



07 ← The traditional *chile en nogaga*, otherwise known as the jewel of Mexican cooking.



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08 → Ortiz at a market, holding a jackfruit.

comes more naturally in the kitchen, which is “our kingdom of power,” she says. “This is a space of liberty for a woman, and more in Mexico, because what happens in Mexico in a traditional family is that the mother cooks. She’s powerful there, in that kitchen.”

It’s this power that Ortiz broadcasts night after night; it’s everywhere from the floral headpieces worn by her servers at *Ella Canta* to the unapologetically high-contrast swipes of color on her plates. Everything she does is part of what she sees as her broader mission in life. She wants “to fly the flag of the woman,” she says, but also to more broadly “give beauty to other human beings.”

“If you see beauty not as perfection but as a human thing,” Ortiz says, “the world will be better.”