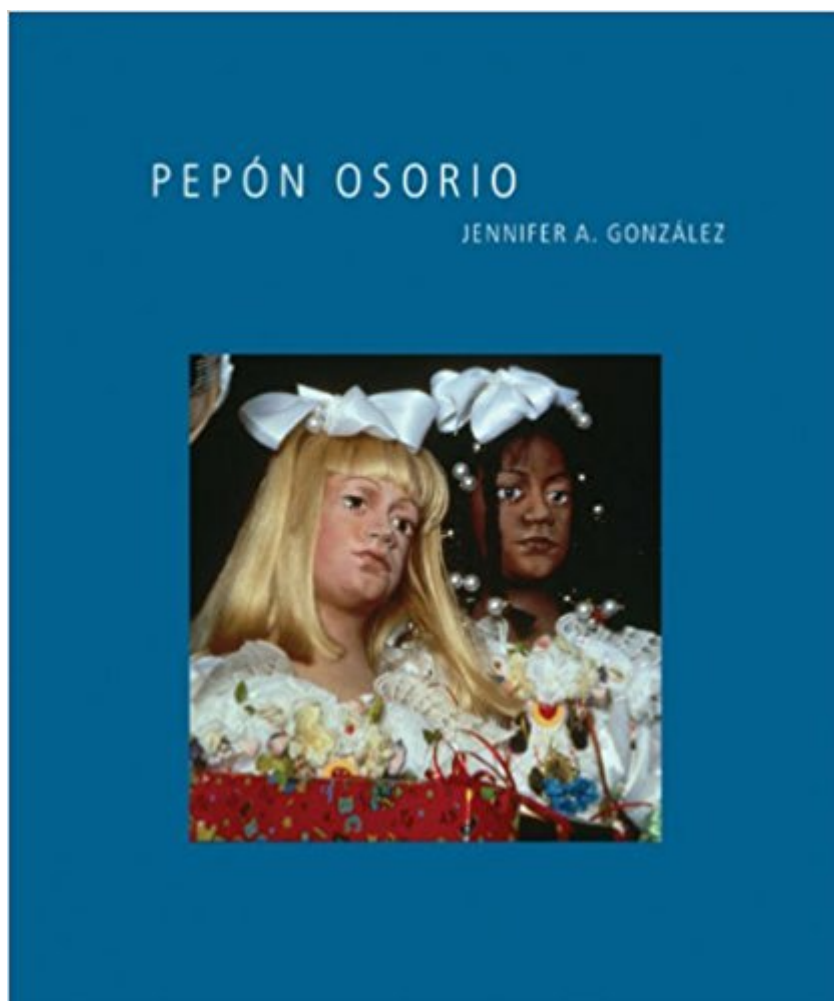


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# Pepón Osorio (A Ver)



## Synopsis

Pepi Osorio is an internationally recognized artist whose richly detailed installations challenge the stereotypes and misconceptions that shape our view of social institutions and human relationships. Osorio's colorful, often riotous installations are constructed from found objects and things that he customizes or creates. With a wry sense of humor, he probes sober topics, including prison life, domestic violence, AIDS, and poverty. Osorio's collaborative site-based works develop from his immersion into a community's residents of urban ethnic neighborhoods, employees who provide social services, children in foster care, and the discussions that result. As he addresses difficult themes such as race and gender, death and survival, and alienation and belonging, Osorio asks his audience to reconsider their assumptions and biases. In this book, Jennifer A. González shows that although Osorio draws on his Puerto Rican background and the immigrant experience for inspiration, his artistic statements bridge geographical barriers and class divides. Osorio's installations have been exhibited internationally, and his work is represented at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C., the Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico in San Juan, the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, and other major museums. He has received numerous awards, including a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship in 1999.

## Book Information

Series: A Ver (Book 8)

Paperback: 150 pages

Publisher: Chicano Studies Research Center (August 1, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0895511274

ISBN-13: 978-0895511270

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 0.5 x 6.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #1,804,111 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #101 in Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Installations #1147 in Books > Arts & Photography > Sculpture > Appreciation #9668 in Books > Arts & Photography > History & Criticism > Criticism

## Customer Reviews

Narratively powerful (aligned with a history of visual arts storytellers like Adrian Piper and Edward Kienholz), visually compelling, and ethically just, Pepi Osorio stands as a transitional figure

bridging museum installation and field-based social practices. He is, in fact, one of the first American figures in this field to focus a deeply implicated, and sympathetic, eye on the lives of the so-called othersâthe immigrants, the violated, and the working classâin ways that are comprehensible to people from all walks of life. I admire his work intensely, and I can think of no one better equipped to tell his story than Jennifer Gonz lez.âSuzanne Lacy, Chair, MFA Public Practice at Otis College of Art and Design

In Pep n Osorio author Jennifer Gonz lez seamlessly weaves together the artistâs biography with his interventions in the fields of performance, installation, and public art. More than a monograph on a leading artist, this book reveals a sustained, collaborative practice that joins art and politics, museum and casita. Here Osorioâs work excavates and destabilizes the sedimented layers of New York City as a global art center: its Caribbean communities become central, Latino cultures cut in and out of African American traditions, the South Bronx repurposes Hollywoodâs melodramas, and the barbershop substitutes for the university as the place to debate sexuality and gender roles.âEsther Gabara, author of *Errant Modernism: The Ethos of Photography in Mexico and Brazil*

Pep n Osorio provides an in-depth study of one of the leading installation artists working in the United States. Based in meaningful community collaboration, Osorioâs installations employ ubiquitous material culture to explore how communities and individuals negotiate the legacy of colonialism and continued marginalization. The conceptual depth of his work finds its match in Jennifer Gonz lez, who teases out the many layers of Osorioâs practice from his earliest stage-prop sculptures. Thoughtful and revealing, *Pep n Osorio* is a must read for scholars interested Latino, Puerto Rican, and installation art.âE. Carmen Ramos, Curator for Latino Art, Smithsonian American Art Museum

Jennifer A. Gonz lez teaches in the Department of History of Art and Visual Culture at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and at the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program, New York. She has written for numerous periodicals including *Aztl n*, *Frieze*, *Bomb*, *Camera Obscura*, and *Art Journal*. Her book *Subject to Display: Reframing Race in Contemporary Installation Art* was a finalist for the Charles Rufus Morey Book Award.

a great overview of Osorioâs practice. There were some pieces missing from this that I wish were there, but overall so good.

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