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## **ASEM Cultural Festival brings together over 40 artists from Asian and European countries in December in Madrid, strengthening cultural connections between Asia and Europe**

- **Over 40 artists from more than 10 Asian and European countries will gather in Madrid from 11 to 15 December at the ASEM Cultural Festival, a cultural bridge between Asia and Europe.**
- **7 music and dance performances, artistic workshops, a virtual reality exhibition and a special exhibit on 'ASEAN Cultural Year 2019', make up the Festival programme, taking place in different venues across the city. All events presented in the Festival are free of charge upon registration.**

On the occasion of the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting taking place in Madrid on 16 and 17 December 2019, the ASEM Cultural Festival will be held with the intention of consolidating the cultural connections between Asia and Europe by gathering artists from different countries and diverse backgrounds for a celebration of artistic and cultural diversity from Asia and Europe. The various events featured in the Festival will be held at different venues of the capital city for 5 days this December.

This ASEM\* initiative, funded by the European Union and the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation is organised by Casa Asia with the support of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and Madrid City Council, under the theme 'Asia and Europe: Cultures Connect'. The aim of the festival is to **establish and consolidate the cultural links shared by both the continents, in addition to celebrating the artistic and cultural diversity of Asia and Europe.**

From **11 to 15 December**, the ASEM Cultural Festival will present **over 40 artists from over 10 Asian and European countries**. The Festival programme presents **7 music and dance shows, 3 artistic workshops, a virtual reality exhibition and a special exhibit on 'ASEAN Cultural Year 2019'**.



The Festival begins with a concert **Nguyễn Lê “Saiyuki” & Friends**. The musical trio, with their origins in traditional music will be accompanied by 4 guest musicians from Europe, and will set the ball rolling for the Festival on **Wednesday, 11 December at 19:30** at the Fernando de Rojas Theatre at the **Círculo de Bellas Artes**. This concert, featuring the blending of diverse Asian rhythms, achieves an attractive and evocative result. The electric guitar of the talented French musician and composer of Vietnamese origin, Nguyen Le, (Knight of Arts and Letters and Musician of the Year 2011 in France) is combined with Indian vocals and percussion of Prabhu Edouard, one of the few *tabla* (traditional percussion instrument from India) specialists in Europe, Japanese vocals and *koto* (harp) of Mieko Miyazaki, and musical notes from different parts of Europe.

From **11 to 13 December**, an innovative virtual reality exhibition titled **Exploring Asia and Europe through a virtual lens** will be held at the **Auditorium of the Casa Asia Centre in Madrid** from **10:00 to 20:00**. This exhibition will showcase 4 innovative and immersive installations based on classic artworks from Asia and Europe, which offer the audience an extraordinary virtual journey. And also the **ASEAN Cultural Year 2019** which aims to promote recognition and greater understanding of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and their respective cultures among the international public

The concert **Kizuna** featuring **Fuyuki Enokido, Kaho Aso and José María Gallardo** will take place on **Thursday, 12 December at 19:30**, in the Assembly Hall of the Conde Duque Cultural Centre. This concert sets up a dialogue between traditional Japanese rhythms and Spanish music. In addition, running parallel to this concert, the artist Fuyuki Enokido, Japanese Cultural Ambassador and one of the greatest interpreters of the Japanese harp (*koto*) jointly with Kaho Aso, will host a **workshop in the auditorium of Casa Asia on Friday 13 December at 17.00**.

On **Friday, 13 December at 19:30** the **Nicolás Salmerón Cultural Centre** will host the performance **Rasa y Duende**. This music and dance show establishes a dialogue between different performing arts from India and the deepest roots of Spanish flamenco singing and dancing, achieving a perfect balance between Lorca's poetic imagery, the primitive sounds and stylings of flamenco and dance inspired by the contemporary languages of India and Spain.

**Gukak E\_sang & Yummyunghwa Dance company** featuring 14 artists will present **Poong Ryu**, a contemporary presentation of traditional music and dance from Korea. This performance will be held on **Saturday, 14 December at 19:30** at the Caja de Música auditorium at **Centro Centro**.



A group of six musicians from Delhi will present ***Rudraksham***, a concert of Carnatic and Hindustani music in the Caja de Música Auditorium on **Sunday, 15 December at 19:30** at **Centro Centro**. That same day, the group will hold a **workshop at the Casa Vacas Auditoriom** in the **Retiro Park** at **12:00 midday**.

The hip-hop performance, ***Between Tiny Cities*** featuring artists from Australia and Cambodia will mark the finale of the Festival on **Sunday, 15 December, with two show, at 18:00 and 21:00** in the Sala de Columnas (Columns Hall) at the **Círculo de Bellas Artes**. This internationally awarded hip-hop show, choreographed by the talented Australian artist Nick Power, brings together Aaron Lim (Australia) and Erak Mith (Cambodia), who combine the raw energy of urban b\*boy battles with a large dose of improvisation.

On **Saturday, 14 December at 12:00** at the **Nicolás Salmerón Cultural Centre**, a workshop will be hosted for those wishing to make a start learning the basic concepts of breakdance from the b\*boys of ***Between Tiny Cities***. The workshop is open to participants with basic experience in dance.

The ASEM Cultural Festival, an official side event of the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEMFMM14), also addresses the importance that 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development places on culture as an engine of sustainable development and it promotes encounters and cooperation between artists as a driving force behind creativity and innovation in Asia and Europe.

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