



Departments

15 cMail
16 Editor's Note

elCentro 19-29

OSCAR DE LA HOYA is fighting one more time, but is it for the last time?; meet **ADRIAN MARTINEZ**, who has quite an enviable job; Hollywood Park tries to recapture the magic of a day at the races; **LAURA DIAZ** answers questions, for a change; whom might **MAYOR ANTONIO VILLARAIGOSA** endorse for president?; plus cool stuff we just **CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF**



48

Columns 30

30 Sunset at Chavez It's amazing the effect a little whipped cream can have on a family by **Marcos M. Villatoro**

32 Sex y L.A. Our intrepid relationship columnist gets her 15 minutes of TV fame and lives to tell the story by **Ayn Carrillo**

cStyle 35

35-41 Fashion+Beauty All aboard for this season's cruise into nautical-themed style (above); **SHOP TREATMENT** visits the South Pasadena boutique Bent; plus, jeans for every shape and size **edited by Anna Lisa Raya**

Culturistas » 43

43 Music Straight outta the 818, singer **LALA** is about to unleash her "pretty brown L.A. sound" by **Dennis Romero**

47 Next Up **REYNA GRANDE** continues to win acclaim for her debut novel, *Across a Hundred Mountains* by **Melinda Palacio**

48 Art **MÁXIMO GONZÁLEZ** (left) is one of eight Latino artists featured in "Poetics of the Handmade" at MOCA by **Francisca Ortega**



67

ciudadEats 67

Our guide to the best Latino restaurants in L.A., from Argentine to Mexican to Peruvian

67 What's Brewing? The freshest coffee in town can be found at small cafés that roast their own beans by **Carolynn Carreño**

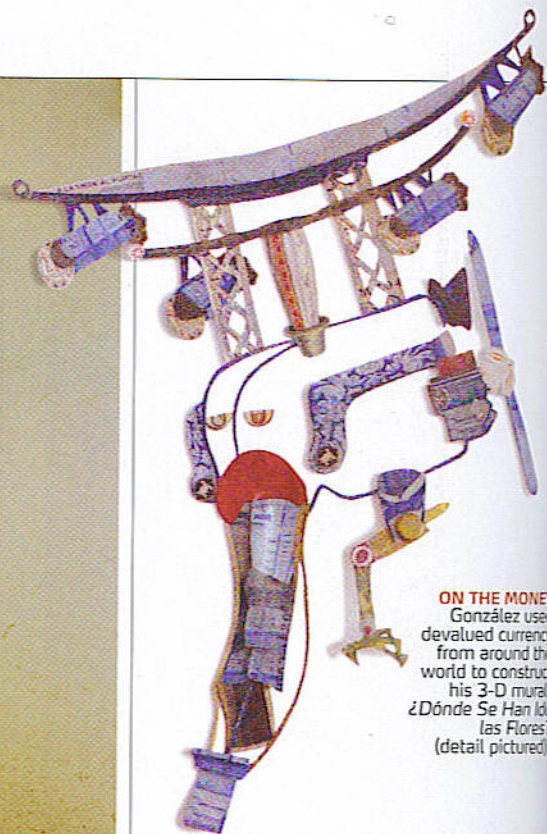
[Calendario] 75

Movies, concerts, art shows, exhibits, family festivals, and more to get you out and about

80 Pop Quiz Can you guess what Gov. Schwarzenegger said about Latinos?



IN THE STUDIO
González lives
and works in
Mexico City.



ON THE MONEY
González used
devalued currency
from around the
world to construct
his 3-D mural,
*¿Dónde Se Han Ido
las Flores?*
(detail pictured).

A Modern Artisan

Máximo González is one of eight Latin-American artists showing at MOCA's new exhibit, "Poetics of the Handmade"

FOR THE ARGENTINE ARTIST MÁXIMO GONZÁLEZ, Mexico has been a land of opportunity. Prior to relocating there four years ago, he had exhibited only in his homeland. But in Mexico, he made key art world contacts and began showing work. And it certainly helped that he was geographically closer to the hugely influential U.S. market. He has since exhibited here and in Spain, Canada, and England.

González has created an original piece for "Poetics of the Handmade," an exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art that features works by eight Latin-American artists. Alma Ruiz, the show's curator, says the unifying theme is how the artists transform industrially fabricated items such as aluminum foil, lipstick, and Q-tips into works of art through labor-intensive processes. The show is not about arts and crafts, but about artists

forgoing technology and assistants to make work with their own hands.

The exhibit was an opportunity for González to build upon his frequent theme of economic hardship. His family struggled to put food on the table long before Argentina's 2001 financial crisis, and he has transformed that challenge into art. Encased in crystal pegs and embedded in the walls of his Mexico City apartment are grains of rice with the words "tengo hambre" (I am hungry) written on them. González describes his works as having "a restlessness, because the piece is there, and it's beautiful, but inside it is hungry."

Nowadays, González, 36, works mainly with devalued currency—not hard to find in Latin America—using bills to create 3-D murals of stunning intricacy. For his piece at MOCA, *¿Dónde Se Han Ido las Flores?* (Where Have All the Flowers Gone?), he turned about 5,000 objects into a mural that is more than 130 feet in length. "I only translate what I see into my work," says González, "whether it's poverty and hunger, political oppression, or religion, and then I cover it in beauty."—FRANCISCA ORTEGA

"Poetics of the Handmade" continues through Aug. 13 at the Museum of Contemporary Art, 250 S. Grand Ave., Downtown L.A., 213-626-6222, www.moca.org.