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CALL ME ISHMAEL

Sophie Bouvier Ausländer

18 September – 1 November 2025

Call Me Ishmael, Sophie Bouvier Ausländer's first solo presentation in our Brussels space, takes its name from the opening sentence of Herman Melville's iconic novel *Moby Dick*. Inspired by the novel's symbolism, biblical as well as fictional, Sophie Bouvier Ausländer's body of work is rich in imagery that softly slips into our imagination like a weaving.

The sea setting and its metaphors in Melville's novel are echoed in the recent series through the use of sprayed and diluted gouache in flowing and effusive compositions. Expressive lines and shapes capture the tumultuous atmosphere of Melville's narrative. Rather than confining herself to the shade of the deep blue sea, the artist explores a spectrum of brighter colours sputtered, sprinkled and squirted onto the various media to mesmerising visual effects. As in the former series, fragments of the underlying maps or newspaper print occasionally peak through to offer yet another dimension in the work and its layering.

Before creating the series *Call me Ishmael*, Bouvier Ausländer crafted sculptural net-like structures, which serve as objects of their own as well as stencils for her paintings. The artist places these grid-like sculptures onto various supports, such as maps, newspapers, tissue and Japanese paper, then sprays gouache paint over them to transfer a ghostly image, or shadow of the netting. These nets loom in variations in all the new works, resembling a moving grid that appears, fades and vanishes, similar to a fisherman's net in the water.

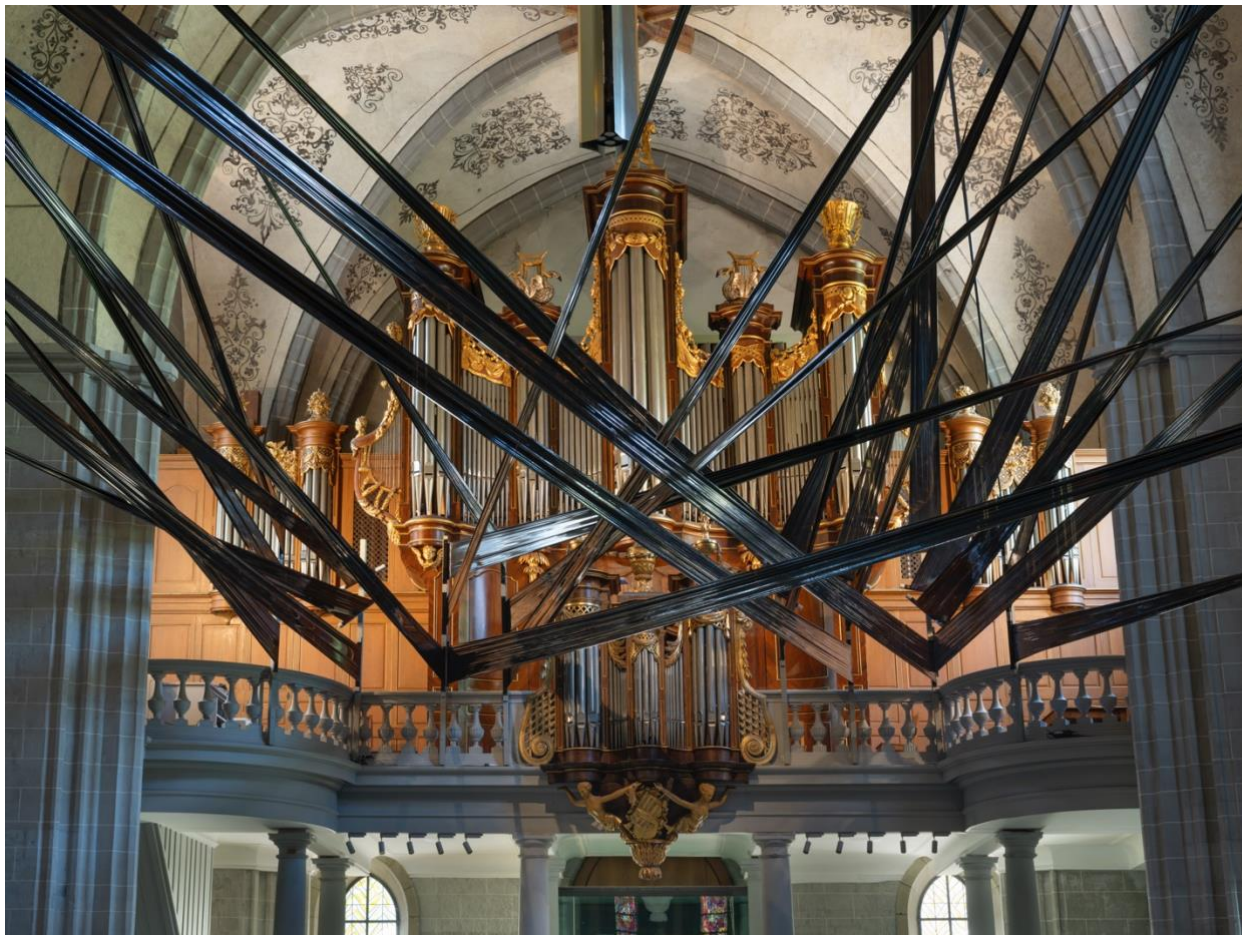
Her ongoing exploration of how humankind shapes and transforms our planet recently expanded into a meditation on time, at the heart of her major commission for Église Saint-François in Lausanne. Entitled *Contretemps* and on view until 19 October 2025, the project unfolds in two large-scale installations. In the

