

Two Films CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

female graffiti artists is a particularly rich. The filmmakers locate their work inside Mexico City's long tradition of mural artists bursting with colorful energy -- in a museum or on the street, "an obsession for cultural and artistic expression." We get a tutorial on varieties of street lettering in Sao Paolo; and lessons on the juxtapositions of advertisements with graffiti, a nice house situated next to one that is falling apart; and the politics of public art that contains the street's fast-moving energy and is accessible to everyone. Many of the artists speak about the importance of street art--created on the street by women--in inspiring children, especially girls, to create art of their own. Brazilian artists speak especially profoundly about creating in grimy spaces, without asking for permission, as a sort of spiritual act of defiance. And many of these women speak beautifully about the power of creating work outside, and watching its effect on people. "I am a troubled woman, so I paint troubled women," says one artist. I want the world to know that



Independent film "Street Heroines."

everything is not okay. If you think everything is ok, what world are you living in?"

I won't be surprised if this film ends up being one of my favorites this year. The art dazzles and challenges, and so do the artists.

Darleen Ortega is a judge on the Oregon Court of Appeals and the first woman of color to serve in that capacity. Her movie and theater review column Opinionated Judge appears regularly in The Portland Observer. Find her review blog at opinionatedjudge.blogspot.com.



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