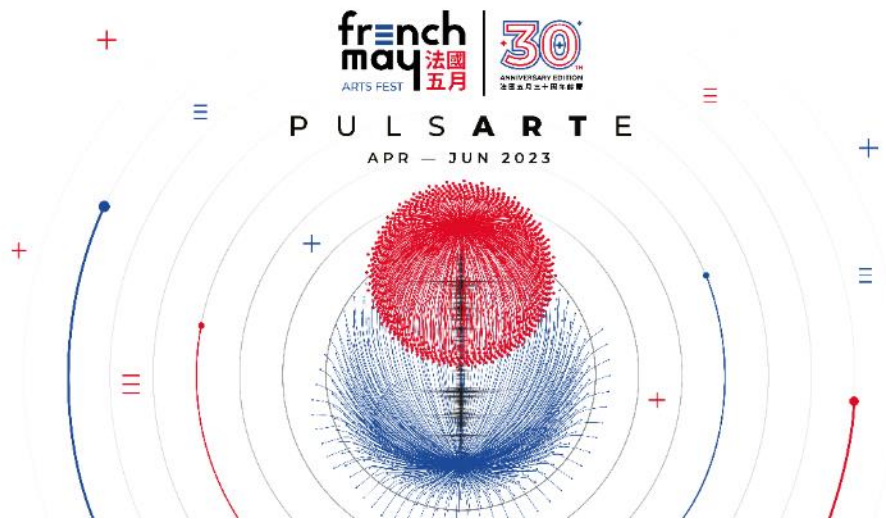


For Immediate Release

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

PULSARTE: French May Arts Festival 2023

From April to June 2023, French May Arts Festival celebrates its 30th anniversary, presenting over 100 programmes that foster cultural exchange across borders and artistic genres



Hong Kong, 16 March 2023 — Marking its 30th anniversary, French May Arts Festival 2023 is delighted to announce the launch of this year's programmes under the theme 'PULSARTE'. Tickets are available for purchase from today (16 March) and the festival runs from April to June. PULSARTE is generously supported by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust alongside other patrons and partners.

Representing *Pulse, Connection* and *Growth*, PULSARTE positions Hong Kong as a cultural destination that pulsates, engages and nurtures local and international communities, fostering creation, collaboration and artistic exchange across genres, borders and beyond. A meeting of Hong Kong and France, PULSARTE forges cultural connections across the realms of dance, theatre, music, art and more, with over 100 programmes created for the festival.

Mrs. Mignonne Cheng and Ms. Pansy Ho, Co-Chairman of the Board of French May Arts Festival, said: 'Powered by our 30 years of experience, French May continues to highlight the power of cultural inheritance, striving to connect the next generations, and support the growth of art through revolutionary programmes that revive our creative spirits and expand our artistic horizons. We welcome you to PULSARTE, where we present a truly international festival for our 30th Anniversary Edition.'

This year's highlighted programmes include:

- ***Virtually Versailles*** — Jointly presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and French May Arts Festival, jointly organised by the Hong Kong Heritage Museum and the Palace of Versailles, and with major support of The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, this interactive exhibition combines the past and present, reimagines heritage and future, and reconnects old and new, taking visitors on a virtual journey and delving into the majestic world of the Estate of Versailles.
- ***Dance Reflections by Van Cleef & Arpels*** — Launched in 2020 by Van Cleef & Arpels, this dynamic contemporary dance programme supports and presents cutting-edge original pieces and leading repertory productions from a selection of international choreographers and dancers. Celebrating the world of contemporary dance as a powerful field of human expression, the Dance Reflections by Van Cleef & Arpels initiative is a must for anyone interested in the dance universe, and a world class entry point to the medium for anyone with an open mind. The 2023 Dance Reflections by Van Cleef & Arpels Festival is presented in Hong Kong in collaboration with French May Arts Festival, with nine programmes across public spaces and leading performance venues, as well as workshops and a film screening, the programme encourages individuals to explore their own relationship with the choreographic field through a variety of mediums. To see the full programme please visit <https://www.dancereflections-vancleefarpels.com/en/hong-kong>
- ***Harmony of Two Pianos – Niu Niu and Théo Fouchenneret*** — On 12 May, internationally acclaimed pianists Niu Niu and Théo Fouchenneret will perform their inaugural long-awaited piano duet recital at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall.
- ***Philip Glass Quatuor à cordes No.9 King Lear*** — One of the world's most influential composers, Philip Glass' exceptional collaboration with Tana String Quartet, hailed as "impeccable players" by The Guardian, created String Quartet No.9 based on the original score *King Lear*. On 5 and 6 May, audiences at Hong Kong City Hall can enjoy a concert of the play's score in Glass' ninth work for the string quartet, a medium he employs to great effect to depict the turbulence, violence and despair at the heart of Shakespeare's classic tragedy.
- ***His Temple*** — On 10 June at the Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall, musician Olivier Cong will collaborate with Karena Lam, ambassador of the French May Arts Festival, choreographer Ong Wing Lock and Zelia Tam to create a dialogue of contemporary music and dance inspired by Guy de Maupassant's short story *Clair de Lune*.
- ***Keren Ann & The Debussy Quartet*** — on 23 June at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre Grand Theatre, cosmopolitan singer-songwriter-composer Keren Ann together with the Debussy String Quartet