quiet Billens Chapel, a net-like structure and its ghostly imprint on a layer further back recall the *Call Me Ishmael* series, while in the nave, a cascade of black shimmering rays stretches from the organ to the choir, tracing a fragile, uncertain trajectory of time through space.

Another recent project linked to the *Call Me Ishmael* series reveals music as a different important source of inspiration for Sophie Bouvier Ausländer. Drawn to the rhythm, experimentation and density of contemporary jazz, she has collaborated with pianist-composer Sylvie Courvoisier, a Brooklyn-based Swiss musician and winner of both the Swiss Grand Prix and the American Academy of Arts and Letters Music Award (2025). For Courvoisier's new album, releasing early October 2025, Bouvier Ausländer is crafting 200 unique vinyl cases, turning each sleeve into a work of art.

Sophie Bouvier Ausländer (b. 1970, Switzerland) has held numerous solo and group shows in Switzerland, France and the UK. Her works entered important institutional collections such as the Musée d'Art de Pully and the Musée des Beaux-Arts du Locle. The artist has recently received the prestigious Grand Prix awarded by the Fondation Vaudoise pour la Culture.





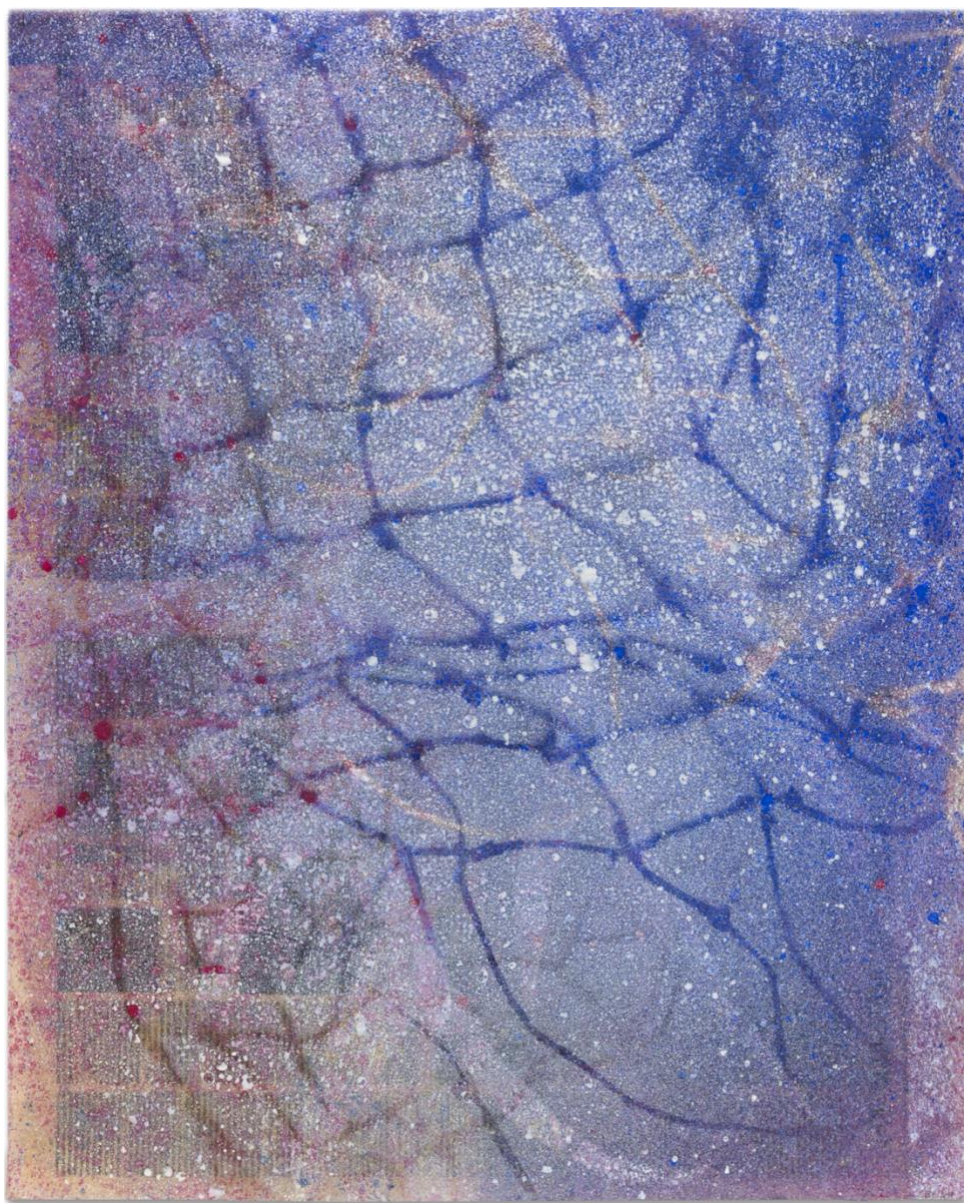
Sophie Bouvier Ausländer , *Contretemps* - Installation views at Église Saint-François. Lausanne



