

KINTSUGI

SAMPRADAYA
DANCE CREATIONS (Canada)

21 - 23 Nov 2025

Fri & Sat, 8pm | Sun, 3pm

Esplanade Theatre Studio

About Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay

Esplanade is Singapore's national performing arts centre. It hosts a year-round line-up of about 4,000 live performances and activities presented by Esplanade, its partners and hirers. As an arts centre for everyone, Esplanade also creates opportunities for seniors, youth, children and underserved communities to experience the arts. More than 70% of the shows that take place each year at the centre are free for all to enjoy.

Esplanade also brings the arts virtually to audiences in Singapore and beyond, through its diverse range of digital programmes on *Esplanade Offstage*, an all-access backstage pass to the performing arts and guide to Singapore and Asian arts and culture, with videos, podcasts, articles, quizzes and resources.

The centre works in close partnership with local, regional and international artists to develop artistic capabilities and content, push artistic boundaries and engage audiences. Esplanade supports the creation of artistic content by commissioning and producing new Singapore and Asian work for the international stage. It also develops technical capabilities for the industry nationally.

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay is operated by The Esplanade Co Ltd (TECL), which is a not-for-profit organisation, a registered Charity and an Institution of a Public Character. TECL received the Charity Governance Award – Special Commendation for Clarity of Strategy in 2016 and 2022, the Charity Transparency Award from 2016 – 2023, and the Charity Transparency Dedication Award in 2024. Esplanade is Singapore's first Dementia-Friendly Arts Venue and a certified Dementia Go-To Point, as well as a guide/assistance dog friendly centre.

TECL receives funding support from Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and its Community Programmes are supported by Tote Board Family, comprising Tote Board, Singapore Pools and Singapore Turf Club.

Visit [Esplanade.com](https://www.esplanade.com) for more information.

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PRODUCER'S MESSAGE

Each November, *Kalaa Utsavam – Indian Festival of Arts* by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay brings together artists and audiences in a spirit of celebration, discovery, and connection. As we enter the 24th edition of the festival, from 21 – 30 Nov 2025, we are reminded of its role as a home for Indian arts in Singapore. It is a space where tradition meets innovation, where stories are shared, and where communities come together.

Guided by four key objectives—to celebrate the excellence of Indian arts and culture, present a festival that balances excitement with artistic merit, foster a stronger youth presence, and develop the next generation of Singapore artists—*Kalaa Utsavam* continues to honour its roots while embracing the future. This year's festival reflects these ideals through a vibrant mix of tradition, innovation, and cross-cultural collaboration.

The festival continues to champion new creations by Singapore artists, with six new works in the line-up this year, including four Esplanade co-productions and one Esplanade commission. *Mission Malligapoo* by inventive theatre-makers **AGAM Theatre Lab** is a playful and heartwarming production, while dynamic music group **SwaRhythm** brings *Samudra*, a captivating new production inspired by the ebb and flow of the ocean. In a bold meeting of genres, trailblazing metal band **RUDRA** joins forces with the refined musicianship of **Resound Collective** for an unforgettable orchestral experience. Acclaimed Singapore poet **Pooja Nansi** explores love and belonging in the lyrical

We Make Spaces Divine ft. Dey, and the powerful *Shikhandi* by **SIFAS Productions Ltd** blends the grace of *kathak* with the dynamism of *bharatanatyam*. The genre-bending local Latin jazz fusion band **Project RA** teams up with virtuoso vocalist **Varijashree Venugopal** to weave intricate Carnatic melodies with vibrant jazz improvisation in a performance bursting with rhythmic vitality and soulful depth.

From further afield, legendary poet and lyricist **Javed Akhtar** is set to enchant with *Main Koi Aisa Geet Gaoon*, an intimate evening of words and melodies, while beloved stand-up star **Zakir Khan** returns to Singapore with his trademark warmth, wit, and relatable humour.

