

BONJOUR India²⁰²²

Summer Festival
March to May 2022



BONJOUR India²⁰²²

4th edition

France and India enjoy a substantive partnership at the core of which lie its people-to-people relations, nurtured for decades through collaborations and exchanges. One of its manifestations is the regular rendezvous between our two countries, Bonjour India. This artistic, cultural, educational and social initiative is an Indo-French moment put together by the French cooperation network in India mainly comprising of the Embassy of France and its cultural service, Institut Français en Inde, the Alliance Française network and the French Consulates.



www.ifindia.in/bonjour-india

CONVERGENCE: A PANORAMA OF PHOTOGRAPHY'S FRENCH CONNECTIONS IN INDIA



Credits : Darjeeling, Inde, 1956, Marc Riboud / Fonds Marc Riboud au MNAAG

Exhibition in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Bangalore

"Photography cannot change the world, but it can show the world, especially when it changes."

Marc Riboud, French photographer (1923-2016)

How did French photographers perceive India over two & a half centuries of its history?

Convergence: A Panorama of Photography's French Connections in India will depict different visions of French as well as Indian artists who traveled or lived in India from the mid-19th century to the 1970s, through the medium of photography. Produced by intrepid travelers, writers, journalists, photographers and artists, a selection of 19th-century prints and negatives from prestigious French institutions will be showcased for the very first time in India. This exclusive exhibition has been curated by Rahaab Allana of the Alkazi Foundation for the Arts. Discover some of the most prominent French photographers who travelled all around Asia, such as **Marc Riboud, Denis Brihat, Paul Almasy, Michel Séméniako, Bernard Pierre Wolff** and many others.

The original photographs will be on view at the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art in Delhi, while the reproductions will travel across 5 different cities in India in the form of outdoor exhibitions.

SCIENCE BEYOND BORDERS: CONNECTING DOTS BETWEEN INDIA & FRANCE



Jacques Blamont and Vikram Sarabhai in Thumba - © CNES/1972

Exhibition in Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Kolkata

Did you know that India's space ties with France began as early as 1963, when **Dr Vikram Sarabhai**, the father of the Indian Space programme, met **Jacques Blamont**, the first Scientific and Technical Director of the **French Space Agency (CNES-Centre National d'Études Spatiales)**, which then went on to support ISRO's sounding rocket programme during its nascent stage? Or that the Indian Railways adopted the 25 KV AC system of electrification as a standard in 1957 while the French National Railways (SNCF) provided initial technical assistance and consultancy? Or that the discovery of helium had an Indo-French connection?

This exhibition will take you on a journey into this extraordinary past and the stories of exchanges between the top minds of the two countries across centuries right until the modern day. This relationship will be unraveled through narratives, texts, interviews, photographs, objects, audio-visual material and archival resources. The approach is interdisciplinary and the nuggets of information are accessible to all.

At the end of it all, this history and shared relationship is about people.

This exhibition, accompanied by numerous workshops, will promote scientific temperament and the value of collaborative research, give an impetus to STEM studies, highlight the role of industry and the interdependence of academia, government and industry as well as foster academic exchanges and professional mobility. It definitely salutes the great scientific minds of both countries and the world at large and reiterates the role of scientific knowledge in ensuring a safe and healthy world and a better life.

CLOSER THROUGH BOOKS & IDEAS

When we talk about furthering human relations, what could be a better way than literature!

Bonjour India is rich in debates and ideas, translations and publishing, a meeting of great minds in India and in France.

➤ **5 April 2022: The Goncourt Choice of India**

The most prestigious French literary prize created in 1903, The Goncourt Prize has been internationalized in 27 countries for 20 years now in the form of The Goncourt Choice. In 2022, India proudly joins this illustrious list thanks to the collaborative efforts of Indian francophone students who love literature. The prize is supported by 10 institutions, comprising the network of Alliances Françaises as well as 9 universities across India.

➤ **New Delhi World Book Fair**

France will be participating as the Guest of Honour country in the 30th edition of the New Delhi World Book Fair with a delegation of 20 authors and 10 publishers to highlight the exceptional richness of books and literature in the two countries.

