

The Unsaid Remains Remembered

Sophie-Yen Bretez | 1 Oct – 2 Nov 2025



Sophie-Yen Bretez

*«The sky slipped between two cards I said
nothing I stayed at the table and noon had
already gone», 2025*
Oil on linen
170 x 146 cm



Sophie-Yen Bretez

*«I left my name to the current
what returned was matter time-
shaped salt-bright», 2025*
Oil on linen
178 x 135 cm

“We can speak of the body without displaying it and that is precisely the axis of this solo show”

JD Malat Gallery Dubai is excited to showcase *The Unsaid Remains Remembered*, a solo exhibition by the French-Vietnamese emerging artist Sophie-Yen Bretez. In this new body of work, Bretez explores what she calls a “dramaturgy of passage,” capturing moments when one space becomes another, when times overlap, and when memory persists as life shifts forward.

Working with shaped canvases and large-scale compositions, Bretez transforms everyday objects — a window, a table, a bed, a clock — into symbolic entry points that guide the viewer from one state of being into another. These familiar motifs, paired with horizons of shifting skies, mountains, and seasons, create a tension between the intimacy of everyday spaces and the vastness of the natural world. Her paintings are not just depictions of objects or places, but explorations of how these spaces hold layers of memory and experience, turning the ordinary into emotional landmarks. As the artist explains: “Within a single image, one can be at once in day and night, in life and death, in memory and forgetting.” The result is a painting that refuses a single meaning, instead allowing multiple interpretations to coexist at once.

JD MALAT GALLERY DUBAI

Act 2 Tower, Ground Floor - Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Blvd 13A
Downtown Dubai - Dubai - United Arab Emirates

This exhibition marks a bold evolution in Bretez's practice. Known for her inverted voyeurism: striking figures that return the gaze, Bretez continues to unsettle the relation between the observer and the observed. In this new body of work, she broadens her visual language to find vulnerability and power beyond frontal nudity: reflections, landscapes, objects, and split horizons become carriers of charge. A knife, a clock, or a cup can be as intense as the figure itself; reflections in glass and bite marks on fruit hint at what is absent. Her paintings are charged with atmosphere and tension. Beneath the clarity of form lies an ambiguity that unsettles and a depth that invites viewers to slow down, look closely, and consider where vulnerability and strength might reside. The result is a widened field for the same questions: presence and absence, strength and fragility, sameness and difference, played out not only in the body but across the world that surrounds it.

Sophie-Yen Bretez (b. 1994, Vietnam) is a Paris-based artist whose practice combines poetic figuration with narrative identity. Weaving autobiography with universal signs, her work reflects on time, memory, and resilience. Writing a poem alongside each painting, Bretez layers text, image, and texture to create a dialogue between the intimate and the collective, affirming her as one of the most compelling new voices in contemporary painting.

EXHIBITION DETAILS:

Dates: 1st October – 2nd November 2025

Location: JD MALAT GALLERY DUBAI

Act 2 Tower, Ground Floor

Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Blvd 13A

Downtown, Dubai - United Arab Emirates

Public Hours: Monday - Sunday | 10:00AM - 10:00PM

For press inquiries, images, or to schedule an interview with the founder and curator Jean-David Malat in Dubai, kindly contact:

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