Also not to be missed are the visually arresting *Kintsugi* by Canada's renowned **Sampradaya Dance Creations**, multi-instrumentalist **Soumik Datta's** poignant, music-driven reflection on memory and Alzheimer's disease, *Mone Rekho*, and Malaysian hip-hop powerhouse **Rabbit Mac's** high-energy showcase with his friends. Families can delight in the charming *Circle of Life* by **Ranga Shankara's AHA! Theatre for Children**, specially created for children as young as five.

Throughout the festival, we are also delighted to offer many free programmes at Esplanade's public spaces, where audiences can enjoy live music, dance and storytelling. These free programmes not only make the arts more accessible but also allow families, friends, and curious passersby to come together and experience the joy of *Kalaa Utsavam* together.

We express our heartfelt thanks to our Principal Sponsor, **Malabar Gold & Diamonds**, and Supporting Sponsor, **High Commission of India**, for their support of *Kalaa Utsavam 2025*.

For over two decades, *Kalaa Utsavam* has been a space for connection, creativity, and cultural celebration. We invite you to join us once again to discover, to be inspired, and to celebrate the evolving spirit of Indian arts in Singapore.

V M Sai Akileshwar

Producer

The Esplanade Co Ltd

DIRECTORS' MESSAGES

*In the golden seams of kintsugi,
beauty finds its purest form—* Victor Ruiz

From the time I attended a kintsugi exhibit at Toronto's Japanese Cultural Centre in 2022, I was immediately drawn to this profound Japanese art form, deeply rooted in its philosophy of *wabi-sabi*—a celebration of beauty in imperfection. Kintsugi, the Japanese craft of mending broken pottery with gold, transforms damage into art, honouring and elevating brokenness itself.

We live in fragile times; the fractures in the relationships we hold sacred threaten our capacity for empathy and healing. Are we not all kintsugi—constantly breaking and mending over time, with each repair restoring new meaning to our lives.

Our new production, *Kintsugi*, gathers the fragmented pieces of self, story, and identity and reimagines them into a new wholeness. The stories at the heart of this work come from the *Mahabharata*, but their resonance lies in the universal fractures of our contemporary world. By reframing these epics through the philosophy of kintsugi, we place the past alongside the present, enriching both.

Lata Pada

Concept & Choreography – KINTSUGI

Artist Director Emerita, Sampradaya Dance Creations

In the Japanese art of mending with gold, *Lata akka* and I discovered a profound metaphor for the human spirit: that the marks of breakage are not flaws to be hidden, but stories to be honoured. This philosophy has shaped not just the choreography, but also the music, visuals, and emotional backbone of the work.

Within Sampradaya's repertoire, *Kintsugi* occupies the unique space of bridging *bharatanatyam*'s classical rigour with contemporary dance's fluidity and urgency while venturing into uncharted terrain. In pushing into this new territory, we invited AI as our creative partner, which has challenged, provoked and deepened our creative process. Drawing from Indian epics while reflecting our present-day moments of heartbreak and hope, *Kintsugi*, for me, becomes a meditation on what we lose, mend, and endure.

It reflects the company's evolution: rooted in tradition, fearless in experiment, and devoted to telling stories that connect the personal with the universal.

Suma Suresh

Choreography – KINTSUGI

Artist Director, Sampradaya Dance Creations

SYNOPSIS

Kintsugi is a striking new production from Sampradaya Dance Creations, inspired by the Japanese art of mending broken pottery with gold. Conceived by Founder Lata Pada and co-choreographed with Artistic Director Suma Suresh, this Indian classical-contemporary work transforms themes of fracture and repair into a moving expression of strength, beauty, and identity.

Kintsugi revisits poignant episodes from the *Mahabharata* that are both timely and timeless, speaking to collective perseverance and the enduring power of transformation.

Performed to live music, with a cast of six dancers trained in *bharatanatyam*, *kathak*, and contemporary vocabularies, *Kintsugi* features an original score that blends classical Indian music with electronic textures, evoking a layered emotional landscape of rupture and repair.

