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## Going beyond living color; finding peace in the earth

By Cate McQuaid  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

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Rosa Lasasosa examines the cyclical nature of wheat in her installation, "Ode to Earth," at the new Via Gallery. The artist explains her intent in a detailed artist's statement, but it's best to ignore explanations and step into the installation to experience it firsthand, in your stocking feet. The floor is covered with wheat seeds. The soothing sound of threshing grain, echoing in a silo, envelops you. On the floor, a dozen ceramic bulbs sit, like enormous mushrooms sprung magically among the seeds. One wall holds 12 squares of paper, stitched with fragments of wheat stalks in a grid.

It's a meditative installation. The raked wheat evokes a Zen garden. Lasasosa says the ceramic bulbs represent silos; the wheat on the floor is the surplus. She stretches for a political statement about hunger. "Ode to Earth" works best without an agenda, indeed without any conceptual element. Its pieces add up to a most satisfying whole on their own.

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Artist Rosa Lasasosa in her installation, "Ode to Earth."

ROSA LASAOSA: ODE TO EARTH  
At: Via Gallery, 38 Newbury St., through  
March 20