

# GALERIE LA FOREST DIVONNE

PARIS + BRUSSELS

## VALÉRIE NOVELLO *Anatomie d'un paysage*

From 26 October to 9 December 2023

*Opening on Thursday 26 October 2023 from 5pm to 9pm*

### BRUSSELS

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Valérie Novello, *Lointain / Bleu ciel*, Japanese paper, Nepalese paper, pastels, 210 x 200 cm, 2023

# 1. PRESS RELEASE

From October 26 to December 9, 2024, Galerie La Forest Divonne presents «Anatomie d'un paysage», Valérie Novello's first solo exhibition under the glass roof of her Brussels gallery.

Valérie Novello's work is at the limits of drawing and sculpture, combining the treatment of paper with bas-relief techniques. The «Anatomie d'un paysage» exhibition will present a series of recent works in paper, wax and plaster in which she explores nature and her poetic memory of it. Sometimes in the form of bouquets of flowers under glass, sometimes in the form of crumpled landscapes in sometimes monumental formats, visitors will be able to immerse themselves entirely in her work.

Valérie Novello takes us on a journey through the fragments of her landscapes. Truly unclassifiable, her work is constructed like an archaeology of memories. «If everything cannot be explained, if everything cannot be reached, I seek to give form to a mental image - distant and original - that obsesses me. I seek to approach it, to unveil and reveal it in the present. All that remains of this original image are incomplete, fractured and fragmented», she writes.

Graduated from ENSBA (Beaux Arts de Paris) in Sculpture - Mixed Techniques, Valérie Novello has been exhibiting regularly since 1994. Since 2019, the diffusion of her work has accelerated in France, Belgium, Italy and Taiwan. Galerie La Forest Divonne has been representing Valérie Novello's work in Paris and Brussels since 2021. In 2022, she was part of the groundbreaking «L'Oeuvre au corps» project, in which she collaborated with Michelin-starred chef Adeline Grattard. After a presentation at Art On Paper 2022 and 2023 and a Solo Show at Drawing Now 2023, the gallery is once again bringing her to the forefront with a first solo exhibition in its Brussels..



## 2. GALERIST'S EDITORIAL

Valérie Novello's studio is set high up on a hill in Gentilly, just south of Paris. It's a large room, lit from the ceiling by a wide glass roof. You squeeze your way in between crates, cardboard boxes, plaster casts and fragments of paper accumulated over time. So many pieces of sculptures, sections of drawings, milestones of her successive research. They are the artist's cocoon, the walls of her universe, the environment in which creation can take place. In the center, space is restricted. I'd say it's concentrated. Here, Novello can abstract herself from the city and immerse entirely in the work to come. Literally, since she often works on the floor, kneeling over her subject.

Novello's background is in volume and sculpture. And although her current work is very graphic, she has never abandoned the third dimension. Everything always starts from there. She begins by creating a form, whether in plaster, wire or any other material, which she then imprints with her marvellous papers from Nepal or Japan: organic, living materials. Novello covers the sculpture or bas-relief, takes its shape, and then opens the way to color, in gouache or pastel, with a rubbing technique that aims to reveal the underlying matrix, or a sensation that was there, just below, but that we couldn't see. She likes to speak of archaeology, of memories, and it's a bit like an archaeologist, in fact, that she brings up her works, bent over the ground, as if she had to extract the fragments of emotion that she will soon fix on paper.

The result is light and delicate. It still has the form of its matrix, but only the envelope, into which Novello has infused its essence: that which was impalpable in the sculpture, despite its physical presence. The drawing is alive, made vibrant by the tiny strokes of pastel. You'd like to touch it with your fingertips, to feel that it might bristle like a skin, that it might breathe like the bark of a tree. When it comes to objects or large armfuls of flowers, the artist often places them under glass or a hermetically sealed cloche. They remind me of the rose in *The Little Prince*, so precious. A life is there, breathing behind the glass.

The title Valérie suggested for her exhibition is ambiguous: isn't anatomy usually reserved for the body? But in these landscapes and plants, the body is always present. Because we want to touch the surface, of course, and because we feel that this work is alive, that it vibrates from every crevice of the paper, and every touch of color. In fragments, in the nest of her studio, Novello has given life to her sensations through the horizon of nature.

Jean de Malherbe, Galerie La Forest Divonne Bruxelles, director

### 3. BIOGRAPHY

**Born in 1971 - Lives and works in Gentilly**

#### PERSONAL EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 Solo Show, Galerie La Forest Divonne Brussels, Belgium  
Drawing Now, Galerie La Forest Divonne Paris, France
- 2022 Galerie Vrijdag, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2019 Galerie Vrijdag, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2017 With Rieko Koga, Gentilly cultural centre, France
- 2011 L'Orangerie art centre, France
- 2009 Casa Betania, Postua, Piemont, Italy
- 2008 Galerie Olivier Vahl, Paris, France
- 2007 Installation, Espace Gabriele Chiari, Paris, France
- 1998 Former chapel of the Bicêtre Hospital, Bicêtre University Hospital, Paris, France
- 1997 Dinan Castle, Coëtquen Tower, France
- 1996 Oratory of the Church of Saint-Germain-des-Prés France
- 1995 Installation, ENSBA Paris, France
- 1994 Galerie Gauche, Paris, France

#### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 Art on Paper, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Bruxelles, Belgium
- 2022 *L'Oeuvre au corps*, 6 artists inspire 6 chefs, Galerie La Forest Divonne - Paris, France  
*Dialogue minéral*, Château de Poncé, Poncé-sur-Loire, France  
Art on Paper, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Bruxelles, Belgium
- 2021 *Vanités*, Galerie La Forest Divonne - Paris, France
- 2020 Artfair Paratissima, Torino, Italy  
Art Woman, Fondazione Palmieri, Lecce, Italy  
Yiri Arts Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan  
Whispers of the shores, Taipei, Taiwan  
Art Fair, Bologne, Italy

#### FILMOGRAPHY

- 2005 - 2008 « Avril »  
2002-2003 « Reste »  
1999-2001 « La vénus d'Ille »

## PUBLICATIONS

«Le Temps n'est pas celui de l'horloge», text by Pierre Descargues, Descargues, critique d'art, Gallimard NRF n° 548, 1999.

«Ce qui n'est pas montré», text by Philippe Comar, writer. Text presenting the exhibition at the Oratoire de l'Église de Saint-Germain-des-Prés - February 1995.

«Entre ciel et plomb», text by Anne Armagnac, catalogue of the exhibition at the Château de Dinan - June/July 1997.

«La prisonnière volontaire du duc de Mercoeur», text by Philippe Dressayre, catalogue of the exhibition at the Château de Dinan - June/July 1997

«Quand le regard», by Valérie Brégaint, creative documentary film by Valérie Brégaint, 18 minutes. CNC. 2012



Valérie Novello, *Recoller / récolte*, Japanese paper, gouache, 184 x 286 cm, 2022



## 4. PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Valérie Novello - *Anatomie d'un paysage*  
26 October to 9 December 2023

### Opening

Thursday 26 October 2023 from 5pm to 9pm in the presence of the artist

### Galerie La Forest Divonne

Rue de l'Hôtel des Monnaies 66, 1060 Brussels, Belgium

mardi - samedi 11h-19h

[www.galerielaforestdivonne.com](http://www.galerielaforestdivonne.com)

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Valérie Novello, *Oiseaux de jour / Oiseau de nuit*, Japanese paper, gouache, pastel, pencil, lead, 59 x 42 x 42 cm each, 2023

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