

Born in 1973 in Brussels, Belgium
Lives and works in Brussels.

Sophie Whettnall is a multidisciplinary artist using video, performance, drawing and painting. Her works oscillate between elegance, sensuality and energy.

Since the 1990s, Sophie Whettnall's work has reflected on the forces that define our relationship with the world around us, materializing and documenting them.

Through various media, Sophie Whettnall seeks to reveal the tensions between presence and absence, visibility and disappearance, and is interested in thresholds: the moment when the horizon fades, when light becomes shadow, when the balance between humans and their environment is broken.

Her recent projects focus particularly on the disappearance of the landscape, not only as an ecological phenomenon linked to environmental change, but also as a symbolic erasure from our memories and imaginations. The artist often works with fragments, traces, and simple gestures that suggest the fragility of our surroundings.

With her subtle aesthetic, her sensitive yet powerful work is based on dialectical tension and an attempt to bring contradictory concepts and perceptions into dialogue: between softness and sensuality, yin and yang, femininity and masculinity...

Her work also contributes to a form of autobiographical project.

Sophie Whettnall is the winner of the Belgian Art Prize in 1999, her work has been shown at the 52nd Venice Biennale, MAC'S Grand-Hornu, BOZAR and La Centrale (Brussels), the Utah Museum of Fine Arts (Salt Lake City), the Uffizi Gallery (Florence), CGAC (Santiago de Compostela), Museu de Arte Moderna Aloisio Magalhães (Brazil), COAC (Barcelona), Krinzinger Projekte (Vienna), STUK (Leuven), Chiostri di San Pietro and Fondazione Palazzo Magnani (Reggio Emilia), as well as TANK (Shanghai, Wiels selection). Her works are part of numerous public and private collections in Belgium and internationally.

SOLO SHOWS

2025

InVisible, Galerie Michel Rein, Paris

2024

RATRACK, Verbier 3D Foundation, Verbier, Switzerland
D'une rive, l'autre, Conflans-Sainte-Honorine, Paris, France
Ghost Trees, Gaasbeek Castle, Lennik, Belgium
Public Intervention, AZ Sint Luka, Gent, Belgium

2022

Les étoiles ne dorment jamais, Pavillon Vendôme, Aix en Provence, France
Lost Landscapes, Galerie Michel Rein, Brussels, Belgique
Recording the Light, Gare de Liège-Guillemins, Liège, Belgique

2021

Into the mind (Performance), Bozar, Brussels, Belgium
Universo Dentro, Chiostri di San Pietro, Fondazione Palazzo Magnani, Reggio Emilia, Italy
Monuments Intérieurs, Michel Rein, Paris, France

2019

La Banquise, la forêt et les étoiles, Centrale for contemporary art, Brussels, Belgium

2018

Longueur d'ondes, Michel Rein, Brussels, Belgium`

2016

Border Lines, Michel Rein, Paris, France

2015

Drilling for Light, Michel Rein, Brussels, Belgium

2014

Brainstorming, Museu de Arte Moderna Aloisio Magalhães (MAMAM), Recife, Brazil
Shadow piece, Vera Cortes Art Agency, Lisbon, Portugal

2013

Femme sans ombre, Galleria continua - Le Moulin, Boissy-le-Châtel, France

2011

Excess of Yang, Galleria Continua, San Gimignano, Italy

2010

Explicit Silence, Espai 13, Fundacio Joan Miro, Barcelona, Spain

SALT2 - Whettnall - Kusama, Utah Museum of Fine Arts, Salt Lake City, USA

2008

Endless Landscape, Vera Cortes Agência, Lisbon, Portugal

2007

Moving mountains, Galeria Moriarty, Madrid, Spain

Red Snow, Galleria Continua, arco dei becci, San Gimignano, Italy

2006

A Chocolataria, Espazo de experimentacion e creacion contemporanea, Santiago de Compostella, Spain

LANDESCAPE, CIAP, Belgium

Conversation Piece, project room, galerie Baronian-Francey, Brussels, Belgium

Red Snow, Casa de Velazquez, Madrid, Spain

In two minds, Vera Cortes Art Agency, Lisbon, Portugal

2004

Öppland, LE BLAC, Brussels, Belgium

Echo, Galerie Baronian-Francey, Brussels, Belgium

Cara a cara, Bartholomeu 5, Lisbon, Portugal

2002

Face a face, Parcours d'expositions monographiques, Lille, France

2001

Tschumipavillion, DeSchool, Groningen, The Netherlands

DOT. Project, London, England

Trafic Humain, Galerie Albert Baronian, Brussels, Belgium

Air Liquide, eau gazeuse, with Grout-Mazeas, Centre d'Art Contemporain,

Cimaise et Portique, Albi, France

2000

Le lustre et le robinet (with Lionel Estève), Maison de Marijke Schreurs, Brussels, Belgium

1999

Déroutes, Galerie Albert Baronian, Brussels, Belgium

Prix de la jeunesse belge, Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, Belgium

