



**CAMARGO  
FOUNDATION**

CASSIS, FRANCE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 2019**

**Ghanaian-Togolese Artist and Art Director Va-Bene E.K Fiatsi (crazinisT artisT)  
Awarded Residency at the Camargo Foundation in Partnership with the Institut Français**

CASSIS, FRANCE — The Camargo Foundation is delighted to announce that Ghanaian-Togolese artist and art director Va-Bene Elikem Fiatsi, also known as crazinisT artisT, has been awarded an artist residency as part of the Institut Français' *Visas pour la Création* (Visas for Creation) program, dedicated to supporting African and the Caribbean artists. The Institut Français collaborates with a dozen prestigious French cultural institutions—including Cité Internationale des Arts, Ballet du Nord, La Friche Belle de Mai, Europajazz, and others—to provide professional guidance and support to multidisciplinary artists residing in Africa and the Caribbean. crazinisT artisT will spend two months at the Camargo Foundation, starting September 2019.

Born 1981 in Ho, Ghana, crazinisT artisT is a multidisciplinary artist and artistic director of perfocraZe International Artists Residency (pIAR), which she launched in her own studio in Kumasi, Ghana. She describes it as a « performance hatchery, incubator, laboratory, and interactive platform, » aimed at promoting exchange between international and local artists, activists, researchers, curators, and thinkers. As a performance and installation artist, crazinisT investigates gender stereotypes and their consequences for the marginalized. With a gender-fluid persona, the artist often uses her own body as a thought-provoking tool, and through performances, photography, video, and installations, confronts issues such as disenfranchisement, social justice, violence, objectification, and more. crazinisT has performed or exhibited in Germany, USA, Ghana, South Africa, Switzerland, Netherlands, Nigeria, Cape Verde, UK, and Togo.

At Camargo, crazinisT artisT will work on the project *Performance Rituals*, an examination of the artist/performer's body as a medium for rituals and a mediator between art and audience. The project aims to use performance as an intervention, protest and an act of social change. During her residency, the Camargo Foundation will facilitate her introduction to Marseille-region arts organizations and professionals. The residency follows a first residency at the Watermill Center, Long Island, New York, and aims at creating synergies among France, Africa and the United States.

Note: [she/it...] is crazinisT artisT's bio-political pronoun. Any one or any institution can 'responsibly' use any pronoun of their preference for crazinisT artisT, otherwise just use "she" and "hits".

**ABOUT THE CAMARGO FOUNDATION**

Since 1971, the Camargo Foundation has welcomed hundreds of international artists, thinkers, and scholars to its stunning campus in Cassis, South of France. The artist residency program grew out of a series of experimental music and theater festivals organized by Camargo Foundation founder Jerome Hill in the 1950s and 1960s, which included commissions from the New York-based Living Theater, French composer Olivier Messiaen, and others. Through international programs, some via open calls, the Camargo Foundation supports groundbreaking research and experimentation in the arts and humanities. Notable past fellows include theater director Lee Breuer, experimental filmmaker Barbara Hammer, composer Fabrizio Cassol, choreographers Faye Driscoll and Wen Hui.

**CONTACT**

Muriel Rose, Development and Communication Coordinator  
Camargo Foundation, Cassis, France  
mrose@camargofoundation.org