Witness enriching sessions by eminent French and Indian authors, experts, as well as book launches, children's workshops and much more.

Romain Rolland Book Prize

Catch the announcement of the winners of the **5th edition of the Romain Rolland Book Prize**, an editorial cooperation between France and India to encourage translations of French authors into Indian vernacular languages. The award ceremony will take place during the New Delhi Book Fair.

Tentative list of visiting French authors:

- Raphaël Confiant ● Tiffany Tavernier ● Catherine Poulain ● François-Henry Désérable
- Cyril Nguyen Dinh ● Marie Darrieussecq ● Christine Jordis ● Patrick Weil ● Cynthia Fleury
- JUL, Julien Berjeaut ● Simon Lamouret ● Fabien Toulmé ● Fabrice Colin ● Shumona Sinha
- Marie Desplechin ● Pascal Lemaître

➤ **14 May 2022: Night of Ideas, "Rebuilding Together"**

Chandigarh

Every year, Night of Ideas celebrates the exchange of ideas between countries, cultures, topics and generations - an opportunity to explore the latest discoveries in knowledge and arts and to take part in discussions about the burning issues of our times. This year's edition of Night of Ideas, animated by architect Swati Janu, will see debates around the theme "Rebuilding Together", with Indian and European thinkers such as environmental activist Vandana Shiva and architect Léopold Lambert.

➤ **Conference on Architecture**

by **H.E. Mr. André Aranha Corrêa Do Lago**, *Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil to India*

Advocating for international sustainable development and energy, Ambassador Corrêa Do Lago has been appointed jury for Pritzker Architecture's most prestigious award. He has also previously worked within the field of architectural curation and criticism, serving as curator of the Brazilian Pavilion at the Venice Biennale of Architecture (2014) and of several other exhibitions across the world. Additionally, he has written extensively on modern architecture and Oscar Niemeyer.

Conference organised in collaboration with School of Planning and Architecture (SPA-Delhi)

CONTEMPORARY DANCE

ELEKTRIK by Blanca Li

Electro Dance with a touch of baroque music



© Laurent PHILIPPE

Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad

The acclaimed choreographer, filmmaker, dancer, and director **Blanca Li** will share her latest creation **ELEKTRIK** which combines the power of electro dance with a sprinkling of baroque music. The show, packed with cheer, fun, and colour is best discovered with the entire family.

With 8 stellar performers who are global references for electro culture and a soundtrack composed in part by Tao Gutierrez, ELEKTRIK brings together a formidable concentration of talent for a performance that rewrites what electro dance means itself.

Widely recognised as being one of the greatest masters of urban dance, Blanca Li has choreographed for the Paris Opera Ballet and the Berlin Ballet. She has worked with the likes of Beyoncé, Daft Punk, Stella McCartney, Kanye West, and Coldplay. Blanca Li wears many hats with equal aplomb and has been the recipient of several distinctions from the French President and multiple ministries in France. Hailed as Fashion's Favourite Choreographer, in 2021, she became the first woman to join the choreography section of the French Académie des Beaux Arts.

S. Thala An Indian suite by Annette Leday, Keli Company

A unique moment of poetry marrying dance, French literature and Indian gestures



S.Thala © Compagnie Annette Leday/Keli

Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Pune, Delhi

S.Thala is a dance performance inspired by **Marguerite Duras'** Indian cycle. The creative process of S.Thala started in Kerala in December 2019 under the direction of Annette Leday, a French choreographer and dancer immersed in Indian and French theatrical and dance forms.

By revisiting Duras' fantasized India in this cycle and the very real one at the heart of her company's productions, Annette Leday and her dancers propose a poetic visual approach of Duras' prose through a choreographed interpretation of her organic writing.

For Annette Leday, "creating a contemporary dance performance is a bit like writing a poem". S.Thala focuses more on exploring the relationships and emotions of the "characters" and the emblematic atmospheres of Duras' universe rather than on trying to reproduce or illustrate the complex narrative schemes of her texts.

