

Muchnic, Suzanne. "Landmarks from a younger vantage: Ruby Osorio," *Los Angeles Times*, March 4, 2007, p. F15.

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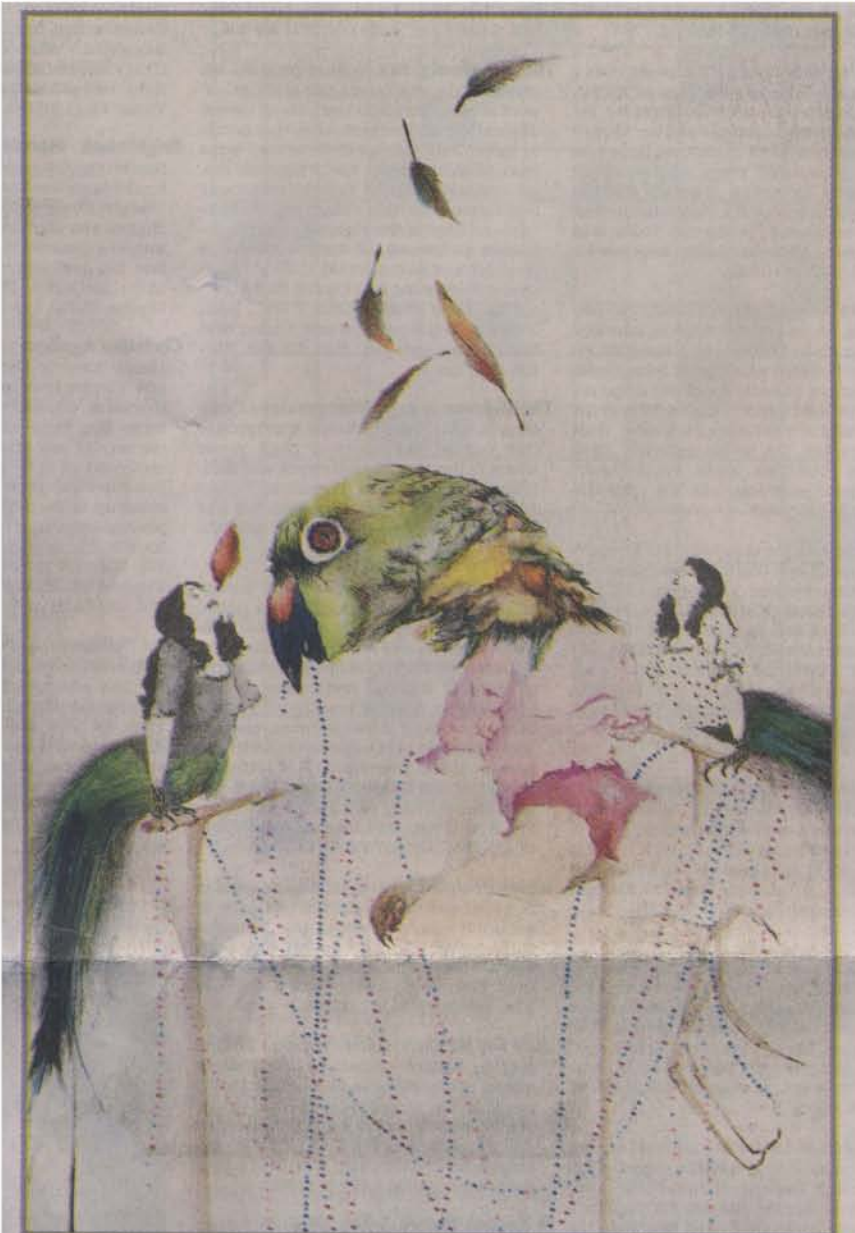
Landmarks from a younger vantage

TWO generations of artists have emerged since the 1970s, when feminists made themselves heard, but discussions about the importance and meaning of their legacy continue. The Times raised the issue with artists of these later generations at various stages of development. Here are some of their thoughts:

Ruby Osorio, 32, Los Angeles; studied at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City

I didn't study feminist theory. I wasn't schooled in the movement of the '70s, but when I look back at that period, some of my big heroes are Kiki Smith, Cindy Sherman and Louise Bourgeois. I don't think when they were making work they were asking themselves, "Do I have a feminist agenda?" They were raising questions that were compelling to them. They make very powerful work without having to espouse a feminist agenda. I relate to that line of thinking. I think the feminist movement has made it easier for artists today to pursue personal concerns, but to say an artist is feminist in some ways is limiting.

When I make work, I look at what interests me. A lot of my work is involved with internal psychology, literature, things in my experience. Sometimes I incorporate stitching, the element of craft, which came out of my personal history, women in my family. Some people look at my work from a literal perspective in that they are seeing female characters. I think my work is more than that. I've had women be very critical because my work seems very frivolous, dealing with the idea of beauty and incorporating fantastical elements. A lot of people in the art world really resist that because they think everything needs to be reduced to the conceptual, to the idea. I believe that I deal with that, but it's not always easily read on the first take. But part of the exciting thing for me being a young artist is that I have a whole lot of time to unravel those questions.



ROBERT WEDEMEYER *Cherry and Martin, L.A.*

MANY-LAYERED: Ruby Osorio blends fantasy, the female form and elements of her reality in "Incantation of Flight and Free Form (Detail)."