ASIA MEETS EUROPE

EUROPE MEETS ASIA

ASEM Cultural Festival

18 > 30 OCT. ’18
INTRO

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“CHINA & EUROPE STORY: CITY, PEOPLE, CULTURE” (CHINA)
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OPENING
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AND CONVERSELY VERTICAL
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ARTISTS FUEL THE PASSION OF A SOLID ALLIANCE BETWEEN TWO CONTINENTS

On October 18 and 19 Brussels will host the 12th summit of Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). On that occasion the Centre for Fine Arts (BOZAR) will highlight the creativity of European and Asian artists during the ASEM Cultural Festival. Arts and culture will fuel the passion of solid alliance between the two continents.

In times of global changes, cooperation between Europe and Asia is more important than ever. The 53 members of ASEM represent more than 60 percent of the world’s population and 65 percent of the economic activity. But our ties are not only political or economic; they are also cultural. For centuries artists have fuelled the passion of the solid alliance between our two continents.

The ASEM Cultural Festival ‘Europe meets Asia, Asia meets Europe’ will highlight two crucial themes: connectivity and heritage and will show that intercultural exchange and the vision and creativity of artists can broaden our perspective on the past and the future.

‘Europe meets Asia, Asia meets Europe’ will be hosted by Centre for Fine Arts-Brussels (BOZAR): a leading cultural institution with a resolute European mission.

At the very heart of the European Union, the Centre for Fine Arts of Brussels (BOZAR) has evolved from a traditional art centre, into a multidisciplinary platform for contemporary intercultural dialogue housed in a Brussels’ architectural masterpiece.

Driven by a commitment to artistic excellence and a constant need to adapt itself to an ever-changing world, this European house for culture engages with the XXIth century by opening up new critical imaginaries, building bridges between communities through permanent intercultural exchanges and debates, offering new perspectives that challenge existing narratives.

“Connectivity” and “Heritage” are the two pillars of ASEM Cultural Festival, an event born out of European and Asian artistic creation. BOZAR was the natural partner to collaborate with ASEM and all its Asian and European countries and bring their creativity together. The Centre for Fine Arts-Brussels (BOZAR), provides the perfect setting for this festival. The two-week festival will offer a diverse range of programming from Asia & Europe including performances, exhibitions and conversations.

An opening event featuring a specially commissioned digital and music performance under the artistic direction of renowned Belgian visual artist, Honoré d’O will be held on 18 October 2018. A public forum on 22 October 2018 will bring together two leading architects from Asia & Europe for a conversation on the topic of architecture and heritage. Over two weeks, an eclectic mix of music, dance and theatre performances, visual and photography exhibitions and film screenings will be presented.

BOZAR was the natural partner to collaborate with ASEM and all its Asian and European countries and bring their creativity together. The festival is organised by Centre for Fine Arts-Brussels with the support of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and the European Union, the host of the Summit.

Let this festival be an opportunity to celebrate these historical connections, and welcome the prospects for future cooperation.
Since 1990 the artist Honoré d'O (1961 Oudenaarde, Belgium) has been exploring a multidimensional and innovative language in the form of organically built installations that always fit in their surrounding architecture. His ephemeral work invites the viewer to make a mental walk, next to the literal one, and to define a route throughout his compositions towards the wonder of the real.

After many travels to and exhibitions in Korea, Japan and China the artist understood that the similarities between Asia and Europe are sometimes less outspoken as one may think. Different societal and cultural codes are built on similar concerns for our habitat and life in general.

With his new installation, according to the architecture of the Horta Hall, Honoré d'O questions the legitimate and imaginary borders between East and West by breaking with each frame of references that we use to define our position and relationship towards the other and the whole. Therefore he shapes a new world that transcends these borders between East and West, South and North and embraces the Universe and every molecule in its entirety.

