



International
Olympic
Committee

OLYMPIC AGORA BEIJING 2022 PRESS KIT

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OLYMPIC AGORA



The Olympic Games unite the world in an unparalleled manner: nurturing an atmosphere of Excellence, Respect and Friendship. Each edition of the Games creates a profound and lasting cultural impact on society at large.

Launched for the first time during the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, the Olympic Agora is a unique cultural platform created by the Olympic Foundation for Culture and Heritage (OFCH) to promote Olympic culture and values among global audiences. Inspired by the Ancient Greek tradition of a social hub, the Agora is a space for cross-cultural dialogue and discovery at the intersection of sport, art, culture and education.

Olympic Agora programming includes exhibitions, art installations, Olympian artists-in-residence and digital activations that bring global audiences together during, and between, editions of the Olympic Games.

OLYMPIC AGORA BEIJING 2022

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To mark the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 the OFCH brings special Olympic cultural content online, for audiences across the globe.

At the heart of the online programme are seven Olympian artists-in-residence who were selected to create and present new, original artworks inspired by the Olympic values and the magic of winter sports.

The Olympic Agora during Beijing 2022 also features two live educational events, based on the Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP), subject to Covid regulations. The workshops, led by Olympian artists, use arts integration as a non-formal teaching approach, and encourage children to explore the Olympic values and ideals through artistic expression.

Rounding off the Agora programme is a journey down memory lane: Nostalgia – an online exhibition of rare, vintage black-and-white photographs that capture the origins of winter competitions from 1908 through to early editions of the Olympic Winter Games, from 1924 to 1968.

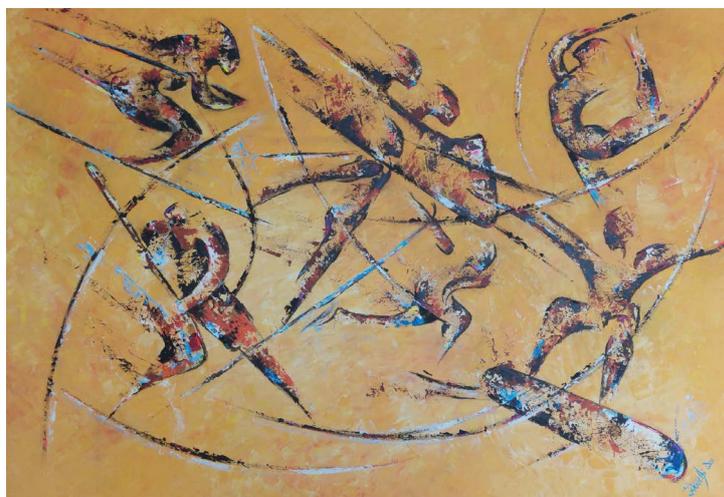


Image 1 "Multi disciplines"

© 2021 - Kader Klouchi - All rights reserved

Image 2 Rio 2016 OG, Games preparation, 2016 - 'Rio loves fencing!', an event organised by the International Fencing Federation (FIE).

© 2016 / Comité d'organisation des Jeux Olympiques et Paralympiques d'été 2016 à Rio / MUMIA, Paulo

Image 3 Olympic Winter Games Chamonix 1924 - Andrée & Pierre Brunet (FRA) - Figure skating © 1924 / IOC / Couttet, Auguste

OLYMPIAN ARTISTS-IN- RESIDENCE

Launched by the OFCH at PyeongChang 2018, the Olympian Artists-in-Residence programme celebrates the link between sports and culture by offering opportunities to athletes with artistic talents to produce and present new artworks during and in-between editions of the Olympic Games.

Every edition of the programme is an opportunity for audiences to discover a community of multi-faceted Olympians and their inspiring stories.

With works spanning painting, graphic design, art photography and Chinese brush painting, the seven Olympian artists for Olympic Agora Beijing are:

Christopher Coleman (USA, Bobsleigh, Albertville 1992 and Lillehammer 1994);

Neil Eckersley (Great Britain, Judo, Los Angeles 1984 and Seoul 1988);

Kader Klouchi (Algeria, Long Jump, Barcelona 1992);

Gao Min (China, Diving, Seoul 1988 and Barcelona 1992);

Cameron Myler (USA, Luge, Calgary 1988, Albertville 1992, Lillehammer 1994 and Nagano 1998);

Ye Qiaobo (China, Speed Skating, Albertville 1992 and Lillehammer 1994);

Laurenne Ross (USA, Skiing, Sochi 2014 and PyeongChang 2018).



