



**Diversity Creates**  
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# Celebration of Asian and European artistic diversity at the ASEM Cultural Festival

Alongside the 12<sup>th</sup> Asia-Europe Meeting Summit (ASEM12), the ASEM Cultural Festival will be held from 18-30 October 2018 at the Centre for Fine Arts (BOZAR) in Brussels, Belgium.

## Press Release

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The ASEM Cultural Festival, titled '*Europe meets Asia, Asia meets Europe*', will highlight the creativity of Asian and European artists focussing on two main themes: *connectivity* and *heritage*. Audiences in Brussels will get to experience an eclectic programme of dance, digital art, film, music, theatre and visual arts from Asia and Europe.

The festival opens with a specially commissioned digital and music performance under the artistic direction of renowned Belgian artist, Honoré d'O on 18 October 2018. Bringing together the world of classical and contemporary dance, the festival presents '*Kijote Kathakali*' (a traditional Indian theatre form) and '*I am a Demon*' by renowned Thai dancer-choreographer, Pichet Klunchun. Young and established architects (Pritzker Prize-winning Chinese architect, Wang Shu and Flemish architect, Paul Robbrecht) will engage in a public conversation at the forum. A special concert series features award-winning baritone from Mongolia, Ariunbaatar Ganbaatar and Russia's leading organist, Svetlana Berezhnaya. The festival also showcases films from China, France, and Japan.

"This showcase of the best of Asia and European creativity at the ASEM Cultural Festival beautifully complements ASEF's ongoing work in culture of connecting cultural professionals from both the regions through information services, travel grant and face-to-face encounters", said Ambassador Karsten WARNECKE, ASEF Executive Director.

See full list of events and ticket details on [www.ASEF.org](http://www.ASEF.org). In addition, this festival was developed in the context of ASEF's Policy Panel at the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEM Culture Ministers' Meeting in February 2018, which highlighted the importance of people-to-people exchanges for impactful cultural diplomacy. As ASEF Executive Director Ambassador Karsten WARNECKE observes, "Connections between Asia and Europe have been fuelled by political and economic priorities over the last decades, but cultural dialogue has reinforced this alliance for centuries. Through the showcase of cultural diversity from the two regions, the ASEM Cultural Festival celebrates this long-standing bi-regional connection."

## About the Organisers

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Situated right in the middle of the Mont des Arts, where the upper part of Brussels meets the lower part, the Centre for Fine Arts is the most visited cultural destination in Brussels. Whether you want to enjoy concerts, exhibitions, shows, or other cultural and artistic delights, the Centre for Fine Arts stands out among other cultural institutions thanks to its vast multidisciplinary and diverse programme. This high-quality international programme has earned the Centre for Fine Arts a reputation as the leading cultural reference. [www.bozar.be](http://www.bozar.be)



The **Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)** is an intergovernmental process established in 1996 to foster dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe. Presently it comprises 53 partners: 30 European and 21 Asian countries, the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat. ASEM addresses political, economic, social, cultural, and educational issues of common interest, in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership. For more information, please visit [www.ASEMinfoboard.org](http://www.ASEMinfoboard.org)



The **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)** promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of culture, education, governance, sustainable development, economy and public health. ASEF is an intergovernmental not-for-profit organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

ASEF runs more than 25 projects a year, consisting of around 100 activities, mainly conferences, seminars, workshops, lectures, publications, and online platforms, together with about 125 partner organisations. Each year over 3,000 Asians and Europeans participate in ASEF's activities, and much wider audiences are reached through its various events, networks, and web-portals. For more information, please visit [www.ASEF.org](http://www.ASEF.org)

## Partners

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ASEF's contribution is with the financial support of the European Union