[In]CHORUS

Two musical tours will criss-cross India as part of the [In]Chorus platform for musical exchange between Indian and Francophone artists, a brainchild of the Alliance Française de Delhi and the Kalasetu organization for the promotion of South Asian Traditional Performing Arts. [In]Chorus is dedicated to young and promising musicians of all genres, settled in India and France through residencies, concerts and workshops.

Strings Together: A fusion of Kora, Guitar and Tabla



© Mitushi Khurana Kapoor

Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai, Chennai, Bhopal, Chandigarh

The first residency of [In]Chorus reunites classical guitarist Shahnawaz Ahmed and Kora artist from West Africa Chérif Soumano in a musical jugalbandi across the country. **Cherif Soumano** is a rising star of Kora. He offers music of his time while being deeply rooted in the traditional repertoire that his father transmitted to him in Mali. **Shahnawaz Ahmed** plays various styles on modern guitar with a unique technique and incredible ease. They will be playing along with **Shahbaaz Khan** on tabla.

Plucking Ragams: French harp tunes on Indian vocals and Mridangam



Lina © Eric Legret

Delhi, Ahmedabad, Pune

A musician from Brittany, France, harpist and singer **Lina Bellard** reinvests in her works the influences of different cultural areas. South India, where she spent her childhood probably made her aware of the richness of modal music. She then discovered in the Poitou of her adolescence the strength of traditional dances. She will perform with **Brindha Manickavasakan**, a young Carnatic vocalist and **Aswini S.** on Mridangam.

JAZZ

Tour produced by Gatecrash and Jazz in India

Nunataq



© Stephanie Knibbe

Mumbai, Jaipur, Gurugram, Delhi, Kolkata, Bangalore, Goa

Onze Heures Onze, a collective of French musicians brings together the jazz trio Nunataq. Offering music that is deliberately open, airy and cold, their work is partly inspired by vast icy stretches, places that remain the witnesses of a past climate threatened by today's humanity. The **Nunataq** trio works also on improvised Groove/Electro/Experimental music with electronic instruments (synths/bass with effects/electronic drums) for festive concerts and afters.

Electrik Pô



© Stéphane Chassignole

Chennai, Puducherry, Hyderabad, Gurugram, Delhi, Chandigarh, Lucknow

With influences ranging from the smooth, ambient electro of Niels Petter Molvaerd to the weighty, lo-fi sounds of Massive Attack or Portishead, the band fuses an orientalist melodic approach, comparable to the style of Ibrahim Maalouf, with the rhythmic adventurism of the Balkan Beat Box collective. On stage, **Electrik Pô** brings to light this contrast between today's urban, hyper computerized world and the organic animal that always lives within us.

CAFE CINEMA

A Cine-Food Experience



Still from movie Délicieux

***Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Chandigarh,
Lucknow, Bhopal, Ahmedabad, Puducherry***

For cinema and food lovers: join us to connect and reconnect for a few hours of community and conviviality - and memories that will last a lifetime! This unique cinematic-gastronomic experience will take place in the open air wherein you can enjoy a French feature film and the French Culinary Arts. Grab a glass of wine, a plate of French delicacies and sit under the open sky to enjoy the film. A perfect soirée to meet, chat, regain, reclaim, and rejuvenate with your date, your friends or your family.

CITY FOR ALL?

A public art festival questioning the place of gender in cities



© Social Design Collaborative

*Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Chandigarh,
Delhi, Pune, Bangalore*

'City for All?' is a public art festival to question the role of gender in shaping public spaces and urban experiences. From chai stalls to parks, buses to toilets - look around and you will find that the public spaces across Indian cities, like in the rest of the world - are mostly occupied by fully grown, able-bodied, upper caste, cis-heterosexual men. Through neighborhood interactions and workshops, the 6 city project urges the public to reimagine the design and architecture of urban centres from an inclusive perspective. This collaboration between **Swati Janu** of Social Design Collaborative and **Chris Blache** of Genre et Ville (Gender & Society) organisation seeks to generate awareness through dialogue and art.

