

Kikki Ghezzi - The Magical Cherry Tree

Kikki's project was inspired by two cherry trees, intimately joined together by their spirit, albeit thousands of miles apart, in two different continents: one at Vila Firenze - recognized as one of the oldest in the Washington area - and the other in Brianza, Lombardy - at the foot of the Italian Alps, between Milan and Lake Como. The genesis of the project and the story of Kikki's encounter with the cherry trees - their essence and message - simply unfold in this installation, like the pages of a book. The exhibition describes their meeting, complicity, challenges, balance, maturation, and final opening towards Infinity. Especially in her later works, Kikki moves in an "other" dimension, between worlds that we rarely enter in our hectic lives. Our pragmatic culture reflects the loss of a sense of measure, harmony, and cosmic peace. Yet, Kikki opens a door, offers a glimmer of light - that is blinding at first, making us instinctively look away, but that later reveals a deep, joyful, and invigorating dimension. When thinking of her work, I am often reminded of the beautiful book by Muriel Barbery *La Vie des Elfes* where the world of mist opposes the earthly, real, and violent world. I am also reminded of the struggle of spirit against matter. Imaginative intelligence resides in the heart: the intelligence of the heart implies, through imagination, a simultaneity of knowledge and love. This is what Kikki shows us. So immerse yourself in the pink, in the embroidery, in the designs, and prints. Go on, take her hand! Kikki is the fairy who will lead you to another world where you are able to fly and feel the true flavor of life. Thank you, Kikki.

Renato Miracco