will perform the closing concert of PULSARTE with their alchemy of sensual electric guitar and elegant strings. Together, they will perform all-new original versions of Keren Ann’s classics such as *Not Going Anywhere*, *Strange Weather* and *Jardin d’Hiver*.

- ***Let the Mirror Speak*** — Supported by the Arts Capacity Development Funding Scheme of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, this two-year Hong Kong-France theatre exchange project features two playwrights and directors, Nicolas Kerszenbaum from France and Wu Hoi Fai from Hong Kong, in parallel. It showcases their existing theatre works, multi-phase artist residencies, educational activities, and new theatre creations in both Hong Kong and Paris.

To honour The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust for supporting the French May Arts Festival for the 12th consecutive year, allowing French May to promote Arts to Hong Kong audience through the Jockey Club Community Outreach and Arts Education Programmes. Thanks to the support of partners such as The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, the general public experiences the essence of French arts by participating in our education and outreach programmes.

Under French Rendezvous@Tai Kwun launched last year, exclusive sponsored by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, the Archibald Caramantran Company presents a performance featuring giant puppets, ***De La Fontaine***, at the Parade Ground, with a thought-provoking fable to Hong Kong. Also, the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macau and Tai Kwun will co-present ***Tai Kwun Conversation - Heritage in Times of War***. This talk highlights the importance of cultural heritage conservation in conflict-affected areas, and introduces actual fieldworks and innovations to trace the journey of heritage preservation in times of war.

PULSARTE also includes music programmes such as ***Swire Maestro Series: Stéphane Denève Conducts The Organ Symphony*** by the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, and four programmes by the Hong Kong Sinfonietta, including ***Great Piano Concertos: Jean-Efflam Bavouzet Plays Beethoven; Jean-Efflam Bavouzet Piano Recital; Julien Libeer Piano Recital JS Bach & Beyond – A Well-Tempered Conversation;*** and ***Great Piano Concertos: Julien Libeer Plays Poulenc***, as well as ***Verona Quartet – Ravishing Ravel*** and ***Musica Viva x French May – Piano Virtuosi In Paris*** co-presented by Premiere Performances Hong Kong.

Besides the highlighted programmes, this year’s French May Arts Festival also includes over 40 associated projects spanning genres including modern and contemporary art, photography, culture and lifestyle, music, dance, theatre and cinema. A selection of not-to-be-missed programmes include: ***Gao Xingjian: Inner Vision 2023***, the 9th solo exhibition of the Nobel laureate and renowned French-Chinese artist, playwright and author presented by Alisan Fine Arts; organised by Whitestone Gallery, ***Windows of the Soul*** features works by French artists Marion Flament, Jean Marie Haessle, Béchir Boussandel and Baptiste Tavernier; and ***Marc Riboud – From France to China***, presented by f22 foto space, featuring works by one



of the most celebrated French photographers that foster an exciting cultural exchange between the two countries.

For its seventh year of partnership with French May Arts Festival, Lawsgroup's collaboration celebrates French fashion and photography with Laws Knitters and the iconic French brand agnès b. Presenting images captured by Agnès herself, the exhibition transforms street photography into elegant fashion pieces, alongside Laws Knitters' bespoke limited-edition knit-art creations inspired by the iconic agnès b. symbols, bringing French chic and creativity to the community.

For the third consecutive year, French May Arts Festival partners with Chinachem Group to present artistic and gastronomic delights throughout May and June. Jointly presented with French GourMay, the French Traditional Gourmet Market at Central Market and NINA MALL will transport visitors to France through French culture and delicacies, presenting an array of unique products by local and international artisans. At the same time, in anticipation of the 2023 opening of Nina Park, Hong Kong's first museum-grade fossil garden, Chinachem Group and French May Arts Festival present *Waterlight Graffiti* by Antonin Fourneau, to raise awareness around sustainability issues with live artworks created on an innovative water-activated canvas.

