



## CALL FOR PROJECTS 2026

Residency program  
*Résidences Méditerranée*  
Friche la Belle de Mai – Marseille

1 PHOTOGRAPHER

**For an Armenian artist**

Residency period: **From 13 April to 11 July 2026**

Application deadline: **Sunday, 15 February included**

## THE CONCEPT

Since 2015, the Friche la Belle de Mai and the Institut français in Marocco have initiated the "Résidence Méditerranée" program. Expanded in 2017 with the Institut français in Algeria, in 2018 with the French Embassy in Iran, in 2020 with the Institut français in Egypt, in 2022 with the Institut français in Jerusalem and the Institut français in Cameroon and in 2024 with the Institut français in Armenia; this residency scheme aims to welcome emerging artists from all around the Mediterranean to Marseille to encourage their mobility. This residency at La Friche offers them a tailor-made framework for research and creation, enabling them to develop their artistic practice and (re)discover the French art scene.

### > A space for creation and confrontation

Each artist benefits from a production space adapted to his/her project and the forms he/she develops. Personalized support is provided through the involvement of an accompanist throughout the residency, allowing for moments of discussion and "critique" that will open up spaces for reflection.

> The opening of workshops to the public, meetings with curators, art critics and journalists will open up perspectives, new collaborations and visibility for work in progress.

## CONTEXT OF THE CALL FOR PROJECT

The projects should be designed to fit in with the context of Marseille. Artists in residence will be able to open up new avenues for reflection. They will be able to take a step back from their current practices, experiment with a different approach, or finalize a work in progress related to the city. This will allow artists to focus their attention on its territories, history, and

geographical and cultural intersections. During their residency, the artists' activities will be planned in collaboration with professional networks, and opportunities for exchanges with professionals visiting Marseille will be arranged.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To participate in the call for entries, the artist must:

- be of Armenian nationality, work and reside in Armenia;
- have completed their academic studies and/or have a minimum of 3 years' professional experience in the arts;
- have already developed one or more creative projects;
- have a visa valid for 3 months after returning from residency;

Candidates must speak French and/or English.

## PERIOD OF RESIDENCY

The residency periods are as follows: **from April 13 until July 11, 2026**

## MODALITIES AND CONDITIONS OF RECEPTION IN RESIDENCY

- Residents are provided with a room and workspace on the Friche la Belle de Mai site. The villa provided by La Friche Belle de Mai has 20 rooms, shared bathrooms, kitchenette and dining room.
- An accompanist is appointed according to the artist's discipline. A production grant is provided by the French Institut of Armenia.

For the photography, the accompanying artist is **Ymane Fakhir**.

- Transportation of residents between Armenia and France, as well as daily per diems, are paid for by the Institut français in Armenia.
- Transportation of artworks and instruments back to the artist's home is not covered. If artworks are produced during the residency, the artist must cover transportation costs within the budget of their production grant.
- A residency report will be requested at the end of the residency.

The residency program includes the following benefits:

- Living allowance: €38,80/day
- Production grant: €1,500
- Accommodation
- A workspace
- Round-trip airfare
- Visa fees

## CALENDAR

- Submission of applications: from 15/01/2026 to 15/02/2026
- Announcement of results: End of February 2026

## SELECTION COMMITTEE

A committee made up of representatives from the Institut français in Armenia, Friche la Belle de Mai, Imane Fakhir and KulturDialog Armenien will review all applications and choose the selected artist.

In addition to assessing the applicant's professional background, the jury members will pay particular attention to the artistic quality of the application, the arguments presented to demonstrate the added value of the prospect of a residency in Marseille, the proposed working protocol and any contacts or partnerships already established.

## TO APPLY

Artists can apply by filling out **this form**.

Paper files will not be accepted.

Applications received after the closing date will not be eligible.

Please use WeTransfer and/or Dropbox links for image and video files.

### **The application package must include:**

- The duly completed online form,
- visuals (up to 15 pages),
- a text of no more than 10 pages describing the key aspects of your practical work and which may include Vimeo, YouTube links, etc.,
- a comprehensive CV of no more than 3 pages in pdf format,
- a cover letter stating that you are available for the entire duration of the residency and including a description of the project, considering the "Context of the call for projects", maximum 15 pages in pdf format.

