

2 June 2026

## Sophie Calle: Something Missing?

Turner Contemporary presents the first UK exhibition by Sophie Calle since 2009, exploring memory, disappearance and longing.

3 October 2026–24 January 2027

Media View: Thursday 1 October 2026



This autumn, Turner Contemporary will present *Sophie Calle: Something Missing?*, the artist's first institutional exhibition in the UK since 2009. Bringing together some of her most important work across photography, video and installation from 1986–2024, *Something Missing?* will introduce a new generation to her influential practice.

Over the past five decades, Calle has achieved international renown for addressing the big questions of human experience—from love, loss and longing, to guilt, fear and embarrassment—with equal parts poetry, wit, and conceptual rigour. Navigating public and private, control and chance, her works offer an irresistible glimpse into the innermost lives of friends, lovers, strangers—as well as that of Calle herself.

At the core of the exhibition is absence. As Calle has put it, it is 'the things that are missing—my mother who is no longer here, a lover who leaves, an idea that doesn't come' that drive her. Across Turner's galleries, this idea is explored through her signature use of photography and text-based work in which Calle variously assumes the roles of historian, sociologist, detective, philosopher and—above all—storyteller, pairing her own photographs with matter-of-fact first-person accounts.

A highlight of the exhibition is *On the Hunt* (2017–2024), in which she methodically compiled a record of the qualities most desired in a romantic partner over the period of more than a century. Beginning with personal ads dating back to 1895 and concluding with Tinder messages, the work extends Calle's longstanding exploration of romantic desire from a compelling new perspective.

Visual encounter, or its absence, and the development of images in our memory is a recurring theme. In *The Blind* (1986), Calle invited 23 people who were born without sight to describe their idea of beauty. For the powerful multi-channel video installation *Voir la Mer* (2011) she filmed residents of Istanbul seeing the sea for the very first time. In *Purloined (Turner)* (1998–2013)—part of her wider investigation into the traces left by stolen masterpieces—Calle asked curators, guards and other museum staff to share their memories of two paintings by JMW Turner that were famously stolen while on loan from Tate.

Throughout the exhibition, Calle offers a fascinating insight into the motivations—and preoccupations—that are an inevitable part of an artist's life. In her major new series *Catalogue Raisonné of the Unfinished* (2023), Calle collected the projects she began but, for various reasons, did not pursue: 'the drafts, the attempts, the abandoned projects. To give life to my intentions. To finish the unfinished.'

Clarrie Wallis, Director of Turner Contemporary, said: 'Sophie Calle is one of the most distinctive artists of our time, whose work has influenced generations through its emotional honesty, conceptual precision, and wit. We are thrilled to present her first institutional exhibition in the UK in over fifteen years, offering audiences a rare opportunity to experience the extraordinary breadth of her remarkable practice.'

*Sophie Calle: Something Missing?* is organised by Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, in collaboration with Turner Contemporary, Margate and De Pont Museum, Tilburg. The exhibition is accompanied by an English-language catalogue featuring new essays by Laurie Anderson and Yves-Alain Bois, as well as a new interview with Sophie Calle by Édouard Louis.

## Notes to Editors

*Sophie Calle: Something Missing?*

3 October 2026–23 January 2027

Turner Contemporary, Rendezvous, Margate, UK

Open: Tuesday–Sunday, & bank holidays, 11am–5pm

## Press contacts

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## About Turner Contemporary

Turner Contemporary is one of the UK's most visited contemporary art galleries and part of Margate's vibrant creative community. Opened in 2011 and designed by David Chipperfield, the gallery presents an ambitious programme of exhibitions, events and learning opportunities inspired by JMW Turner's legacy and his enduring connection to the town. In 2026, Turner Contemporary marks its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Since opening, the gallery has played a pivotal role in the region's cultural and economic regeneration, welcoming over 5 million visitors and contributing more than £100 million to the local economy.

[TurnerContemporary.org](http://TurnerContemporary.org)

## About the artist

Sophie Calle (born 1953, Paris) received a BA from the University of Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne and began her artistic practice in the late 1970s.

Calle has represented France at the 52nd International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale in 2007 and been the subject of numerous major solo exhibitions worldwide including, most recently, *Sophie Calle: Overshare* (Walker Art Center, Minneapolis), *Absences: Sophie Calle & Toulouse-Lautrec* (Mitsubishi Ichigokan Museum, Tokyo and *À toi de faire, ma mignonne* (Musée Picasso, Paris). In 2024, she presented *Finir en Beauté* in the cryptoporticus at Arles as part of the photography festival Rencontres d'Arles in France.

Internationally, Calle is in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Centre Pompidou, Paris; and Tate, London, among many others.

Calle is the recipient of numerous awards, including most recently the Praemium Imperiale Award in 2024, as well as the Royal Photographic Society's Centenary Medal, an Infinity Award from the International Center of Photography, and the Hasselblad Foundation International Award in Photography, among others.

Calle lives and works in Malakoff and Paris, France.