



Festival Accès Asie  
May 1st to 18th 2014  
19<sup>th</sup> edition  
[www.accesasie.com](http://www.accesasie.com)



## Director's Message

Dear friends,

It is with great pleasure and excitement that I present you Festival Accès Asie's program for May 2014 in celebration of the 19th edition of Asian Heritage Month in Montreal. I prepared this year's program with much care and attention by inviting many artists to create new work for the occasion. Under the title *Asia's Earth, Montreal's Dome*, over the next few weeks we will showcase over 40 artists during 11 events at 9 different venues including an outdoor event. We are also very proud to collaborate, for the first time, with a prime spokesperson: the renowned author, Kim Thúy.

Believing that art grows from culture and vice versa, I see the earth as the interwoven foundation from which many of this 19th edition's artists draw their inspiration. Asia's earth therefore refers to the natural vastness of the culture and the arts as understood and expressed by the audience and artists who live in Montreal where they feel a nourishing community gathered under the same roof or dome.

With our May 2014 program, you will experience a wide variety of artistic expressions both in their contemporary and traditional forms. We will travel to as many as 12 Asian countries to see, listen, touch, smell and feel this diversity in many ways. In our first week of events, following our opening ceremony, we will present dancers Jenn Doan and Ted Strauss. In collaboration with Le Gesù and Accès Asie, Jenn and Ted have created a new work entitled *Iredea*. The creation of *Iredea* is the result of a long residency at the Gesù church, which is where their new creation will be presented on Saturday May 3rd and Sunday May 4th. During this first week, we will also show the work of a group of Korean women visual artists.

For our second week, we have organized a very special event; a *raqs sharqi* (belly dance) competition. Our objective with this competition is to promote the art of belly dance and its up and coming dancers from Quebec in a professional and educational context while also shedding light on the diversity of cultures from the Asian continent. The following day, interdisciplinary artist Khadija Baker will present her moving new media performance. On Saturday, internationally renowned dancer and choreographer Jo Fong will lead a gathering of Asian dancers from Montreal. To end the week, we invite you to an introduction to Indonesian culinary arts at the delicious Nonya restaurant.

And finally our 3rd week of activities will present many colourful events including an outdoor show on the Place des Festivals, in the heart of Montreal. We will also present several films about Asian themes and an Indo-Iranian music concert. Our May 2014 events will end with a festive evening in collaboration with GLAM (LGBTQ Asians of Montreal).

In short, this year's program will offer you many events that range from new media, to visual arts, contemporary dance, film, music, spoken word and as the spotlight, an exciting dance competition.

Please join us in celebrating the month of May as Asian Heritage Month!

Khosro Berahmandi  
General Manager and Artistic Director