Kintsugi's performance in Singapore is an Asian premiere, after which the work will tour to India and Indonesia.

(1hr, no intermission)



PROGRAMME NOTES

TALES FROM THE MAHABHARATA*

Son Of The Forest

In a forest clearing, Ekalavya, a skilled archer and *guru-dakshina* from the Nishada tribe, makes an unthinkable offer to Dronacharya: his thumb. A disciple denied yet unbowed, Ekalavya's spirit endures, remembered by the forest though erased from the royal courts. This retelling from the *Mahabharata* reveals the tension between devotion and hierarchy, privilege and sacrifice.

Harikishan S. Nair as Drona

Arun Sreekumar as Ekalavya

The Gamble

In the aftermath of a fateful dice game, Draupadi and Yudhishtira face each other in the silence of betrayal. She questions *dharma* itself as he wrestles with guilt and shame. This evocative dialogue reveals the reckoning between queen and king, wife and husband, dignity and humiliation.

Rachana Joshi as Draupadi

Tanveer Alam as Yudhishtira



A Mother's Dream

On the eve of war, Kunti reveals the secret that binds her sons. She dreams of them not as warriors, but as brothers. In her vision, she pleads for the battle to end, for love to prevail over vengeance. Torn between love and duty, Kunti awakens to the unbearable truth: her sons will face one another, and war is inevitable.

Atri Nundy as Kunti

Harikishan S. Nair as Karna

Tanveer Alam as Arjuna

Through The Daughter's Eyes

After the war, Dushala compels her mother, Gandhari, to confront the cost of a love that blinded her to her sons' evil. Through haunting movement and vivid imagery, the scene traces the devastation of Kurukshetra—yet within the ruin, reveals a glimmer of truth and resilience.

Purawai Vyas as Gandhari

Rachana Joshi as Dushala



**These carefully chosen episodes are reimagined through the lens of kintsugi—reflecting mending, wisdom, and acceptance. Each episode bears a golden thread of healing that embodies the core concepts we explore in this work.*

ABOUT SAMPRADAYA DANCE CREATIONS

Sampradaya Dance Creations (SDC) is an award-winning Canadian dance company known for its culturally rooted, interdisciplinary work and socially resonant storytelling. Founded in 1990 by internationally acclaimed *bharatanatyam* soloist, scholar, and educator Lata Pada C.M, the company has become a pioneering force in classical South Asian dance in Canada and beyond.

Specialising in classical and contemporary *bharatanatyam*, SDC—under new leadership of Artistic Director Suma Suresh—is committed to pursuing artistic excellence through captivating solo and ensemble works that blend traditional Indian dance with innovative artistry.

Through tours and festival performances in Canada and abroad, SDC shares *bharatanatyam* with their diverse audiences while uniting cultures through this classical dance form.



ABOUT THE DIRECTORS



Lata Pada

Lata Pada C.M., Founder and Artistic Director Emerita of Sampradaya Dance Creations, is an acclaimed dancer, choreographer, teacher, cultural consultant, and one of Canada's leading artists and arts advocates.

The first South Asian artist to receive the Order of Canada (2009), she has also been honoured with India's Pravasi Bharatiya Samman (2011) and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal (2012) for her contributions to the arts and community. A visionary in promoting South Asian dance in Canada, she has mentored generations of artists.

Suma Suresh



Suma Suresh, Artistic Director of Sampradaya Dance Creations, stepped into the role after six years of mentorship under Lata Pada. She holds an MFA in Dance Choreography from York University, where she earned the Susan Crocker and John Hunkin Scholarship in Fine Arts (2014–2015). She also received the 2019

MARTY Award for Dance. Her works include *Kindred* (2016), *Transcendence* (2016), *Sankhya* (2022), *Mandala* (2019), and the company's 35th Anniversary production, *Salaam Rahman* (2024).

