



international arts festival
europalia.china

Newsletter 12
29 april 2010

europalia.china received 1 101 175 visitors !

For its 22nd edition and on the occasion of its 40th anniversary, Europalia International organized a festival to honour the Chinese culture. It was without question one of the largest cultural festivals dedicated to China ever held in Europe.

From 8 October 2009 to 14 February 2010, the multidisciplinary europalia.china festival turned the spotlight on all the diversity and cultural richness of China.



Some facts & figures...

During 130 days, europalia.china presented 48 exhibitions and 519 events (music, dance, theatre, opera, literature, films and conferences) in 75 cities and five European countries (Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Luxembourg) in collaboration with 210 cultural partners. In total 1,459 artists and experts took part!



The festival offered an extremely diversified picture of China, encompassing popular art – puppet theatre, masks, tea... – as well as national heritage and contemporary art. The programme included exhibitions for the wider public (focusing on the silk road, the Chinese emperors, chinoiserie...) to subjects for more specialized audiences (calligraphy, travel diaries, cartoons, Chinese medicine, etc.).



The exhibitions

The festival's five main exhibitions – "Son of Heaven", "The Silk Road", "The Three Dreams of the Mandarin", "The State of Things" and "The Orchid Pavilion" – together received approximately 300,000 visitors. The 43 other exhibitions were visited by more than 500,000 people.

Stage arts

Music, dance, theatre, and opera performances, literary encounters, films and conferences attracted 65,255 spectators.

The festival highlights were:

In terms of **exhibitions**, "Son of Heaven", "The Silk Road" and "The Three Dreams of the Mandarin" offered the public an opportunity to see and admire outstanding works, many of which had never before left China.



Chinese **opera** was presented in all its facets, from traditional to contemporary. Audiences were able to watch and listen to "TANG Xianzu's Dream On Dreams", "The Legend of the White Snake", "Chinese Heroines, A Trilogy" and "Living Memories: one-man operas".



Other highpoints were the many **music, dance** and **theatre** performances. Of particular note amongst many hundreds of events were "Eastern Voices" with its assortment of minority voices, the haunting "GONG Linna", "LIU Sola" and her ensemble, the "Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra Ensemble" playing traditional instruments, the Mongolian and contemporary sounds of the "Hanggai Band", the music of tomorrow with "China Express – Sounds of the Underground", the performances of "Hamlet" & "Parody" by the "LIN Zhaohua Studio Theatre" and the "Guangdong Modern Dance Company" with its breathtaking performance "Upon Calligraphy".



Puppet theatre was also seen in all its diversity: shadow theatre, hand, string and stick puppet theatre enchanted both young and old, as did the extraordinary lion dance, which animated the streets of Brussels thanks to the "Shenzhen Lion Dance Group". Equally impressive were the **acrobats** from the "China National Acrobatic Troupe", who closed the festival in style.



Not forgetting the **literary encounters** with *SU Tong* and *MO Yan*, which offered a unique opportunity to enter into dialogue with these authors.

The Tea House

As the Information Centre and beating heart of the festival as well as the starting point for the artists' trail "China in Town", the Tea House introduced over 117,000 visitors to the art of Chinese tea and other Chinese culinary specialities and offered them an opportunity to participate in various cultural workshops: calligraphy, Chinese storytelling, tai chi, paper cutting, qi gong, watercolour painting and painting on silk. Some 21,611 cups of tea were consumed!

Diverse locations

Several unusual places, like the Justice Palace, the Dynasty building, SQUARE, libraries and even Brussels' Central Station played host to a Europalia event for the very first time. Many new cultural partners were also involved in this festival: the Hergé Museum (Louvain-La-Neuve), Fondation Folon (La Hulpe), Centre Albert Marinus (Brussels), Royal Museums of Fine Arts (Brussels), International Carnival and Mask Museum (Binche), Museum for Fine Arts (Ghent), National Museum of Playing Cards (Turnhout), the Auditorium of the National Bank of Belgium...

The europalia.china festival continues to flourish long after its official closing

with the publication of a collection of contemporary Chinese poems by "Het trage vuur" www.poeziecentrum.be, a guide/catalogue of major Chinese monuments and artworks in Belgium www.fondsmercator.be and a collection of Chinese literature published by "Indications" www.indications.be, a new collaboration between the LIN Zhaohua Studio and the National Theatre, the film "europalia.china" screened at the Shanghai World Expo and the exhibition "The State of Things" presented in Beijing.

Don't forget that it is still possible to order the catalogues of the festival, as well as the expobook, that gives an overview of all europalia.china's exhibitions. www.fondsmercator.be.



Kristine, Claire, Marie-Eve, Dirk, Céline, Ilse, Astrid, Véronique, Jan, Rukije, Bénédicte, Bloeme, Marleen, Božena, Arnaud, Colette, Aurore, Marie, Bert, Vincent, Marijn, Inge, Séverine, Stefana, Maria, Julie, Ly.

The entire europalia.china team thanks you for your loyalty !!

We hope that our 12 europalia.china newsletters brought you all the information you needed to better explore China through this festival.

If you have any suggestions, don't hesitate to contact us at info@europalia.eu (message subject: newsletter).



Coming soon: europalia.brazil!

The next Europalia festival will be dedicated to Brazilian culture. Fix the date in your agendas: autumn 2011 for a highly colourful europalia.brazil!

Support for the festival

The europalia.china festival benefited from the financial support of: The National Lottery, The FPS Foreign Affairs, the Belgian Science Policy, the Brussels-Capital Region, the French Community of Belgium, the Flemish Community, the German Community.

The festival sponsors were

Bekaert, GDF Suez, Total, Thalys, Hainan Airlines, ING, The National Bank of Belgium, Solvay, Thalys, Erco/Barco, Procon, Thon Hotels, Leon Eeckman, Deloitte, La Régie des Bâtiments, Lu Lin Teas, Sud Construct, Toyota, La Libre Belgique, De Standaard, La Deux, La Première, Musiq'3, Canvas, Klara, Brussel Deze Week/Agenda, Knack, Le Vif/L'Express.