L'Etat Iconoclastique des Choses uses the symbol of the mask as Leitmotiv. Masks are universal ready-mades referring to the complex identity each individual is made of. They deal with notions of collectivism and individualism, health, danger and protection, the invisible left or right. They are at the same time thesis and antithesis, dialogue and monologue. Masks appear in every aspect of everybody’s life. The permanent flux of images and sound in the installation is a subtle reminder of the fragility of things and a refined criticism on the power of perception, that still clings too much to the material object, noise in the artist’s search for a more comfortable humanity.
In the video installation *A Path to Peace*, Lee Lee-Nam (b. 1969) gives us his personal interpretation of a painting by Gyeomjae Jeong Seon (1676-1759), who was one of the leading lights in the landscape painting movement known as “true view” and whose works are considered to be the most representative of Korean cultural heritage. Lee Lee-Nam reinterprets Gyeomjae Jeong Seon with the aid of digital technologies by linking two mountains that are some distance from one another.

The Kumgang Mountains, painted by Jeong Seon, are located on the North of the border between the two Koreas. By digitising the classical pictorial style and using symbolic representations common to both North and South Korea – the four seasons, cultural and architectural heritage –, Lee Lee-Nam puts forward the possibility of uniting the two countries in peace.
CHINA & EUROPE STORY:
CITY, PEOPLE, CULTURE

Artist: Zhao Hui (Steve Zhao)
Country: China
Location: Espace Le Boeuf
18.10 > 30.10.18

PHOTO EXHIBITION

With the support of mission of People's Republic of China to the European Union

Photographer Steve Zhao is the driving force behind “China Story”. For that project, commissioned by the Chinese government, he travelled through the ‘Middle Kingdom’ and recorded its beauty for posterity. The project has been shown in forty countries around the world and so far consists of twenty series about Chinese culture, its countryside and people. He is currently working on two new chapters for the German and Italian embassies in China, namely “German Story” and “Italian Story”.

Zhao is the only Asian photographer to be invited by Nikon to become one of its prestigious Grand Total Top Ten Global Photographers. Apart from his work for Chinese governmental bodies, he also takes commissions from major international businesses. He has been invited to give solo exhibitions in the EU headquarters in Brussels four times.

ROSTROS-MUKHA-FACES
AT CROSSROAD

Artist: Miguel Ángel Belinchón - Bujes (a.k.a. Belin), Wesley Valenzuela
Country: Philippines, Spain
Location: Ravenstein Gallery
18.10 > 30.10.18

MURAL

With the support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain to the Kingdom of Belgium

Street art belongs to the public domain, surely? Street artists from two continents are creating a mural in the Ravenstein Gallery, between the Centre for Fine Arts and the Central Station. They are joining forces on the theme of ‘faces’: an unfamiliar face is always the portal we have to pass through in order to make contact with a different culture.

The Spanish painter and sculptor Miguel Ángel Belinchón Bujes (a.k.a. Belin) is one of the most important European graffiti artists. He has even designed brand-new colours for a paint manufacturer, who then added them to their commercial range. The Filipino artist and designer Wesley Valenzuela uses a mixed technique in his graphic depictions of modern urban life, effervescent and brutal in equal measures.
A CONVERSATION BETWEEN WANG SHU AND PAUL ROBBRECHT

As part of ASEM’s cultural programme (Asia-Europe Meeting), BOZAR will host a conversation between two leading architects of Asia and Europe: the 2012 Prizker Prize Winner Wang Shu of the Chinese office Amateur Architecture Studio and the Belgian architect Paul Robbrecht from Robbrecht en Daem architecten.

The exchange of ideas will focus on the significance and on the role of cultural legacy in their respective architectural work and will surface convergencies and differences in the way European and Asian architects and designers deal with the topic of heritage in their contemporary projects. The Belgian professor and editor Véronique Patteeuw will moderate this discussion.

The conversation will be preceded by a presentation of student projects of shortlisted graduates of the Young Talent Architecture Award from Korea, China and Europe. A worldwide student award which is part of the prestigious European Prize for Contemporary Architecture of the Mies van der Rohe Foundation.
“LES SALONS DE MUSIQUE”

Following the examples of the musical salons organized throughout Asia and Europe, the concerts will be presented in the new “Salon Europa” which is located in the heart of the Centre for Fine Arts. This will be an unique opportunity to discover exceptional musicians in an intimate setting allowing an immersed listening experience and encouraging a privileged relationship between the artists and the audience.

ARIUNBAATAR GANBAATAR

**ARTISTS:** Ariunbaatar Ganbaatar, Baritone & Darima Linkhovoin, Piano  
**COUNTRY:** Mongolia  
**REPERTOIRE:** P.I. Tchaikovsky, S. Rachmaninoff, traditional Mongolian songs  
**LOCATION:** Salon Europa  
19:10 - 20:30  
**VOCALS**  
With the support of the Embassy of the State of Mongolia.

