Joanna van Son

b. 2000, Oman

Currently lives and works in London

Joanna van Son, born to Venezuelan and Dutch parents, lives and works in London with her partner Lilah, who is often the subject of her paintings. Trained in architecture at the Bartlett, her initial practice challenges the spatial logic of the body, exploring the female figure in chaotic and intuitive impasto. She paints directly into the final form, without underpainting or colour blocking, though an important underdrawing remains, often annotated with notes about the placement of figures or objects, along with personal jottings that later become abstracted.

Drawing from the intersection of art and architecture, Van Son examines the hidden structures that shape perception. She draws influence from Cecily Brown, and the compositional intimacies of Auguste Rodin, treating her process as both method and subject. Her paintings often depict her muse and fiancée Lilah Yektai – who is painted in a fluid interplay of poses in the traditional portraiture form. However, the raw and intimate relationship between the two as model, muse and artist is blurry. Figures dissolve into roomscapes, gradients of light and shadow, and expanses of pure colour. The raw and intimate portraits inhabiting a constructed world suffused with devotion.

ARTIST CV

EDUCATION

The Bartlett School of Architecture, University College of London, London

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

2025 Rubell Museum, Miami, USA

AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

2025 Artist in Residence, Rubell Museum, Miami, USA

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2026 *(Forthcoming) How do we find love;* The Last Human Kiss, Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, Norwich, UK

Joanna Van Son, Saatchi Yates, London, UK

2025 *Joanna Van Son, Rubell Museum,* Miami, USA

Once Upon a Time in London, Saatchi Yates, London, UK

2024 *Collision,* Blanco, Athens, GR

2023 *Intermission,* General Assembly, London, UK

Vital, General Assembly, London, UK

Universe 25, Gillian Jason Gallery, London, UK