



Asia-Europe Cultural Festival: A Celebration of Artistic Diversity in Singapore

The Asia-Europe Cultural Festival, a celebration of the vibrant cultural tapestries of Asia and Europe, is set to make its debut in Singapore from 22 October to 1 November 2023.

22 October to 1 November 2023, Singapore

Press Release

For Immediate Release

2023
Singapore

Contact

Valentina RICCARDI (Ms)
Director – Culture

Asia-Europe Foundation
(ASEF)

E:
valentina.riccardi@asef.org
W: www.ASEF.org

More Information

[Asia-Europe Cultural Festival
| 2023 Edition - Asia-Europe
Foundation \(ASEF\)](#)

For Facebook, Twitter and Instagram updates, follow:

#ASEFCulture,
#AECFest2023
#ASEFculture360

Facebook:
@asiaeuropefoundation/
@culture360

Twitter: @aseforg/
culture360_asef

Instagram: culture360_asef

Organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) with the support of the European Union, this year's festival is a testament to the power of art in transcending borders and fostering dialogue. Audiences in Singapore will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in a diverse range of artistic expressions, including dance, film, photography, and music, with artists from Italy, Malaysia, Cambodia, France, Estonia, Japan, and Singapore.

Since 2018, the Asia-Europe Cultural Festival has showcased the rich tapestry of cultural exchanges between Asia and Europe, celebrating artistic collaborations, fostering dialogue, and igniting connections between two continents known for their diversity and creativity.

The festival kicks off on 22 October with the Singapore premiere of the documentary film *The Perfect Motion*, directed by French filmmaker Xavier de Lauzanne. The film tracks the creation of a production by Cambodia's royal dancers called "Metamorphosis", and the history of the Royal Ballet since 1906. The screening will be followed by a live dance performance from the Princess Buppha Devi Dance School and Q&A session with its Director, HRH Prince Sisowath Tesso and the filmmaker.

On the opening night, with the support of the Embassy of Estonia in Singapore, renowned Estonian director Teet Kask will present the theatre performance *The Golden Temple*. Inspired by Yukio Mishima's novel "The Temple of the Golden Pavilion", this piece is an ode to the undefined depth of the human condition. The original music score is performed live by a cello player and a singer that become the protagonists of the tale, together with two movement artists (one Estonian and one Japanese). For the re-stage of the performance in Singapore, the director has collaborated with Singapore-based cello player Robert Choi.

On 27 October, with the support of the Embassy of Italy in Singapore, the Festival will present the dance performance *X* by Italian choreographer Olimpia Fortuni and sound artist Katatonic Silenzio, in collaboration with Malaysian dancer and choreographer January Low. This captivating performance aims to bridge cultures, drawing inspiration from Asian shamanic traditions and Western archetypal symbols, highlighting the importance of artistic exchange and cultural diversity.

The festival culminates on 1 November with a thought-provoking

roundtable discussion titled Framing the Future: Photography's Impact on Climate Awareness in Southeast Asia. Presented in collaboration with the Embassy of the Netherlands in Vietnam and the NOOR Foundation, this conversation will feature talented photographers, journalists, and scientists, exploring the pivotal role of photography in shaping the narrative of climate change awareness in Southeast Asia.

An exciting companion event, ASEF LinkUp | Asia-Europe Cultural Diplomacy Lab will be launched in conjunction with the Festival programme. This three-day gathering will connect curators, arts managers and artists with diplomats and cultural attaches based in Singapore and the ASEAN region. The Lab aims to create a space where minds and ideas converge, nurturing encounters, fostering capacity building, and facilitating the exchange of knowledge in cultural diplomacy.

See full list of events and ticket details on: [Asia-Europe Cultural Festival 2023 | ASEF culture360](#)

The Asia-Europe Cultural Festival is organised by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and funded by the European Union, with the generous support of the Embassy of Italy in Singapore, the Embassy of Estonia in Singapore, and Casa Asia. ASEF would also like to thank the Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM) and Dance Nucleus for their support.

About the Organisers



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).

Together with over 150 partner organisations, ASEF has conducted more than 250 projects, mainly conferences, seminars and workshops. Over 40,000 Asians and Europeans have participated in its activities, and a much wider audience is reached through its networks, web-portals, publications, exhibitions and lectures.

www.ASEF.org



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

Partners



Casa Asia is a public consortium consisting of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, the Generalitat of Catalonia, and the Barcelona and Madrid city councils with its headquarters in Barcelona, and a centre in Madrid. Casa Asia aims at contributing to a better understanding between Spain and Asian countries and to promote institutional, economic, cultural and educational relations as well as encouraging exchanges in the domains of culture, ideas and projects of shared interest. Casa Asia is a reference and meeting point in Spain with regard to relations with Asia-Pacific.

<https://www.casaasia.eu/>



Embassy of Italy
Singapore

Embassy of Italy in Singapore

<https://ambsingapore.esteri.it>



EMBASSY OF ESTONIA
SINGAPORE

Embassy of Estonia in Singapore

<https://singapore.mfa.ee/>

Venue Partner



Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM) is Singapore's national museum of Asian antiquities and decorative art. As the only museum in Asia with a pan-Asian scope, ACM is devoted to exploring the rich artistic heritage of Asia through our outstanding collection of masterpieces, and through ground-breaking special exhibitions. ACM focuses on the many historical connections between cultures and civilisations in Asia, and between Asia and the world.

<https://www.nhb.gov.sg/acm/>

Thanks to



Dance Nucleus is a centre for practice-based research, creative development and knowledge production for independent / contemporary performance. Dance Nucleus fosters a culture of critical discourse, self-education, artistic exchange and practical support. Our programmes are designed to respond to the needs of our members in a comprehensive way. We build partnerships in Singapore, Southeast Asia, Asia & Australia, and internationally.

<https://www.dancenucleus.com/>



Embassy of the Kingdom
of the Netherlands

Embassy of the Netherlands in Viet Nam

<https://www.netherlandsandyou.nl/your-country-and-the-netherlands/Vietnam>



NOOR Images is an Amsterdam-based, international agency for documentary photography and visual storytelling. Alongside the agency, the NOOR Foundation focuses on creating opportunities for visual education and capacity building in ethical visual journalism and documentary practices. The NOOR foundation and agency work with multiple international clients, collaborators and partners. As industry leaders, we produce work for large media companies and small startups, institutional clients and non-profits.

<https://www.noorimages.com>