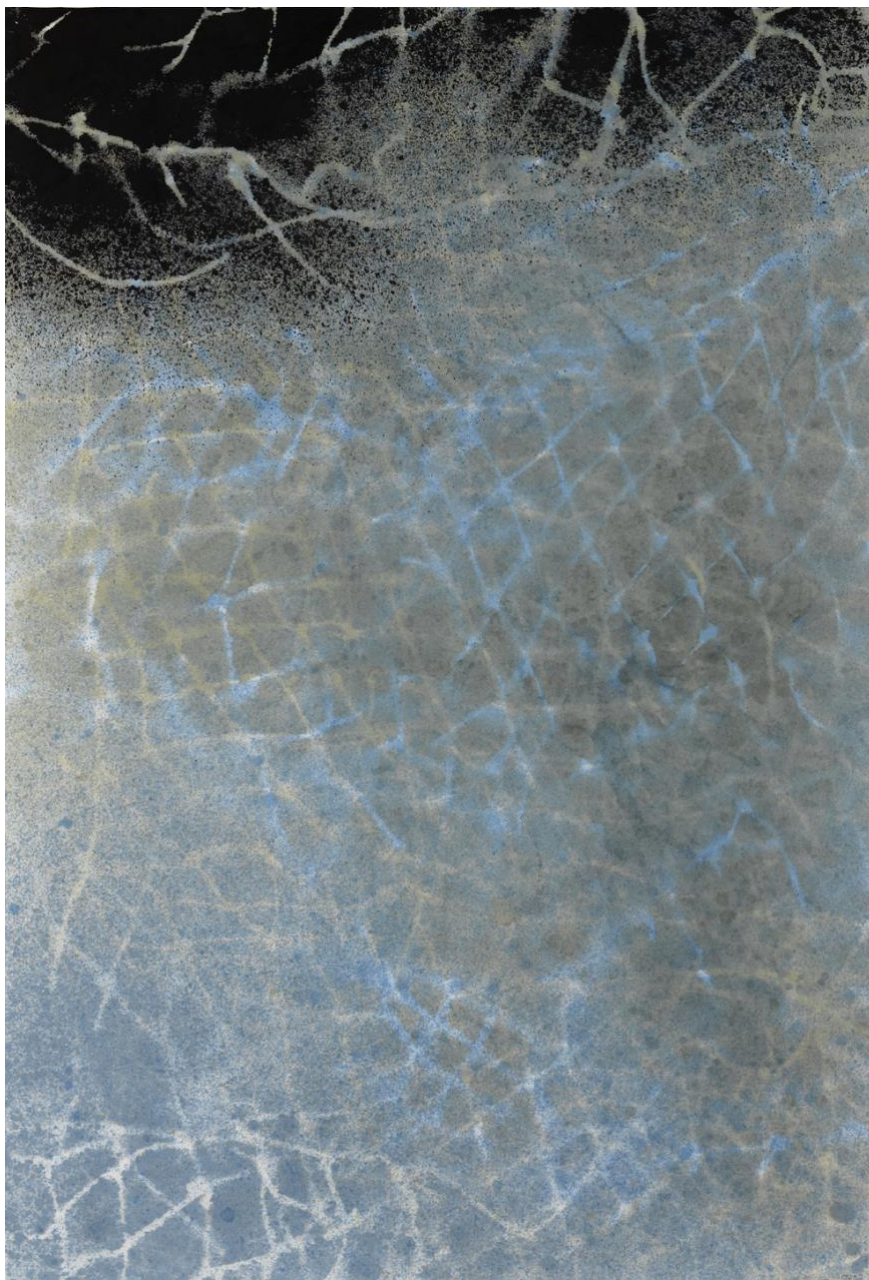
Call me Ishmael (SBACMI20240307)
Gouache on waxed map
154 x 100 cm
2024
€ 12.000 incl. VAT (unframed)