MEET THE ARTISTS



Tanveer Alam – Dancer

Tanveer Alam is a Toronto-based *kathak* exponent and Western contemporary dance graduate from Dance Arts Institute of Canada (2019). Trained initially by Sudeshna Maulik and later by Sandhya Desai, he has performed with artists including Rina Singha, Lata Pada, Padmini Chettur, and Peter Chin. His works have been presented at SummerWorks, Battery Dance Festival, Tangente, CanAsian Dance Festival, and MAI. Tanveer has also contributed to curatorial initiatives with Dancemakers, TOES FOR DANCE, and Toronto Public Library.



Rachana Joshi – Dancer

Rachana Joshi is a *bharatanatyam* dancer, choreographer, and teacher based in Toronto. A graduate of York University's BFA Dance program, she trained under Lata Pada at Sampradaya Dance Academy, where she now teaches and performs as a company dancer. She is also a performer with Nova Dance, appearing in works like *Svaha!* (2022) and *Decoded Dances* (2024). As Artistic Director of Kala Dance Collective, she curates performances and community training initiatives that support diasporic South Asian dance artists.



B.C. Manjunath – Musician

B.C. Manjunath is a dynamic and acclaimed musician recognised nationally and internationally. He has performed on major stages worldwide, collaborating with leading artists across genres spanning Indian classical, world music, jazz, contemporary dance, and contemporary classical. Known for his mastery of *konnakol*, he is also proficient in Western notation and works closely with composers across traditions. A sought-after educator, he conducts workshops globally and has numerous recordings to his credit. In January 2025, he performed at Rashtrapati Bhavan for India's 76th Republic Day.



Harikishan S. Nair – Dancer

Harikishan S. Nair is a multifaceted dance artist, teacher, choreographer, actor, mentor, dramaturge, and rehearsal director. Trained in *bharatanatyam*, *mohiniyattam*, and *kuchipudi*, he advocates for equity in South Asian dance within Canada's arts landscape. His choreographic works have toured widely, and he leads workshops across North America, with presentations in India, the UK, Canada, and the USA. He is Co-Founder of Atam Arts Collective, Co-Director of the South Asian Dance Alliance of Canada, and Associate Artistic Director at NANDA Dancetheatre.



Atri Nundy – Dancer

Atri Nundy is a mid-career bharatanatyam artist, educator, and choreographer who trained under Lata Pada at Sampradaya Dance Academy, where she continues to teach. She refines her practice through mentorship with artists such as Leela Samson, Mavin Khoo, Priyadarshini Govind, and Seeta Patel. Atri's choreographic work spans classical and contemporary forms, with commissions from Anandam Dancetheatre (*Mindful Chatter*, 2022) and Toronto Dance Theatre (*Helix*, 2023). She has performed with KasheDance, Ronald Taylor Dance, and other Toronto-based companies.



Praveen D. Rao – Musician

Praveen D. Rao is an accomplished Indian musician, music director, and lyricist specialising in Kannada songs. A student of Pt. R. V. Sheshadri Gawai of Aravinda Sangeetha Vidyalaya and tabla maestro Pandit Ravindra Yavagal, Praveen has composed for theatre, ballets, films, television, and commercials. Proficient on the keyboard, tabla, and other instruments, Praveen has performed at major festivals including Pattadakal, Soorya, and Nishagandhi, with appearances across India, Great Britain, South Korea, Australia, Indonesia, the Middle East, Canada, and the USA.



