

# PRIX JEAN-FRANÇOIS PRAT



PRESS RELEASE

Paris, April 30th, 2024

## 2024 SHORT LISTED ARTISTS FOR THE JEAN-FRANCOIS PRAT PRIZE:

**HENNI ALFTAN  
HYUNSUN JEON  
CHRISTINE SAFA**

**THE NAME OF THE PRIZEWINNING ARTIST WILL BE RELEASED JUNE 4TH 2024 RIGHT AFTER THE JURY CHAIRED BY JEAN-PAUL AGON**

**PUBLIC EXHIBITION: JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup> – JULY 7<sup>TH</sup>**

(Every Saturdays, through online reservation at:

<http://www.bredinpratfoundation.org/en/visit-the-exhibitions/> )

The Bredin Prat Foundation for Contemporary Art invites the three short listed artists of the Jean-François Prat Prize 2023: Henni Alftan, Hyunsun Jeon and Christine Safa, to present their works in a group exhibition. This annual event is the main international prize for contemporary art dedicated to painting, in France.

**Henni Alftan** is an artist who paints like a photographer, favoring the framing of a fragment or a detail, rather than overall views liking to decenter the subject, alternating blur and sharpness. The flat, non-narrative depiction of a banal, all-too-perfect world plunges the viewer into a sense of the uncanny.

**Hyunsun Jeon's** painting consists of an accumulation of flat strokes painted in watercolour, sometimes suggesting digital art, and geometric shapes, brought together on canvases without volume in a complexity that ends up artificially creating reliefs, landscapes in volume and shapes from which life emerges.

**Christine Safa's** painting focuses on moments and places charged with emotion, that memory has retained. Faces mingle with the mountains, silhouettes rub shoulders with horizons, figures arise in the landscape, reduced to the essential, and become a vibrant layer of paint. Using a warm palette that acknowledges its Mediterranean origins, her work focuses on what remains present, simply but fully.

On June 4th, 2024, the jury will be chaired by Jean-Paul Agon, President of the Friends of the MAM Paris (Museum of Modern Art of Paris) and President of L'Oréal, with the artists supporting curators Daria de Beauvais, Karen Schlageter and Jean-Marie Gallais.

The name of the prize winning artist will be released right after the jury session at the vernissage preview night on June 4th, 2024 by 8 pm at the Bredin Prat Foundation (53 quai d'Orsay, 75007 Paris).

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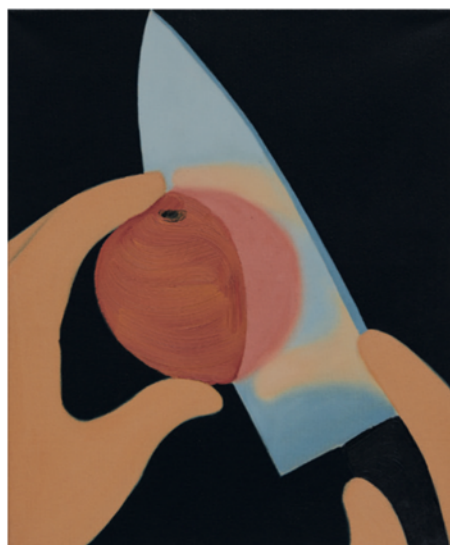
### HENNI ALFTAN



In her figurative paintings, her gaze focuses on bringing out the simplified forms of banal objects, domestic places or people of familiar appearance, all coming from her imagination. Everything is not said, shown, given, and the artist seeks to actively involve the viewer in what there is to see in and beyond the painting.

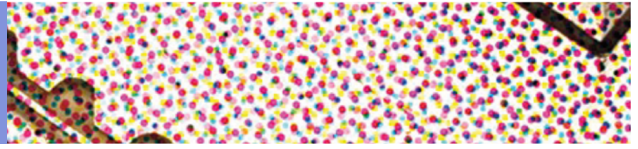


*Morning Sun*, 2021  
Huile sur toile, 130 x 195 cm  
Oil on canvas, 51.2 x 77.7 in.



*Sharp*, 2016  
Huile sur toile, 55 x 46 cm  
Oil on canvas, 21.2 x 18.1 in.

