

The Magical Cherry Tree / Il Ciliegio Magico

2017 - 2019

Every tree holds a story, some hold memories and beliefs: Marcel Proust's narrator fell into a 'remembrance of things past' after dropping his madeleine in the tea made from the flowers of a linden tree...each growth lawyer of il Ciliegio Magico contains a bit of the air from the land where I grew up: La Brianza, the place I left when I moved to the U.S.

The Magical Cherry Tree project was part of a year long "Artist in Residence" at Villa Firenze in Washington D.C. Using the old traditions of embroidery, oil painting, natural dyeing and printmaking, I have explored the theme of Nature and place in an ideal dialogue between two cherry trees, whose roots symbolically touch despite being thousands of miles apart: il Ciliegio Magico, a national monument rooted in my beloved native Italy, and the majestic Magical Cherry tree in Villa Firenze's garden, the residence of the Italian Ambassador to the U.S.

Kikki Ghezzi

