

Sophie-Yen Bretez

Emerging artist Sophie-Yen Bretez (b.1994, Vietnam) moved to France at a young age where she has lived and worked since. Originally self-taught, she earned a Grand École Master's degree from NEOMA Business School in 2018, holding management positions in Paris while painting on the side. In 2023, following growing recognition and opportunities, she transitioned to working full-time as an artist.



Bretez's work confronts the uncanny, merging autobiography and fiction to explore identity through narrative that is rendered through dream-like surrealist figuration. With an acute sensitivity to complex emotional states and often focusing on the human condition in moments of recovery, she frequently incorporates an illuminated horizon line, explaining, "I paint horizons for those who have suffered." Her figures operate in semi-open settings bathed in light from a sunset or sunrise: both protective and vulnerable, Bretez's spaces capture the human spirit of resilience and recovery.

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Bretez's figures, most often nude women, are marked by an unflinching agency that

governs the terms of their own presence. She subverts a certain coyness and

seduction traditionally projected onto the female form. The figures stare outwards,

confidently asserting themselves. They do not invite our gaze through passive allure,

but meet us directly, stimulating our active observation. In doing so, she contributes

to an evolving conversation about the meaning of the gaze, aligning herself with

generations of female painters and photographers who have challenged its

dynamics.

Bretez is a natural storyteller. Before painting each work, Bretez composes a poem

exploring memory, personal experience, or literary inspiration (such as the writings

of French author Marguerite Duras). The titles of her works come from these poems,

creating another layer of meaning to be deciphered by the viewer. Written text also

features within her canvases, where newspapers and novels are common enigmatic

motifs. Her work has been widely exhibited and highly regarded in various

publications, such as Forbes and Art Daily. Her capability for locating political and

existential commentary in dreamlike environments is testament to her strength as a

painter of complex human themes.

JD Malat Gallery 30 Davies St, Mayfair, London W1K 4NB +44 20 3746 6830



Sophie-Yen Bretez CV

Education

2017 Indian Institute of Management, Indore, India

Solo Exhibitions

| 2025 | The Unsaid Rem | ains Remembered, | JD Malat Gal | llery, Dubai, UAE |
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2023 Powerful, despite it all, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK

All Together, Lorin Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

Summer Exhibition, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK

Group Exhibitions

2023

2023

| 2025 | Discover Collect Repeat, Galerie Zberro, Paris, France |
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| 2025 | Portraits: Through the Looking Glass, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK |
| 2025 | Carte Blanche, JD Malat Gallery, Dubai, UAE |
| 2024 | Origins 2.0, Rhodes Contemporary Art, London, UK |
| 2024 | Untamable Spirit, Allouche Gallery, Los Angeles, USA |
| 2024 | The Possible and the Elsewhere, Tang Contemporary, Hong Kong, CH |
| 2024 | Miradas, Cohle Gallery, Minorca, SP |
| 2024 | Summer Exhibition, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK |
| 2024 | Here & Now, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK |
| 2024 | Journeys - 'On Paper', JD Malat Gallery, London, UK |
| 2024 | International Artists Group Exhibition: The Possible and the Elsewhere, Tang |
| | Contemporary Art, Various Locations |
| 2023 | Contemporary Figuration: Between Body & Metaphor, JD Malat Gallery, London, |
| | UK |
| 2023 | A Bold Harmony, Tang Contemporary Art, Bangkok, Thailand |
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2022 Woman, Empowered, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK

Art Fairs

2024 Tang Contemporary Art at ART OnO, Seoul, South Korea

2024 Tang Contemporary Art at Art SG, Singapore, MY

2024 The Untitled Void at Art Busan, Busan, South Korea

Prizes

2024 Winner of Spring 2024, Innovate Grant

Press

Artsy: The Art We're Obsessed With in June 2024

Innovate Grant: Interview: Sophie-Yen Bretez's Dialectic of Inner/Outer Space

Create Magazine: Interview with Cover Artist, Sophie-Yen Bretez

Art Daily: Here & Now Group show opening

Vein Magazine: Sophie-Yen Bretez: Summer, surrealism, dreamlike and abundance

Bangkok Post: Exhibition showcases essence of Asia

Forbes: Essential Highlights Of International Women Artists' Art Week

The White Pube: What I saw last week

Stylist Magazine France: 10 New faces to follow

Quiet Lunch: The Painstakingly Pleasant Task of Emoting Emotions: An Interview w/

Sophie-Yen Bretez

Invest'Art: Sophie-Yen Bretez Q&A

Artplugged: Sophie-Yen Bretez: Powerful, Despite it All

Business Monday: Artistry and Milestones: JD Malat Gallery Commemorates 5th

Anniversary with Striking Showcase of Sophie-Yen Bretez' Debut Solo Exhibition

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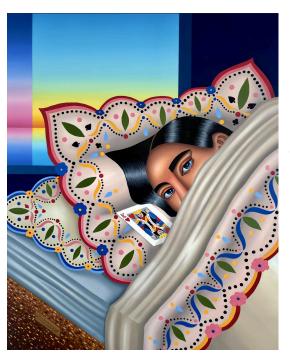


Selected Works



Sophie-Yen Bretez

 $^{\prime\prime}$ Before we knew there was silence the mountain spoke the water answered the world remembers for us. $^{\prime\prime}$, 2025 Oil on linen $59 \times 43 \ 1/4$ in 150×110 cm



Sophie-Yen Bretez

 $\,^{\prime\prime}$ Half asleep half awake the eye remains the world insists - an impossible state. $^{\prime\prime}$, 2025 Oil on linen 39 3/8 x 29 1/2 in 100 x 75 cm