

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Les Ateliers du Nil

The Institut Français in Paris, the Institut Français of Egypt, in collaboration with Bayt Yakan are launching a call for applications for the artistic residency program **Les Ateliers du Nil (Cairo)**.

Les Ateliers du Nil is a residency program for French artists in Egypt. The program offers three residency periods (two in Cairo and one in Alexandria), with the details outlined below. **This call for applications is specifically for the artistic residencies in Cairo.** The call for Alexandria will be published at a later stage.

Bayt Yakan is a historic courtyard house dating back to the 17th and 19th centuries, located in the al-Darb al-Ahmar neighbourhood in the heart of Cairo. The building includes conference rooms, workshops, exhibition galleries, and accommodations. It also houses a library specializing in historical preservation, the history of Cairo, Islamic art and architecture, and rare collections, including old maps of Cairo and books on 19th- and early 20th-century arts and crafts.

Bayt Yakan features a fully equipped carpentry workshop for woodcraft, utilizing both traditional tools and modern machinery. The workshop is connected to a network of local artisans, including leatherworkers, cabinetmakers, and other craftspeople. The center supports community development, particularly programs for women and children while seeking to revitalize the local economy through the revitalisation of traditional craftsmanship, promoting traditional culinary, and activating cultural tourism.

This program is exclusively open to French artists or artists residing in France working in the fields listed below.

Each residency lasts one month and includes three days dedicated to mediation activities (workshops, open studios, lectures, portfolio reviews, etc.) proposed by the resident artist in their application.

Selected artists will receive logistical, administrative, and human support from the Institut français in Egypt and Bayt Yakan structures. The program also facilitates networking opportunities with professionals and cultural institutions in Egypt.

There is a possibility of a post-residency exhibition or a restitution event at the Institut français in Egypt, either in Cairo or Alexandria, depending on discussions between the artist, the Institut français, and the host organization.

Themes and Residency Locations

Cairo : Craftsmanship, Artisanal Practices, and/or Architecture and Heritage

Residencies in Cairo take place at **Bayt Yakan**, located in the heart of Islamic Cairo, ideal for exploring traditions in craftsmanship, artisanal practices, traditional architecture, and cultural heritage.

- **Craftsmanship and Artisanal Practices** : Immersion in a rich environment of traditional expertise, such as the turning wood for the creation of mashrabiya, other traditional wooden joineries, mother-of-pearl inlays, carved gypsum windows, and copper engraving.
 - **Architecture and Heritage** : Exploring the architectural diversity of Historic Cairo, and Integrating the historic urban and socio-economic patterns in the contemporary living city. Encountering social values as complementary aspect to the historic and artistic values.
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Conditions and Terms

- **Duration** : 1 month
 - **Covered expenses** : Economy round-trip airfare, accommodation, visa, a residency grant of €1,600, workspace (Cairo only), and a production grant of €500.
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Eligibility Criteria

To apply, the artist must :

- Be French nationals or reside and work in France.
 - Have a professional background (minimum of 3 years) or have completed an art degree.
 - Hold a valid passport (at least 3 months beyond the residency).
 - Be proficient in French or English (Arabic is a plus).
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Timeline

- **Application submission** : From 5 January to 26 January, 2025
- **Selection committee & pre-selection interviews in English** (if necessary) : Mid-February 2025
- **Results announcement** : Early March 2025
- **Residency periods** : April 2025 and September 2025

The jury will include representatives from the Institut français in Paris, the Institut français in Egypt, and Bayt Yakan.

Application File

Applicants must submit the following:

1. **Portfolio** (maximum 10 pages).
2. **Presentation file** (maximum 10 pages), including a description of the artistic approach, the residency project, and **a motivation letter** outlining project goals.
3. **Complete CV.**
4. **Information sheet** (name, address, contact details, availability), including ideas for mediation activities (workshops, lectures, etc.).
5. **Recommendation letter** (optional, maximum 1 page).

Applications integrating eco-responsible approaches and considering the local environment will be given special consideration.

Collective applications will not be accepted.

Practical Details

- For images or videos : Include digital viewing links (e.g., Vimeo, YouTube, Google Drive) in the application PDF.
- Applications must be sent to **culture@ifegypte.com** before January 26, 2025, at 6 PM (Cairo time).
- Late applications will not be reviewed.

For inquiries, contact **culture@ifegypte.com** before January 15, 2025, at 6 PM (Cairo time).