More detailed information for individual programmes is available on the website www.frenchmay.com. Tickets are available from today at URB TIX www.urbtix.hk.

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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 two 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 over 200,000 visitors each year.

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.

High-resolution photos: [Here](#)

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

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french may

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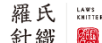
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Appendix: Key Programme Overview

Date	Programme Name /Programme Visual	Venue	Brief programme introduction	Ticketing Information
Exhibition – Heritage & Digital Humanities				
19 Apr – 9 Jul 2023	<i>Virtually Versailles</i>	Gallery 3-5, Hong Kong Heritage Museum	<p>Interactive exhibition debut in Hong Kong combines the past and present, reimagines heritage and future, and reconnects old and new, taking visitors on a virtual journey and delving into the majestic world of the Estate of Versailles.</p> <p>Jointly presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and French May Arts Festival, jointly organised by the Hong Kong Heritage Museum and the Palace of Versailles, and with major support of The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust</p>	Standard Ticket at \$10 Group Ticket at \$7 Concessionary at \$5 Free admission for Museum Pass holder
Dance Programme				
5-6 May 2023 8pm	<i>Crowd</i>	The Box, Freespace, WKCD	Gisèle Vienne continues her exploration of desire and the balance of power. The electronic musical mix contributes to a hypnotic distortion of time, placing the spectator on the borderline between dream and rave trance.	Tickets are available at Cityline.com
6-7 May 2023 4pm	<i>Passages</i>	Courtyard & Marketplace, PMQ	<i>Passages</i> is a roaming project that explores the relationship between body movement and the spaces in which the performers exist. By acting in respond to imaginary objects, the performers make the multiple dimensions of the places they inhabit resonate. The production is specially redesigned for this performance in Hong Kong.	Free Admission

6-7 May 2023 4:50pm	<i>Fragments</i> (Film Screening)	Qube, PMQ	Following the performance of <i>Passages</i> , the film <i>Fragments</i> proposes a different approach to the dancers' bodies.	Free Admission
12-13 May 2023 8pm	<i>Bombyx Mori</i>	Theatre, Sheung Wan Civic Centre	A trio performance inspired by Loïe Fuller's signature work <i>Serpentine Dance</i> . Dance, archives and artifice are interwoven in this performance, engendering a metaphor for the hybrid nature of things.	Tickets are available at URB TIX
14 May 2023 2pm	<i>Loïe Fuller: Research</i>	M+ Lightwell Hall	<i>Loïe Fuller: Research</i> reactivates for M+ the famous <i>Serpentine Dance</i> created by Loïe Fuller. Maciejewska confronts the myth of the icon, its paradoxes and the untraceable in the work. By archiving dance through the body, the work provides a unique lens into dance history, its transmission and emancipation.	Free Admission
13 May 2023 4pm 14 May 2023 2pm & 4pm	<i>Save the last dance for me</i>	Qube, PMQ	<i>Save the last dance for me</i> is the fruition of Alessandro Sciarroni's investigation of an Italian folk dance, Polka Chinata. Sciarroni created a duet performance and a series of open workshops to promote and revive this once-popular tradition.	Free Admission Registration at Frenchmay.com
18 May 2023 8pm	<i>YOU AND YOU AND YOU AND ME AND YOU AND US AND YOU...</i>	Dance Studio 1, The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts	After a first workshop led remotely from Paris in 2022 with dance artists from Hong Kong, Christian Rizzo embarks on a three-week residency at The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts this year. This serves as an opportunity for the choreographer to continue the dialogue that started last year with the Hong Kong choreographic scene.	Free Admission Registration at Frenchmay.com

			During these three weeks, Rizzo proposes a choreographic creation process echoing Sophie Laly's video work. They invite and accompany local dance artists in an individual and collective creative research, which culminates in a final public sharing that fuses visual art and choreographic elements.	
20 May 2023 7:30pm 21 May 2023 2:30 pm	<i>BSTRD</i>	Black Box Theatre, Kwai Tsing Theatre	<i>BSTRD</i> is an energetic and minimalist solo performance featuring Katerina Andreou and a single vinyl turntable. She is accompanied on stage by a pounding soundtrack inspired by house culture. Through this hybrid genre of music, the choreographer-interpreter explores the very origin of gesture.	Tickets are available at URBTIX
20 May 2023 9pm 21 May 2023 4pm	<i>Sakınan göze çöp batar</i>	Black Box Theatre, Kwai Tsing Theatre	This piece from Christian Rizzo's repertoire is the result of a collaboration with the dancer Kerem Gebelek. He manipulates the space on stage and lays down dance fragments such as haikus, sketches or notes that, together, form a collection of thoughts born from movement.	Tickets are available at URBTIX
20 May 2023 4pm	<i>Les Traceurs</i>	Great Lawn (next to Freespace), West Kowloon Art Park	Rachid Ouramdane brings aerial artists and adventurous athletes together for an ever-evolving on-site piece. Together they take over outdoor locations, reflecting on our ability to respect the environments we live in and offering new interpretations of these landscapes.	Free Admission
Classical & Multi-genre Music				
5-6 May 2023 8pm	Philip Glass Quatuor à cordes No.9 <i>King Lear</i>	Theatre, Hong Kong City Hall	Philip Glass' exceptional collaboration with Tana Quartet resulted in the creation of <i>String Quartet No.9</i> , based on the original score <i>King Lear</i> , which was a Broadway production by Sam Gold.	Tickets are available at URBTIX at \$380 / \$280

