

ISABELLA DUCROT

*bad flowers*

July 4 – August 24, 2024

Galerie Gisela Capitain is pleased to announce its third solo exhibition with Isabella Ducrot (b. 1931, Naples).

*bad flowers* presents itself as a fascinating contradiction, suggesting a rich tapestry of meanings.

The sheer simplicity of the term 'bad', which strips language of its complexity and subtlety, is as astonishing as the multitude of possible readings one is confronted with.

'Bad' in the sense of Charles Baudelaire's *Le Fleurs du Mal* (*The Flowers of Evil*), which explores the decadence, eroticism, and depravity of human nature?

'Bad' as a description of the flowers' condition or, more simply, the artistic quality of the arrangements?

'Bad!' - like scolding a barking dog, perhaps?

And what might a 'good' flower possibly be?

Isabella Ducrot is obsessed with beauty that can be found in even the most mundane of everyday objects. Her works are like praise songs, seemingly light but cutting to the essence of life itself. Ducrot uses both textiles and paper as a medium, which she has collected from her travels throughout Asia. The material, its flaws and qualities, become part of the image and are presented as pure matter that needs no further embellishment. Flower still-lives, landscapes, loving couples, garments - these are Ducrot's themes - simple, yet all-encompassing. It is this certain innocence inherent in to her practice, which allows Ducrot's works to speak for themselves.

In 2024 Ducrot has an upcoming solo exhibition at Museo della Civiltà, Rome among others.

Recent solo exhibitions include *Le Consortium*, Dijon (2024), MAXXI Taormina, Villa San Michele (all 2023), San Giuseppe alle Scalze a Pontecorvo, Napoli (2021), Galerie Gisela Capitain, Cologne (2021 & 2019), Spazio Parlato, Palermo (2018) and Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli, Naples (2015).

In 2014 Ducrot had a major exhibition at the Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea in Rome and in 1993 and 2011 she presented her work at the Venice Biennale.