

# Coast Restaurant hosts the work of Maria Rendón

## Floating in... Creating when the intuitive knocks

By Kerry Methner / CASA

**W**ITH INVITING COLORS from a palette of blues, greens, and bright hues, the work of Maria Rendón is on display at the Canary Hotel's Coast Restaurant through April 5th.

Offering viewers a language of symbols with enough conceptual depth to intrigue the most precocious adult, the pieces might also delight the young at heart.

Rendón's paintings and assemblages are beautifully crafted and finished. In all, the exhibit offers 13 pieces: twelve which are quite small, and one oversized painting depicting a large crow surrounded by women holding strings, which can be found hung above the mantle just off the bar area.

A Santa Barbara resident, Rendón was born and raised in the contemporary art mecca, Mexico City. She earned a BFA at the *Universidad Anahuac* and then another at the Art Center College of Design in

Pasadena with a focus on illustration.

For 15 years she has worked as an illustrator and for the last five to seven years she has focused on painting for herself and exhibiting her work. She has also taught at Art Center College of Design.



Maria Rendón

"I'm happiest when I'm painting in my studio," she shared of her move to the studio.

Rendón describes her work as very metaphorical and intuitive, with a lot of symbolism, noting that she draws her inspiration from literature, especially the "magical realism" of Gabriel García Márquez and Jorge Luis Borges. "I've always thought that if I could paint the way they write, it would be my dream," she related.

When asked about early indicators of her later creative choices, she revealed that unlike many artists she did not paint or draw as a child, coming to the field in college when she was exposed to illustration.

That doesn't mean that the creative wasn't cooking inside her though. "My



*You Tell Me*, acrylic on panel by Maria Rendón

mother told me that very early on I was asking very mystical questions. I always say I was already creating imagery in my head, being imaginative... starting down a path of image making, even though I wasn't putting it on paper."

As the viewer takes time to digest Rendón's work, the question of the meaning of the symbols emerges. But Rendón isn't very loquacious about them, sharing, "I like to leave it to the imagination of the viewer... I'm interested in the reaction my paintings evoke."

She did say though, that "the crow is one of my favorite species. It is very beautiful and smart... This work is my attempt to honor this creature."

Another curious element in her work is the appearance of strings. She shared that she is interested in the threads that connect



*Miss Fortune*, mixed media construction by Maria Rendón

people with nature. These are some of the threads that show up in her work. Also part of the exhibit are two paintings of "cat's cradles," reflecting "Nostalgic moments when I was a child," Rendón explained. "I played that game with my great aunt as a child."

In November many of Rendón's works will return to the place of her roots, Mexico City, when she will be honored as the main exhibiting artist at her Alma mater, *Universidad Anahuac*, during their 30th anniversary celebrations.

"Art has inspired me and I know that it has inspired a lot of people" Rendón noted. "When I look at a piece of art and it moves me, it is powerful. When art moves you it can have such power, in your soul."



*Green*, mixed media construction by Maria Rendón

For more information about the artist visit online at [www.mariarendon.com](http://www.mariarendon.com).

Coast Restaurant is located in the Canary Hotel at 31 W. Carrillo Street.