12 May 2023 8 pm	Harmony of Two Pianos - Niu Niu and Théo Fouchenneret	Concert Hall, Hong Kong Cultural Centre	<i>Harmony of Two Pianos</i> , presented by world-renowned pianists Niu Niu and Théo Fouchenneret, is an exhilarating piano duet concert sending your spirit on a journey of harmony and exploration.	Tickets are available at URBTIX at \$420 / \$320 / \$220 / \$150
22 May 2023 7:30 pm	Verona Quartet – Ravishing Ravel	Concert Hall, Hong Kong City Hall	The Verona Quartet has firmly established itself amongst the most distinguished ensembles on the chamber music scene today.	Tickets are available at art-mate, pphk.org, URBTIX at \$520 / \$320 / \$180
20 May 2023 8 pm	Great Piano Concertos: Jean-Efflam Bavouzet Plays Beethoven	Concert Hall, Hong Kong City Hall	The Hong Kong Sinfonietta invited French pianist Jean-Efflam Bavouzet and Principal Guest Conductor Christoph Poppen to interpret Beethoven’s classical works.	Tickets are available at URBTIX at \$ 520 / \$380 / \$220
21 May 2023 8 pm	Jean-Efflam Bavouzet Piano Recital	Concert Hall, Hong Kong City Hall	Award-winning French pianist Jean-Efflam Bavouzet will perform a gorgeous recital of Debussy, Chopin and Boulez pieces.	Tickets are available at URBTIX at \$450 / \$320 / \$180
26 May 2023 7:30 pm	MUSICA VIVA x FRENCH MAY – Piano Virtuosi In Paris	Concert Hall, Hong Kong City Hall	<i>Piano Virtuosi in Paris</i> is a concert showcasing the brilliant compositions of some of the great virtuoso-composers who were active in Paris during the period 1830-60, including Chopin, Liszt, Thalberg, Herz and Alkan.	Tickets are available at URBTIX at \$280 / \$200
9-10 Jun 2023 8 pm	Swire Maestro Series: Stéphane Denève Conducts The Organ Symphony	Concert Hall, Hong Kong Cultural Centre	Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra performs Saint-Saëns’ <i>The Organ Symphony</i> , one of the world’s best-loved classics.	Tickets are available at URBTIX at \$480 / \$400 / \$320 / \$240
10 Jun 2023 8pm	His Temple	Concert Hall, Hong Kong City Hall	Inspired by <i>Clair de Lune</i> , written by Guy de Maupassant, <i>His Temple</i> is a multi-genre music programme that combines music with dance and dialogue, featuring a unique line-up of local artists contemplating the meaning of beauty.	Tickets are available at URBTIX at \$380 / \$280