GROUP SHOWS**2025**

Back to the futur, Emmanuel Lambion & Charlotte Crevits (cur.), For the 75 birthday of the BelgianArtPrize

The Memory Palace, Wilhelmina's Gallery, Hydra, Greece

Échos de Cezanne (cur. Pierre Allizan), Gallifet, Aix-en-Provence, France

Works of Arts & copies, Art and History Museum, Brussels, Belgium

Nous n'irons plus au bois (cur. M.-P. Broodthaers), Robert Grunenberg Gallery, Berlin, Germany

Everything Is True - Nothing Is Permitted (cur. K. Geers & A/POLITICAL), Brutus Space, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

2024

At the still point of the turning world, Karen Verschooren & Zeynep Kubat, Stuk, Leuven, Belgium

Land in / Land out (cur. MODO asbl & Francesca Sborgi), Gallerie degli Uffizi, Florence, Italy

2023

The Ecstatic Being, STUK Leuven, Belgium

Family Matters, cur. Louma Salomé, Boghossian Foundation, Brussels, Belgium

2022

L'heure Bleue, Centre d'art contemporain d'intérêt national, Saint-Nazaire, France

Traces de l'invisible (cur. Carine Fol), Centre Wallonie-Bruxelles, Paris, France

Avant que j'oublie, (cur. Michel Van Dyck), Étangs d'Ixelles, Brussels, Belgium

2021

Models & Types, Art Room, Uccle, Belgium

Camiños I, Centro Galego de Arte Contemporánea, Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Group show, Michel Rein, Brussels, Belgium

2020

Oh les beaux jours (Happy Days), Michel Rein, Paris, France

Muurschilderingen, Roger Raveelmuseum, Machelen-Zulte, Belgium

2019

Convex/Concave, Dirk Snauwaert & Charlotte Frilling (cur.), Belgian Contemporary Art by WIELS, TANK, Shanghai, China

Circulation, Mauro Mauroner Contemporary Art, Kendell Geers (cur.), Vienna, Austria

A critical inventory of the IKOB collection, IKOB, Eupen, Belgium

Damien De Lepeleire (cur.), Brussels, Belgium

2018

Miroirs #2 Tout est Paysage - Biennale Art Contemporain et Patrimoine, Parc d'Enghien, Belgium
Norma, Maison Pelgrims, Brussels, Belgium
Biennial of Painting - On Landscapes, Roger Raveel Museum, Machelen, Belgium

2017

Ubi Fracassorium, ibi Fuggiotorium, ArtQ13, Rome, Italy
Ho, les beaux jours, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

2016

Comme si de rien n'était, Musée & Jardins Van Buuren, Brussels, Belgium
Non figuratif : un regain d'intérêt ?, Centre d'art contemporain CAC - Meymac, France
Out of Africa, Les Ateliers de Conservation-Restauration d'Art, Anne-Catherine Kenis & Damien De Lepeleire, Brussels, Belgium

2015

25th Anniversary Galleria Continua, Espace 104, Paris, France
Louise 186, Brussels, Belgium
« Writing diffractions », Leal Rios Foundation, Barcelona, Spain
Houston, Island, Brussels, Belgium

2014

Call me on Sunday, Ursula Maria Probst, (cur.), Krinzinger Projekte, Vienna, Austria
Landscapes, Galerie Michel Rein, Brussels, Belgium

2012

De Narcisse à l'Echo ou « la petite mort », Espace le Carré, Lille, France

2011

Elles Tournent, Festival de films de femmes de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium
Limites Multiples, L'orangerie, espace d'art contemporain, Bastogne, Belgium
Nuit des Musées à Belfort, Musée des beaux arts, salle au Granit, Belfort, France

No Government No Cry, A project by Kendell Geers, CIAP, Hasselt, Belgium

2010

A.B.C Art Belge Contemporain, Fresnoy, Studio national des arts contemporains, Tourcoing, France
Sophie Whettnall & Lionel Estéve, Bela editions, Brussels, Belgium
Les (in)contrôlés, Centre Wallonie-Bruxelles, Paris, France
Ars Itineris, El viaje en el arte contemporaneo, Pamplona, Spain

Shadow boxing, The World Expo Shanghai 2010, Art Corner of the Belgian Pavilion, Shanghai, China

Workshop given by Sophie Whettnall, Loop, Hangar, Barcelona, Spain

Benefit Art Auction 2010, Wiels, Brussels, Belgium

(OUT OF) CONTROL, BIP2010, Liege, Belgium

Here and Now, Julia Draganovic - Bologna Art First (cur.), Galleria Continua, Bologna, Italy

2008

Sophie Whettnall, Antonio Maro, IKOB, Eupen, Belgium
Honors Honoré, De garage, ruimte voor actuele kunst, Mechelen, Belgium
L'évento immobile, INCANTAMENTI, Casa Masaccio, San Giovanni Valdarno, Italy
El hombre delgado y los desastres naturales, Suffix arte contemporaneo, Seville, Spain
LA MIRADA IRACUNDA /the furious gazes, centre culturel Montehermoso, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain
Artistes de la casa Velazquez, La Garenne Lemot, Gétigné-Clisson, France

