



ASEF PRESS RELEASE

***Asia-Europe Creative Partnership Initiative: Performing Arts
Ignite! Contemporary Dance Festival
Asia-Europe Creative Partnership Initiative: New Media
Mobile Artistic Platform***

10-13 and 12-15 November 2010
New Delhi and Bangalore, India

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Indian dance and new media events promote Asia-Europe dialogue

More than 50 artists from Asia and Europe will be taking part in two events in India for a bi-regional dialogue on arts and culture. Brought together with the support of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), they will take part in two events: the *Ignite! Contemporary Dance Festival* in the capital New Delhi (10-13 November) and the travelling new media residency programme, M.A.P. (Mobile Artistic Platform), in Bangalore, the country's IT hub (12-15 November).

Ignite!, one of India's few festivals dedicated to contemporary dance, comprises of master classes, film screenings, exhibitions and workshops which address challenges in contemporary dance practice faced by dancers in both regions. It is organised by the Gati Dance Forum, a non-profit organisation created and run by independent dancers and choreographers.

In M.A.P., six artists will research issues concerning sustainable tourism, cross-cultural exchange and hospitality by travelling to different locations in South India. They will present their findings as well as the jointly-created artworks inspired by their travels over a two-day session of public talks, screenings and performances from 12-15 November at local independent arts space 1Shanthi Road in Bangalore. M.A.P. is organised by artist network Reloading Images in collaboration with arts and media organisation Maraa.

Both events are supported by ASEF under its Asia-Europe Cultural Partnership Initiative. The Initiative supports projects by Asian and European organisations in the fields of film, new media and performing arts that promote cultural understanding between the two regions through collaborations and exchanges between artists.

Ms Anupama SEKHAR, from ASEF's Cultural Exchange Department, will share ASEF's long experience in supporting capacity building and networking in the field of arts and culture in Asia and Europe at these events. For more information, please see attached programme briefs.

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About the Organisers:



The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) promotes greater mutual understanding between Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Through ASEF, civil society concerns are included as a vital component of deliberations of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM*). ASEF was established in February 1997 by the participating governments of ASEM and has since implemented over 450 projects, engaging over 15,000 direct participants as well as reaching out to a much wider audience in Asia and Europe. www.asef.org

* ASEM now brings together 46 member states (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam) plus the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat. www.aseminfoboard.org



The **Gati Dance Forum** is a Delhi-based organisation created and run by independent dancers and choreographers on a non-profit voluntary basis. Formed in 2007, this Forum emerged from a general need, felt by local independent artists and choreographers, for a dedicated platform of expression and exchange in the field of dance.



Goethe Institut Max Mueller Bhavan is the Federal Republic of Germany's cultural institution operational worldwide. We promote the study of German abroad and encourage international cultural exchange. We also foster knowledge about Germany by providing information on its culture, society and politics.



Reloading Images is an open network of artists, writers, curators, architects, filmmakers, designers, scholars and interdisciplinary cultural practitioners. Members of the network initiate and organize activities on a project-by-project basis, working together across various disciplines, formats and places. Reloading Images' practice takes the form of process-oriented artistic research.



Maraa is an arts and media organization that applies the lens of arts and media to all their core areas of work.



CitySpinning is a series of interventions which look at expanding the nature and use of public and unused urban spaces, in Bangalore and Delhi. It was initiated by Prayas Abhinav in October 2007 at CEMA and has been supported by Khoj, OpenSpace India, 48c, IIACD and others in India and beyond.