

## Sophie-Yen Bretez



Sophie-Yen Bretez is a self-taught emerging artist currently living and working in Paris. Originally from Vietnam, Bretez moved to France at a young age providing her with a rich fusion of cultural heritage often reflected in her multifaceted artistic practice. After completing a master's Grand École at Neoma Business School in Rouen, France in 2018, Bretez held multiple management positions throughout Paris. In 2022, Bretez decided to pursue her passion for art and began creating full time.

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 often includes an illuminated horizon line stating, "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. Interested in challenging the traditional male gaze Bretez 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 look directly out 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. A natural storyteller Bretez completes each painting with a poem linked to memory.

Titling her works with these spontaneous and instinctual poems, Bretez incorporates an additional layer of dialogue between the work, the viewer, and herself.

Testifying to the intimate and the universal through substantive narratives, Bretez seeks to perpetuate a wider reflection of political, societal, philosophical, and existential themes.

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. Testifying to the intimate and the universal through substantive narratives Bretez seeks to perpetuate a wider reflection of political, societal, philosophical, and existential themes.

## **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**

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's not your fault If the roses  
fade. Ceaselessly enjoy  
everything: The foam and the  
rain and every morning. There  
is only one regret, Not having  
had enough - time. », 2023*

Oil painting on linen canvas  
51 1/8 x 31 7/8 in (each)  
130 x 81 cm