Call me Ishmael (SBACMI20240214)
Gouache on waxed newspaper
72.5 x 57 cm
2024
€ 6.000 incl. frame & VAT



Call me Ishmael (SBACMI20240222)
Gouache on waxed newspaper
65 x 52.5 cm
2024
€ 5.500 incl. frame & VAT



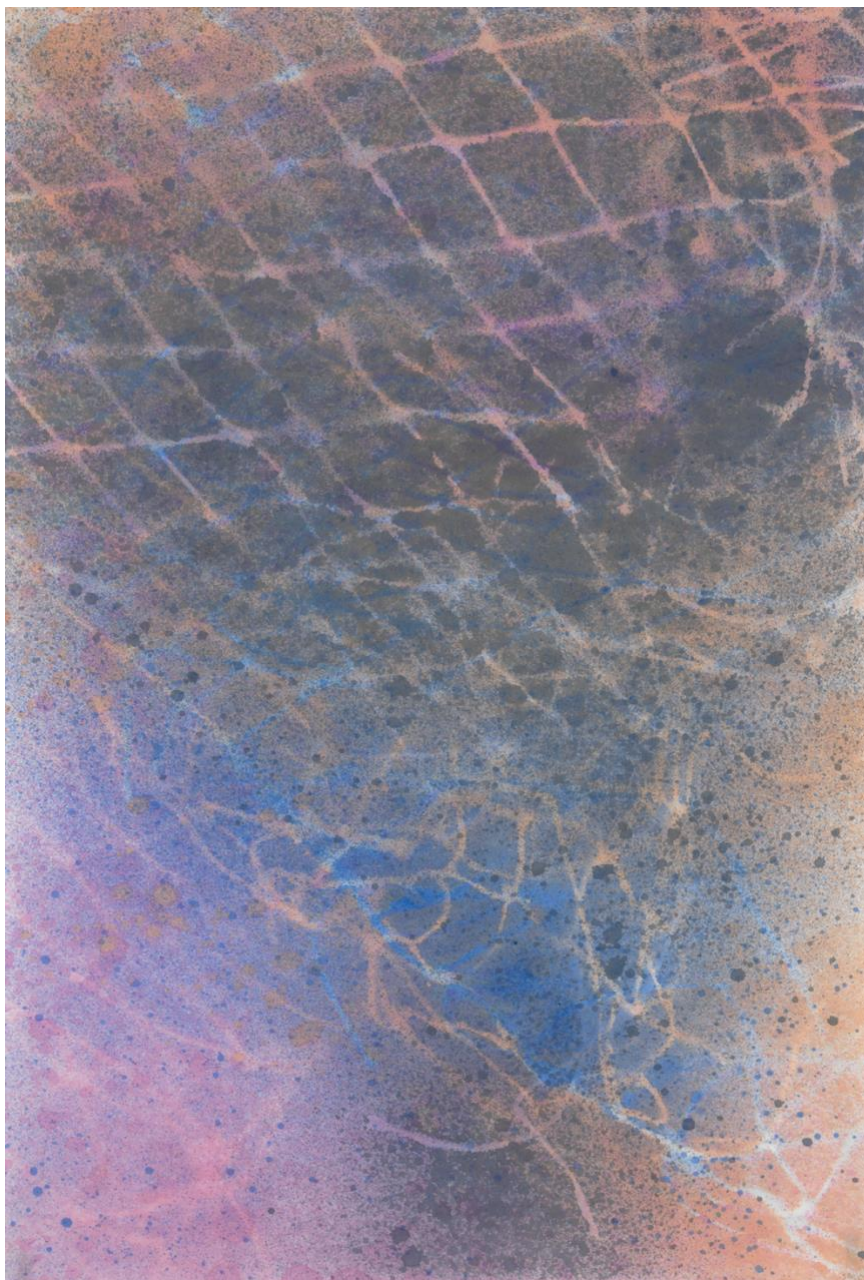
Call me Ishmael (SBACMI20250107)

