



Guendalina Cerruti
Guendalina malatesta

Opening reception: Saturday 23 May 2026, from 11.00 am to 7.00 pm
Durata: fino al 30 Luglio 2026

Exhibition venue: Casa Di Marino - Via Monte di Dio, 9, 80132 - Naples
Opening hours: Monday - Friday 11.00 am - 1.00 pm / 3.00 pm – 7.00 pm

The Umberto Di Marino gallery is pleased to announce Guendalina Malatesta, the first solo exhibition in Naples by Guendalina Cerruti. For the occasion, the artist presents a new series of sculptural, environmental, and wall-based works that unfold around a precise tension: that between creative potential and constraint, between an imagination that spirals vortically into itself and a reality that tends to compress it.

Metal meshes, golden threads, and hundreds of butterflies recur insistently according to a logic that borders on obsession, yet is rooted in a slow and disciplined practice. The creative gesture takes on the contours of a manual and patient making, close to an artisanal dimension, where repetition becomes both method and measure. In this process, a DIY aesthetic emerges as a form of resistance: a resistance of the sensible against hyper-rationality and homogenization, as a practice of redistributing value.

Through a system of references and accumulations, what is fragile, eccentric, or excessive is transformed into a lexicon capable of producing meaning and establishing a direct relationship with the viewer. The micro is not synonymous with marginality, but becomes a mode of reading reality, capable of rendering from within the tensions of the present. The result is a series of stratified assemblages—between sculptures, collages, furniture-objects, and personal narratives—that come into being in the encounter with the viewer, at the point where the private dimension opens to forms of shared affectivity.

The grid structures retain an ambivalent function, configuring themselves as emotional barriers that both protect and separate. This new body of work reveals a dual nature: on one hand a somber, almost dark tone, and on the other a vital and unpredictable energy.

With Guendalina Malatesta, Cerruti brings mental health in contemporary society to the forefront, interrogating from within—on a psychic and affective level—the exhaustion produced by the structures that organize value and behavior. In this space, a fatigued and neurotic mind finds, in the moment of creation, a form of suspension and enchantment.

GUENDALINA CERRUTI

1992, Milan, IT

Challenging dominant conceptions of artistic value, my works embody a playful, DIY aesthetic, transforming the act of decoration from a gesture of superfluity to an expression of resilience. I consider the history of the object's relation to the hands — in the context of preindustrial production, childhood imagination, and women's labour. Inspired by Susan Stewart's description of 'the miniature' as an 'exaggeration of interiority', I see my work as an emblem of the self, a life within a life. My sculpture 'Life is a Roller Coaster' translates a figure of speech into a physical object: made of wood and metal scraps, the miniature model of a fun ride represents the turbulent emotional journey of the quotidian. Drawing inspiration from youth aesthetics and the spirit of adolescence, my sculptures and paintings channel a drive towards emancipation and self-expression to subvert contemporary trends of cultural and intellectual conformity. Exploring the relationship between youth and popular culture, I furthermore examine the interplay between alienation and belonging.

Guendalina Cerruti studied for her Bachelor at NABA – Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti in Milan and she too her master degrees in Fine Art at Royal College of Art in London.

She had different solo shows: Ohh... Youth! V.O Curations, London ; People Watching, New Low, Los Angeles (2022); Wasted Dreams, Public Gallery, London (2021); Love you, Bye, Studiolo, Milan (2018); Guendalina, Studiolo, Milan (2015)

Among her most imporant group show, we mention: Show d'Houdini, CAC Brétigny, Brétigny-sur-Orge, FR (2026); Our Souls at Night, Umberto Di Marino, Naples, IT; Facile ironia. L'ironia nell'arte italiana tra XX e XXI secolo, MAMbo, Bologna, IT (2025); Museo d'Hot and bothered (nightmares in a bed full of pilllows), Alberta Pane, Paris; With Urgency, Ilenia, London (2024); Luminous Terrain, Atipografia, Arzignano, IT (2023); Civil Twilight, Ginny On Frederick, London; SEPTEMBER ISSUES, Peres Project, Milano; Madrigale, VinVin, Wien (2022); Primary Domain, Ordet, Milan; Old Friends, New Friends, Collective Ending HQ, London; Studiolo Lounge #1, Studiolo, Milan (2021); Marigolds, Harlesden High Street, London; Vivace, Balcony Gallery, Lisbon; I woke with a marble head in my hands, K-Gold Contemporary, Lesvos; Garland, Treignac Project, Treignac; Playful Agressions, Greengrassi, London (2019); Drawings, 650mAaaah, Brighton; Day in, Day out, Tile, Milan; That's IT, MAMBO, Museum of Modern Art, Bologna; L'isola portatile, ADA, Rome (2018).

She was nominated in 2023 for the Ca' Del Bosco Sculpture Prize and she won the Ducato Prize in 2020