

ACCÈS ASIE

FESTIVAL



30 ANS

1^{er} - 31 MAI 2025



PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FESTIVAL ACCÈS ASIE CELEBRATES ITS 30TH EDITION FROM MAY 1ST TO 31, 2025 IN MONTREAL

DÉVOILEMENT DE LA PROGRAMMATION

MONTREAL, April 3, 2025 - For 30 years, Festival Accès Asie has celebrated the richness and diversity of artistic expression from Asian communities and their dialogue with other cultural traditions. Interdisciplinary and inclusive, it offers an essential platform for artists from the diaspora, fostering exchanges and collaborations through programming events that reflect the vitality of the contemporary art scene. A space for discovery and transmission, the Festival forges links between different generations and disciplines, highlighting unique journeys and daring creations.

To celebrate its 30th anniversary, this special edition, presented throughout **Asian Heritage Month** in Canada, pays tribute to three decades of commitment and artistic innovation, marked by a constant desire to showcase Asian voices in all their plurality. A rich and diverse program testifies to the Festival's impact on the cultural landscape and its role in the emergence of new perspectives. More than just an event, Festival Accès Asie is an invitation to explore the narratives, aesthetics, and sensibilities that shape an open and constantly evolving artistic scene.

Festival Accès Asie will kick off its 30th anniversary festivities on **May 1** at **5pm** with an [Opening Cocktail](#) at the **Conseil des arts de Montréal**. Hosted by artist **Big Daddy Queen Power**, this inaugural evening will be dedicated to the transmission and celebration of cultures. Audiences will be treated to performances by Inuvialuit/

Chipewyan singer and hand drummer **Nina Segalowitz** and Japanese circus artist **Ryunosuke**. To round off this festive evening, **DJ Maya Tayara** will offer a vibrant and lively musical selection, inviting everyone to celebrate the launch of this exceptional edition together.

From **April 24** to **May 29**, in the **main hall of the Gesù**, Festival Accès Asie, in collaboration with the **Gesù - Centre de créativité**, presents Tamil artist **Brintha Koneshachandra** and her exhibition [நாடம்: Can the divine speak? Fragments and echoes of Tamil voices](#) from Eelam unveiled. Through a body of pictorial and textual works inspired by the waking dreams of the Tamil people of Eelam, the artist questions notions of insularity, femininity, and solidarity. The **opening** will take place on **May 4** at **3pm** at the **Gesù - Hall**, offering the public a unique opportunity to meet the artist and explore her world during a **guided tour**.

In a co-presentation with **OBORO**, artist **Charlie Khalil Prince**, collaborating with filmmaker **Karim Ghorayeb**, will unveil his exhibition [to a still moment repeated](#) from **May 3** to **June 14** at **OBORO**. Inspired by his grandfather Samir Tabet, an artist from Beirut, this immersive installation, rooted in Lebanon, explores jumping as a metaphor for human resilience. The **exhibition opening** will take place on **May 3** at **3pm** at **OBORO**, offering the public a unique opportunity to talk with the artist and immerse themselves in his world. A [conference](#) with **Charlie Khalil Prince** and **Karim Ghorayeb** will also take

place on **May 17 at 2pm**, followed by a **guided tour** of the exhibition with the artist.

In collaboration with **OBORO**, Festival Accès Asie presents **30 Years of Asia Without Borders - Fields of Mirrors**, an exhibition curated by **Khosro Berahmandi** and **Sarah-Yang Baud**, running from **May 3 to June 14** at **OBORO**. This visual retrospective highlights three decades of the Festival's history through a multidisciplinary approach. Photographic archives and videos will illustrate its evolution, highlights, and notable achievements. An invitation to a visual and historical journey, celebrating the festival's legacy and impact over the years.