14/6/2023 8 pm	Julien Libeer Piano Recital J S Bach & Beyond – A Well-Tempered Conversation	Concert Hall, Hong Kong City Hall	Curated and performed by acclaimed pianist Julien Libeer, <i>J S Bach & Beyond</i> sheds new light on Bach’s timeless work.	Tickets is available at URBTIX at \$450 / \$320 / \$180
17/6/2023 8 pm	Great Piano Concertos: Julien Libeer Plays Poulenc	Concert Hall, Hong Kong City Hall	Belgian pianist Julien Libeer will perform alongside the Hong Kong Sinfonietta and Music Director Emeritus Yip Wing-sie, playing iconic French composer Poulenc’s sparkling Piano Concertos.	Tickets is available at URBTIX at \$480 / \$340 / \$200
23 Jun 2023 8:30 pm	Keren Ann and Debussy String Quartet	Grand Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre	A collaboration between Keren Ann and the Debussy String Quartet will bring all-new original versions of Keren Ann’s classics.	Tickets are available at URBTIX at \$480 / \$420 / \$280 / \$180
Let the Mirror Speak Hong Kong-France Theatre Exchange Project				
Now until June 2024	<i>Let the Mirror Speak</i> Hong Kong-France Theatre Exchange Project	Please refer to the official website for more details: https://www.frenchmay.com/articles/49	A two-year Hong Kong-France theatre exchange project which features French artist Nicolas Kerszenbaum and Hong Kong artist Wu Hoi Fai in parallel. This project commenced in January 2023 and includes presentations of their existing theatre works, multi-phase artist residencies, educational activities, and two new theatre creations in both Hong Kong and Paris.	Please refer to the official website for more details: https://www.frenchmay.com/articles/49
French Rendezvous@Tai Kwun (Exclusive Sponsor: The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust)				
6-14 May 2023	<i>De La Fontaine</i>	Parade Ground, Tai Kwun	The village is bustling on the market day. One notices a fascinating social fresco! Welcome to the fabulous anthropomorphic fantasy of popular imagination. Today, the heroes of the fables are affable.	Free Admission
8 May 2023 7 pm	Tai Kwun Conversations – Heritage in times of war	JC Cube, Tai Kwun	As wars occur in various places around the world, cultural heritage is put in jeopardy. From political decision to public display, this programme aims to	Free admission with registration. For registration, please

			raise awareness of the importance of protecting cultural heritage in conflict-affected areas. It introduces actual fieldworks and innovations to trace the journey of heritage preservation in times of war.	stay tuned to Tai Kwun's Website.
Jockey Club Community Outreach and Arts Education Programmes (Exclusive Sponsor: The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust)				
May - June 2023	Talk Series, screening, school guided tour and accessible tour	Please Visit French May's website for the latest event information	Please Visit French May's website for the latest event information.	Free admission.
May - June 2023	Performing Arts Education Programmes	Please Visit French May's website for the latest event information	Please Visit French May's website for the latest event information.	Free admission.
Associated Projects & Special Events and Conversations				
May 2023	<i>Fashion and photography with agnès b</i>	The Garage, D2 Place TWO	For its seventh year partnering with the French May Arts Festival, Laws Group celebrates French fashion, film and photography with the iconic French brand agnès b. Presenting photographs captured by Agnès herself, the exhibition brings colour and creativity to the community by transforming street photography into elegant fashion pieces, alongside bespoke knit-art creations inspired by the brand's monogram.	Free Admission
May - June 2023	French GourMay Chinachem Group Celebrates French May	Central Market; NINA MALL	For the third consecutive year, Chinachem Group partners with the French May Arts Festival to present artistic and gastronomic delights throughout the months of May and June. French GourMay will transport visitors to France through the delights of French culture and delicacies,	Free Admission

			<p>presenting an array of unique products from both local and international artisans. At the same time, in anticipation of the 2023 opening of Nina Park, Hong Kong's first museum- grade fossil garden, Chinachem Group and French May Arts Festival present Waterlight Graffiti by Antonin Fourneau, to raise awareness around sustainability issues with live artworks created on an innovative water-activated canvas.</p>	
<p>16 May - 24 June 2023 (Tuesday - Saturday) 11 am – 6 pm</p>	<p><i>Windows of the Soul</i></p>	<p>Whitestone Gallery</p>	<p>Organised by Whitestone Gallery, <i>Windows of the Soul</i> features works by French artists Marion Flament, Jean Marie Haessle, Béchir Boussandel, and Baptiste Tavernie. The programme explores how artists see their mysterious, dream-like patterns defy the dichotomous cosmology, relaxing its temporal and spatial laws; brings out narratives of life that transcend time and space.</p>	<p>Free Admission</p>
<p>18 May - 31 July 2023 11 am – 7 pm</p>	<p><i>Marc Riboud – From France to China</i></p>	<p>f22 foto space (Peninsula Hotel Hong Kong)</p>	<p>The exhibition features works by one of the most celebrated French photographers. Visitors can explore Marc Riboud's iconic works from France and China and rediscover the beauty of his world with their own eyes.</p>	<p>Free Admission</p>
<p>18 May - 31 August 2023 (Monday - Saturday) 10am - 6pm</p>	<p><i>Gao Xingjian: Inner Vision 2023</i></p>	<p>Alisan Fine Arts</p>	<p><i>Gao Xingjian: Inner Vision 2023</i>, the 9th solo exhibition of the Nobel laureate and renowned French-Chinese artist, playwright and author presented by Alisan Fine Arts. The exhibition subtly reveals the changes in light, shadow and air, and leads the viewer into a realm of contemplation.</p>	<p>Free Admission</p>