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# Confrontons le racisme ensemble!

DANS LE CADRE DE

Semaine d'actions contre le racisme au Québec



Patrimoine  
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press release  
for immediate release

## Let's confront racism together!

March 21st and 22nd, 2022

MAI (Montréal, arts interculturels), 3680 Jeanne-Mance Street

Montreal, March 2, 2022 – As part of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the *Semaine d'actions contre le racisme et pour l'égalité des chances* in Quebec, **Festival Accès Asie**, with the support of Canadian Heritage, invites you to two days of activities in **"Let's confront racism together"**. These activities will focus on sharing and raising awareness about the experiences of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of colour) communities, including systemic racism, as lived by members of these communities. This two-day event is organized in collaboration with the **Super Boat People Collective**, which will officially launch its activities on this occasion.

For this first edition of the anti-racism component of Festival Accès Asie, the activities will take place on **March 21 and 22, 2022 at MAI (Montréal, arts interculturels)**, and will consist of three round tables as well as a closing show.

Each round table will address a specific subject, namely, systemic racism in Quebec, anti-Asian racism in the context of the pandemic, and the importance of individual stories and narratives in the fight against discrimination. All activities are **free**, and you can read their full description below.

## **March 21, 2022 at 5 P.M.: Round Table — The Importance of Individual Stories and Narratives in the Fight Against Discrimination**

How does sharing our experiences help promote a sense of membership and continuity of a group through time? How does this sharing allow for **stories historically made invisible** to be disseminated, official histories to be disputed, and inherent clichés and stereotypes to be challenged? What do we mean by **re-appropriating** our own stories and narratives? In the course of this round table, we will try to answer these questions and understand the importance of our individual stories in the fight against **discrimination**. These stories and narratives also open a window into other facets of these complex lived realities, such as migratory journeys and the past and present representations of racialized communities in the public space. Each participant will have a few minutes to present their practice, followed by a Q&A period with the audience. This first round table will be followed by a 30-minute break before we begin the next round table.

### **Moderator**

- Rémy Chhem, researcher and co-founder of the Super Boat People Collective

### **Participants**

- Taïna Mueth, co-founder of *I am Montreal* and artist
- Laura Nhem, host and co-creator of the *Imperfect Asian* podcast
- Ky Vy Le Duc, director
- Joaquina Pires, social development consultant and community activist
- Justice Rutikara, filmmaker

## March 21, 2022 at 7 P.M.: Round Table — Anti-Asian Racism and the Pandemic: An Assessment

Racism against Asian communities was revealed during the **COVID-19 pandemic**, as we witnessed the drastic rise of hate crimes and bigoted acts. These incidents have severely affected members of these communities in Quebec, notably with regard to their physical integrity, mental health, and sense of belonging to Quebec and Canadian societies. As a result, these events have stimulated the emergence of **citizen initiatives** aiming to fight against discrimination and promote mutual aid. This mobilization culminated with the **protest against anti-Asian racism** in March 2021, during which thousands of people marched in the streets of Montreal in solidarity with Asian communities. On the occasion of the first-year anniversary of this protest, what assessment can we make and what lessons have we learnt from these initiatives? What is next for Asian activism in Quebec? Each participant will have a few minutes to share their thoughts, followed by a discussion with the audience.

### **Moderator**

- Parker Mah, community worker

### **Participants**

- Julie Tran, administrator of the *Groupe d'entraide contre le racisme envers les Asiatiques*
- May Chiu, lawyer specialized in family law and mediator
- Viet Tran, founder and editor in chief of Sticky Rice Magazine
- Diamond Yao, journalist
- Rebecca Ng

## March 22, 2022 at 5 P.M.: Round Table — Systemic Racism in Quebec

This round table will focus on systemic racism in Quebec, in which **two generations of immigrants** of various origins as well as an **Indigenous artist** will discuss how **systemic racism** affects racialized people differently in the province. The goal of this meeting is to create bridges between different generations of immigrants, indigenous peoples, and diverse cultural communities, and allow varied perspectives on racism to be shared. How do the lived experiences of racism differ and echo each other depending on the person, generation, and origin? What possible solutions do we have to put a halt to this insidious discrimination? This bilingual round table will be followed by a cocktail and a musical performance to wrap up the event.

### **Moderator**

- Himmat Singh Shinhat, multidisciplinary artist

### **Participants**

- Zab Maboungou, dancer, choreographer and director of *Compagnie Danse Nyata Nyata*
- Rahul Varma, artistic director of the Teesri Duniya Theatre
- Fo Niemi, executive director of the Centre for Research-Action on Race Relations (CRARR)
- André-Anne Côté, anthropologist
- Laëtitia Vu, international relations consultant for the *Ministère des Relations internationales et de la Francophonie du Québec* (MRIF)
- Melissa Girvan, singer and songwriter

## March 22, 2022 at 7 P.M.: Musical Performance by Melissa Girvan

Closing this first edition of **“Let’s confront racism together!”** will be Mi’kmaq singer and songwriter, **Melissa Girvan**, with a special performance showcasing her unique voice and guitar style.

*If the event cannot take place in person because of sanitary restrictions, we will modify the activities so they can be held virtually.*

*Admission to all activities is free, but we ask the participants to signal their intention of attending by registering [online](#).*

*To read the participants and invited artists' full biographies, as well as the latest updates on the event, we invite you to consult our [website](#).*

## **About Festival Accès Asie**

Festival Accès Asie is a Montréal-based arts festival that promotes Asian arts, cultures and histories through a diversity of artistic disciplines including the visual arts, dance, theatre, video, film, music, comedy, poetry, literature, performance, new media and culinary arts. Its activity is happening in May, which is Asian Heritage Month in Canada.

## **About Super Boat People Collective**

This collective works toward reclaiming Cambodian, Laotian, and Vietnamese histories across all generations in Quebec, and helps these communities reconnect and be fairly represented through various projects utilizing oral history, participative pedagogy, civic engagement, and intergenerational exchanges. To contact the Super Boat People Collective directly, you can visit their official [Facebook page](#) or send them a message at the following address: [superboatpeople@gmail.com](mailto:superboatpeople@gmail.com).



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