

Olen Riyanto

IMMACULATA: DISTORTED LILIES AND THE EPIC TALES FROM MY MOTHER'S POETRIES

The artist started this series in July 2023 based on a flower that she drew recurrently since her sophomore year in university. Now she wanted to explore this theme of romanticising her mother's favorite flower in correlation to the turbulent mother-and-daughter relationship that they have had for almost three decades.

The start of this series will include the reductionist qualities that she tends to put in her previous installations: using only one type of fabric and organic yet repetitive forms in order to make her audience focus on the simplification of the concept itself. As if, somehow, the simplest looking artwork can be complex on their own accord. Cotton muslin itself have its own context as a type of fabric used as prototype patterns in clothing production. The attachment of the artist towards cotton muslin represents how she wants to keep her works as 'prototypes' in mind to reduce the pressure of making artworks for the mass. The off-white color of the fabric itself helps to sanitize the forms to keep them as subtle as possible, creating the chance of visual intimacy with its audience.

On the other hand, lilies have a lot of context –religiously and also in its socio-cultural use. In Catholicism, white lilies symbolize purity, mother Mary, and her ascendance into heaven. With the size of their big, elegant petals, and fragrant scent, the cost of lilies tends to be more expensive than other flowers, hence showing some kind of a higher financial level of the ones that have bought or received them.

To summarize the above: the artist wanted to challenge herself psychologically by producing a series that will help her to reorganize her prejudice towards a maternal figure that have shown lots of ironies and contradictions in her life through words, actions, and her effort in being a parental figure.

The pieces that she will be including in the im/materiality exhibition on 21 October 2023 will be the extension of her many sketches of the distorted lilies: bigger in forms, more abstracted, slightly sculptural, yet grounded on the muslin canvases.

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"~01"

Muslin, steel wires,
embroidery strings, glue
105 x 75 cm —dimensions
might vary slightly
2023

"~02"

Muslin, steel wires,
embroidery strings, glue
105 x 75 cm —dimensions
might vary slightly
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