



**Hammana Artist House**  
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**French minister of culture Françoise Nyssen visit to Hammana Artist House: «Here is a house of values, of generosity, solidarity and sharing»**

French minister of culture Françoise Nyssen, visited Hammana Artist House this Saturday 4th of November accompanied by ambassador of France in Lebanon Bruno Foucher, Senator Catherine Morin Desailly and MP Loïc Kervran. This visit comes in the frame of Nyssen's presence in Lebanon for the inauguration of the 2017 edition of "salon du livre francophone de Beyrouth".

The French delegation was hosted in Hammana by the president of the union of municipalities of High Metn, Marwan Salha, the president of the municipality of Hammana Bashir Farhat, as well as the founder of Hammana Artist House Robert Eid and the members of Collectif Kahraba, founding member and director of the house.

The visit began with a tour of the "wonderful space" as described by Ms Nyssen, during which, the minister stressed the support of France to Hammana Artist House, announcing the renewal for 2018 of France's invaluable contribution to the sustainable and successful execution of Hammana Artist House's residency programme for artists in exile AMARRE\*. "The values of this incredible house, - generosity, solidarity and sharing- are fundamental for the development of artistic practices. It's thanks to these same values that we can move forward and survive the cruelty and violence of the world."

Hosting his guests, D. Robert Eid underlined « the ambition of this house to inspire similar initiatives within Lebanon and beyond, initiatives capable of reviving cultural life outside capitals". From their side, members of Collectif Kahraba presented the various activities of the house and the partnerships being put into place to sustain their artistic vision, and notably "the indispensable partnership with diverse audiences"

As she left the house “full of emotion”, Ms Nyssen expressed her intention to closely follow Hammana Artist House and the projects emerging from the residencies and created “under Hammana’s influence” in particular. “Thank you for all the work that you are doing. Keep going. We are here, firmly by your side”, she concluded.

### **Additional information**

#### **About Hammana Artist House**

Located in the beautiful village of Hammana, 1200m above sea level and 45 minutes away from Beirut, Hammana Artist House is a multidisciplinary art residency space with a focus on performing arts. Founded in 2016 by D. Robert Eid in partnership with Collectif Kahraba, Hammana Artist House is above all a space for artistic development, a space to create and connect. HAH is open to local and international artists to deepen their artistic research, meet diverse audiences, develop their networks and reinforce their social engagement. Comprising spaces for rehearsals, artist hosting, scenography workshop and an open air theatre, HAH proposes a year-round artistic programme under the artistic direction of Collectif Kahraba.

#### **About the residency programme AMARRE**

Amarre, in French, means mooring line: rope, cable or chain by which a boat is attached to the shore or to an anchor. AMARRE aims to connect forcibly displaced artists (or artists in exile) to their host communities. It is a residency programme that provides a safe working space for the selected artists to develop their projects and share them with the local audience, as well as connect them to the professional networks in their new environments. Each local partner will host and accompany the selected artists in exile in the respective countries with the perspective of supporting a culture of openness, free expression and living together. For its pilot edition, AMARRE takes place in four different countries and in partnership with four structures : in Lebanon, Turkey, Belgium and France, notably in partnership with Atelier des Artistes en Exil in Paris, recently visited by Ms Nyssen.

**For more information :** [www.hah-lb.org](http://www.hah-lb.org)

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