Gouache & ink on Japanese paper

90 x 62 cm

2025

€ 7.500 incl. frame & VAT



Call me Ishmael (SBACMI20250101)
Gouache & ink on Japanese paper
90 x 62 cm
2025
€ 7.500 incl. frame & VAT



Call me Ishmael (SBACMI20240111)
Gouache and ink on Tervakoski paper
102 x 82 cm
2024
€ 8.500 incl. VAT (unframed)

Available from the studio:



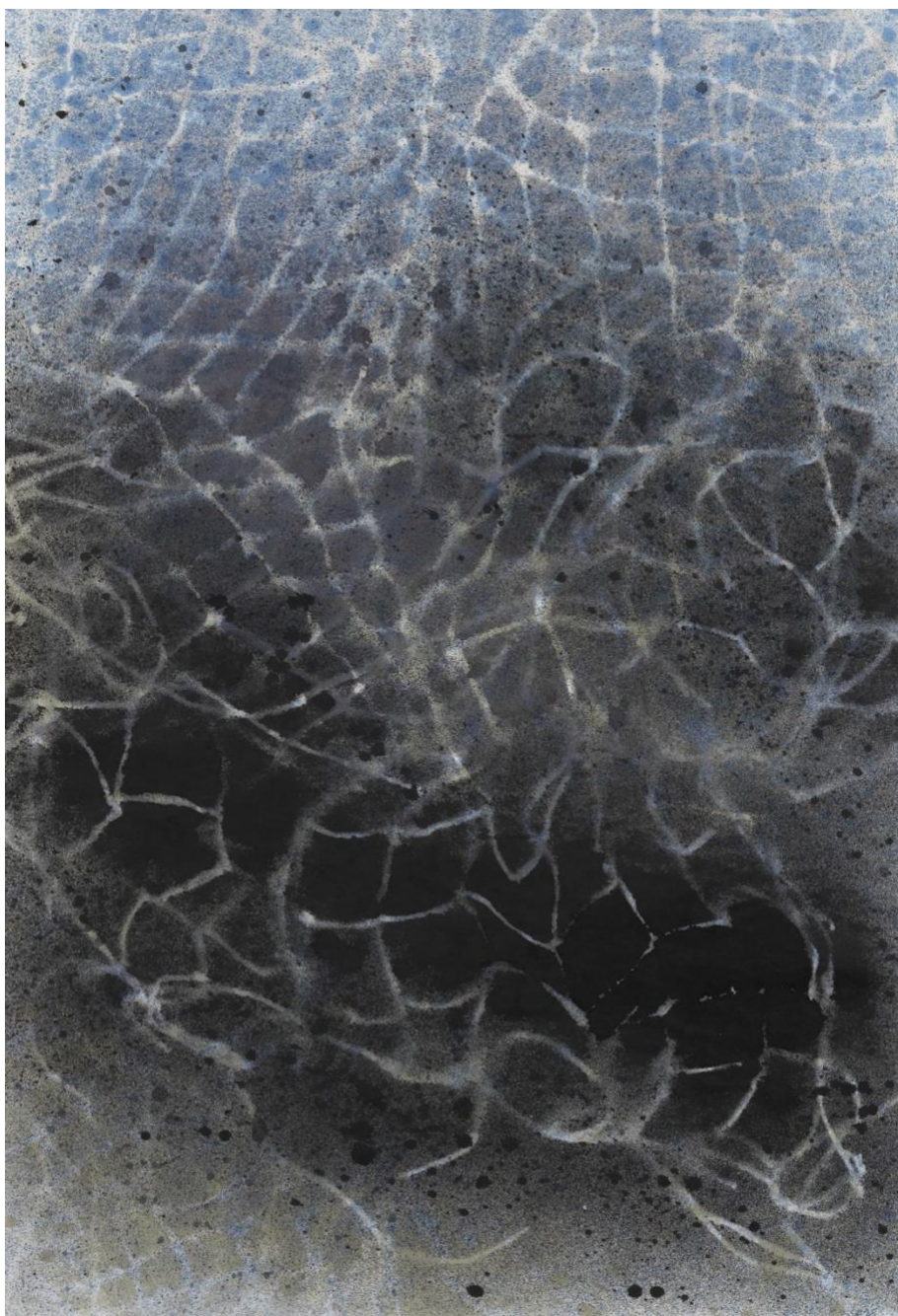
Call me Ishmael (SBACMI20240306)
Gouache and ink on map
154 x 100 cm
2024
€ 12.000 incl. VAT (unframed)



