

[Press Release: For Immediate Release]

To: General News/Feature/Culture and Arts – Assignment Editors/Editors/Reporters

Art Unboxed: French May Arts Festival 2022
Bringing Joy and Excitement through Arts Amid the Pandemic
Heritage Talks on Cultural Interactions between East and West & Cathedral Notre-Dame
alongside
Over 70 Programmes in Diverse Art Forms



(21st Apr 2022, Hong Kong) French May Arts Festival 2022 will bring about a broad spectrum of arts under the theme “Art Unboxed”, tickets are available for purchase from 21st April, 2022. In contrast to the ongoing limitations caused by the prevailing pandemic, French May Arts Festival, with the major support from The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust alongside other patrons and partners, invites you to unbox your expectations and explore a new dimension of art and culture in Hong Kong.

This year marks the 11th consecutive year of the support from The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust as the Festival’s Major Partner. The Trust continues to support various presentations and the new series **French Rendezvous @ Tai Kwun**. Echoing French May’s mission to reach out to the entire community, a series of **Jockey Club Community Outreach and Arts Education Programmes** like masterclasses, talks, and workshops for individual performing art and visual art events will be developed and presented every year for members of the public, in particular the youth, to enjoy the diverse education programmes.

As the bridge to promote French arts in Hong Kong, French May is committed to bringing joy and excitement through a diverse programme of performances across communities and venues, with “Art Unboxed” presenting an array of inspiring collaborations between Hong Kong and French artists. We are also thrilled to host a selection of heritage talks with a focus on cultural interactions between East and West, covering the rebuilding of the famous cathedral Notre-Dame de Paris.

Join us to unbox culture in *Cities of Light*, by renowned Hong Kong composer Leon Ko, pop diva Gin Lee and jazz vocalist Talie Monin, as well as a tribute concert to Serge Gainsbourg, the world-famous music icon influencing French culture and lifestyle. Unbox boundaries in the week-long *Carte Blanche to Christian Rizzo* in Freespace, the West Kowloon Cultural District, showcasing a unique collaboration with the French choreographer Christian Rizzo and Hong Kong dance artists, in addition to the online programme of the excellence in contemporary circus with French cirque specialists Barks Company & the Centre National des Arts du Cirque de Chalons-en-Champagne (CNAC).

Alongside French May Arts Festival, French GourMay, will unbox the sensations of French gastronomy to celebrate the theme of Rhômanic Bistronomy with Côtes du Rhône as Wine of Honour from 1st to 31st May 2022.

Let's explore the endless possibilities of arts and culture in Art Unboxed!

Highlighted programmes include:

- ***Cities of Light: A love affair between France and Hong Kong***, an unprecedented Hong Kong-France cultural exchange concert by renowned Hong Kong composer Leon Ko, pop diva Gin Lee and jazz vocalist Talie Monin. The concert will present surprising gems and adaptations of the past, taking audiences on an extraordinary musical journey of Hong Kong and French pop music. The concert is exclusively sponsored by First Initiative Foundation.
- **French Rendezvous @ Tai Kwun** | French May is delighted to present ***Excellence in Contemporary Circus*** online shows; ***Moon***, a series of 2 acts playing with gravity performed by Bastien Dausse from the Académie Fratellini thanks to 2 apparatus that Dausse conceived himself; and ***The Last Rendezvous***, a show that will highlight 5 disciplines in a collective acrobatic work include bicycle, aerial rope and trapeze acts. French May are also thrilled to host a selection of heritage talks with a focus on cultural interactions between East and West, covering the rebuilding of the famous cathedral Notre-Dame de Paris with Tai Kwun. The programme is exclusively sponsored by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust.
- ***Je t'aime... moi non plus***, a tribute concert to Serge Gainsbourg, the world-famous music icon influencing French culture and lifestyle since 1960s till now. Curated by Hong Kong Jazz singer Angelita Li, together with local bands Alan Kwan's quartet and The Majestic G, the concert aims at breaking the barriers of language, culture and arts. The concert is exclusively sponsored by BNP Paribas.
- Curated in full creative control by renowned choreographer Christian Rizzo, a full week of ***Carte Blanche to Christian Rizzo*** in Freespace, the West Kowloon Cultural District, will be packed with installation, dance film screenings, pop-up dance performance by local dance artists, creative dance workshop for families and online talk, dissecting contemporary dance from multiple perspectives.
- ***THÉÂTRE SANS ANIMAUX***, eight seemingly independent sketches are strung together to form a vivid collage depicting the everyday lives of the common French people. The characters in the play are leading ordinary but absurd lives. THÉÂTRE SANS ANIMAUX premiered in France in 2001 and won three awards in the Molière Awards.

