and playing guitar. Joel Brackett, CSUH senior, entertained the children with an anthropological musical quiz game in which the young people tried to guess the

cultural origin of music from around the world. Nancy Raven, noted folksinger of children's music, provided us with a delightful sing-along performance. Lots of popcorn, punch and cookies supplemented our usual refreshments.

As the exhibition remained in place through January 18th the Hayward Area Peace Fellowship was able to view the artwork and expressed desire to see this show become an annual event. Teachers from the local Bay Area community, many who were unable to exhibit this year, have visited us and voiced a wish to participate next year. Tomas Roybal, State Office of Education in Sacramento, visited the exhibition on January 16 — The Office of Education's interest was in curriculum development for nuclear age education, and this show was viewed as a prototype and potential resource for their work.

Two feature articles were written by the staff of the Oakland Tribune on December 9th and the Hayward Daily Review on January 13th. If this show saw the largest cooperative effort the museum has ever had, it also saw the greatest amount of off-campus publicity. Our sincere thanks to all for a job well done.





GIVE PEACE A CHANCE, an exhibit of over 300 murals and posters by Bay Area kindergarten through 12 graders, is on display at Cal State's Anthropology Museum through Jan. 18. A young museum visitor ponders over a mural by El Cerrito High School students.

California State University
Hayward

Monthly Calendar Of Events

January 1985
