



Gervanne + Matthias  
**LERIDON**  
COLLECTION



## **OPEN CALL:**

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

Created by Gervanne and Matthias Leridon in collaboration with the MEP and the Cité internationale des arts, the *MEP – Collection Gervanne + Matthias Leridon Collection - Cité internationale des arts Residency* programme is destined for emerging artists and dedicated to African photography.

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 special guidance and a three-month residency in the centre 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 of photographic projects already finished

- a text 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 March 03 to May 26, 2023, at the Cité internationale des arts, in a studio with a work station and furnished living quarters (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;
- in terms of accessibility, the Cité internationale des arts is not fully equipped to welcome people with disabilities.

## **CALENDAR:**

- Open Call: from November 17 to December 04, 2022
- Results: Mid-January 2023
- Residency: From March 03 to May 26, 2023

## **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 will keep an insatiable curiosity for its smells, colors, games, landscapes, and traditions. The exhibition *Magiciens de la Terre* (Magicians of the Earth) will later be the trigger of her passion: "I discovered African art, a shock, a desire to go further."

A convinced Afro-optimist, Matthias Leridon has been one since the age of fourteen when he went to Ouagadougou on a school trip.

Aware and defenders of the fact that Africa is the continent of tomorrow, Gervanne and Matthias Leridon have never ceased to commit themselves to artists from the African continent who think the world, who enlighten it, question it and liberate it.

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

Bénédicte Alliot, PhD was an assistant professor in postcolonial and translation studies at Université Paris-Diderot (Paris) until 2002. She then moved to Johannesburg as Director of the Institut français (2002-2006), followed by New Delhi, where she was the Cultural Attaché to the French Embassy (2006-2010). From 2010 to early 2016, she headed the Cultural Seasons programme at the Institut français in Paris. Since 2016, she has been Director General of the Cité internationale des arts, an art residency centre located in central Paris (in the Marais and in Montmartre) that hosts more than 300 artists and culture professionals of all disciplines and nationalities.

## **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.

### ***Leridon Collection:***

The Gervanne + Matthias Leridon Collection is the result of a deep human adventure. It is a story of passion, encounters, aesthetic impulses, and artistic choices. Comprised of several thousand pieces, this collection is a reference in the art world.

Discerning art lovers, Gervanne and Matthias Leridon are keen to share with as many people as possible the passion that drives them, and the sincere and personal commitment they have to each of the artists of the African continent. To discover their collection is to open oneself to the unexpected, to dive into a true artistic exploration of the diversity of contemporary African creation.

Aware and defenders of the fact that Africa is the continent of tomorrow, Gervanne and Matthias Leridon have never ceased to commit themselves to these artists who think the world, who enlighten it, question it and liberate it. Passionate, you will meet them crisscrossing the continent to unearth new talents, visiting the places of creation of these committed artists, and exchanging with each of them.

*Africa is the future.*

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

The Cité internationale des arts is an artist residency that brings together over 300 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 a favourable environment for artistic creation, and to meet art professionals. The Cité internationale des arts' team also provides artists in residence with individual support.

In the Marais or in Montmartre, the live-in studios (spaces for living and creating) allow artists in residence to cohabit with more than 300 other 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.