

Galerie

Galerie ART & CULTURE

INTERIORS

TRAVEL

STYLE

DESIGN

REAL ESTATE

AUCTION SUBSCRIBE



ART & CULTURE

Artist to Watch: The Ethereal Canvases By This Emerging French Talent Explore the Elusiveness of Memory

Djabril Boukhenaiïssi's haunting mixed-media works will be on display in two upcoming group shows in southern France

BY JACOBA URIST

MARCH 13, 2026



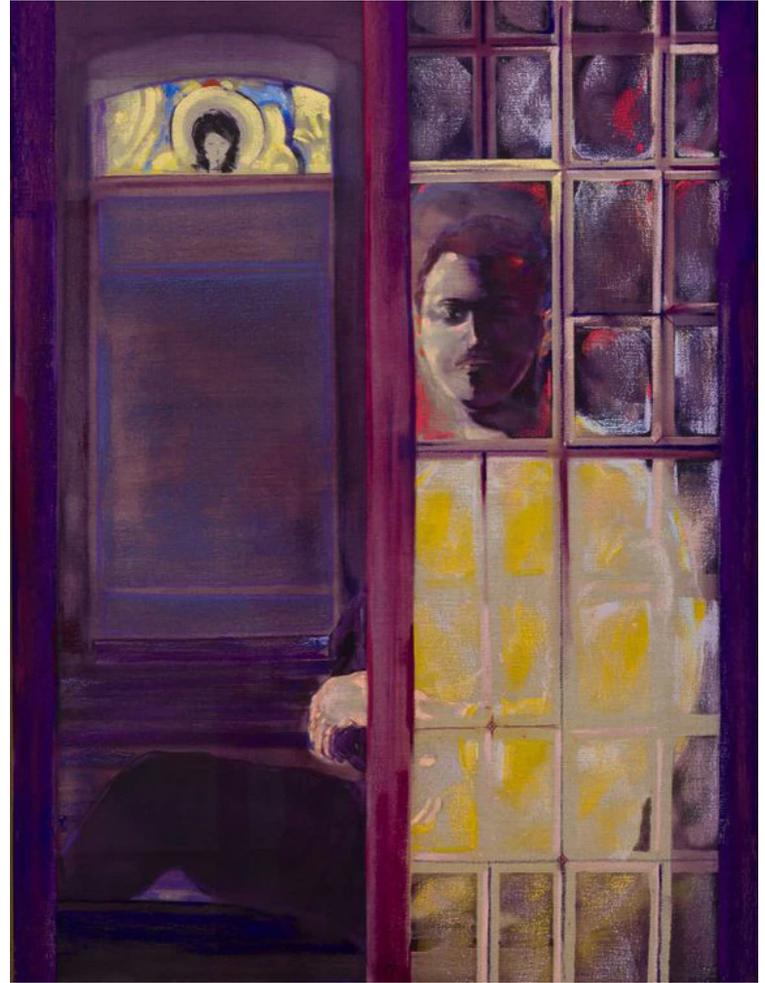
Djabril Boukhenaiïssi, *Le cloître*, (2025).
PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND MARIANE IBRAHIM

Abstract images, blurred figures, and traces of raw canvas create suspension between fiction and reality in the works of French artist **Djabril Boukhenaiïssi**. His filmy violet-, blue-, and umber-toned paintings depict atmospheric scenes steeped in artificial light to mine the concept of memory. “The idea is to understand what we do when we re-create memories, because I think that it is so close to what you are trying to do when you make a painting,” says Boukhenaiïssi.

The painter, who holds a philosophy degree from the Université Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint-Denis as well as an MFA from the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, was drawn to the subject matter for personal reasons. “I was afraid of losing someone and thinking about how I will remember them,” he says.



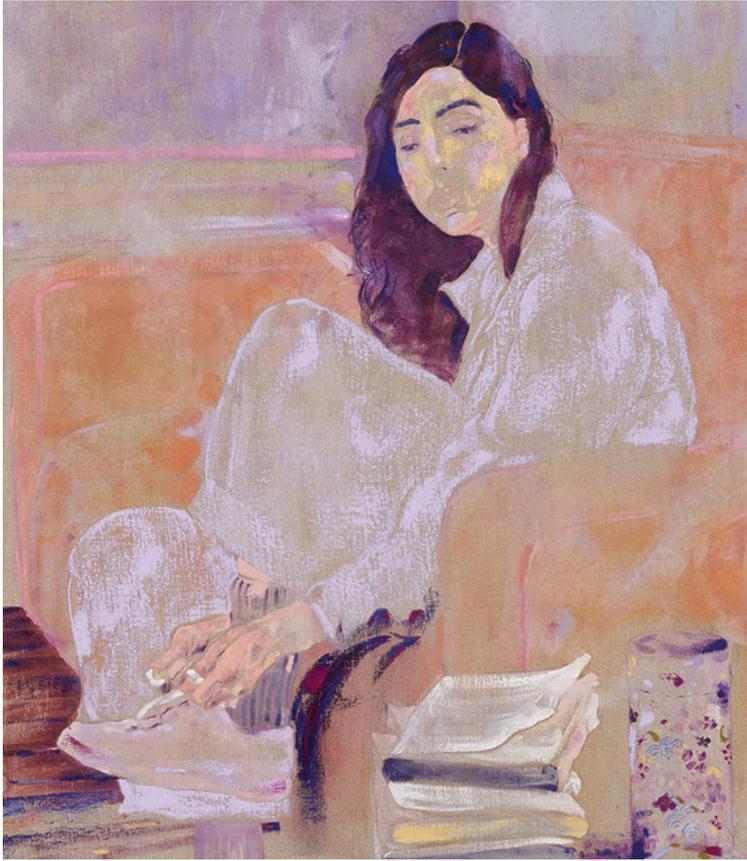
Djabril Boukhenaiïssi in front of his painting *Marche Nocturne* (2025).
PHOTO: STEVIA NDOE, COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND MARIANE IBRAHIM



