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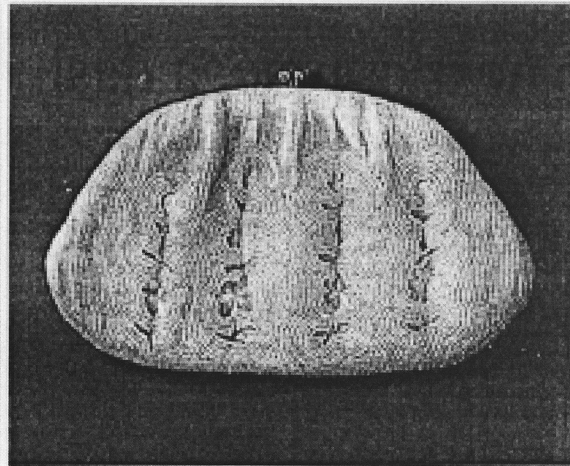
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Ollman, Leah. "The Value of Accessorizing." LA Times April 2, 2004: E25.

ART LOS ANGELES TIMES

FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 2004 E25

AROUND THE GALLERIES



ANTHONY CORREA

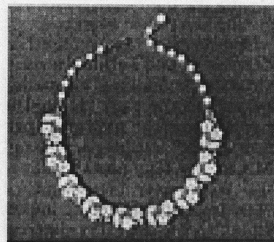
INTRICATE: Victoria Gitman paints vintage accessories, including beaded purses, with technical expertise.

The value of accessorizing

Victoria Gitman's first solo show on the West Coast, at the Daniel Weinberg Gallery, introduces a marvelous talent. The young painter, born in Argentina and living in Miami, has ample skill and understated intelligence at her disposal.

Working small in oil on board, Gitman paints vintage accessories — beaded purses, filigree pins — and women, the latter copied from well-known portraits of the Renaissance on up. In the paintings of jewelry and purses, especially, she demonstrates exquisite technical finesse.

Each bead looks convincingly like a pearly orb reflecting a tiny glint of light. The small metal balls of the purses' clasps mirror the artist and her windowed surroundings in miniature, in a quiet throwback to the use of



ANTHONY CORREA

NECKLACE: Gitman expertly painted the fine details on a piece of jewelry.

convex mirrors in Renaissance portraits.

Each of the objects appears against a drab, neutral ground that sets off its material splendor but hints of taxonomic sterility. Gitman speaks plainly, as if presenting evidence, but her meticulous focus on subjects that are to themselves products of intense labor endows the paintings with a kind of inner resonance.

Something similar occurs in the paintings of women — renderings of postcard reproductions of famous portraits. Again, Gitman shows off her own skill, but she speaks through the skill of another. All of her paintings have something of the homage about them.

They honor the crafts of beading, jewelry-making and painting while wryly equating beautifying objects with the women who wear them. Both are on display, to be admired and at least metaphorically possessed.

Daniel Weinberg Gallery, 6148 Wilshire Blvd., (323) 954-8420, through April 17. Closed Sundays and Mondays.