One thing leads to another. Ariunbaatar Ganbaatar comes from a nomad family and sang Mongolian folk songs as a child. At the age of seventeen he got into university and took his first singing lessons. Unfortunately, the money didn’t last and, two years later, he had no choice but to become a traffic policeman. He didn’t stop singing, though, and while soloing with a police choir at a concert in Siberia, his deep baritone made an impression on members of the Buryat State Theatre who promptly recruited him.

Things happened quickly after that. He took part in a range of international competitions and won, among others, the first prize in the prestigious Tchaikovsky contest. Since then he has performed at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, the Mariinsky in Saint Petersburg, Carnegie Hall in New York and ... Buckingham Palace. Music crosses all borders! In 2017, Ariunbaatar was awarded the Song Prize at the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition.

Darima Linkhovoin is a famous Russian musician, accompanist and teacher of Ariunbaatar Ganbaatar.
With her flamboyant playing style and unique organ arrangements of compositions written for other instruments, Berezhnaya has made an impression around the world. At the present time, she is the director and organist with the State Philharmonic of Mineralnye Vody, in the Caucasus. The region has long formed the natural and symbolic border between Asia and Europe.

Svetlana studied piano in Moscow and Kazan before studying the organ at the Brabants Conservatorium in Tilburg, the Netherlands. She is a laureate of various competitions and regularly performs throughout Russia, Europe, North America and Asia. One highlight of her extensive discography is the CD she recorded in 2013 in the famous Notre-Dame de Paris, marking the occasion of the cathedral’s 850th anniversary.

Katchry Jewel Golbin with Michael Lao Cu and Miguel Nicolas “Mikko” Lee Pablo

Katchry Jewel Golbin is the living proof that dreams can become reality. The Filipina was born blind 26 years ago, and she has been singing from an early age. She became captivated by Edith Piaf and taught herself French using a computer program and Facebook.

When a clip of her singing Mariah Carey’s *I’ll Be There* went viral, she was well and truly on her way.

Under her pseudonym Aliènette Coldfire, she took part in the French talent search *La France a un incroyable talent*. She rendered everyone speechless with her touching interpretation of a song from the popular musical *Les misérables*. Since then she has regularly performed a mixed French and Filipino repertoire. On this occasion, she is accompanied by two promising Filipino musicians: pianist Michael Lao Cu and cellist Miguel Nicolas Lee Pablo (a.k.a. Mikko).

MeLODIeS FROM KAZAkhSTaN AND PAkISTAN

Erlan Ryskali, from Kazakhstan in Central Asia, sings traditional songs from his country while accompanying himself on the dombura, a long-necked lute.

Arnaud Eurin is a French sitar player. As a child he became fascinated by the instrument after seeing the virtuoso Ravi Shankar at work during the Bangladesh benefit concert. From then on, he has immersed himself in Hindustani music in India and studied under traditional masters.

The Sicilian-Belgian percussionist Carlo Strazzante concentrated first on western music before falling under the spell of the classical music traditions of other regions. He can play an array of instruments from the Indian subcontinent, the Middle East and North Africa, but is particularly proficient on tabla. Together, Eurin and Strazzante will perform a set of music from Pakistan.
Artists: Margi Kathakali Company
Country: India, Spain
Location: Hall M
20.10 – 20:30

Theatre Dance
With the support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain and the Embassy of the Republic of India

This initiative combines two different literary and theatrical cultures, two different ways of understanding art, theatre and imagination by staging a different version of El Quixote. It is performed in one of the most mysterious, richest and classical theatre traditions of the world, namely Kathakali theatre from southern India. The rich visual ritual and dramatic art is blended with the imaginary world of El Quixote, both of them bound in time (both originated in the seventeenth century) and fed by their own mythological and legendary traditions (knights-errant, heroes, and Ramayana and Mahabharata gods respectively). The universal story of the ingenious gentleman and his squire is reimagined for the 21st century. This surprising play makes us see our own culture from the other’s perspective in an encounter which questions the ethereal limits of a culture.

