



FESTIVAL ACCÈS-ASIE

May 5th to 29th 2016

WORD FROM OUR SPOKESPERSON



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There are mornings when I wake up wishing I had a magic pill to give me a boost of self-confidence - to fight back against the hatred of difference; to live seamlessly in today's occidental world which considers me different, and designates me as the visible minority. Yet, living in Montreal among more than 120 different cultural communities also means expressing yourself from within your own cultural community. Being different also means sharing a unique journey.

From our dualities, we try to celebrate and showcase ourselves, individually and collectively, to affirm our existence, to defeat prejudice, to express our right to live freely, and freely reflect our origins. Khosro Berahmandi, General Manager and Artistic Director of Festival Accès Asie, has asked me to be the spokesperson for the Festival's 21st edition, which occurs throughout May, and also marks Canada's Asian Heritage Month. I now have the privilege of giving voice to my community, and the honor of being a tribune for those of us of néo-Québécoise Asian background.

I have often found myself existing between my two cultures. Yet somehow, I knew I had to take and give the best from both of my worlds. I am happy to have the chance to present myself to you as someone who passionately appreciates art in all its forms. As there is no better way to discover the spirit of a culture than through its art and artists, I am especially pleased to invite you to this year's exciting festivities to celebrate Asian art and culture through dance, song, literature, music, visual arts, cinema and photography.

Get ready for a four-week cultural journey that will take you from Persia to the Philippines, to Japan and beyond. Join us as we highlight the special talents of established and emerging artists and creators from Montreal, and other fascinating places to reaffirm the rich diversity of our Asian cultures.

Of course, we would never dream of choosing just one of our cultures to present to you. Join the festivities, and I guarantee a surprisingly rich and diverse cultural adventure. While we reflect the vastness of Asian culture, we are, at the same time, only a small part of what is Asian.

We invite you to experience the spirit of Asian culture at this year's Festival Accès Asie. Let us show you that Asian culture is so much more than a single fortune cookie! We invite you to have a wonderful Festival journey all your own!



Chan Tep
Spokesperson