From **May 3 to May 6**, co-presented with **Tangente**, Festival Accès Asie is offering a **Double bill** at the **Wilder Building – Espace Vert**. Each evening will begin with Indigenous artist **Samantha Sutherland** performing **slip away**, a poignant solo that explores feelings of grief and hope in the face of the disappearance of the Ktunaxa language. **Charo Foo Tai Wei** will then invite the audience to explore inner wounds in search of healing in her piece **Yearning**. A **discussion** with the artists will follow the **May 5th** performance, offering a special opportunity for exchange with the audience.

On **May 8 at 8pm**, the 5th edition of **CanAsia Arts on the Move** will be broadcast live on **Facebook** and **YouTube**. This multidisciplinary, pan-Canadian showcase, hosted by the **CanAsia Arts Network**, celebrates the diversity of Asian diaspora artists across the country. The event will be broadcast simultaneously in several cities, including Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary, and Edmonton. Festival Accès Asie will feature Chinese musician **Zizhou Wang**, offering the public a unique online performance to discover.

On **May 9 at La Sala Rossa from 8:30 pm to 2 am**, the Festival gives carte blanche to **Bahay Collective**. **Level 30: Bahay Remix** is a unique evening of culture, music, and video, celebrating the Festival's 30th Anniversary with DJ sets from **Mando, NG, Baby Bimbo, Nether**, and **DJ Apollo**. In addition to the music, the event will feature a live video recording, titled **30 Videos for 30 Years**, offering an exclusive look behind the scenes at the heart of the Festival. The videos will be released throughout May, offering a glimpse into what it means to be an Asian Canadian, through the eyes of Bahay Collective.

In 2025, artist **kimura byol lemoine** was selected as part of a call for projects for **Intervalles**, a short production and digital media residency program, jointly organized by **OBORO** and Festival Accès Asie, creative partners since 1999. In this artistic approach, kimura byol lemoine explores diasporic realities, both national

and international, through the creation of a 100-channel video mosaic. This project integrates illustrations, sounds, zines, and photographic portraits of gestures representing experiences of displacement, thus forming a videographic "poja-gi," a weaving of stories and movements from the diaspora. The public is invited to discover the work **POJA GI** with the artist during a presentation on **May 10 at 2 pm** at **OBORO**.

On **May 11 at 2 pm**, **Valise Théâtre** will be at the **Maison de la culture Plateau-Mont-Royal** to present the puppet play **Gruffalo**. Families are invited to immerse themselves in this enchanting world and extend the experience after the performance with a **puppet-making workshop** led by artists **Mojtaba Moaf** and **Ghazaleh Moradiyan**, a unique opportunity for young and old to bring their own characters to life and let their imaginations run wild!

In a casual **5 à 7** on **May 14th**, the public is invited to **Usine C** for a discussion (in French), organized in collaboration with **Usine C** and stemming from Yang Zhen's **JASMINE TOWN** (presented last march at Usine C). **Identities in Motion - Roundtable Festival Accès Asie x USINE C** brings together three figures from the cultural milieu of the local Asian diaspora: **Tau S Bui, Kim Sanh-Châu**, and **Claudia Chan Tak**. They will share their family, social, and professional experiences, addressing questions related to their identity, and providing an opportunity to discuss and reflect on these themes.

Lebanese dancer and choreographer **Jassem Hindi**, based in Norway, will lead a lecture on **May 15 at 6 pm** at **Gesù - Salle d'Auteuil** on the inspirations for his piece **Laundry of Legend II**. This **Conference** will focus on **The Arab Apocalypse**, a major work by poet and artist **Etel Adnan**. Jassem Hindi will explore how this poem has been perceived as a political and artistic manifesto, and delve into his approach to transposing Western cultural references and responses to West Asian imaginative practices.

On **May 16** at the **Gesù - Amphitheater** at **8 pm**, co-presented with the **Kabir Center** and the **Gesù - Centre de créativité**, the public is invited to discover the **Sarod Sisters**, an enchanting musical evening featuring **Troilee Dutta** and **Moisilee Dutta**, accompanied by tabla player **Indranil Mallick**. Together, these three musicians will transport the audience on a journey through the rich world of Indian classical music.

