

Sophie-Yen Bretez

Sophie-Yen Bretez (b. 1994, Vietnam) is a self-taught emerging artist currently living and working in Paris. Bretez moved to France at a young age, providing her with a rich fusion of cultural heritage reflected in her multifaceted artistic practice. After completing a Grand École Masters at Neoma Business School in 2018, Bretez held multiple management positions throughout Paris before deciding to pursue her passion for art and creating full time in 2021.

Presenting a thematic fusion of autobiography and narrative identity, Bretez's oeuvre is marked by her signature dream-like surrealist figuration and skilful depiction of complex emotional states. Focusing on discovering ways in which to mirror the human condition in a state of recovery, Bretez's works often include an illuminated horizon line, stating that "I paint horizons for those who have suffered." By portraying her characters in semi-open spaces with a sunset or sunrise in the background, Bretez blurs the boundaries of the confined 'safe' space one builds for themselves in moments of weakness, ultimately highlighting the ambivalence of existence and the ambiguity of the human condition.

Bretez is also interested in challenging the traditional male gaze. She utilises reverse voyeurism and the evident nudity of her characters to challenge our societal relationship with the naked female body. Unflinching and strong, the women in Bretez's paintings stare directly at the spectator, serving to simultaneously create distance and prove they are not at the viewer's disposal — rather, they assert control of their own bodies.



As a natural storyteller, Bretez begins each painting with a poem linked to memory. Titling her works after these spontaneous and instinctual poems, Bretez incorporates an additional layer of dialogue between the work, the viewer, and herself. Bretez seeks to perpetuate a wider reflection of political, societal, philosophical, and existential themes, testifying to the intimate and universal through substantive narratives.

Sophie-Yen Bretez CV

Education

2014 Master Grand École, Neoma Business School, Rouen, France

2017 Indian Institute of Management, Indore, India

Solo Exhibitions

2023 *Powerful, despite it all*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK

Group Exhibitions

2025 *Portraits: Looking 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

2024 *Volery Gallery*, Dubai, UAE

2023 *Contemporary Figuration: Between Body & Metaphor*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK

2023 *A Bold Harmony*, Tang Contemporary Art, Bangkok, Thailand

2023 *All Together*, Lorin Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

2023 *Summer Exhibition*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK

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 2024, Busan, South Korea

Prize

2024 Winner 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*

Selected works



Sophie-Yen Bretez

*« Time is the seas' expanse
Time, it is all in one And in its
womb - The sun abundance »,*
2024

Oil on canvas
47 1/4 x 63 in
120 x 160 cm



Sophie-Yen Bretez

*« It is born of A strange equation. Numbers adrift, A
fleeting trace, It is the echo of time In the curve of my face.
»,* 2025

Acrylic and oil on linen
39 3/8 x 29 1/2 in
100 x 75 cm