



## *WHILE WE SINK (The Word is on Flowers)*

**IRINA NOVARESE**

2 December 2022 – 4 February 2023

Opening: December 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Irina Novarese's artwork focuses on the construction of cartographies and their relationship with reality. A mapping of conceptual rather than physical spaces, which is guided towards existing geographies and in particular to those connected to places that are more human and anthropocentric than natural.

The research for the multimedia installation *While We Sink (The Word is on Flowers)* starts with five black and white drawings that translate images of the infamous *Great Pacific Garbage Patch*, also called plastic container. The marine debris is a pile of garbage in the Pacific Ocean that has reached a size similar to Texas, and that researchers and activists who observe it, describe with names such as "The Soup".

The work is mainly inspired by a series of conferences presented at the beginning of the pandemic for the Riga Riboca Biennale, in which ideas and positions on the concept of the future were presented in different thematic aspects by thinkers such as Boaventura de Sousa Santos, CA Conrad, Federico Campagna, Jack Halberstam or Astrida Neimanis. Irina Novarese's cartography, or rather her vision of a possible mapping of these mobile islands, the harmful remains of our daily actions, is developed through different elements and materials, trying to approach a more optimistic vision.

The installation is composed by different media integrated into the narrative of a journey translating the dynamic map into a visual and semantic form. Textiles, illuminated texts and ceramics describe a darkly threatening present and the utopian possibility of reacting positively by keeping flower seeds in time capsules to celebrate our disappearance.

The work of Irina Novarese includes installations, drawings, videos, artist's books, and interdisciplinary collaborative projects, both as artist and organizer.

IRINA NOVARESE has exhibited in various individual and collective exhibitions at the CÀNEM gallery. As well, she has been represented by the gallery in different editions of the ARCO and ArtsLibris fairs.

She co-founded the artistic project HIER & JETZT: Connections, an exchange and residency program for artists in exile in Berlin.

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