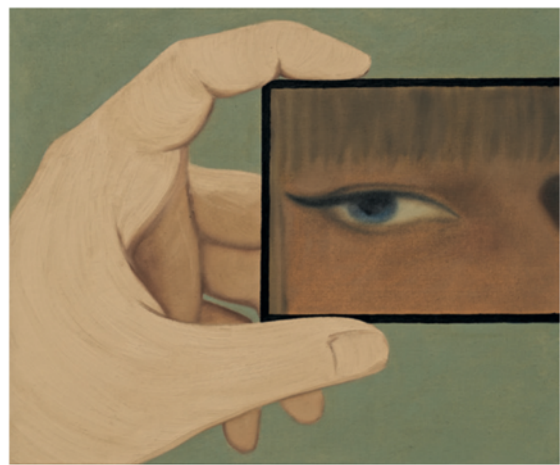
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In Henni Alftan's work, flat formal simplification gives a clear image of a perfect world, framed, defined, objective, cold and smooth. But this world is anything but cold or flat: knives, reflections, necks, hands, clothes, women's bodies, empty interiors and objects have a disturbing familiarity and intensity that emerge from these simplified features.



*There*, 2023  
Huile sur toile, 73 x 92 cm  
Oil on canvas, 28.8 x 63.3 in.



*Self-Portrait*, 2019  
Huile sur toile, 54 x 65 cm  
Oil on canvas, 21.2 x 25.2 in.



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*“The written description precedes the drawing; a precise sketch allows me to eliminate anything that is not absolutely necessary. The less I show, the more the viewer can imagine.*

*You’ve already seen myriads of images in painting, film and photography that indicate what to look at and how, what will be beautiful or worthy of interest. And so have I. This allows me to evoke a lot by showing very little...”*

Henni Alftan

*“Alftan’s works are more questions than answers, silent paintings in a noisy world. She could be an heir to Hammershøi, the painter of everyday Nordic life in the 19th century, but with a more diffuse sense of anxiety.”*

Daria de Beauvais  
Curatrice

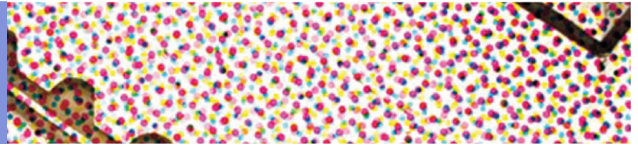


### **Henni ALFTAN – Mini Bio**

Born in 1979 in Helsinki (Finland), she lives and works in Paris.

Born in Finland, Henni Alftan has chosen to move in France at 18 years old. Graduated from the Beaux-Arts of Paris and the Villa Arson schools of art, Henni Alftan is the subject of solo exhibitions in galleries in Helsinki, New York, London and Clermont-Ferrand. Her work has also been exhibited in group shows at the Aïshti Foundation (Beirut), ICA (Miami), LACMA (Los Angeles), FRAC Limousin (France) and in numerous museums and foundations in Finland.

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### HYUNSUN JEON

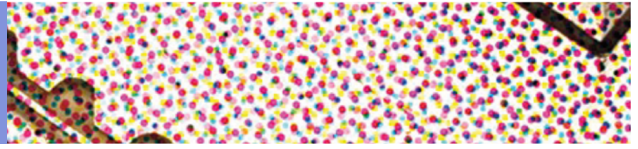


Hyunsun Jeon has invented a unique pictorial language that employs a Korean chromatic palette dominated by greens, blacks and blues. Her expansive vocabulary of proportion is suspended between symbolic geometry and suggestive landscape conveying a sense of poetic absence and artificial presence. Jeon's use of watercolour creates a variety of distinct surface textures.

Geometric forms in her paintings are often echoed in the three-dimensional structures in which she shows her works.



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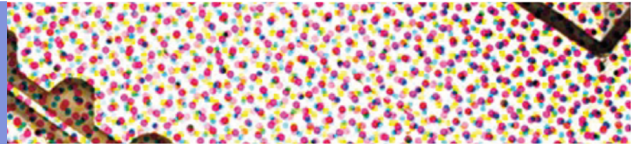


*“Here, isometric perspective is thrown out of kilter, relationships between planes and scales are disorganised, and painting asserts its skill and power of deception. The figures have been replaced by three-dimensional geometric forms: a small population of polyhedra, cones and prisms. Evolving in the foreground of landscapes reduced to the order of the signified, these protagonists offer our imagination an intense surface for projection.”*

Karen Schlageter  
Curatrice



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Although painted in two dimensions, the cone, a symbol of fertility (in botany) and growth (in mathematics), often recurs as a generative element in the artist's work on life forms.



*When you believe, 2023*  
Aquarelle sur toile, 200 x 100 cm  
Watercolour on canvas, 78.74 x 39.37 in.