Call me Ishmael (SBACMI20240305)
Gouache and ink on map
154 x 100 cm
2024
€ 12.000 incl. VAT (unframed)



Call me Ishmael (SBACMI20250102)
Gouache and ink on Japanese paper
90 x 62 cm
2025
€ 7.000 incl. VAT (unframed)



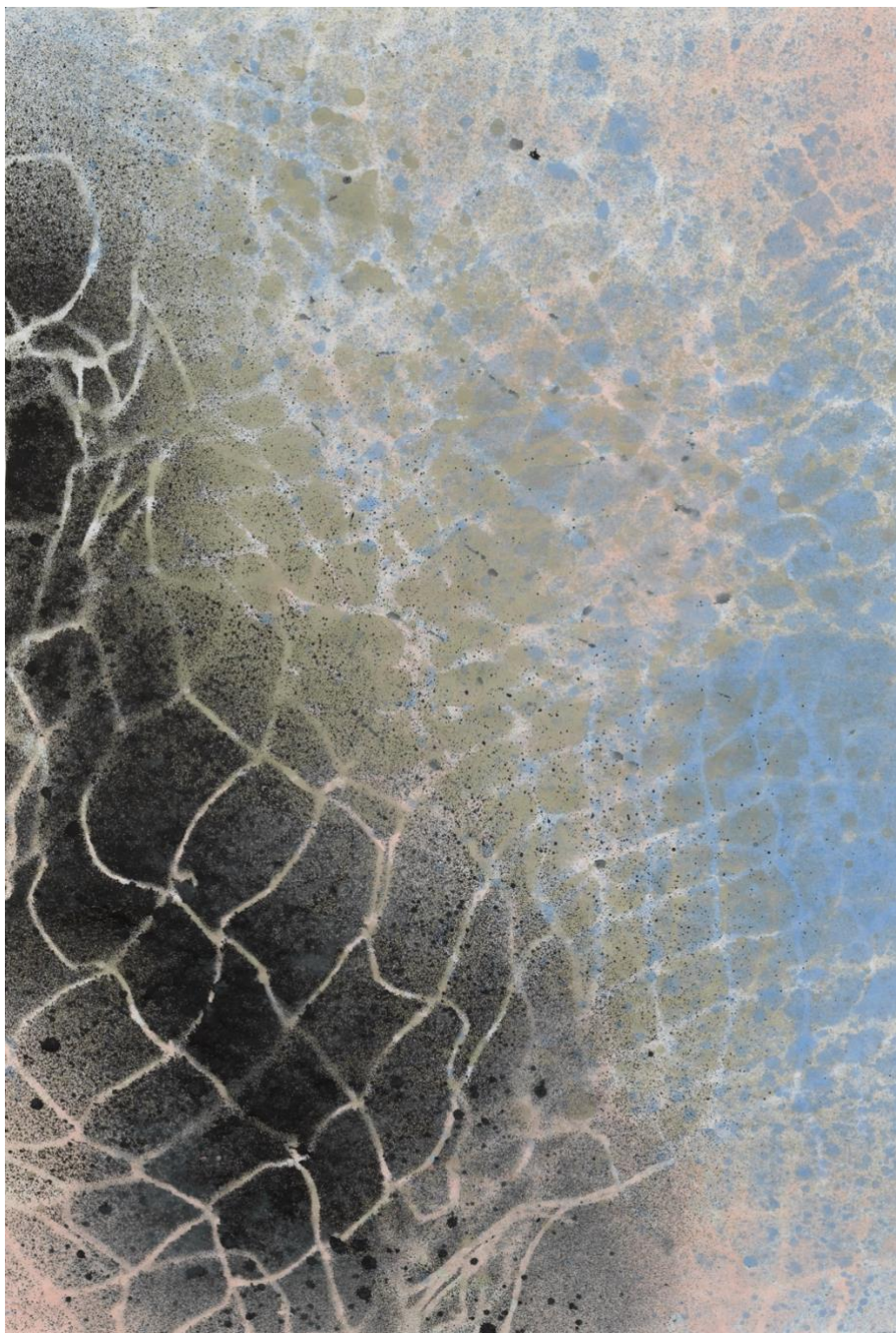
Call me Ishmael (SBACMI20250103)
Gouache and ink on Japanese paper
89 x 61 cm
2025
€ 7.000 incl. VAT (unframed)