This play will be performed by the Margi Kathakali Company performers and musicians from Trivandrum, southern India, which is one of India’s most prestigious companies and schools of Kathakali classic theatre.

This innovative production, which is the result of multiple dialogues between tradition and contemporaneity and between two cultures, i.e., India and Spain, is presented in the margin of the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the death of Cervantes in 2016 and to celebrate the Year of India in Spain.
MEET THE MILLENIALS: CONNECTING A CREATIVE GENERATION IN EAST AND WEST

Artists: Lucas De Man
Country: The Netherlands, Belgium
Location: Studio

In the theatrical lecture performance Meet the Millennials, creator Lucas De Man (NL/BE) takes you on a fascinating trip: lightning fast you travel through six megacities in Asia. During the performance you meet a contemporary generation of hope in Seoul, Singapore, Taipei, Tokyo, Hong Kong and Shenzhen. The dedicated millennials, of both Europe and Asia, share the futuristic challenges of a rapidly changing and sometimes terrifying world.

Europe and Asia may know cultural differences, mostly we share common ground as we try to live the good life. How do we deal with progressive ideas on love and sex, while committing to traditional community values? And how do we face the future that keeps on closing in as robotics take over daily life? The performance play is a combination of film footage, documentary, manga animations, storytelling and the most unlikely encounters with artists, scientists, social activists, students and professors.

Meet the Millennials inspires. It connects stories of daily life, work, education, artificial intelligence, emancipation and individual happiness in megacities. Lucas De Man shows the mind blowing effects of radical, fast forward thinking change. It is the story of a taboo breaking generation in East and West.

Lucas De Man is a creator, concept developer, presenter, guest chairman, playwright and director. He is the founder and artistic director of Stichting Nieuwe Helden and presenter of the AvroTros programme Kunstuur. He also gives lectures and makes appearances as a host, presenter and guest chairman.

I AM A DEMON

Artist: Pichet Klunchun
Country: Thailand
Location: Studio

Since he was 16 years old, Pichet Klunchun has studied Khon, a traditional Thai mask dance, under Chaiyot Khummanee, one of the big names of the genre. Today he’s a choreographer and dancer with a worldwide reputation. Pichet created this show in 2005 in homage to his mentor, who had died 3 years before. It deals with the intergenerational transmission of the art of the Khon dance and the relationship between master and disciple in daily life, following up on a question the artist asked himself: “What should you do to perfectly embody the character of a demon?” The young man devotes himself to a real exercise in the deconstruction of the syntax of the Khon dance, approaching the technique step by step, followed by the emotions of a demon.

I am a demon is the outcome, dazzling with colours, sensuality and life.

Pichet Klunchun studied Traditional Thai Dance at the Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok and subsequently worked as a dancer and choreographer before being invited to participate in most major events in this field. After a few years he took his first steps in the world of contemporary dance. In his home country he is universally acclaimed for his efforts to bring together khon and contemporary dance.
Zadie Smith described the novels of Jean-Philippe Toussaint as “the reason why it is worth continuing to read fiction”. Words that say a great deal about the reputation of this Belgian writer who is read and acclaimed all over the world.

On 23 October BOZAR is inviting him to give a talk with French screenwriter and filmmaker Benoît Peeters. Together they will be discussing Asia, a continent that has played a major role in Toussaint’s work since his 2002 novel Faire l’amour [Making Love]. His latest novel has the evocative title Made in China (2017) which is where most of the action takes place.

His books have been translated into over 20 languages and have won the Prix Médicis (2005) and the Prix Décembre (2009). Toussaint is also a filmmaker and photographer whose work has been exhibited in Brussels, Paris and Japan.
“SENSES” – RYUSUKE HAMAGUCHI

**DIRECTOR:** Ryusuke Hamaguchi  
**COUNTRY:** Japan  
**LOCATION:** Studio  
**DATES:** 22.10 – 20:00 & 28.10 – 11:00

After graduating from the University of Tokyo, Haguchi worked in the commercial film industry for a few years before entering the graduate program in film at Tokyo University of the Arts. His graduation film Passion was selected for the competition of the 2008 Tokyo Filmex.

With Kō Sakai, he made a three-part documentary about survivors of the 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami, with Voices from the Waves being selected for the competition at the 2013 Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival, and Storytellers winning the Sky Perfect IDEHA Prize.