*"I employ shapes as a tool to reflect my thoughts and experiences without any reservations. Unlike specific representations like an apple or tree, which introduce depth and space to the picture screen, shapes evoke the flatness of the canvas. They are like expansive dishes on the canvas, on which I lay out my words and sentences."*

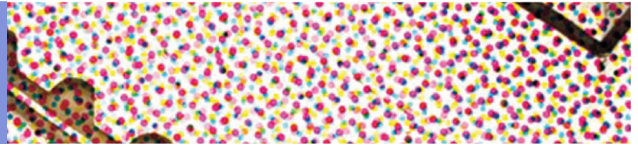
Hyunsun JEON

### **HYUNSUN JEON – Mini Bio**

Born in 1989 in Seoul, she lives and works in Seoul.

Graduated from Ewha Womans University in 2018, her work has been exhibited in Berlin at the Esther Schipper Gallery; in Seoul at the 12th Biennale Medicaity, at the Suwon Ipark Museum of Art, at the Leeum Samsung Museum of Art; in Cheongju at the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art; in Busan at Busan Museum of Art and in Hong Kong at the Korean Cultural Center.

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## CHRISTINE SAFA



Christine Safa's canvases escape flatness in a different way. Dominated by relief, heavily charged with pigments of intense colours, thickness and substance, they express the imprint (a mix of memory and a mental image) of a powerful moment and a lasting emotion. However, this physical relief is not incompatible with a certain restraint in the figurative expression of people, bodies and landscapes.



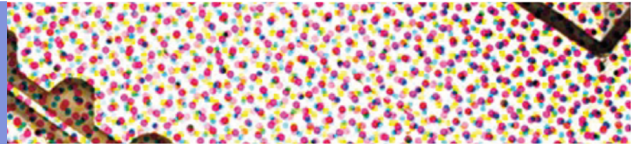
*Horizon, 2022*  
Huile sur toile, 35 x 32 cm  
Oil on canvas, 13.8 x 12.6 in.



*Le Soleil tout le jour a brûlé, 2023*  
Huile sur toile, 195 x 171 cm  
Oil on canvas, 76.8 x 67.4 in.



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The artist grinds her colors herself and prepares her canvas according to a precise alchemy, she thus obtains a quality of dullness and light which belongs only to her. It brings to life indefinable and evanescent images, like in a dream.

Perfectly aware of the transience of time, Christine Safa tends to provide a memory for what is doomed to erasure, to disappearance. The paint becomes stone. The ephemeral finds itself sealed, “imprisoned” in the surface.

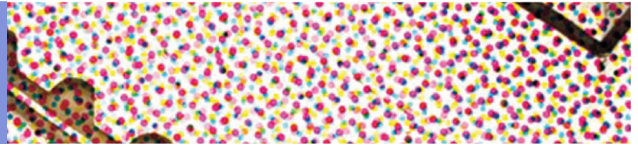


*Le Soleil brûlant un côté de mon visage, 2020*  
Huile sur toile, 16 x 24 cm  
Oil on canvas, 6.3 x 9.5 in.

*“Christine Safa paints timeless scenes, as if her paintings were designed to ground the things around her in a tradition that ignores the accelerations and jolts of the present. When she’s not painting, Safa reads and writes. To see how others have captured their memories, to study the similarities with her own, to give herself material for future paintings.”*

Jean-Marie Gallais  
Curateur

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*“For a long time, I thought I would paint mainly Lebanon. Then, as time went by, other places where I’d stayed began to overlap and merge with what I already knew. The same memory gives rise to several paintings, and as I paint, I create the ruins of memories that accommodate and undergo time.”*

Christine Safa

**Christine SAFA – Mini bio**

Born in 1994 in Le Chesnay (France), she lives and works in Paris.

Graduated from the École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts of Paris, Christine Safa was exhibited in solo shows in galleries in Paris and at the ICA in Milano. Also, in group exhibitions at the MO.CO (Montpellier), at the FRAC Auvergne, at the Carmignac Foundation (Porquerolles), Pernod Ricard Foundation, the MUCEM, and the Boghossian Foundation (Brussels).

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## **EDITION 2024**

### **INDIVIDUAL PRESS VISITS**

By request, May 9th - July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024,

Hosted by Frédéric Brière, executive director of the Bredin Prat Foundation or a member of the selection committee, at 53, quai d'Orsay 75007 Paris

**PRIZEWINNER ARTIST ANNOUNCEMENT**  
**TUESDAY JUNE 4TH, 2024, 8 pm**  
**At 53 QUAI D'ORSAY 75007 PARIS**

### **SUPPORTING CURATOR PRESENTING THE ARTISTS TO THE JURY OF THE PRIZE**

- Daria de BEAUVAIS, senior curator at the Palais de Tokyo will present Henni ALFTAN
- Karin SCHALGETER, independent curator will present Hyunsun JEON
- Jean-Marie GALLAIS, curator at the Pinault Collection will present Christine SAFA