Djabril Boukhenaiïssi, *Silence*, 2025.
PHOTO: STEVIA NDOE, COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND MARIANE IBRAHIM

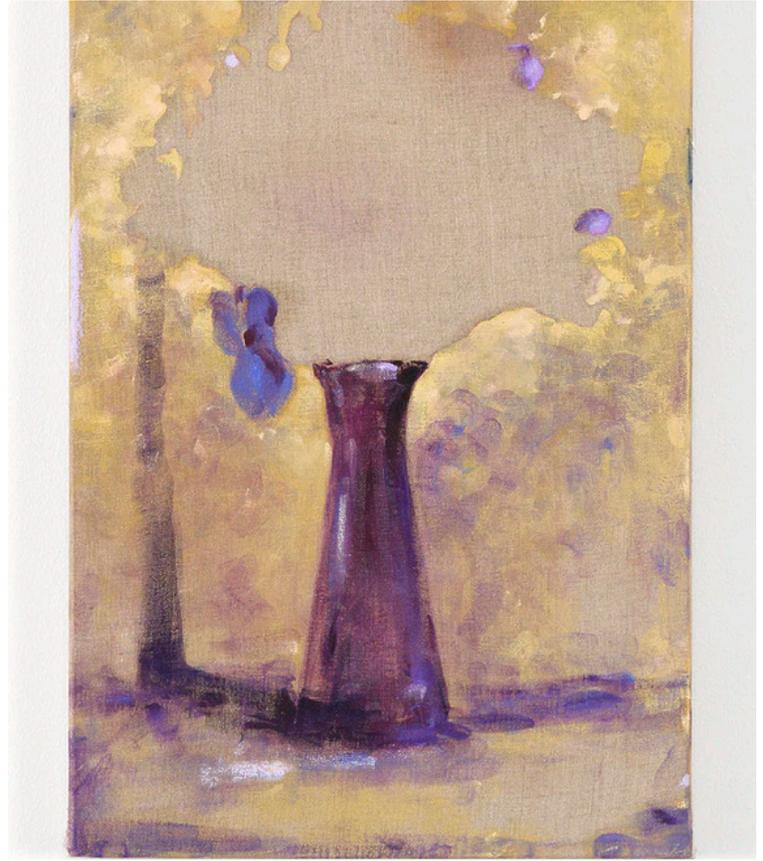
To achieve this reverie, Boukhenaiïssi carefully layers oil paint and pastel, beginning each work with an ink drawing on paper as a reference point. “I may then sketch some of the canvas, mostly for the figures.” When the oil paint is completely dry, he adds pastel to the tableau to achieve translucence. Key to his method is erasure, smudging areas of his paintings with a turpentine rag to introduce an element of chance. “I don’t control it at all,” he explains. “It is like a game.”





Djabril Boukhenaiïssi, *Tes Trente Ans*, (2025).

PHOTO: FABRICE GOUSSET, COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND MARIANE IBRAHI



Djabril Boukhenaiïssi, *Ton bouquet*, (2025).

PHOTO: FABRICE GOUSSET. COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND MARIANE IBRAHIM.

Following a recent breakout exhibition of his illusory landscapes at Mariane Ibrahim gallery in Chicago, Boukhenaiïssi has two group shows in **southern France**—the first of which, at the art center MO.CO. Montpellier Contemporain (through May 3), investigates the elusiveness of memory.



Djabril BoukhenaiSSI, *Marche Nocturne*, (2025).

PHOTO: FABRICE GOUSSET, COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND MARIANE IBRAHIM

The canvas on view at the ADIAF triennial at Marseille’s Musée d’Art Contemporain, opening April 4, reflects another through line in his oeuvre: a love of literature. “I was working with **Virginia Woolf**’s book *The Waves*, trying to understand how she spoke about the disappearance of the memory of France,” he says. “The novel is built around the idea of how a group of friends

remembers one of them who has died.” By translating Woolf’s themes, Boukhenaiissi shines a light on the meaningful beauty of the gradual erosion of detail.

A version of this article first appeared in print in our 2026 Spring Issue in the section “Artists to Watch.” [Subscribe to the magazine.](#)

DISCOVER MORE



ART & CULTURE

Galerie's Top Picks from TEFAF Maastricht 2026

BY ANNABEL KEENAN



ART & CULTURE

Artist to Watch: Oren Pinhassi Evokes Both Reverie and Grief with Monumental Sand Sculptures

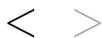
BY OSMAN CAN YEREBAKAN



TRAVEL

Hotel of the Week: These Cottages Blend Bohemia Storybook Charm

BY RYAN WADDOUPS



Live Artfully

galerie

Get the Magazine

Discover the finest in art, interiors, architecture, and more

SUBSCRIBE

Newsletter

Sign up for inspiring articles delivered to your inbox

YOUR EMAIL

