

The price is right

BY ERIKA YOWELL
MERCURY

Las Vegas cognoscente with a yen for truly distinctive home décor transcending the paradigms established by megaliths such as Pier 1 and the Great Indoors need to grab some of that holiday cash (thanks, Grandma!) and hightail it over to Dust Gallery. And they need to do it *now*.

ATM is the clever title of Dust's current exhibition, which features 15 artists' works priced at sums conveniently divisible by \$20. Ranging from \$80 to \$500, the work is priced to sell but is not, by any means, bargain-basement quality.

Take, for example, Jerry Misko's pair of sizzling abstract paintings on canvas. Misko evokes the hot buzz of the bulb-studded vintage Vegas signage perfectly. Bradley Corman's digital studies make a fine substitute for his more substantial and work-intensive machined pieces, for which they are the antecedents. The prints suggest the industrial chic of his constructions, and are respectable alternatives for the collector on a budget.

Also easy on the wallet are Carrie Jenkins' pen-and-ink sketches of her characteristic glamour girls, seen most recently in their paint-on-canvas incarnations in exhibitions at both the Donna Beam Gallery and Dust.

Dolled up with brightly colored ink washes, her lithe ladies could double as fashion illustrations for

ATM

Through Jan. 25
Dust Gallery
In the Arts Factory, 109 E.
Charleston Blvd. #101
880-DUST

some fantasy hybrid lad mag combining the best of French mod and 1970s All-American soft-porn aesthetics. Are you listening, fellas? Nothing spruces up a garden-variety bachelor pad quite like some sexy-yet-tasteful fine art.

Other Dust regulars are on display, including Curtis Fairman, whose Wal-Mart shopping sprees spawn curiosities such as "Socktopi"—an anemone fashioned out of tube socks—and a Jetsonian pedestal sculpture. Mark Brandvik's sleek paintings on panel turn the Chicken of the Sea mermaid and Elsie the Borden cow into icons of sorts, while Sean Hummel's glossy abstract photos on Plexiglas turn iconic automotive beauties into art. The exhibit also includes work in a variety of media by Deb Arin, BOOM, Lloyd Heslip, Angee Jackson, Angela Kallus, Eva Style, Mike Thistle, Michael Wardle and Kim Virasone.

If you still don't think real art by real Las Vegas artists is your thing, no problem. Rest assured that you could more than quintuple your art expenditure at any number of "fine art" galleries around town that specialize in hawking schlocky "limited edition" eyesores by effete artistes who rip off everyone from Michelangelo to Modigliani. If that's your thing.