

May 7

Academy's Exhibit of School Art Reflects Story of Human Growth

By JEAN CHARLOT

The show of school art now current (through May) at the Honolulu Academy of Arts illustrates the story of human growth.

Its range is wide, from kindergarten colorings, playfully dripped from chubby brushes, to high school items, clued to adolescent concerns on the threshold of adulthood.

The younger artists are

discreetly kept in the basement. A descent to their room should be well repaid.

Second graders Michael, Pamela, and Tanya collaborate on a paper mural of tropic birds clustered with such gusto that little space is left for them to fly in.

By Brian, age 6, an ominous gingerbread man, its pink innards spilling out of its brown hide. The Pari-

sian painter Dubuffet could hardly top it for effectiveness.

Soon, the faith of the child in his own inner world fades.

Upper grade artists open their eyes on the outer world. Thirteen-year-old Kevin conjures a surfer in hot action, pitting man's heroism against the surge of a giant sea.

High school work, when it is genuine, appears less se-

cure than that of the younger painters. A gray mood informs most of the best works.

Merle Nikaida paints a sea cove, astonishingly spacious for its small format. Folds of hills meeting the edge of the sea majestically frame man's tiny doings, huts and canoes.

Flora Inn, in a black mood a la Van Gogh, draws a seated woman that is an image of despair.

The clutching hand grips the lowered head. Radiating away from this focus of intensity, form fades into line and out into space. Means and mood are equally genuine.

It's a show that is as extensive as it is high in quality.

In continues through May 31.