ARTIST STATEMENT

Roberta Guarna

I do not consider the artwork the starting point of my practice, but the outcome of a process that requires time, study, discipline, rigour, waiting and patience.

Every material has its own nature, its provenance and, at times, its own history. Before intervening, I feel the need to get to know it, observe it and understand its possibilities. A document, a photograph, a fragment of paper are not interchangeable elements to me, nor are they mere compositional devices.

In analogue collage, every gesture entails a decision. Cutting, removing, layering and stitching mean intervening in the material, altering its balance and taking responsibility for that transformation. Experimentation does not exclude rigour; on the contrary, it demands awareness of one’s choices.

Respect lies at the heart of my work. Respect for the materials and documents I use, for their provenance and for what they bear witness to. Respect for the people and human experiences that run through my works, even when they belong to a distant past. Respect for my own work, for the time and commitment it requires.

And, not least, respect for those who stop in front of one of my works, giving it some of their time and attention.