

Galleries

By Jo Ann Lewis

Though summer is high season for Washington's museums, it clearly is not prime time in the commercial galleries, which generally reserve these months for the showing of new talent or no talent—as the case may be. Several such shows are currently on view.

Polo Gallery (1204 31st St. NW) is introducing Tunisian-born Colette, an artist new to Washington, but well-known among her Soho neighbors in New York for her performances and the sensuous, silky environments she creates to house them. She has created one typical environment for this show, a stage set really, entitled "Camille." It consists of an enclosed bed, heavily draped with gathered folds of parachute silk, and embellished with bits of lace, tulle, and cloth flowers—all very evocative of the milieu created in Alexandre Dumas' play "La Dame aux Camélias," known in English as "Camille." The outside of the environment is sprayed with clear plastic to fix it as object, and here and there, faded color transparencies nestle among the gathered silk, dimly illuminated by muted, sometimes color-d light. A tape recorder plays Chopin, while a woman coughs faintly in the background.

Inside this silky, mirrored, dreamlike nest, the artist

depth. How deeply one needs to go is problematic, but the lyrical abstract watercolors of Yvonne Carter, with their floating, Frankenthaler-like lines and forms, show tremendous growth and promise. Kitty Klaid-

powerful and highly expressive mixed media drawings are a standout. Now a teacher at the Walter Gist School for emotionally disturbed children, Marshall has an MFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art

