

Artist Reveals Visionary World

By JEAN CHARLOT

Twelve works by Louis Pohl are on view through March at the Central Library.

With pastel-like colors chalked in artful textures, Pohl opens for us the world of his inner vision.

In it are fishermen and nuns, children and birds, landscapes and seascapes.

Despite its familiar range of subjects, the affinity between the artist's world and the world most of us know remains somewhat coincidental.

Pohl's world is not exactly man's haven.

Averting their features, his fishermen remain less real than their catch. Humans shie away when Pohl's birds take the stage. Birds are his secret choice for lords of creation.

In "The Family," a cragful of owls surveys philosophically, and one surmises critically, the spectacle of our floating world.

"Seabirds," perched on top of salt-soaked logs, loom larger than life over a seascape where humans are nowhere to be seen.

Birds and men are equally absent from "Lava Flow." Only the mineral world remains alive: Red hot lava surges between jagged peaks of cooled-off lava.

Not all humans shie away from Pohl's visionary world. Children like it fine.

"Little Girl" basks at ease against a seawall, waiting for her bathing towel to dry.

In a show where style fluctuates between the graphic and the painterly, "Shy Girl" is wholly painterly: A girl communes in peace with a forest. Both are veiled in a drifting fog of color subtleties.

Pohl opens for us a visual universe whose moods range from the gentle to the nightmarish. In this world all his own small children and small beasts are kings.