On **May 18** at **La Cabane**, the **Super Boat People** collective is back to offer two **Cambodian and Laotian cooking workshops**: the first at **10 am** and the second at **4 pm**. These workshops will be co-hosted by **Rémy Chhem** and **Chanthavilack Pankham** (Alpha), to be

followed by a collective meal that delves into these as yet two little-known culinary worlds.

On **May 20**, at **7 pm**, at the **Cité-des-Hospitalières - Rangshala Studio**, the Festival and the **Teesri Duniya Theatre company** present a **Staged Reading of Dhara's Revenge** written by **Rahul Varma** and directed by **Lib Spry**. This comic reading in English will feature 8 performers for an evening filled with scandals and emotions.

Following his conference, artist **Jassem Hindi**, accompanied by his dancers **Justin de Luna**, **Clara Furey**, and **Simon Portigal**, will perform on **May 23 at 9 pm** and **May 24 at 4 pm** at **Espace Libre**. Presented for the second time in Montreal, **Laundry of Legend II** is inspired by *The Arab Apocalypse*, a farewell poem by the late Lebanese poet Etel Adnan. The work is presented as a temporal oracle, nourished by death and transformed by dancing bodies, offering a powerful and moving artistic experience.

On **May 25 at 3 pm**, at **Place des Arts - Salon Urbain**, **Festival Champa** and Festival Accès Asie invite you to a **Professional Development Workshop**. During an open discussion between three professionals/artists in the field - **Charo Foo Tai Wei**, **Khosro Berahmandi**, and **Sarah-Yang Baud**, the audience will discover their professional and artistic experiences, addressing the human scope of an artist's profession, how to build one's artistic direction, how to integrate one's personal life into one's work when art is an integral part of life, and how to balance these different aspects.

Then, the Festival and **CanAsian Dance** will present **Magic Mixing**, arising from a unique creative residency featuring two artists: **Allegra Hu** and **Simran Sachar** from different dance disciplines. Together, these dancers will spend one week in studio to exchange, explore and create new forms of expression. This creative immersion will culminate in an informal presentation of their work followed by a discussion with the public on **May 29 at 5 pm** at **Anti-Space (318-5425 Casgrain)**.

On **May 30 at 6 pm**, **7:45 pm**, and **9:30 pm**, **Cinéma Moderne** will host the **2nd edition** of **Asiate en court**, a short film competition curated by **Laurence Ly** and **Dédé Chen**. This event highlights the voices of artists of Asian descent and aims to encourage and promote their visions in their artistic journey in Montreal, Quebec, and Canada. Among the participants, some will have the chance to win the Grand Prize for the best short film of Asian origin, as well as the Canadian and Quebec *Coup de cœur* awards, honorable mentions, and a broadcast award, thanks to our many partners.

Finally, to close this 30th edition, Festival Accès Asie will present its **Closing Party** at **Jardins Gamelin** on **May 31** from **5 pm** to **10 pm**. This evening, in partnership with the event *C'est ma toune* by the artist **Mystique** and the **Quartier des spectacles**, will highlight **waacking**. The evening will begin with a **workshop** open to all, free and for all levels, to discover this expressive and powerful style with the dancer **Simziez**, arriving straight from Vancouver. In the second part of the evening, **Drama**, **Komodo**, **La Nuit**, **Simziez**, **Tales** and **To Channel** will come together for an exceptional waacking exhibition battle. The event will be hosted by **Doni-B**, and **DJ Fly Lady** Di will provide the musical ambiance with her energetic mixes, plunging the crowd into a festive disco atmosphere.