The project will travel across 36 neighborhoods in Jaipur, Chandigarh, Ahmedabad, Pune, Bangalore and Delhi to map diverse communities' relationship with their cities. The interactions will bring out local histories, narratives and patterns on how we use our public spaces based on our gender, identity, age and abilities as well as the local diversity of economic background, class and caste. A final exhibition in each city will showcase the maps, with interactive discourses, public debates, cultural performances and curated walks to bring visibility to a much needed question: who builds our cities, and for whom?

WALL ART FESTIVAL

Bringing passion and colours to the streets

Street art and urban culture generate enthusiasm both in India and in France. India has a long history of wall art in numerous regions which celebrates the infinite richness of its cultures to the world. France has a strong urban art scene (graffiti, hip-hop dance, rap etc.). Both countries have many internationally recognized artists in both, the wall art and urban culture scenes. Street art movement is also at the core of the reflection that redefines equality and expression for all in the public space of our modern societies.

Wall Art Festival, in collaboration with Wicked Broz (WB), crossing many parts of the country aims to highlight that in 2022, equality is not a choice but a necessity.



*Bangalore, Bhopal, Chandigarh,
Jaipur, Lucknow, Gurugram (WB)*

Lili Totas was born in Brazil and raised in Honduras. She has been living in Lyon since 2003. Displacement is the source of her creativity, which she chooses to express through street art techniques using bright colors, round and soft shapes: innumerable nostalgic representations for a political and social claim. It is also the femininity of a committed citizen that she evokes. Each creation is a universe.



*Kolkata, Mumbai, Puducherry,
Dehradun (WB), Noida (WB)*

Skio's first murals appeared in 1993 in the Côte d'Azur region, starting with mural letterings before moving on to figurative romantic topics fed by his pop and TV culture.

His works mixing geometrical shapes and realistic portraits question our presence in the urban landscape by creating harmonious esthetics that balance geometry, anatomy and color.

RICK-SHOW

A cinema on wheels by Le Gentil Garçon



© College of Architecture Trivandrum

Trivandrum, Kolkata, Pune, Kochi

Le Gentil Garçon (aka The Nice Guy) is a multidisciplinary artist whose practice mixes sculpture, drawing, video, performances, and installations. He has had an artistic practice since 1998. His work is shown internationally and since 2006, he has also been chosen several times to design artworks for public art commissions.

In 2020, he showcased his artworks under the title 'Stories Bloom' in Trivandrum and 'Anima' in Kochi in collaboration with Alliance Française de Trivandrum and Kochi Biennale Foundation. Using the traditional practice of Kamishibai, visual and participatory storytelling titled 'Chronicle of the Past World' was also presented by the artist in Kerala.

The Rick-show project was developed by Le Gentil Garçon during a residency in Kerala in 2020. It consists of a mobile cinema that fits within a box transported on an auto rickshaw. When it is unfolded, all the elements necessary for the screening and mediation, as well as public seating, "pop up." The idea of this project is to bring art to the streets and to those who may not otherwise have access to it. Art videos and films from the Fonds d'art contemporain de la Ville de Genève and Fonds régional d'art contemporain Occitanie-Montpellier will be screened for the audience.

The Rick-Show project has been developed in partnership with the Department of Design of College of Architecture Trivandrum (CAT).

ANALEMMA BY ROMAIN TIMMERS

Contemporary Circus Art



© Aké_photographie

*Mumbai, Kolkata,
Delhi, Puducherry,
Trivandrum*

Following its wish to develop contemporary circus in India, Compagnie Distil presents to you its latest project, **Analemma** - a modern circus performance. This piece aims at reviving the art of juggling by bringing together French and Indian artists and exploring the endless possibilities of this playful circus skill with a modern approach, making it a unique and first of a kind experience.

