



DR. FREDERICK LUKASH and his current exhibit.

## Art and Emotion at LI Children's Museum

If one picture is worth a thousand words, then Dr. Frederick Lukash is the proud possessor of volumes.

For over 20 years this plastic surgeon has been chronicling the emotional highs and lows of the children he has operated on by collecting their artwork. The pictures he has amassed display the heart-rending purity and honesty of their desire to "be like everyone else."

Dr. Lukash will be exhibiting 20 of these pictures at the Long Island Children's Museum, 550 Stewart Avenue, Garden City through Oct. 31.

According to Dr. Lukash, he is able to communicate with his pediatric patients on a deeper level through their art efforts. He asks his "kids to draw something about themselves or their upcoming surgery; this gives him insight into the way they perceive themselves and what they're feeling. After surgery, they are asked to draw another picture to determine if their self-esteem has improved.

Dr. Lukash maintains that this method

of communication equalizes the "doctor-patient" relationship, and allows the child to be more comfortable with him and his plans for their surgery. "It also reassures parents that I, the doctor, am tuned into and very much aware of the child's inner feelings and emotions," he notes.

Dr. Lukash is a board certified plastic surgeon and an assistant clinical professor of surgery at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He maintains offices in Manhasset and Manhattan and performs most of his pediatric surgery at the Schneider Children's Hospital on Long Island.

The hours at the Long Island Children's Museum are: Wednesday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The phone number is 222-0219.

An opening press party was held at the Long Island Children's Museum on Wednesday, Oct. 15 from 4 to 6 p.m. with Dr. Lukash and many of the artists, his pediatric patients.