Calendar of activities:

April 24 to May 28 [free]
ନିର୍ମାଣ : Can the Divine Speak?
 ☆ Opening May 4, 3pm
 Brintha Koneshachandra
 ■ Gesù - Hall
 Visual Arts

May 1, 5pm [free]
Opening Cocktail
 ■ Conseil des arts de Montréal
 Multidisciplinary
 FR/EN

May 3 to 6 [\$15-\$32]
Double bill: slip away & Yearning
 Samantha Sutherland and Charo Foo Tai Wei
 ■ Tangente - Espace Vert
 Dance

May 3 to June 14 [free]
to a still moment repeated
 ☆ Opening May 3, 3pm
 Charlie Khalil Prince
 ■ OBORO
 Media Arts

May 3 to June 14 [free]
30 Years of Asia without Borders
 ☆ Opening May 3, 3pm
 Festival Accès Asie
 ■ OBORO
 Visual Arts

May 8, 8pm [free]
CanAsian Arts On the Move
 ■ Online
 Multidisciplinary
 FR/EN

May 9, 8:30pm [\$22-\$30]
Level 30 : Bahay Remix
 Bahay Collective
 ■ Sala Rossa
 Music - DJ

10 mai, 19h30 [free]
POJA GI
 kimura byol lemoine
 ■ OBORO
 Media Arts

May 11, 2pm [free]
Gruffalo (Performance and Workshop)
 Valise théâtre
 ■ Maison de la culture du Plateau Mont-Royal
 Puppet Theatre
 FR

May 14, 5pm [free]
Identities in motion
 Tau S Bui, Kim Sanh-Châu and Claudia Chan Tak
 ■ Usine C
 Discussion
 FR

May 15, 4pm [free]
Conference on Etel Adnan
 Jassem Hindi
 ■ Gesù - Salle d'Auteuil
 FR/EN

May 16, 8pm [\$30]
Sarod Sisters
 Sarod Sisters
 ■ Gesù - Amphitéâtre
 Music

May 17, 2pm [free]
Conference and Commented Visit *to a still moment repeated*
 Charlie Khalil Prince
 ■ OBORO
 FR/EN

May 18, 11am and 4pm [\$60]
Laotian & Cambodian Cooking Workshop
 Super Boat People
 ■ La Cabane
 Culinary Arts
 FR

May 20, 7pm [\$15]
Staged Reading of Dhara's Revenge
 Teesri Duniya Theatre
 ■ Cité-des-Hospitalières, Rangshala studio
 Theatre
 EN

May 23, 9pm, and 24, 4pm [\$35]
Laundry of Legends II
 Jassem Hindi
 ■ Espace Libre
 Dance

May 25, 3pm [free]
Professional Development Workshop
 Charo Foo Tai Wei, Khosro Berahmandi and Sarah-Yang Baud
 ■ Place-des-Arts - Salon Urbain
 FR

May 29, 5pm [Pay what you want]
Magic Mixing
 Allegra Hu and Simran Sachar
 ■ Anti-space
 Dance
 FR/EN

May 30, 6pm [\$16]
Asiate en court, 2nd edition
 ■ Cinéma Moderne
 Cinema
 FR/EN

May 31, 5pm [free]
Closing Party - Waacking Special
 Workshop and Battle Exhibition
 ■ Jardins Gamelin
 Dance et DJ
 FR/EN

About Festival Accès Asie

Celebrating Asian Heritage Month in May at Tiohtiá:ke-Mooniyang-Montréal, Festival Accès Asie is a month-long artistic, interdisciplinary, inclusive, and engaging festival. It amplifies the voices and practices of artists from the Asian continent and its diaspora across a wide variety of fields, including performing arts, visual and media arts, literary arts, interdisciplinary arts, and culinary arts.

Festival Accès Asie

1200, rue de Bleury, Suite 111
 Montreal, QC, H3B 3J3

About CanAsian Arts Network

The CanAsian Arts Network aims to connect Asian-Canadian artists and the cultural industry to increase equity and representation in the arts. It is a space for artists to gather, exchange, and create.

TRAILER : [HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/BV07RAPMJXW](https://youtu.be/BV07RAPMJXW)

A WORD FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: [ZIYA TABASSIAN](#)

MORE INFORMATION:
[ACCESASIE.COM](https://www.accesasie.com)