Based in Puducherry, Compagnie Distil was founded by French artist **Romain Timmers** along with the Indian movement artist **Sharanya Rao**. Romain Timmers is both a dancer and a contemporary circus artist. He graduated as a circus artist from the Ecole Supérieure des Arts du Cirque in Brussels. Also, he trained in Vertical Dance with Retouramont Company, a pioneer in the art form. In this latest creation, the company observes the path of the sun (commonly known as 'the Big fireball' by scientists and jugglers), only to find out about one of the greatest symbols of existence and the mysteries attached to it.

A TRIP TO FRANCE, 1970

A photo exhibition by Parmanand Dalwadi



© Parmanand Dalwadi

Ahmedabad, Bhopal, Chandigarh, Delhi, Jaipur, Mumbai, Pune, Lucknow, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Kolkata

Cartier-Bresson captured Indian towns and cities in hues of black and white, while **Parmanand Dalwadi** captured Cartier-Bresson himself.

It is when Cartier-Bresson came to photograph the Kumbh Mela, his fifth visit to India, that he encountered Parmanand Dalwadi at the National Institute of Design.

Parmanand Dalwadi accompanied the world renowned photo-journalist of high repute on his journey. In return, Cartier-Bresson picked Parmanand Dalwadi and placed him in Paris to work with the legendary Pierre Gassmann with funding from the Ford Foundation. These interactions profoundly influenced Parmanand Dalwadi's style of photography. The exhibition is a tribute to their friendship and this long lasting Indo-French partnership.

A TWIST OF FATE

Giants on the move, a street show



© Les Grandes Personnes

Delhi, Chennai, Puducherry

A street parade and show by Les Grandes Personnes - a company from Aubervilliers in France supported by DRAC Île-de-France, Région Île-de-France, the city of Aubervilliers and Villa Mais d'Ici.

Les Grandes Personnes are known for bringing giant sculptures to the public in a fusion of visual art and theatrical expression. These giants were constructed during a residency in Puducherry in March 2020 with the participants, students practicing theatre at the University of Puducherry and pupils from Calvé College. The scenario stars a strange family composed of two children, young boy Chinaa and Meenu, a little girl who sometimes looks like a tiger, and parents, handsome Karna and ghost-like Kanchana. A parakeet draws astrological cards that will change their fate...

Combining drama and the visual arts to tell stories, the company uses sculpted objects as a narrative tool. By speaking a language accessible to all, Les Grandes Personnes and their Indian friends create new relationships between the audience and the show and invent new ways of making sculpture dance in the streets.

LET'S DANCE

Thematic short film screenings



Still from movie Ballets Beelitz

Ahmedabad, Delhi, Chandigarh, Pune, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Kolkata, Puducherry

Since its beginnings, dance has been highlighted by the seventh art, all the pioneers of cinema having used it (the Lumière brothers, Méliès, Alice Guy, the Pathé brothers).

What could be more natural? Cinema and dance have the distinct quality of questioning and constantly renewing our relationship to space and time through movement.

The Let's Dance! retrospective consists of films specially selected by the Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival for Bonjour India.