For any questions, please contact:

Institut français in Armenia

[residence@institutfrancais.am](mailto:residence@institutfrancais.am)

KulturDialog Armenien

[info@kulturdialog.org](mailto:info@kulturdialog.org)

## LA FRICHE LA BELLE DE MAI

Born in 1992 as a prototype for what are now known as "Third Places", new cultural and urban models, La Friche brings together urban transformation, artistic continuity, local ties and active cooperation in the public interest in a single, reinvented location.

La Friche la Belle de Mai, which grew out of the former Seita factory and is now a place of creation and innovation, is both a workspace for its 70 resident structures (350 artists, producers and employees work there every day) and a venue for public performances (600 public artistic events a year, from workshops for young audiences to major festivals). With almost 450,000 visitors a year, Friche la Belle de Mai is a 45,000 m<sup>2</sup> multi-purpose public space featuring 5 performance and concert halls, shared gardens, a playground, a restaurant, a bookshop, a crèche, 2,400 m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition space, an 8,000 m<sup>2</sup> roof terrace and a training center.

<https://www.lafriche.org>

## FRENCH INSTITUTE IN ARMENIA

Institut français in Armenia, established in 2022, is the department of the Embassy of France in charge of its linguistic, academic and cultural policy.

It works closely with the other stakeholders of the French network in Armenia, UFAR and the French Lycée Anatole France.

Its activity towards the Armenian public has started in 2023 and revolves around three main axis :

- A French language center (group and individual classes of general and specialized French for all levels, aimed at adults and children) accredited for certification (DELFDALF/TCF) ;

- A Campus France Space, aimed at providing guidance to armenian students for pursuing their academic projects in France and handling their admission and departure processes, within the Etudes en France Framework ;
- A cultural department, tasked with the conception and realisation of a pluridisciplinary artistic programming and of debates of ideas, elaborated through local partnerships (Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia, local authorities, cultural institutions, festivals, universities), with specific attention to contemporary creation and French-Armenian Cooperation.

## **KULTURDIALOG ARMENIEN**

KulturDialog Armenien is a non-governmental and non-profit organization with cultural orientation. It was founded and registered by the art historian Sona Harutyunyan in Armenia's capital Yerevan, on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

The objective of organization KulturDialog Armenien is to support cultural exchange and to establish a dialogue between Armenian and non-Armenian artists. Our aim is to strengthen this exchange and make it accessible to a national and international audience. Our highest priority is to make Armenian artists and their art better known – in Armenia but also abroad. Ideally, this is the beginning of a constant and constructive dialogue all participants will benefit from and which will open new perspectives for all aspects of the art field.

We always try to find diverse possibilities for our artists to exhibit their work and to participate in national and international projects. If required, KulturDialog Armenien develops and elaborates specific exhibition concepts and projects for our artists and cooperating partners and we even initiate artistic exchange and residence programs. To achieve those aims we act as an artist's management for our artists, in Armenia but also abroad.

**PARTNER OF LA FRICHE LA BELLE DE MAI**

## Ymane Fakhir

Ymane Fakhir lives and works between Marseille and Casablanca. Following her studies at the Casablanca School of Fine Arts, she continued her education at the Aix-en-Provence School of Art, then at the National School of Photography in Arles.

As a photographer and videographer, her visual language is characterized by a certain 'objectivity' of gaze. However, these are staged images, minimalistic in their mise-en-scène. She plays with the opacity and transparency of bodies and their capacity to endure. The question of pure image as a substratum of memory continues today in screen-printed works and conceptual objects that aim to represent and give physical form to situations and mental concepts that cannot be depicted.

In the quiet but never silent world of Ymane Fakhir, objects seem to be at rest. They swing between memories and hope and watch us. By choosing to look with tenderness but also a certain cruelty at the artefacts that inhabit our lives, by defusing their primary and vital function, as if to read their hidden truths, the artist engages in a formal exploration that questions the object as both a social and human relationship. Whether she is exploring the themes of marriage, inheritance, care or disappearance, Ymane Fakhir reveals patterns whose symbolic significance is evident. They carry within them all the power of the act of giving, all the fragility of transmission.

<https://www.documentsdartistes.org/artistes/fakhir/repro.html>