2007

L'emprise du lieu, Daniel Buren (cur.), Expérience Pommery #4, Domaine Pommery, Reims, France
Think with the senses, Feel with the mind, Art in the present tense, Robert Storr (cur.), 52nd Venice Biennial, Italy
Viages, Nuevas perigrinaciones, CGAC, Santiago de Compostella, Spain
Sur un fil tendu!, MAC'S, Site du Grand Hornu, Belgium

2006

Conversation piece, Galeria Moriarty, ARCO, Spain
Happy end, LE BLAC, Brussels, Belgium

2005

Shadow boxing, Galeria Moriarty, ARCO, Madrid, Spain
Unspeakable, Aeroplastics Contemporary, Brussels, Belgium
Boost in the shell, Michel Dewilde and Jérôme Jacobs (cur.), Brugge, Belgium
Argos, information days, 2005, Brussels, Belgium
The Video dictionary, La casa encendida, Madrid, Spain
Invited by Lionel Esteve, galerie commune, Tourcoing, France
Belgian focus, Argos, Brussels, Belgium

2004

You said Erotic, La maison de marijke schreurs, Brussels, Belgium
Boucle d'or, Transat vidéo, Frac Basse-normandie, France
Moving images, Tank.tv, ICA digital studio, London, England

Courtisane, Festival voor kortfilm, video and nieuwe media, Gent, Belgium
 Play, Stadsgalerij, Heerlen, The Netherlands

2003

A year dedicated to intense studio work.

Participation to video festivals :

25hrs de vidéo, Barcelona, Spain

Le printemps extra large, Brussels, Belgium

Argos, information days, 2003, Brussels, Belgium

Exploracions, Lacapella, La Virreina Exposicions, Barcelona, Spain

2002

Tancat Per Obres, COAC, Barcelona, Spain

Tanto por Ciento», Domestico 01, Madrid, Spain

Location Update, Philippe Braem (cur.), Speelhoven, Holland

Moi ou un autre, Autoportrait d'artistes Belges, Dexia, Brussels, Belgium

The show must go on, Witte Zaal, Gent, Belgium

Act, Espace BBL, Brussels, Belgium

2001

Dépays(ag)é, Claude Lorent (cur.), Orion Art Gallery, Oostende, Belgium

International Film festival of Rotterdam, Satellite Edition, Grand Theatre, Groningen, The Netherlands

Detecting-Rebuilding, All Open, Hangar, Barcelona, Spain

Top 01, Poblenou, Barcelona, Spain

Adicciones en Pantalla, Dot light club, Barcelona, Spain

Commerce, Pont-Croix, France

Instant Fragile, Passage de Retz, Paris, France

Argos, information days, 2001, Brussels, Belgium

Ici et maintenant, BELGIAN SYSTEM, Laurent Jacob (cur.), Brussels, Belgium

It's not the time yet, cur. Jorge Bravo, Dot light club, Barcelona, Spain

(Unnamed), Gallery BERNIER-ELIADES, Athens, Greece

2000

World Wild Flags, Liège, Aachen, Knokke, Luxembourg, New York

Toward Television, Tele N.I.C.C, Antwerpen, Belgium

18th World Wild Video Festival, Montevideo, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Circus Maximus, Utrecht, The Netherlands

Argos, Information Days 2000, Brussels, Belgium

1999

Trafic, SMAK extra muros, Gent, Belgium (Meschac Gaba's project participation)

Nuit de l'imaginaire, intervention in situ, Abbaye de Villers-la-Ville, Belgium

Exposition Larsen, Galerie du Credit Communal, Brussels, Belgium

Entre Deux, Museum voor Fotografie, Antwerpen, Belgium

Videos, galerie Dorothée De Pauw, Brussels, Belgium

What's happening today, Microsoft Building, Brussels, Belgium

1998

Art et Culture, La Chocolaterie, Brussels, Belgium

1000 BXL, 100 Grand Street, New York, U.S.A.

Bureau N.I.C.C Augmenté, N.I.C.C, Michel François (cur.), Antwerpen, Belgium

RESIDENCIES

2023

One month residency, Academia Belgica, Roma

2005

Two years residency, La casa de Velazquez, Madrid, Spain

Two months video workshop with sculpture students,

La Cambre (Ecole Nationale Supérieur des Arts Visuels), Brussels, Belgium

2004

Two months video workshop with sculpture students,

La Cambre (Ecole Nationale Supérieur des Arts Visuels), Brussels, Belgium

2003

Two months video workshop with sculpture students,

La Cambre (Ecole Nationale Supérieur des Arts Visuels), Brussels, Belgium

2001

One year residency at Hangar, The Video Art Foundation, Barcelona, Spain

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

2019

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