

'Les Alisiers' – Artist Residency



Introduction:

'Les Alisiers' artist residency is a private residency open to young emerging artists known to and represented in the collection of the owner of the chalet.

Growing up in Basel next to the 'Art Basel' fair, my interest has always been in contemporary art. My focus is on young emerging artists and I feel that it is important for a relationship between artist and collector to be established.

Discussions with artists, my interest and enthusiasm in contemporary art and the possibility of the chalet are the ingredients for this artist residency.

Background:

'Les Alisiers' is a chalet in the Swiss Alps (canton of Valais), located in Les Mayens-de-Sion, nearby the city of Sion. Built in 1891, the purpose of this chalet has always been family time, relaxing, and the social life of its owners. Today the chalet still is used for the same purposes. However, given that vacation time is now limited, the chalet is not used for much of the year. This opens opportunities for different purposes, such as an artist residency.



Canton of Valais and the city of Sion:

The canton of Valais is the second largest canton of Switzerland with a surface of 5,224 sq kilometres. The lowest point is at 372 metres (Lake of Geneva), the highest

point at 4,634 metres (Monte Rosa). In the canton the people speak both French and German. The economy is threefold: (I) agriculture and wine, (II) industry and hydraulic energy, and (III) tourism.

The city of Sion is the 2nd oldest town of Switzerland with 7,000 years of history. As the capital of the canton of Valais (with approx. 30,000 inhabitants) it offers all the amenities of a local city, including all kinds of shopping facilities and services. Its daily life is rich in art, culture and events. From the railway station there are frequent connections to Berne, Lausanne, and Geneva, and also Paris and Milan. There is a regional hospital.



Les Mayens-de-Sion:

Les Mayens-de-Sion is located in the French-speaking area of the canton of Valais. It is like a balcony ideally located between 1200 and 1600 meters altitude, at the confluence of the Rhone Valley and the Val d'Hérens. Les Mayens-de-Sion is not "les mayens" in the strict sense of the term, and neither is it in the territory of Sion. Not part of the village, nor the resort, they are still the mountains that the people of Sion want to shelter under though, away from the excessive heat of the city during summer. It was during the 17th century that the noblemen of Sion built the first chalets. Les Mayens-de-Sion is ideal for relaxation, meeting friends and for conviviality. It has kept its old chalets as well as its six chapels in the shade of the old larch trees. In many ways, you cannot visit Les Mayens-de-Sion, it can only reveal itself to you through the rhythm of walks and strolls through the forest. The site Les Mayens-de-Sion, the historical development, the social life and the rich artistic and architectural heritage can all be found here as well as traditional chalets and even more ambitious and comfortable houses.



Outside the main seasons (Christmas, summer) the place is very quiet and therefore very inspiring and relaxing.



Chalet Les Alisiers:

'Les Alisiers' is a traditional chalet in the local Swiss Alps style. Built in 1891 as a summer residence it was transformed in the 1970s to such an extent that it can now be used all year long. This transformation primarily included the installation of central heating in line with the development of tourism in the region, particularly the development of skiing facilities.

The chalet is a three-floor building with a ground surface of 8x9 metres and a total floor surface of approx. 200sq metres.

- *Ground floor:* fully equipped kitchen, dining room, living room with soapstone stove, bathroom, toilet
- *First floor:* four bedrooms (1x 3 beds, 2x 2 beds, 1x 1 bed), toilet
- *Second floor:* four bedrooms (2x 2 beds, 2x 1 bed), bathroom with toilet, laundry facilities
- *Garden:* Two terraces. The plot is 1,400sq metres with several centenarian larch trees

The chalet is accessible all year long by car or by public transport.

Address: Chalet Les Alisiers
Les Plans
P.O. Box 544
CH-1992 Les Mayens-de-Sion
Phone: +41 27 207 28 26

Access: From Sion via Vex towards Les Collons/Thyons 2000. It is about a 20 minute drive from Sion. There are also several daily coach services from Sion to Les Mayens-de-Sion. The nearest stop is 300m from the chalet, with another approximately 15 minutes walk away.

Costs and additional grant:

Chalet:	The chalet is provided free of charge as part of the residency agreement. This includes all additional charges, such as electricity, heating, water, etc.
Cost of living/bursary:	There will be a grant of CHF 1,000 per month towards living expenses and materials.
Car:	A car will be provided for the period of the stay.

Insurances:

(I)	The artist is responsible for his own health insurance. This particularly has to cover medical treatments (if needed) in Switzerland.
(II)	The artist has to show proof of general liability insurance.

Availability:

(I)	from mid-May to mid-July, i.e. about 6 to 8 weeks
(II)	from mid-August to mid-November, i.e. 12 weeks

Allocation of the residency: By invitation only

Contact details: Olivier von Schulthess
Carmenstrasse 36
CH – 8032 Zurich – Switzerland
eMail: ovonschulthess@bluewin.ch

Miscellaneous: There are no amenities at all in Les Mayens-de-Sion, except for one restaurant. All grocery shopping has to be done nearby in either Vex or Sion.

Web links:

in French

<http://www.vex.ch>
<http://www.patrimoine-vex.ch>
<http://www.patrimoine-vex.ch/commune/histoire-mayens-sion.html>

in English

<http://www.thyon.ch/?lang=en>
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valais>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sion,_Switzerland

