

NEW RESIDENCY PROGRAM

VILLA MARGUERITE DURAS MEETS VILLA PÉROCHON



Photography Creation Residency For Cambodian Photographers

2026 Edition – April 3 to 20, 2026, Niort (France)

Program Overview

The French Institute of Cambodia (IFC) is launching a new photography creation residency program for Cambodian photographers, in partnership with:

- **La Villa Pérochon**, Center for Contemporary Photographic Art in Niort
- **Photo Phnom Penh Association**
- with the support of the **French Institute**

This residency is part of the artistic dialogue between France and Cambodia and aims to support contemporary Cambodian photographic creation on the international stage.

Villa Marguerite Duras

The residency is named after **Marguerite Duras**, a major French writer and winner of the 1984 Goncourt Prize for *The Lover*. Born in Indochina, her work maintains a deep connection with Southeast Asia, addressing themes of memory, identity, territory, and narrative.

By associating her name with this program, the French Institute of Cambodia wishes to pay tribute to this literary figure while affirming a strong commitment to contemporary artistic creation and international cultural exchange.

Villa Pérochon

La Villa Pérochon, a center for contemporary photographic art, was awarded the “National Interest” label in 2018 by the French Ministry of Culture. Its project promotes an open and socially engaged contemporary photography, regardless of theme (social issues, environmental challenges, etc.).

Three to four exhibitions are presented each year, including monographic and group exhibitions. Villa Pérochon also organizes the **Rencontres de la Jeune Photographie Internationale** every spring: a city-wide exhibition program centered around a unique creation residency, offering a carte blanche to emerging French and international photographers.

Program Objectives

- Support contemporary Cambodian photographic creation
- Encourage international mobility for artists
- Promote artistic creation nourished by intercultural exchanges
- Enable encounters with local audiences and artistic scenes
- Support the production and dissemination of new works

Residency Framework

- Photography creation residency
- **Duration:** 18 days, from April 3 to 20, 2026
- **Location:** Villa Pérochon – Niort

- Participation in the opening weekend of the **Rencontres de la Jeune Photographie Internationale** (April 16–20, 2026)
- Implementation of cultural activities during the residency (meetings, workshops, exchanges)
- Final exhibition presented at Villa Pérochon, on view until **May 31, 2026**

Eligibility Criteria

- Be of Cambodian nationality
- Have a good command of French or English
- Be a professional or established photographer
- Be available full-time throughout the residency
- Have already completed at least one solo exhibition

Financial Conditions

- A residency grant of **USD 587**
- Coverage of travel expenses:
 - Round-trip airfare from Cambodia
 - Round-trip transportation Paris–Niort
 - Visa fees
- Coverage of:
 - Accommodation at Fort Foucault in Niort
 - On-site meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner)
 - Production of the final exhibition

Commitments of the Selected Artist

- Participate in the cultural life of the residency (mediation activities, meetings, workshops, public exchanges)
- Work primarily on the project submitted in the application
- Present a public outcome at the end of the residency
- Take out personal insurance covering the entire stay (civil liability, health, repatriation)
- Certify compliance with professional and social obligations

Commitments of IFC and Villa Pérochon

- Artistic support and networking
- Logistical and administrative assistance
- Translation and interpretation support if necessary
- Promotion and communication of the work produced

Application File

All administrative documents must be compiled into a **single PDF file**. Texts must be written in **English** and include:

- Project description outlining the motivations for the residency, photographic themes, relevance to the applicant's artistic path, and potential publishing projects (maximum 4,500 characters)
- Portfolio (selection of published texts, articles, drawings, website links, video excerpts, etc. – maximum 8 pages)
- CV
- Valid identification document (ID card or passport – double-sided copy)

- A dated and signed sworn statement including the mention "*Approved and agreed*", certifying:
 - That you are the author of the works mentioned in your application

Application Deadline

February 15, 2026 (midnight, Phnom Penh time)

Applications must be sent by email to: **villa.duras@ifcambodge.com**

- **February 18, 2026 (afternoon):** Selection committee
- **Friday, April 3, 2026:** Arrival in Paris
- **Monday, April 20, 2026:** End of the residency and departure from Niort

Selection Process and Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by an advisory committee based on the following criteria:

- Artistic background
- Quality and relevance of the project
- Ability of the project to engage in dialogue with the residency context