His next film *Happy Hour* was first developed while Hamaguchi was an artist in residence at KIITO Design and Creative Center Kobe in 2013. It came out of an improvisational acting workshop he held for non-professionals, with many of the film’s performers having participated in the workshop.

The four lead actresses shared the best actress award and the film earned a special mention for its script at the 2015 Locarno Film Festival. Hamaguchi was also given a special jury award at the 2016 Japan Movie Critic Awards, as well as a best newcomer award in the film division of the Agency for Cultural Affairs’s Geijutsu Sensho Awards that year. His Asako I & II was selected to compete for the Palme d’Or at the 2018 Cannes Film Festival.
“THE NIGHT I SWAM” - DAMIEN MANIVEL & KOHEI Igarashi

**Artists:** Damien Manivel & Kohei Igarashi  
**Country:** Japan  
**Location:** Studio  
**28.10 - 11:00**

Damien Manivel (1981, France) has worked as a dancer and acrobat. He was educated in film at Le Fresnoy in Tourcoing, France. His short The Lady with the Dog (2010) was nominated for a Tiger Award for Short Films in Rotterdam. A Sunday Morning (2012) was selected for The International Critics’ Week at Cannes, and won the Nikon Discovery Award. A Young Poet, his first feature film, has been awarded a Special Mention at the Locarno Film Festival.

Kohei Igarashi  
Born in Shizuoka, Japan, in 1983, IGARASHI Kohei graduated in Cinema from the Tokyo Zokei University. In 2008, he directed his first feature film, Voice of Rain That Comes at Night, which was selected at the Cinema Digital Seoul Film Festival (CINDI), before going to graduate school at the Tokyo University of the Arts. Hold Your Breath Like a Lover is his diploma film.

Snow covered mountains in Japan. Every night, a fisherman makes his way to the market in town. His six-year-old son is awoken by his departure and finds it impossible to go back to sleep. In the sleeping household, the young boy draws a picture that he then slips into his satchel. On his way to school, still drowsy, he strays off the path and wanders into the snow...

“MORIYAMA-SAN”: Ila Bëka & Louise Lemoine

**Directors:** Ila Bëka & Louise Lemoine  
**Country:** France  
**Location:** Studio  
**28.10 - 18:00**

Ila Bëka and Louise Lemoine are two of the leading architectural artists working today. Their films focus on the relationship of people and design, emphasising the presence of everyday life within some of the most iconic architectural projects of recent decades. Bëka's and Lemoine's complete work (16 films) was acquired in 2016 by MoMA, Museum of Modern Art in New York, and is now part of its permanent collection.

The documentary follows the life of Mr. Moriyama, the owner, and occupant of Moriyama House. Situated in Tokyo, Japan, the house is one of the most influential in Japanese contemporary architecture. Minimal white volumes - each differing in size - create a complex streetscape between the varying functions of the house, while the multiple entrances are unified by the unique spaces in-between.

“KAILI BLUES” - Bi Gan

**Artist:** Bi Gan  
**Country:** People’s Republic of China  
**Location:** Studio  
**30.10 - 20:00**

In a small clinic in the foggy and damp city of Kaili in exotic, subtropical Guizhou Province, two preoccupied doctors live ghost-like lives. One of them, Chen Sheng, decides to fulfill his dead mother’s wish and sets off on a train journey to look for his brother’s abandoned child. His partner in the clinic, a lonely old lady, asks Chen to take an old photograph, a shirt and a cassette to her old sweetheart, who is now very ill. On his way to Zhenyuan County, Chen passes a strange little town called Dangmai, where time is not linear and people’s lives complement each other. Here, Chen experiences the past, present and future and begins to reflect upon his life.

When Chen eventually reaches Zhenyuan, he only watches his brother’s abandoned child with a pair of binoculars from a distance. He gives the old lady’s keepsake to her former sweetheart’s son and then gets back on the train to complete his return journey. It is difficult to tell whether this world is a product of our memory, or whether we are simply a daydream of this world...

Bi Gan’s first feature film, Kaili Blues, was made for just over $30,000, in the Chinese filmmaker’s hometown. The crew was mostly made up of volunteers, and Bi assembled relatives and friends for the cast.
THANKS TO

CO-PRODUCTION: ASEM Cultural Festival
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