

Born in 1973 in Brussels, Belgium, Sophie Whettnall lives and works between Brussels and Paris. She is a multidisciplinary artist whose practice encompasses performance, installation, drawing, and video. Her work explores the relationships between the human body, natural environments, and temporality, with gesture and perception at the core of her approach. Privileging process over fixed outcomes, she treats physical experience as a means of reading and transforming reality.

Central to her practice is an engagement with light and raw materials, which she employs as both medium and subject. Through performative processes and spatial interventions, she explores the inscription of time within architecture and matter, revealing invisible dimensions of perception.

Her research engages with archaic, collective, and intimate forms of memory, examining how gestures of labor, repetition, and endurance shape both landscapes and inner states. Avoiding fixed stylistic or conceptual classifications, Sophie Whettnall privileges process and the temporality of intervention, creating sensitive experiences that invite viewers to reconsider how they see, remember, and inhabit the world.

Her recent projects engage with the disappearance of landscape, both as an ecological phenomenon and as a symbolic erasure of our memories. She uses fragments, traces, and simple gestures to express the fragility of our environment. Placing gesture and perception at the core of her practice, she creates a sensitive body of work in which physical experience and attentiveness to the world become tools for interpreting and transforming reality.

Winner of the Belgian Art Prize in 1999, Sophie Whettnall has exhibited widely, including 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 Aóisio 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 held in 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

The Brain Walk, 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 Aóisio 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

Ûppland, 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**2026**

Chorégraphie pour une maison, hommage à Sophie Vigourous, Casa Conti – Ange Leccia, Isabelle Bernini & Mélissa Epaminondi (cur.), Oletta, Corsica

El Dorado, Kunstenfestival, Studio Loho (cur.), Dudzele, Brugge, Belgium

Forms of the Unseen: Art and Invisibility, Laurence Dujardyn (cur.), The Merode, Brussels, Belgium

Festival des 10 ans des Ateliers Indigo, Albert Baronian (cur.), Brussels, Belgium

2025

Beyond the Line. Works from the Serralves Collection, Museum of Contemporary Art, Porto, Portugal

Back to the futur, Emmanuel Lambion & Charlotte Crevits (cur.), For the 75 birthday of the Belgian Art Prize, Brussels, Belgium

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

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

Works of Arts & copies, Laurence Petrone (cur.), Art and History Museum, Brussels, Belgium

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

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

2024

At the still point of the turning world, ARTEFACT 2024, Karen Verschooren & Zeynep Kubat (cur.), STUK, Leuven, Belgium

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

2023

The Ecstatic Being, STUK Leuven, Belgium

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

2022

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

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

Avant que j'oublie, Michel Van Dyck (cur.), 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

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-Restoration d'Art, Anne-Catherine Kenis & Damien De Lepeleire (cur.), 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, Studio National des Arts Contemporain, Fresnoy, Tourcoing, France

Sophie Whettnall & Lionel Estève, Bela editions, Brussels, Belgium

Les (in)controlés, 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'evento immobile, *INCANTAMENTI*, Casa Masaccio, San Giovanni Valdarno, Italy

El hombre delgado y os desastres naturales, Suffix arte contemporaneo, Seville, Spain

LA MIRADA IRACUNDA /the furious gazes, centre culturel Montehermoso, VitoriaGasteiz, 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 te 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, Poblenu, 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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