

Seize
Mètres
Carrés

SeizeMètresCarrés

Aktè Kiltirel Matinitjé

A Cultural Hub in the Heart of Fort-de-France, Martinique

Artist Residencies ◇ Creation ◇ Diffusion ◇ Publishing



SeizeMètresCarrés

SeizeMètresCarrés (literally *Sixteen Square Metres*) is a structure dedicated to artistic creation, dissemination, and artist residencies, whose programming embraces all forms of artistic expression. It is also involved in supporting artists, associations, and institutions through artistic direction and the production of artistic and cultural projects.

A Historic Setting

SeizeMètresCarrés is housed in a late 19th-century building in Fort-de-France. Of post-colonial architecture, it has been recognized as a building of traditional architectural interest by the Direction des affaires culturelles (DAC) of Martinique. The layered history of the city and the island embedded in the building is seen as a direct source of inspiration for the artists it welcomes.

Mission & Vision

◇ Offering an alternative in terms of the creation and distribution of cultural programming in Martinique, and contributing to the development of Martinique's cultural and artistic scene by providing a research space for both local and international artists.

◇ Facilitating creation and distribution by offering rental spaces to artists and cultural organizations in need.

◇ Building a bridge between artists and the public, in the intimate setting of rue Moreau de Jonnès, through exhibitions, performative evenings, concerts, conferences, workshops, block parties, and artist residencies.

Artist Residencies

The residency program is central to SeizeMètresCarrés' identity. The residencies cover all artistic fields — dance, theatre, music, visual arts, writing — and run at a rhythm of two per season, providing shelter for that particularly fragile phase that is artistic creation. Each residency includes both a creation period and a public engagement phase, through workshops, visits, or interventions in environments connected to the theme of the residency. The venue is equipped with apartments, allowing resident artists to live on-site. Residencies can accommodate solo artists, duos, or collective projects.

Leadership

President: **Michael Pago**

Artistic Director: **Mylène Emica**

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Selected Works & Residencies

Fragments — Être composites : la drive sensorielle

Laura De Souza

How, as a Caribbean person, can one come into their own within a society that remains under domination, where violence in its many forms is omnipresent — psychological, socio-economic, physical, health-related? This research and creative work is grounded in care and in the reclaiming of environmental space. As the characters move and progress, they heal themselves and their lineage, breaking the cycle of intergenerational wounds by engaging with the memory of places.

Places are reservoirs of memory — holding ancient memories never transmitted orally or in writing, yet accessible at any time. This memory is invoked through movement, through the characters' trance, through the contact of a foot with the ground, or a hand touching a *rimèd razié* (traditional medicinal plant), allowing one to "retrieve" or "download" ancestral heritage. It is essential to re-engage with our spaces with respect and awareness.

The body is also a site of memory. The composite Being is gradually formed from fragmented matter, becoming more fully embodied and allowing its potential to unfold. It breaks away from an imposed system in order to create a nation and transmit consciously — organizing the transmission of life, safeguarding what has been gained, and enabling future generations to bring them to life and evolve them, for nothing is fixed.

Métamorphose

Aurélie Chantelly & Sophie May

A Traveling Creative Residency — December 2023 / January 2024

Two Martinican artists rooted in the visual arts were invited by SeizeMètresCarrés to explore the theme of metamorphosis. Spending one week in the north, then the centre and the south of the island, they engaged with local communities, gathering testimonies, fragments of identity, and images of the *péyi* (homeland).

Their work draws on observations of the transformation of natural landscapes, population migration, and the ways in which cultural variations are transmitted — shaping the contours of their country. Through artistic practice, this project calls for a reclaiming of our spaces.

PROJECTS

Selected Works & Residencies

La Politesse

Cindy Emelie

A set of rules governing behavior and language within a society; the act and manner of observing these conventions — this is the premise from which *La Politesse* departs. The subject arose during certain dinners, where the artist felt trapped in her own body: injunctions not to overdo it, not to eat too quickly, not to laugh too loudly. All these self-imposed rules — inherited through education as a young Martinican woman — ended up suffocating her.

The project examines the injunctions we impose on ourselves and those transmitted through education — particularly as a woman. It explores the different facets of politeness: of the heart, the body, and the mind; and the constraining power tied to this injunction. It then asks what insolence — understood as audacity — can bring in terms of freedom: freedom to be, freedom to create, and freedom of expression.

Key Questions

- ◇ *How can one be oneself while still engaging with the rules?*
 - ◇ *How can insolence — audacity — be a truly emancipatory quality?*
 - ◇ *What is insolence?*
 - ◇ *How can one remain true to oneself while being in relation with others and the world?*
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PUBLISHING

Editions SeizeMètresCarrés recently published *Mots et Mémoire de Martinique* by historian Gilbert Pago (April 2026) — a 200-page historical dictionary exploring the words, languages, figures, struggles, and places that have shaped Martinican identity and collective memory.

