

BLOSSOM

A retrospective by Cristina Rodrigues

“Blossom” at the AP'ARTE Galeria marks Cristina Rodrigues's first solo show in her hometown, Porto, and her first comprehensive retrospective. Continuing her interest in textile ribbons as art-making material and as tools to address, according to the artist statement, a “personal journey as a Portuguese woman in a global context to a fantastic world of symbolisms”, focuses her attention this time on primitive acts as pollinating, blossoming, and flowering and modest mediums as hand-painted with acrylic on cotton paper and linen. For the past 10 years, the craft Cristina Rodrigues devoted into the production of her art works is informed by a speculative and experimental nature, which becomes in form almost as important as the substance of the stories she reveals. The works embody a sense of *'campo'*, the country – of a local and domestic culture that is infinitely complex, contradictory, fragmented and torn by passion, greed, generosity, love, hatred, jealousy, ambition, physical voluptuousness – all of this and a great more are part of the sum of her creative act. Cristina Rodrigues (Porto, b.1980) is arguably one of the most important and influential female artists in Portugal at the intersection of art, vernacular culture, rural tradition, and landscape of the past years.

Ricardo Camacho

Curator