Film Screenings

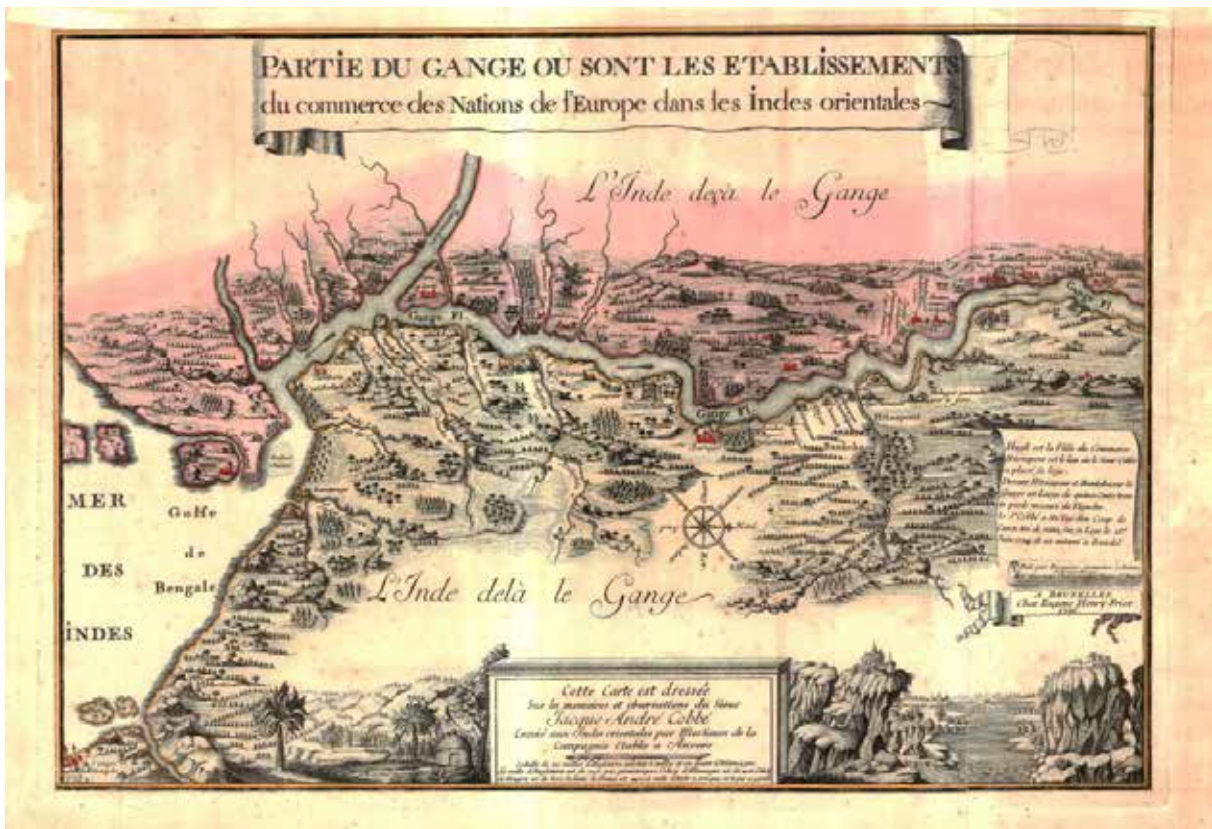
1. ***Tanghi Argentini*** by Guido Thys
2. ***Ballets of Beelitz*** by Boris Gibé, Florent Hamon
3. ***Whitney Houston*** by Boris Gibé, Florent Hamon
4. ***Sisters*** by Daphne Lucker
5. ***Blue Dog*** by Fanny Liatard, Jérémy Trouilh
6. ***The Sense of Touch*** by Jean-Charles, Mbotti Malolo
7. ***Gallant Indies*** by Clément Cogitore

FRENCH CARTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY TO INDIA

An exhibition by Kalakriti Archives

Curated by Supriya Lahoti Gandhi & Prshant Lahoti

Hyderabad



© Kalakriti Art Gallery

This **exhibition** brings forth French interaction with the Indian subcontinent through **17th to 19th centuries**. Maps served as tools for traders and merchants under sail, as military instruments and as valuable blueprints and archives of city planning. They had an increasingly important role to play in the development of European rivalries and the realization of their imperial ambitions in the subcontinent. Early cartographical maps of India focus on trade routes, ports and waterways. A changing perspective is observed as the Companies established settlements and political influence.

The French set up their first factories in the Indian subcontinent in 17th century and soon became formidable players in the siege of power in 18th century. They also started producing some of the most cartographically accurate maps of the time.

Maps from pioneering French cartographers such as Guillaume Delisle, Phillipe Buache, Joseph Tiefenthaler and Anquetil-Duperron among others will be showcased in the exhibition. The war theatre maps provide a visual representation of the landmark battles between the French allied forces and English allied forces in the 18th century. These are important records of the European ramifications in the subcontinent, with detailed sites and progression of the battles. Furthermore, French maps of the cities of Pondichéry, Karikal, Yanaon, Mahé and Chandernagore will be explored, and changes will be traced through the centuries.

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