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For Children | Dulcie Leimbach

■ A tragic history lesson delivered in a personal way ■ Penn and Teller carry on crazily ■ A huge, psychedelic, toy-filled closet to visit and enjoy.

closet installation, slipping through a curtain of shimmery Mylar strips as if they had been personally invited by the artist. One recent 3-year-old visitor promptly sat down on one of the orange bean-bag chairs, only to be swiftly plucked off by his nervous mother. Though the show, part of the museum's ongoing "Contemporary Currents" solo exhibitions, was not created for children in particular, it engages youthful minds. Mr. Scharf's Day-Glo psychedelic paintings cover every millimeter of wall space in this 16-by-24-foot closet, as do hundreds of toys and objects, from miniature dinosaurs to old tires to images of Jeron characters. The painted objects certainly keep young visitors intoning "What's that?" like a mantra. The floor is covered with the silvery, futuristic Mylar; the room is illuminated with black lights, making light-colored clothes phosphorescent: everyone glows. Outside the closet are Mr. Scharf's decorated household appliances as well as a motorcycle done up so garishly that young visitors are sure it's theirs for the moving. The museum, is open Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 5 P.M.; admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children ages 5 and up. The No. 7 train stopping at Willets Point takes you within a short walk of the museum through Flushing Meadows-Corona Park.

Closet No. 9'

Queens Museum of Art
New York City Building
Flushing Meadows-Corona Park
(718) 592-9700
Recommended for all ages
Through Dec. 29

Children spill into Kenny Scharf's