



**MEP**

MAISON  
EUROPÉENNE  
DE LA  
PHOTOGRAPHIE

Gervanne + Matthias  
**LERIDON  
COLLECTION**



## **OPEN CALL :**

### **MEP – Collection Gervanne + Matthias Leridon – Cité internationale des arts Residency**

The *MEP – Collection Gervanne + Matthias Leridon Collection - Cité internationale des arts Residency* is a new residency program for emerging artists, dedicated to African photography, created by Gervanne and Matthias Leridon in collaboration with the MEP and the Cité internationale des arts.

The purpose of this residency is to support young African artists and to highlight practices that explore new forms of photography. The aim is also to promote artists' mobility to enable them to share their work and expand their artistic and professional networks.

With this program, the Collection Gervanne + Matthias Leridon and its partners commit themselves to support the laureate's project by offering him/her a special support and a three-month residency in the heart of Paris.

## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

To apply, the photographer must:

- be a national and resident of an African country
- be between 18 and 40 years old
- be able to provide proof of professional artistic activity for at least three years
- have already developed one or more creative photographic projects (exhibition, publication, etc)

Candidates' files must contain the following elements:

- completed online application form

*NB: you must have a Google account*

- a detailed resume
- a portfolio with several photographic projects already finished

- a note presenting the project proposed for the artistic residency

The selection will be made by a jury of professionals, with the directors of the three partner institutions, and a specialist invited for the program.

The portfolios and residency projects will be judged on the quality of the work, its artistic coherence, and the necessity of its realization in Paris.

## **RESIDENCY:**

The recipient will be granted:

- a three-month artistic residency, from January 3<sup>rd</sup> to March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at the Cité internationale des arts, in a studio with a work-place and a furnished living-place (bedroom, shower, kitchen, wifi), located in the heart of Paris, and near the MEP;
- a specific artistic and professional accompaniment: access to the networks and documentary resources of the three partners.

The program includes:

- international transportation to and from Paris with a VISA and travel insurance;
- a grant for living expenses: 1 500 euros /month;
- a production grant: 1 500 euros;
- a presentation event, to be defined according to the laureate's project.

Conditions:

- the studio varies from 25 to 60m2;
- application for collaborating duos can't be accepted, but the laureate can come accompanied by an adult and/or a child under 7, for an additional fee, at the artist's expense;
- for accessibility reasons, the Cité internationale des arts is not equipped to welcome people with disabilities.

## **CALENDAR:**

- Open Call: from October 15th to November 14th
- Results: November 30th
- Residency: from January 3rd to March 28th
- Presentation: depending on the laureate's project

## **JURY:**

### **Simon Baker – Director of the MEP:**

Simon Baker has been Director of MEP (Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris) since May 2018. He was formerly Senior Curator for International Art (Photography) at the Tate Modern in London since 2009. Prior to this, he was Associate Professor of Art History at Nottingham University. He has published widely on both photography and art history, including the monograph *George Condo: Painting Reconfigured* (Thames and Hudson, 2015), often specializing in surrealism and its legacies in contemporary practice. Recent publications include texts for works on Coco Capitan, Julie Curtiss, Hassan Hajjaj, Mari Katayama, Mona Kuhn and Erwin Wurm.

### **Gervanne + Matthias Leridon – Committed collectors:**

Gervanne Leridon discovered Africa when she was only a child. She retained an insatiable curiosity for its smells, colors, games, landscapes and traditions. The 1989 *Magicians of the Earth* exhibition would later be the trigger for her passion: "I discovered African art, a shock, a desire to go further".

Matthias Leridon is a convinced Afro-optimist and has been since the age of fourteen when he landed in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, as part of a school and solidarity trip.

Defending the fact that Africa is the continent of the 21st century, Gervanne and Matthias Leridon have never ceased to commit themselves alongside artists who think about the world, who enlighten it, question it and liberate it.

### **Bénédicte Alliot - General Director of the Cité internationale des arts:**

Holding a PhD in Anglophone studies, Bénédicte Alliot was a lecturer in English (postcolonial literature and translation) at the University of Paris-Diderot until 2002; she then held the position of director of the French Institute of South Africa in Johannesburg (2002-2006), before becoming cultural attaché at the French Embassy in New Delhi, India (2006-2010).

She then directed the Cultural Seasons division at the French Institute in Paris.

Since 2016, Bénédicte Alliot has been Executive Director of the Cité internationale des arts, a residency center located in the center of Paris, in the Marais and Montmartre districts, welcoming 325 artists of all disciplines from more than 100 countries.

## **PARTNERS PRESENTATION:**

### ***MEP:***

Located in the heart of Paris in the historic Marais district, the MEP is an institution dedicated to photography. Its programming reflects its openness to current practices and new aesthetics by presenting exhibitions of artists of international stature and its commitment to emerging creation. Supported by the City of Paris, the MEP also houses a vast collection of post-war photographs and one of the largest specialized libraries in Europe.

### ***Gervanne + Matthias Leridon Collection:***

The Gervanne + Matthias Leridon Collection is at once a human adventure, a story of passion, encounters, aesthetic impulses and artistic choices. Gathering several thousands of works, this collection is a reference in the art world. Gervanne and Matthias Leridon are keen to share with audiences around the world the personal commitment they have with each of the artists from the African continent. The Leridon Collection now includes works by more than 300 contemporary artists from 34 African countries.

### ***Cité internationale des arts:***

The Cité internationale des arts is an artist residency that brings together artists in the heart of Paris and allows them to implement a creative or research project in all disciplines.

From two months to a year, the Cité internationale des arts allows artists to work in an favourable environment for artistic creation, and to meet culture professionals. The team of the Cité internationale des arts provides residents with individual support.

In the Marais or in Montmartre, the live-in studios (spaces for living and creating) allow residents to cohabit with more than 300 artists and art professionals of all generations, nationalities and disciplines. In collaboration with its many partners, the Cité internationale des arts opens several calls for applications on specific themes and/or projects throughout the year.