- Jockey Club Community Outreach and Arts Education Programmes** | French May strives to contribute to the education of younger generations through the outreach and arts education programmes. Online play reading *The Breast Man*, adapted from the classic surrealist work “The Breasts of Tiresias”, is performed by Hong Kong and French actors; and forms part of the Jockey Club Community Outreach and Arts Education Programmes. Play reading is a process before the performance. Through this different performance style, the audience can learn more about the behind-the-scenes production. The Community Outreach and Arts Education Programmes are exclusively sponsored by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust.

Gathering renowned French artists and Hong Kong local arts communities such as Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Hong Kong Sinfonietta, Jazz World and so on, French May will bring you to live performances ranging from orchestra, flute, cello, viola concert, to vocal firework, jazz show and opera. In addition, French May will unbox the community with various remarkable exhibitions with artists and galleries. Featuring photographer Chun Wai by University Museum and Art Gallery, The University of Hong Kong, renowned Chinese-French artist Zao Wou-ki by Alisan Fine Arts, French May will amaze the city with arts enjoyment and insight across May and June.

“French May is committed to promote Hong Kong-France cultural activities for everyone,” said Mrs. Mignonne Cheng and Ms. Pansy Ho, Co-Chairman of the Board of French May Arts Festival. “As an iconic arts festival intertwining both French and Hong Kong culture through a wide range of carefully curated art events, French May this year encourages art lovers and audiences to unbox art, and to find joy and excitement through arts amid the pandemic.”

“French May is the perfect arts festival for any art lover. Moreover, the backbone of this festival subtly reflects the French lifestyle and heritage. Join me to experience the ‘Art Unboxed’ journey through French May!” said Ms. Karena Lam, French May Arts Festival Ambassador and acclaimed Hong Kong actress.

“French May Arts Festival 2022” Photo Caption:


<p>Photo 1</p> 	<p>Through some 70 programmes in diverse art forms, French May Arts Festival 2022 invites Hong Kong audiences to unbox arts.</p>
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Photo 2



French Rendezvous @ Tai Kwun 法國藝文 @ 大館

大館對談 TAI KWUN CONVERSATIONS

巴黎聖母院 —— 如何在廿一世紀重建哥德式傑作？

NOTRE DAME — HOW TO REBUILD A MASTERPIECE OF GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE IN THE 21ST CENTURY?



“Notre Dame – How to rebuild a masterpiece of Gothic architecture in the 21st century?” (part of the “**French Rendezvous @ Tai Kwun**” series) will cover the rebuilding of the famous cathedral Notre-Dame de Paris and shed light on major heritage questions. This talk is co-presented by French May, Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macau, and Tai Kwun (part of Tai Kwun Conversations series).

The programme is exclusively sponsored by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust.

Photo 3



French Rendezvous @ Tai Kwun 法國藝文 @ 大館

Excellence in Contemporary Circus 頂尖當代馬戲



13.5 - 30.6.2022
Online Programme
網上節目

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Two acts of a contemporary circus online programme under the “**French Rendezvous @ Tai Kwun**” series, “Moon” and “The Last Rendezvous”, will amaze your senses and revolutionize your daily life.

The programme is exclusively sponsored by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust.

Photo

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An unprecedented Hong Kong-France cultural exchange concert, “Cities of Light: A love affair between France and Hong Kong”, will be presented by renowned Hong Kong composer Leon Ko, pop diva Gin Lee and jazz vocalist Talie Monin.

The concert is exclusively sponsored by First Initiative Foundation.

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4c





Photo 5



“Je t'aime... moi non plus”, a tribute concert to Serge Gainsbourg, the world-famous music icon influencing French culture and lifestyle since 1960s till now, will be artistically translated to the communities with hearing impairment.

The concert is exclusively sponsored by BNP Paribas.

