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Artist Says the Idea of Transformation and Transcendence Is in All Her Work

By Amanda Stevens
Of the Journal

Artwork, while commonly seen sitting on a shelf or hanging on a wall, is rarely seen after it has been cut up into little tiny pieces and left in a pile.

This type of artwork is the focus of Kerri Rosenstein's show at the Richard Levy Gallery.

"(I call them) dust pieces," Rosenstein said. "... I think that I feel funny to put the word on there, but a lot of my work has a conceptual nature to it, so there's something in the idea of a form and transformation and transcendence in all the work."

One of the pieces in the show, "12 Roses," is the opposite of other work in the show.

"The history of that piece is that it was 12 roses that I dried... and crushed them into a powder, a dust. So I turned the petals into a dust, and then I mixed them with a medium and pressed them into a mold so it's solid," she said.

Rosenstein said she does not remember the medium she used to mix with the rose petal dust.

"The dust (pieces are) cut-up work or paper, and so they are kind of cut-up forms and it turns into dust and the rose pieces are dust that turn into form, so it is a cycle of things moving," Rosenstein said. "Everything turns to dust and comes back to form and goes back to dust."

Rosenstein, who lives in Montana, said she does not enjoy working with one medium over another.

"In terms of materials, I think that there is no real specific medium that I work in," she said. "... I think whatever I'm thinking about or feeling, whatever form it takes is the idea."

Not only does she not have a favorite medium, there is nothing specific that gives her inspiration.

"I feel like artists get asked that a lot and I feel like I am supposed to say, 'Oh, I get inspiration from nature, or from this artist,' but I don't feel like any of those things are an honest answer for me, anyway, because I think it's not that I draw from any particular thing so I don't feel that my work draws from some external thing," Rosenstein said.

Her work comes from within, she said, as does her ability to be an artist.

"I feel like we all make things as kids, and some of us keep making things," she said. "I don't think that I woke up one day and decided, 'OK, today I'm going to be an artist.' It's just what has presented itself in my life. That's what I do. It's not so much that I chose this certain thing, but I think that is what was presented to me. That's what I do."

WHAT: New works by Kerri Rosenstein

WHEN: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday through April 7

WHERE: Richard Levy Gallery, 514 Central SW

