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Art Middle Road Gets Good Result

By JEAN CHARLOT

Myron van Brundt exhibits the work of his art students, mostly children under 10, at the YWCA on Richards St. The show will continue until Sept. 7.

Art teaching today does not have the same unperturbed foundations that were taken for granted in preceding eras. The trail-blazing accomplishments of modern masters do put in question beliefs in good drawing and the respect of objective nature that were the rule only yesterday.

AS RESULT, teaching art to children is an exacting task. If at all sensitive to what is in the air, the teacher hesitates to cram down his small charges principles in which he himself hardly believes anymore.

Would this not be parallel to the birchings and spankings discarded long ago as lethal by progressive educators?

GIVEN THIS delicate impasse, some teachers adopt a justifiable way out of the dilemma. Colored chalk in

hand and a king-sized sheet of paper in front of his nose, the young artist is encouraged to express his personality unhampered.

Such a teacher believes that art, as it is understood today, cannot be taught.

MYRON VAN BRUNDT adopts a middle course, perhaps because he is in his own right a master batik-maker. He believes that the physical soundness of the work of art is prerequisite to its esthetic or subconscious values.

In a step-by-step program, he introduces his small charges to the complexities of art. First line, then shape and rhythm, are studied as aims in themselves, a study that precedes even the choice of subject matter.

The results are rewarding. Sharon Kimura, 6, models a dish of fruit with sensitive color. Taao Kenison draws a landscape that is on the borderline between a mountain and an abstraction. Holly Chun Ming pairs a green fish with a red one, with unperturbed ancestral flair.