

FOUNDING OF AN ARTIST RESIDENCY IN CAPE TOWN



A JOINT INITIATIVE BETWEEN MEMORIST, THE FRENCH EMBASSY AND THE INSTITUT FRANÇAIS IN SOUTH AFRICA

A innovative public-private partnership, between the French Embassy in South Africa, Lesotho and the Republic of Malawi, the Institut Français d’Afrique du Sud (IFAS) and MEMORIST will enable the creation of an artist residency to open in Cape Town in autumn 2026.

MEMORIST - the leading centre of expertise for the preservation, restoration, digitisation and sharing of cultural heritage - is a division of the Mobilitas Group, which has had a strong presence in South Africa for over 20 years. This innovative cultural project between France and South Africa is a public-private partnership - a first in the field of artist residencies - and demonstrates MEMORIST’s deep commitment to cultural cooperation between the countries, the promotion of artists and the empowerment of local communities. The residency will highlight South African, African and French talent selected by a committee. The first French artist residency in South Africa, housed in the Lenox, an iconic 1929 building in Cape Town, will provide a place for nine artists to create and exchange each year.

This project is part of the French tradition of artist residencies abroad: Villa Medici in Rome, Villa Albertine in the USA and Kujoyama in Japan, and is in the continuity of the many initiatives that MEMORIST carries out in favour of culture and heritage. Through this initiative and this partnership, MEMORIST contributes to enriching the creative landscape of South Africa and Africa.



David Martinon, Ambassadeur de France en Afrique du Sud, au Lesotho et au Malawi, et Sophie Taieb, Directrice du Développement Corporate pour MEMORIST, en compagnie de représentants de Newmark Hotels & Reserves et de Mobilitas. Image : Fournie



MEMORIST is honoured to join forces with the French Embassy and IFAS to make this initiative a reality. This innovative public-private partnership demonstrates our commitment to intercultural dialogue and heritage preservation. Sophie Taieb, Director of Corporate Development at MEMORIST



Sophie Taieb, Director of Corporate Development MEMORIST

FIRST CENTRE OF SKILLS FOR THE CONSERVATION, THE RESTORATION, THE DIGITISATION AND THE SHARING OF HERITAGE

The MOBILITAS group has brought together five leading players to create MEMORIST, the first skills centre for :

Conservation: Memorist offers strategic support to holders of heritage collections of all kinds, to establish targeted action plans.

Restoration: MEMORIST traditionally restores all types of ancient documents (parchments, bundles, covers, iconographic documents, film media, etc.) and contemporary documents (administrative documents, audiovisual and film media), in order to prolong their life and restore their appearance which may have altered over time.

Digitisation: MEMORIST digitises paper, iconographic, audio, video and film documents in 2D, and sculptures, monuments and historic sites in 3D, for the purposes of conservation and distribution to different audiences.

Sharing and communication: MEMORIST facilitates the enhancement of heritage, whether this is historical, documentary or architectural, by relying on a perfect mastery of digital and immersive technologies.

MEMORIST boasts unique know-how which is undeniably recognised in the French market, as well as being resolutely international in scope and part of a group with a presence in more than 100 countries.

Its 250 experts deploy their know-how in France and abroad to support museums, public institutions, private companies and NGOs.

The combination of craftsmanship techniques and innovative technologies supported by human talent means that we can implement tailor-made solutions or large-scale projects.

MEMORIST's achievements in France include the restoration of royal parchments and papal bulls from the Xth century, the 3D digitisation of the Victory of Samothrace at the Louvre museum, the management and preventive conservation of Renault's heritage collections, the exhaustive digitisation of Mont-Saint-Michel abbey and Notre-Dame de Paris and an immersive experience at the Musée d'Orsay using a virtual reality system. On a far larger scale, Memorist has deployed its know-how in Switzerland (UN, TAG Heuer), South Africa (Jagger Library), Kuwait (Ministry of Information), Austria (National Library) and the UNited Arab Emirates (Louvre Abu Dhabi).

MOBILITAS Group

Founded 50 years ago and today led by the third generation of the Taïeb and Castro families, the MOBILITAS group is a mid-sized enterprise (ETI) specializing in the mobility of goods and people, physical and digital archiving, and digital preservation of heritage. The group, present in 102 countries, relies on its own network and partner agents to offer its clients an exceptional service in all its areas of activity. The long term reflects its philosophy and culture that guide its major entrepreneurial and investment decisions. Decisions that shape and strengthen the group regularly, leading it to new processes, new professions, and new horizons.

Watch the MEMORIST presentation video
by clicking the link below

www.thememorist.com/video

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THE FIVE EXPERT COMPANIES OF MEMORIST

Arkhênum

a leader in digitisation and heritage enhancement, Arkhênum helps to shed light on the past and preserve what exists so that history can be passed down to future generations. From archive audits to collection development consultancy, Arkhênum supports its clients at every stage in the development and deployment of their heritage strategies. With the largest technology park in Europe, Arkhênum digitises all types of media, from the simplest to the most complex, whatever their format, material or state of preservation.

Art Graphique & Patrimoine

from laser scanning to 3D digitisation, from 3D modelling to augmented and virtual reality, AGP offers its innovative approach dedicated to art and historic monuments, for museums, institutions and businesses. Thanks to its R&D department, which specialises in architectural and archaeological surveying, in 2009 it developed the first mobile augmented reality prototype for the reconstitution of decors.

La Reliure du Limousin

since its creation in 1950, the company has been restoring precious works from the libraries of the Senate and the National Assembly, then those of the Departmental and Municipal Archives. From the restoration of old collections to craftsmanship binding, it does everything in its power to expertise, conserve and restore the written collections of our past. In 1990, La Reliure became a training centre for heritage crafts. La Reliure has been a Living Heritage Company since 2010.

TRIBVN Imaging

carries out digitisation of all types of photographic documents (glass plates, cellulose nitrates, cellulose acetates, polyester, etc.), images of graphic documents (drawings, tracings), images of textiles and accessories, creation of «high-performance» digitisation systems for projects requiring them, photogrammetric images, preventive conservation (reconditioning on permanent paper, polyester sleeves, cleaning).

Vectracom

specialises in the preservation, digitisation, enhancement and accessibility of audiovisual and film heritage. With a multimedia laboratory, it offers comprehensive services including metadata creation, film remastering and image and audio restoration. Thanks to its expertise in subtitling, voice-over, sign language and audio description, Vectracom can handle any existing audiovisual format.

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