



FESTIVAL ACCÈS ASIE

24th edition

Message of Artistic and Development Director



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Dear friends of the Festival,

It is with great pleasure and pride that I present to you this program for Festival Accès Asie, which is celebrating its 24th edition by commemorating Asian Heritage Month in Montreal.

The Asian footprint in the Montreal metropolis is made up of a multitude of communities, each with their own ethnic, linguistic, and cultural identity. In addition to these cultural diversities, Asian communities are scattered throughout the metropolitan area. Such an environment can become an obstacle to dialogue, exchange, and collaboration between these communities in the artistic sphere, among others. This is why Festival Accès Asie strives to be a gathering place for all these communities.

From May 1 to 30, 2019, Festival Accès Asie offers you a wide range of works from new media, visual arts, contemporary dance, cinema, music, literature, video art, theatre, culinary arts, and conferences. This year's program includes Voices of the Circles, a new intercultural element and new youth component. As well, in the international component, we will undertake an exciting new venture by sending Montreal artists to Asia.

Throughout our past editions, Festival Accès Asie has made efforts to establish an active relationship with Aboriginal peoples. In an effort to echo the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, we have created a new cross-cultural art component with Aboriginal artists. The purpose of this component is to provide a platform for learning and knowledge of the history of Aboriginal Peoples across Canada for newcomer artists of Asian origins and their communities. Festival Accès Asie has benefited from the expertise of Ms. Nadine St-Louis, our consultant and the founder and director of Les Productions Feux Sacrés, an Aboriginal cultural organization. The result of this collaboration is reflected in the creation of the exhibition *Exil - Peuples d'ici et d'ailleurs*, which will be presented at the Musée des maîtres et artisans du Québec.

Living in a city known for its rich history and cultural diversity encourages us to imagine, design, and implement unique and innovative programming that promotes solidarity and wellbeing among its inhabitants. Montreal has always been a place of exchange and artistic dialogue, and Festival Accès Asie has become a unique forum where this dialogue, which is from and is inspired by the vast and rich cultures of Asia, takes place.

On behalf of the fabulous team of the Festival, I invite you to join us in celebrating the month of May as Asian Heritage Month!

Khosro Berahmandi
Artistic and Development Director