Call me Ishmael (SBACMI20250104)
Gouache and ink on Japanese paper
89 x 61 cm
2025
€ 7.000 incl. VAT (unframed)



Call me Ishmael (SBACMI20250105)
Gouache and ink on Japanese paper
90 x 61.5 cm
2025
€ 7.000 incl. VAT (unframed)



Call me Ishmael (SBACMI20250106)
Gouache and ink on Japanese paper
90 x 62 cm
2025
€ 7.000 incl. VAT (unframed)

Earlier works:



Sophie Bouvier Ausländer
The Financial Times Diaries (SBAFTD20221202)
Gouache on waxed newspaper
211 x 147 cm
2022
€ 19.500 incl. VAT



Sophie Bouvier Ausländer
The Financial Times Diaries (SBAFTD20221201)
Gouache on waxed newspaper
198 x 158 cm
2022
€ 19.500 plus VAT



Austerlitz/Radar (SBAAR20200303)
Gouache on waxed map & tissue paper
90 x 123 cm
2020
€ 9.800 incl. frame & VAT



Radar (SBAR20200304)
Gouache on waxed map
105,5 x 146 cm
2020
€ 12.000 incl. frame & VAT



Radar (SBAR20200905)
Gouache on waxed map
116 x 94 cm
2020
€ 9.800 incl. frame & VAT

SOPHIE BOUVIER AUSLÄNDER

Born in 1970, Switzerland
Lives and works in Lausanne, Switzerland, and London, UK

Education

1989-90	École cantonale d'art de Lausanne, ECAL (École Cantonale d'Art Lausanne), foundation year
1990-92	École nationale supérieure d'arts visuels de la Cambre, Brussels
1998-2000	Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London, London, PGDip
2013-19	Slade School of Fine Art, UCL (University College London), London, PhD

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2025	Contretemps, Église Saint-François. Lausanne
2024	Fishing the World, Patrick Heide Contemporary Art, London
2023	Chapitre II, La grande climatérique, Galerie Heinzer Reszler, Lausanne With Jyll Bradley, Patrick Heide CA Brussels
2022	Curiosités, Espace Cery, Prilly Railway Spine, commissioned by Fondation Toms Pauli and Plateforme 10, Lausanne
2021	A Far Stretch, espace/vx, Corseaux The Financial Times Diaries, Galerie Heinzer Reszler, Lausanne
2020	Ways of Worldmaking, Patrick Heide Contemporary Art
2019	Words, Works, Worlds, Galerie Heinzer Reszler, Lausanne Mare Vostrum, Musée des beaux-arts du Locle, Le Locle
2018	Avalanche, Davidson Contemporary, New York Night Shift, solo booth with Galerie Heinzer Reszler, Art Genève, Geneva
2017	Resident, Galerie Heinzer Reszler, Lausanne Avalanche, Patrick Heide Contemporary Art, London Avalanche, Fondation Louis Moret, Martigny
2016	The Snake of Maloja, Galerie Sobering, Paris Tepid Water, The Great Pacific War, Galerie Heinzer Reszler, Lausanne
2014	Lost, Galerie Heinzer Reszler, Lausanne Hotel Ausland, Musée d'art de Pully
2013	A Space Odyssey, Galerie Heinzer Reszler, Brussels Le Monde comme sculpture, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois, Lausanne
2012	Persogéo, Espace Echallens 13, Lausanne
2010	Linea, Galerie davel14 with Gilles Porret (édition), Cully esetiv, Centre d'art, L'Attrape-Couleurs, Lyon
2009	Originel, Fondation Louis Moret, Martigny