OLYMPIAN ARTIST BIOS



Christopher Coleman (USA)

Christopher Coleman enjoys capturing the natural beauty of his home State of Colorado as well as famous national landmarks and cityscapes across America, with his camera. A two-time Olympian at the 1992 and 1994 Olympic Winter Games (Albertville, France, and Lillehammer, Norway) in four-man bobsleigh, Coleman hung up his sporting shoes in 1998 and has since embraced photography with the same enthusiasm. Since retiring from the United States Olympic Committee, where he worked in the Marketing Department, Coleman's focus has been on supporting and assisting his teenage son to realise his academic and athletic dreams.

"Being an Olympian has provided me a template of excellence that I've been able to transfer into other parts of my non-sporting life, as well as to inspire others."



"Pathway"
© 2021 - Christopher Coleman - All rights reserved

Olympian Artists-in-Residence



Neil Eckersley (GBR)

Neil Eckersley represented Great Britain in judo at Los Angeles 1984 and Seoul 1988. At the LA Games, he won the bronze medal in the men's extra-lightweight division (-60kg). Always into art since childhood, he started painting seriously as a therapy to deal with the tragic loss of his older brother and has now been a professional artist for the last 15 years. He also sees painting as a way of dealing with the difficulties of having dyslexia as it allows him to express himself in an open and creative way without the use of words. He is also a judo instructor, continuing to give back to his sport.

"The Olympic values mean everything to me. They are my guiding principles whenever I make a decision; both as a coach and as an artist. I use the values especially during difficult and challenging times in my life."



"Frozen in Time"
© 2021 - Neil Eckersley - All rights reserved



Kader Klouchi (FRA-ALG)

Algerian-born Olympian, painter and sculptor Kader Klouchi considers himself a man with multiple perspectives and has always drawn parallels between art and sport. Klouchi represented Algeria at Barcelona 1992, having switched disciplines from triple jump to long jump less than a year before the Games and later set the French long jump record twice, in 1997 and in 1998. Now a French citizen, he thinks of both athletics and art as a tool for self-expression. Through his artworks, he explores the beauty and complexity of the body in movement – his paintings invariably capture moments of intense energy and movement.

"Art and sport are intimately linked in my opinion, insofar as these both facilitate the discovery of oneself. One is spiritual, and the other physical. Both are modes of expression."



"Ski Alpin"
© 2021 - Kader Klouchi - All rights reserved

Artist bios



Gao Min (CHN)

Highly decorated Olympic diver and International Swimming Hall of Fame member Gao Min learned how to swim at the age of four. At nine, she was spotted by a diving coach who persuaded her to switch to diving and she went on to win the gold medal in the 3m springboard event at Seoul 1988 and Barcelona 1992. After retiring from competition, Gao coached in Canada for many years before returning to China in 2005, where she has been involved with humanitarian work. She is also a keen artist now, and has trained in traditional Chinese painting and calligraphy.

“Being our own champion should be our ultimate pursuit. And sports cultivate our attitude towards failure and give us the courage to do it again.”



Cameron Myler (USA)

Cameron Myler’s dream of becoming an Olympian began during her very first ride on a luge sled after the 1980 Olympic Games in Lake Placid. She competed in four Olympic Games, won 11 World Cup medals, was National Champion seven times, and had the honour of being the American flagbearer at Lillehammer 1994. After retiring from sport, Myler attended law school and practised in New York City for 10 years before joining the faculty of the Tisch Institute for Global Sport at New York University, where her teaching focuses on sports law and governance. Myler approaches her artistic creations, which include photography, textiles and mixed media, with the same passion and commitment that led to her success as an athlete.

“Sport is one of the few things that connects everyone on the planet; being committed to fair play, embracing the values of excellence, friendship and respect, using sport to make positive change in the world.”



“Happy Fish for a Shared Future”

© 2021 - Gao Min - All rights reserved



“Believe”

© 2021 - Cameron Myler - All rights reserved

Artist bios



Ye Qiaobo (CHN)

Ye Qiaobo, is the first Chinese speed skater to become World Champion – she was the women’s all-round world champion in 1992 and 1993. The silver medal she won at Albertville 1992 was China’s first ever medal at the Olympic Winter Games. Setting landmarks for winter sports in China, Ye has won 133 medals in her 21-year career including a third Olympic medal in the 1000m at Lillehammer 1994. Her story has influenced a generation of people, and “The Spirit of Qiaobo” is a famous phrase in China until today. After retirement, Ye Qiaobo earned an MBA from Tsinghua University and followed that up with a doctorate. Now, she devotes herself to both the educational and socio-cultural significance of sport, as well as ink painting and calligraphy.

