

## MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



### « Reflections & Stories From Afar »

Montreal, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 – Active in Montreal's downtown district with eight multidisciplinary arts activities, five collaborations in seven different venues, and presenting over thirty artists, **Festival Accès Asie** celebrates our 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the month of May as Asian Heritage Month 2012. This year's program consists of multidisciplinary work ranging from live painting, music, dance, theatre to culinary arts, passing through film and new media.

Under the program theme, *'Reflections and Stories From Afar'*, two very different perspectives emerge. The first reveals the intriguing and stirring stories unraveled by artists from Cuban, Tibetan and Chinese origins. The second perspective, stepping aside for a pause to reflect, takes a look at the Festival's production and history over the past 17 years. Come witness compelling tales by astounding storytellers of a distant past, bringing meaning to the present and visions for the future.

Activities range from a live painting performance joined by Montreal's own outstanding percussionist, a national videoconference between three Canadian cities with performances such as a modern approach to a Beijing Opera classic, presentations and discussion with a hilarious stand up comic to a touching film of a Quebecois family who returns to Tibet. A voyage of audio and visual portraits in a mixed medium is followed by an established dance troupe from Toronto and an exploration in dance from a Sino-Cuban who discovers and fuses ancestry, gender and culture in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. With more chances for the public to interact, this includes a culinary tour of a Chinese grocery store to answer the infinite questions of what and how to shop for food in Chinatown. Finishing with a delicious 10 course meal, ingredients from the tour are included in the menu. For our first time ever, an outdoors street performance features a bollywood street dance workshop and thundering huge Japanese drums and a light show in the Quartier des spectacles. Exciting the senses, the heart and the soul, you will receive extraordinary tales from the ordinary and everyday stories from extraordinary people.

Eat, feel, reflect, do, celebrate. See you real soon.

Much love

Janet Lumb

