

Previews

'What's Really Going On.(?)'

A three-part exhibition at Gallery 825 is thematically connected by the curatorial aim of presenting "work that implies an alternative meaning or a glimpse in[to] the artist's psyche." *Transformations*, a group show of "transformed" swap meet and garage sale art, will be presented in the Wurdeman Gallery. Exhibiting in the South Gallery will be **Lanning Gold**, presenting hand-colored black-and-white photographs of fashion mannequins. Shot through windows of upscale Los Angeles stores, Gold attempts to invest these always-perfect, always-plastic, always-female characters with a living presence through close-up framing and soft hand-tinting. While the resulting "portraits" are invested with a greater anima than the original mannequins would have suggested, the photographs do more to highlight how much live models are expected to look like plastic ones.

Exhibiting in the Center Gallery will be Carol Powell, with an installation titled *Twisting Truths*. The exhibition will



Lanning Gold, (above) *Sideline*, 22" x 16";
(top) *Vertical Limit*, 22" x 16"

consist of sculpted, two-foot high, elaborately costumed characters, apparently clustered at a cocktail party. Due to the small scale, and the materials from which they are made (pieced-together cloth), the figures appear doll-like. The characters, however, are not childlike at all, and in fact share very similar facial expressions, revealing absolutely nothing about themselves. Absurd ears—long ones for the rabbits, shorter ones for the cats—are what make the characters in their elaborate costumes look particularly ridiculous. The idea of serious-faced mini-adult characters gathered at a cocktail party, all looking essentially the same but for their elegantly crafted body-covering costumes, highlights the absurdity of so much of what passes for "adult life." We look serious, we talk serious, we dress serious, we try to play the part of what we imagine we are expected to be now that we are 'grown-up.'

What's Really Going On.(?) is on view June 11-28 at Gallery 825/Los Angeles Art Association, 825 N. La Cienega.