

VALÉRIE NOVELLO

Le bel été

EXHIBITION - PARIS

January 22 - February 28, 2026

OPENING RECEPTION

Thursday, January 22, 2026, 6-9 pm

EVENT

◀ J
8 ◻ Jeudi des Beaux-Arts Late Opening
Thursday, February 5, 6-9 pm
Meet the artist



Valérie Novello, *Jardin*, pastel and Japanese paper, 179 x 129 cm, 2025
© Valérie Novello

SOMMAIRE

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Press release | p.2 |
| 2. Biography and CV | p.4 |
| 3. Practical information | p.6 |

La Forest Divonne Gallery is pleased to present Valérie Novello's second solo exhibition in its Paris space.

On view from January 22 to February 28, the exhibition, entitled **“Le bel été” (“The Beautiful Summer”)**, brings together the artist's most recent works, created during her summer spent in Puglia, **Italy**, where she immersed herself in a luminous and meditative natural landscape of sea, mountains, and olive groves.

Upon seeing these deeply accomplished works and the joy that emanated from them, the decision to unveil them in an exhibition became immediately evident.



Valérie Novello, *Jardin*, pastel on Japanese paper, 195 x 166 cm, 2025

A dialogue between nature and memory

The garden and the act of wandering through nature are essential sources of inspiration for Valérie Novello. They echo her inner journey and provide the introspection necessary to reveal, on paper, what lies hidden like a buried secret. Each work is born from an intimate dialogue between body, material, and memory.

As Alexandra Swenden writes:

“In Valérie Novello’s work, each creation is first experienced through the body. (...) Invisible yet ever-present, the substance of our inner depths permeates her pieces.”

Originally from Piedmont, the artist draws from this region both her roots and her imagination. Her compositions oscillate between the vegetal microcosm and the distant horizon.

“Walking through a landscape allows me to reconnect with a very ancient and intimate memory. I also need to work on large formats so that my body can merge into my drawing,” she confides.

The exhibited series

The exhibition brings together several groups of **works in small, medium, and large formats:**

The **pastels frottés**, created on Japanese and Nepalese papers, are placed by Valérie Novello over reliefs she has previously sculpted to give them form. Then comes the application of pastel color, where the line reveals a true cartography of memory.

The delicate and colorful **collaged papers** evoke a reimagining of the world through fragments.

The series **“Au travers”** explores transparency and the layering of drawing, like a poetic X-ray.

Finally, the **paper and plaster sculptures** extend this dialogue between lightness and material.



Valérie Novello, *Paysage du soir*, Pastels frottés series, pastel on Japanese paper, 50 x 40 cm, 2025

An archaeology of sensitivity

Like an archaeologist of memory, Valérie Novello captures traces of an inner world and fixes them on paper, suspended between reverie and revelation.

«Art is the visible memory of the world.» – Paul Klee

BIOGRAPHY

Valérie Novello graduated from the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris in the “Sculpture - Mixed Media” department. Born in 1971, she lives and works in Gentilly and has been exhibiting regularly since 1994.

The dissemination of her work accelerated from 2019 onwards, with exhibitions in France, Belgium, Italy, and Taiwan. La Forest Divonne Gallery has represented her work in Paris and Brussels since 2021. In 2022, she participated in the groundbreaking project “L’Œuvre au corps”, collaborating with Michelin-starred chef Adeline Grattard.

Following presentations at Art On Paper in Belgium in 2022 and 2023, as well as a solo show at Drawing Now in Paris in 2023, the gallery held her first solo exhibition in its Brussels space in 2023, followed by one in Paris the following year.

In 2024, Valérie Novello was invited by Alexandre Swenden to exhibit at his multidisciplinary venue Les Passagées in Brussels.



Valérie Novello in her studio, 2025

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 Galerie Vrijdag, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2024 Galerie La Forest Divonne, Paris, France
- 2023 Anatomie d'un paysage, 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, Cultural Center of Gentilly, France
- 2011 L'Orangerie Art Center, France
- 2009 Casa Betania, Postua, Piedmont, Italy
- 2008 Galerie Olivier Vahl, Paris, France
- 2007 Installation, Espace Gabriele Chiari, Paris, France
- 1998 Former Chapel of Bicêtre Hospital, CHU de Bicêtre, Paris Hospitals, France
- 1997 Château de Dinan, Coëtquen Tower, France
- 1996 Oratory of Saint-Germain-des-Prés Church, France
- 1995 Installation, ENSBA Paris, France
- 1994 Galerie Gauche, Paris, France

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *La main (et) le gant*, Jenisch Vevey Museum, Vevey, Switzerland, curated by Philippe Piguet
Inner Lands & Scapes, Les Passagées, Brussels, Belgium
Art Brussels, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Brussels, Belgium
- 2023 Art on Paper, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Brussels, 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, Brussels, 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, Bologna, 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, art critic, Gallimard NRF no. 548, 1999.
- « Ce qui n'est pas montré », text by Philippe Comar, writer. Presentation text for the exhibition at the Oratory of the Church of Saint-Germain-des-Prés - February 1995.
- « Entre ciel et plomb », text by Anne Armagnac, exhibition catalogue at the Château de Dinan - June/July 1997.
- « La prisonnière volontaire du duc de Mercoeur », text by Philippe Dressayre, exhibition catalogue at the Château de Dinan - June/July 1997.
- « Quand le regard », by Valérie Brégaint, creative documentary film by Valérie Brégaint, 18 minutes. CNC 2012.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

VALÉRIE NOVELLO

Le bel été

EXHIBITION - PARIS

January 22 - February 28, 2026

OPENING RECEPTION

Thursday, January 22, 2026, 6-9 pm

GALERIE LA FOREST DIVONNE - PARIS

12, rue des Beaux-arts
75006 Paris

Tuesday to Saturday, 11 am to 7 pm
+33 (0)1 40 29 97 52

PRESS CONTACT

Virginie Boissière
virginie.boissiere@galerielaforestdivonne.com
+ 33 (0)6 74 49 35 83



Valérie Novello, *Fleurs la nuit*, series Au travers, gouache, Japanese paper, collage, 75 x 62 cm, 2025



Valérie Novello, *Jardin*, series papiers collés, collage, Japanese paper and gouache, 164 x 122, 2025