<p>Photo 6</p>  <p>©Photo by Mario Sinistaj</p>	<p>Curated by renowned choreographer Christian Rizzo, “Carte Blanche to Christian Rizzo” in Freespace, the West Kowloon Cultural District will break the boundaries between dance and visual art with installation, dance film screenings and pop-up dance performance.</p>
<p>Photo 7</p> 	<p>“<i>Adrift in Time—Photography by Chun Wai</i>” is an exhibition of photographs taken by the artist in France in the 1990s. Born in Hong Kong and educated at the École supérieure des beaux-arts de Mulhouse, Chun Wai toured Europe on a quest for the beginning of time, understanding that everything he photographed had a finite start and end.</p>

High-resolution photos: <https://bit.ly/3umMVGC>

Please refer to the Appendix for “**Checklist of Highlighted Programmes**”.

Details of all programmes available at: www.frenchmay.com

Ticket booking: www.urbtix.hk

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ÉPURE





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About French May Arts Festival

Established in 1993, French May is one of the largest cultural events in Asia. With about 100 programmes presented across 2 months, we showcase the most diversified art forms: from heritage and contemporary arts, paintings and design, to classical music and hip-hop dance, cinema and circus. It has become an iconic part of Hong Kong's cultural scene reaching out to 20 million visitors since its inception.

French May brings the arts to everyone, not only in cultural venues, but also in public spaces, shopping malls and more, inviting everyone across Hong Kong to enjoy art in their daily lives.

In the aim of promoting accessible-arts for all, French May places a strong emphasis on education through outreach programmes, guided tours, workshops, masterclasses and free performances.

The festival strives to reach the widest possible audience and contribute to the education of the young and less-privileged, working closely with over 50 local institutions and organisations to establish barrier-free arts access.

For media enquiry, please contact **Mention PR Consultants Ltd.:**

Danny CHENG | +852 3749 9878 / 9035 4994 | danny.cheng@mansumpr.com

Emily CHAN | +852 3749 9878 / 5535 0078 | emily.chan@mansumpr.com

Checklist of Highlighted Programmes

Visual Arts Highlights	Date	Venue	More Information
French Rendezvous @ Tai Kwun “Notre Dame – How to rebuild a masterpiece of Gothic architecture in the 21st century?” Tai Kwun Conversations - Heritage Talk	3 May 2022	Online	Free admission Co-presented by: Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macau, Tai Kwun and French May Arts Festival Exclusive Sponsor: The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust
Adrift in Time—Photography by Chun Wai	20 May – 25 September 2022	University Museum and Art Gallery, The University of Hong Kong	Free admission Presented by: University Museum and Art Gallery, HKU
Performing Arts Highlights	Date & Time	Venue	More Information
French Rendezvous @ Tai Kwun “Moon” and “The Last Rendezvous”	13 May – 30 June 2022	Online	Free admission Exclusive Sponsor: The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust
Online play reading: <i>The Breast Man</i> (by Théâtre de la Feuille)	30 May - 30 June 2022	Online	Free admission Presented by: French May Arts Festival Exclusive Sponsor: The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust
<i>Carte Blanche to Christian Rizzo</i>	31 May - 5 June 2022	Freespace, West Kowloon Cultural District	Free admission Dance Reflections by Van Cleef & Aprels co-presents this programme with French May Arts Festival and Freespace
<i>Je t'aime... moi non plus</i> – Tribute to Serge Gainsbourg	10 - 11 June 2022; 8pm	Theatre, Hong Kong City Hall	\$380 / \$280 Tickets are available at URBIX from 21 April onwards Co-presented by: French May Arts Festival Alliance Française de Hong Kong Exclusive Sponsor: BNP Paribas
<i>Théâtre Sans Animaux</i> (by Chan Chu Hei x Im Collab)	17-19 June 2022; 8pm 18-19 June 2022; 3pm	Theatre, Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre	Standard \$280 Concessionary \$230 Tickets are available at URBIX from 21 April onwards Presented by: French May Arts Festival
<i>Cities of Light</i> – A love affair between France and Hong Kong	24-25 June 2022; 8pm	Grand Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre	\$880 / \$780 / \$680 / \$580 Tickets are available at URBIX from May 19 onwards Presented by: French May Arts Festival Exclusive Sponsor: First Initiative Foundation