

TIME100

NEXT

SEP 30, 2026

Claire Tabouret

by Jean-Marie Gallais



Edouard Monfrais-Albertini—Hans Lucas/Reuters

In recent years, French figurative painter Claire Tabouret has expanded the scope of her practice while remaining faithful to the concerns that have defined her work. She earned the commission to create six new stained-glass windows for Notre-Dame de Paris in 2024, her models and sketches exhibited last year at the Grand Palais, and the final works are due to be installed by the end of 2026.

The project marks a significant turning point, bringing her fresh, bright painting into dialogue with the symbolic and historical weight of a cathedral that's one of France's most resonant monuments. Rather than adopting a purely decorative approach, Tabouret conceives of stained glass as a medium through which light, memory, and human presence converge. The strength of her work lies in its emotional candor. Her figures, often suspended between vulnerability and self-possession, resist portraiture's conventional certainties. Animated by a distinct palette and a persistent tension between intimacy and distance, her work reveals a painter unafraid to expose her own doubts, memories, and sensitivities.

Gallais is the curator at the Pinault Collection, which has exhibited Tabouret's work.