Selected Group Exhibitions

2023	Witches and Bitches, Foundation WhiteSpaceBlackBox, Neuchâtel
2022	Bouvier Bradley Salter, Patrick Heide Contemporary Art, London Les dix ans de la galerie, Galerie Heinzer Reszler, Lausanne Studiolo, with Nicolas Delaroche, Philippe Fretz, and Chrystelle Khala, Centre d'Art Yverdon-les-Bains (CACY), Switzerland Zim-Zum, Patrick Heide Contemporary Art, London Beyond Gravity, with Julia Sossinka and Selina Baumann, Foundation WhiteSpaceBlackBox, Neuchâtel
2021	Summer group exhibition, Royal Academy of Arts, London Les Résistant, Centre d'art L'Onde, Vélizy-Villacoublay
2020	The Feuilleton: I will bear witness: Piggy-backing-from the Edicola, Spoleto, and MACRO, Rome My Pleasure! Donations, etc...2000-2020, Musée d'Art de Sion, Sion

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2019	Exposition inaugurale: Atlas. A cartography of Donation, Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts, Lausanne Women to Watch / Paper Work, Sotheby's London, London Should I Stay or Should I Go?, Patrick Heide Contemporary Art London
2018	Redress, UCL Art Museum, London Over het verlangen en de troost, Watou Kunst Festival Richochet, Centre d'Art Contemporain d'Yverdon-Les-Bains
2017	Das Esszimmer, Weltraum, Basel The Intercontinental, Slade School of Fine Art, UCL and Roaming Room, London Climax, Galerie Heinzer Reszler, Lausanne
2016	Dimensione Disegno. Posizione Contemporanea, Villa dei Cedri, Bellinzona Charcoal Works, Hardwick Gallery, University of Gloucestershire
2015	Lignes (É)mouvantes with Gary Woodley, Gallery Épisodique, Paris Harnessing the Wind, Beaconsfield, London, with Ellie Harris, Monika Oechsler and Naomi Siderfin Je me souviens du génocide arménien, La Traverse - CAC, Alfortville Departures, European House, London
2014	Quand L'Art se livre, Musée des Beaux-Arts du Locle
2013	Trait Papier, un essai sur le dessin contemporain, Centre d'art d'Yverdon-les-Bains and Kunsthalle Palazzo Liestal
2012	Atlas at last, grandes galeries ESADHaR, Rouen

Public art Commissions

2022	Ursinae, Bäre Tower, Ostermundigen, Bern, Helvetia insurances, Burkard Meyer architects
2021	Speaking in tongues, Fonds des Arts Plastiques de la Ville de Lausanne, Ville de Lausanne
2016	Manières de faire des mondes, Etat de Vaud, architects Dettling Péléraux, Gymnase du Grand Ouest, Renens
2013	Ways of Worldmaking, cultural percent commissioned by the State of Vaud, architects Dettling Péléraux, Gymnase du Grand Ouest, Renens, CH, completed in 2016 UPSIDE DOWN, cultural percent commissioned by Mobimo, Av. d'Ouchy 4-6. Lausanne
2011	Prolifics, cultural percent, commissioned by the State of Vaud, architects Galletti & Matter, Institut Galli-Valerio, Contrôle Cantonal des Finances, Lausanne
2010	Bound and Torn, Grange-Canal, commissioned by the City of Geneva Pollens, cultural percent commissioned by the State of Vaud, architect Alain Wolf, Fondation Echaud, home les Esserts, Cugy Copy – cut – paste – delete, Fondation Lausannoise pour L'Art Contemporain et le Fond des Arts Plastiques de la Ville de Lausanne, commissioned by the City of Lausanne

Collections

Musée Jenisch Vevey (donation Fondation Léo Fiaux), Switzerland
Cleveland Clinic, USA
Frankel Collection, USA
Crédit Suisse, Switzerland
Caldic Collectie, Wassenaar, The Netherlands
Musée d'Art Pully, Switzerland
Fonds des Arts Plastiques de la ville de Lausanne, Switzerland
Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois, Lausanne, Switzerland
Banque Bordier & Co, Lausanne
Banque Cantonale Vaudoise, Lausanne, Switzerland
Gymnase Cantonal du Bugnon, Lausanne, Switzerland
Musée d'Art du Valais, Sion, Switzerland
Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts de Lausanne (donation CCAC), Switzerland