In the work of Enrique Martínez Celaya, the yearning, aching soul finds its form. Consider “The Invisible (or The Power of Forbearance),” an installation in the artist’s deeply penetrating show at L.A. Louver. A single bare bulb hangs in the small side gallery, directly over the life-size bronze figure of a boy whose body is beginning to stretch in height but not yet fill out. The emergent incongruities of his physical form alone signal transition, the rugged beauty of becoming. He stands in shallow, dark water, his hands fisted at his sides, his head bent downward. Drops fall steadily from his eyes. His tears are as continuous as his loneliness seems infinite, the mirrored walls enclosing him in endless solitude. The boy’s inky double in the water, at once reflection and shadow, wavers from the falling tears and never stills.

“The Invisible” feels like a private memorial, an occasion to commemorate threshold, loss, painful growth. It is one of several pieces in the show that reference personal markers in space or time.

In two other searing pieces, the flutter and song of live birds play crucial roles. Every material, every resource—poetry, literature, music—serves as another navigational tool.

Here, the philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer is a touchstone. The narrow, tower-like form of his childhood home in what was then Danzig, stands as a translucent, icy beacon in one painting, and as the shape of a birdcage in the installation “The Nursery.” A single, coral-hued canary flits about like a restless heart within the human-scaled cage. Enlarged pages of Schopenhauer’s “The World as Will and Representation” (1818), stacked alongside, describe how knowledge, as well as internal disposition, can deliver us from the miserable pressure of the will, the constant agitation of wanting.

Nature’s beauty can be a catalyst for such private reckoning, as can work like Martínez Celaya’s. Grand yet intimate, it runs the risk of sentimentality but deliberately stops short: Those pages of Schopenhauer’s also line the birdcage.