### **ARTISTIC SELECTION COMMITTEE 2023**

- Frédéric Bonnet, art critic, independent curator, galerist
- Frédéric Brière, executive director of the Bredin Prat Foundation
- Odile Burluroux, curator at the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris
- Anaël Pigeat, art critic and editor at large of *The Art Newspaper France*
- Marie-Aline Prat, art historian and art collector

### **THE JEAN-FRANCOIS PRAT PRIZE**

To celebrate the memory of Jean-François Prat, who died on 26 March 2011, and who was a contemporary art enthusiast, the partners of the law firm Bredin Prat, which he co-founded, and his family, decided to pay tribute to his name by creating in 2012 a new contemporary art prize.

Each year, an expert committee, made up of key figures from the world of art, pre-selects eight artists and shortlists three finalists, from among whom the winning artist is selected. Then, following the vote by the jury (80% of art connoisseurs' partners of Bredin Prat, and 20% of artworld figures) the person chairing the Prize presents the award to the winning artist at an evening event bringing together guests from the art world, business and the press.

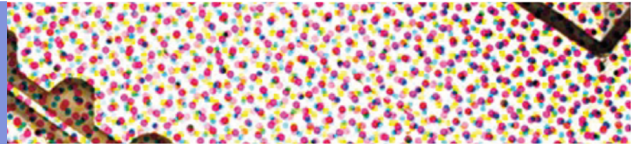
The Prize consists of an award of €20,000 for the winner and €2,000 for each of the other two shortlisted artists, as well as the publication of a catalogue presenting the work of the three selected artists and a two-month exhibition of a selection of their paintings at the premises of the Bredin Prat Foundation for Contemporary Art, which organizes the Prize.

The winning artists of the previous editions of the Jean-François Prat Prize are Jem Perucchini in 2023, Florian Krewer and Marine Vallon in 2022, Alexandre Lenoir in 2021, Toyin Ojih Odutola in 2020, Myriam Haddad in 2019, Nicolas Roggy in 2018, Avery Singer in 2017, Janis Avotins in 2016, Raphaëlle Ricol in 2015, Zander Blom in 2014, Matt Saunders in 2013 and Farah Atassi in 2012.

In the past, the Prize has been chaired by the curator of São Paulo Biennale Manuel Borja-Villel (2023), private collectors Patrizia Sandretto Re Rebaudango (2022) and Charles-Henri Filippi (2021), MNM museum director Marie-Claude Beaud (2020), Centre Pompidou – MNAM museum director Bernard Blistène (2019), collector and serial digital entrepreneur



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Marc Simoncini (2018), former Centre Pompidou curator-at-large Florence Derieux (2017), artist Bertrand Lavier (2016), curator of the Pinault Collection Caroline Bourgeois (2015), President of the Society of Friends of the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris Christian Langlois-Meurine (2014), director of the FIAC contemporary art fair Jennifer Flay (2013) and former Culture Minister Jean-Jacques Aillagon (2012).

### **THE BREDIN PRAT FOUNDATION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART**

Created in 2017, the purpose of the Bredin Prat Foundation for Contemporary Art is to support and promote contemporary artistic creation by establishing a new contemporary art collection focusing on what makes a “tableau”: paintings and photographic works, and through the annual Jean-François Prat Prize. Awarded each year to a French or foreign artist, the Jean-François Prat Prize is the international radar searching new emerging artists in painting worldwide.

The Foundation hosts free access public tours to this collection and to annual exhibitions of the Jean-François Prat Prize shortlisted artists at its premises on the Quai d'Orsay in Paris (originally the premises of the formerly French State-owned tobacco company Seita), as well as permanent access through its websites.

The Bredin Prat Foundation, a French non-profit entity serving a general public interest, is fully in line with the culture and the values of the law firm Bredin Prat characterized by innovation and creativity.

### **THE BREDIN PRAT LAW FIRM**

Founded in 1966, Bredin Prat's practice areas include Corporate Law (Mergers and Acquisitions, Private Equity, Capital Markets, Governance), Litigation and White-Collar Crime, Competition and EU Law, International Arbitration, Tax, Employment, Financing, Restructuring and Insolvency, Public Law, Digital Law, and Financial Services and Insurance Regulation.

With offices in Paris and Brussels, the firm now has more than 200 lawyers committed to the highest standards of excellence, to advise the firm's French and international clients in complex or sensitive transactions or contentious matters. Cross-border matters today represent more than two-thirds of the firm's work.

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**To get the best-detailed information about the Jean-Francois Prat Prize, please check online:**

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