

Isabella Ducrot

An Italian widow is still discovering the joy of painting at ninety-three.

BY REBECCA MEAD



For more than two decades, Isabella Ducrot, an artist who was born in Naples in 1931, has lived in an apartment in Rome. She opened the door to her art, which she has been creating until she was ninety-three. She uses a brush sometimes on paper or fabric. She sweeps up loose scraps of paper or fabric. She rates scraps of old paper as precious. Her painted collages feature static figures and swirling rays of ovals or circles. In a recurring feature series, her works are uninhibitedly beautiful. Ducrot's œuvre in Italy for three decades was included in the Venice Biennale, and in 2008 a show at the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Berlin. But it wasn't until 2013 that she was championed in earnest, when Gisela C. Cologne, Germany, organized a show of Ducrot's work with several pieces of her flowing images of flowers. "Terra," each of the series, depicts a flowing river. In her ripe ebullience, she has become a late-Matisse and shorn of fuss. This summer, the exhibition is at the Museum of Modern Art in Dijon, France. Ducrot's first international show, heralding her as "a young artist," is in Rome. The exhibition is on paper from

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