“During the Olympics, the world is enveloped in a beautiful spirit of common humanity when global cultures communicate and integrate without segregation or hierarchy.”



Laurenne Ross (CAN-USA)

Laurenne Ross started skiing at the age of two with her father in the Canadian Rockies. She and her family later relocated to the United States and she made the US Alpine ski team in 2006. Since then, Ross has competed in six World Championships and two Olympic Games – Sochi 2014 and PyeongChang 2018. Alongside sports, Ross grew up with many creative pursuits including music and art. She graduated from the University of Oregon in 2020 with a major in fine arts, and is now looking to do her Masters in architecture. Ross’s artwork is focused on photography, printmaking and digital collages.

“My travels as an Olympian have inspired much of my artistic work, and allowed me to view different cultures from a more balanced and nuanced perspective. It takes hard work to become an Olympian, and bringing that motivation and inspiration from sport into my art shapes who I am as a person.”



"Bamboo"
© 2021 - Ye Qiaobo - All rights reserved



"Amalgamate"
© 2021 - Laurenne Ross - All rights reserved

THE OLYMPIC VALUES EDUCATION PROGRAMME AT THE OLYMPIC AGORA

THE OLYMPIC VALUES EDUCATION PROGRAMME AT THE OLYMPIC AGORA

The Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP) is a practical set of free and accessible learning and teaching resources that have been created by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) designed to inspire and allow young people to experience life values such as excellence, respect and friendship. Using the context of Olympic sports and the core principles of Olympism, participants are encouraged to experience values-based learning and to assume the responsibilities of good citizenship. OVEP communicates the benefit of sport and physical activity through an understanding of Olympism and its impact on individual health, enjoyment and social responsibility.

The programme for Beijing 2022 will use arts integration as a non-formal teaching approach to facilitate understanding of OVEP concepts.

Two events are scheduled to take place at Olympic House in Lausanne, Switzerland, wherein two Olympian artists will reflect on their career path and how it was linked to the Olympic values, art, culture, education and sport. The Olympian artists will host a live workshop with school children, and the sessions will also be available to an online audience. Before the event, teachers will be coached on OVEP and encouraged to explore the relevant topics with their students. The format of the workshops may be subject to change, depending on the prevailing COVID regulations.

Events:

9 February 2022 (ENG) – with Olympian artist Neil Eckersley
16 February 2022 (FRE) – with Olympian artist Kader Klouchi



Top Image

Buenos Aires 2018 YOG, Youth Olympic Park – Judo Initiation
 © 2018 / Comité International Olympique (CIO) / CHAVES, Nelson

Bottom image

National Olympic Committee, Sri Lanka (SRI), 2016 - The Olympic Day.
 Drawing workshop on the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.
 © 2016 / National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka

NOSTALGIA: ONLINE EXHIBITION

St. Moritz 1928 - Skijoring, demonstration sport
© 1928 / IOC



During Beijing 2022, the Olympic Agora looks back in time to tell the story of some of the early editions of the Olympic Winter Games, through an online exhibition entitled “Nostalgia”.

This curated selection of rare black-and-white photographs presents this history and immortal moments of winter sports.

From the first winter competitions held at London 1908, through to Chamonix 1924 and Grenoble 1968, these photographs showcase some memorable moments

such as horses on ice at St. Moritz 1928 (above). Selected from the photo archives of the Olympic Foundation for Culture and Heritage, some of these are being publicly displayed for the first time. Welcome to “Nostalgia”.



Lake Placid 1932 Olympic Winter Games - Two-men bobsleigh,
Reto Capadrutt & Oscar Geier (SUI)
© 1932 / IOC



SCAN ME

To find out more:
Scan QR Code or go to
[Olympic Agora Beijing 2022](#)

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Visit our website at [Olympic Agora Beijing 2022](#).

Images

For an extensive selection of photos available shortly after each event, please follow us on [Flickr](#).

To request archival photos and footage, please contact our Images team at images@olympic.org.

Social media

You can follow all Olympic Agora activities on The Olympic Museum's [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)!

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#ArtCultureSport
#OlympicAgoraOVEP



OLYMPIC AGORA

About the Olympic Foundation for Culture and Heritage

The Olympic Foundation for Culture and Heritage (OFCH) drives the International Olympic Committee (IOC)'s cultural and values-based educational activities. Dedicated to the international promotion and dissemination of Olympism, the OFCH fosters the creation and dissemination of Olympic knowledge. The Olympic Foundation for Culture and Heritage includes the IOC Heritage Unit; the IOC Olympic Studies Centre; the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland; and the International Cultural Affairs Unit.