Arun Sreekumar – Dancer

Arun Sreekumar is a South Asian emerging dance artist from Kerala, India, currently based in Toronto. He began his *bharatanatyam* training in 2018 under Guru Shyamala Surendran and continues under the mentorship of Harikishan S. Nair, Artistic Director of Regatta Kala Kendra. Actively engaged in Toronto's dance scene, Arun has attended professional training workshops by Padmini Chettur and Padmashri Leela Samson through Anandam Dancetheatre. He has performed in works by Lata Pada, Suma Suresh and Harikishan Nair, and made his theatre debut with ATAM Arts Collective. A founding member of D-Squad Ontario, Arun specialises in *bharatanatyam* and semi-classical forms while exploring hip-hop. Currently balancing his career in IT with his artistic practice, he remains committed to deepening his training and artistic expression within Canada's South Asian dance community.



Varijashree Venugopal – Musician

Bangalore-based, Grammy®-nominated singer-songwriter Varijashree Venugopal was recognised early as a child prodigy, able to identify 100 carnatic ragas at just 18 months and performing publicly by age four. A singer, flautist, composer, and educator, Varijashree is known for her “voice-as-instrument” approach and her fusion of Indian vocal techniques with diverse music

traditions. Her collaborations with global icons include Bobby McFerrin, Michael League, Snarky Puppy, Herbie Hancock, Béla Fleck, Victor Wooten, Jacob Collier, and Anoushka Shankar, among others.



Purawai Vyas – Dancer

Purawai Vyas is an emerging dance artist with 20 years of *bharatanatyam* training under Lata Pada at Sampradaya Dance Academy. Holding a BFA in Dance and a BSc in Biomedical Sciences from York University, her multidisciplinary training includes ballet, contemporary dance, and *kalaripayattu*. Purawai has performed in acclaimed works such as *Svaha!* (2022), *Sankhya* (2022), and *Mandala* (2019), and has presented her own choreography at festivals including Night Shift, Grit Short Dances, and Common Ground. She teaches *bharatanatyam* at Sampradaya Dance Academy.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Choreographers:

Lata Pada and Suma Suresh

Dancers:

Tanveer Alam, Rachana Joshi, Harikishan S. Nair, Atri Nundy, Arun Sreekumar, Purawai Vyas

Musicians:

Praveen Rao, Varijashree Venugopal, B.C. Manjunath

Lighting Designer:

Bharat Vyas

Technical Director:

Nitin Sawant



esplanade

da:ns focus
Contemporary Dance

"If you see only one live performance
this year... NDT is the one to see."

- The New York Times



NDT 2

Nederlands Dans Theater in Singapore

29 & 30 Nov 2025
Sat, 8pm | Sun, 5pm
Esplanade Theatre

Nederlands Dans Theater (NDT 2) make their long-awaited Singapore return, bringing the works of three exciting creative voices in contemporary dance.

2hrs 10mins, including 2 x 20mins intermission

\$50*, \$80*^, \$100^

*Limited concessions available

^Esplanade&Me specials available

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– *The Straits Times*

FULL OUT!

2025

featuring

CDK Company • JINJO Crew

kirameki☆glitter • KITA

(Various countries)

12 & 13 Dec 2025, Fri & Sat, 8pm
Esplanade Theatre

Go **FULL OUT!** in this electrifying street dance showcase, featuring trailblazing dance crews from The Netherlands, South Korea, Japan and Singapore!

(1hr 15mins, no intermission)

\$45, \$65^

Limited concessions available.

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'Prepare to be amazed, prepare to be enthralled and prepare to never look at your bike or skates the same way again!'

— The Reviews Hub



by

ISH Dance Collective

(The Netherlands)

13 & 14 Dec 2025

Sat, 8pm | Sun, 4pm

Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade

Dance and extreme sports collide in this spectacularly thrilling production combining dance with breaking, skateboarding, inline skating, freestyle basketball, BMX Flatland and parkour.

1hr, no intermission

Advisory: This performance features loud music, strobe lighting effects and extreme sports stunts performed by trained professionals.

\$55^A

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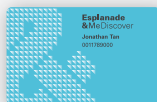
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17 to 26 years



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Fort Sanctuary

Transformative Tea Ceremony for Children

22 & 23 Nov, Sat & Sun
1pm – 2pm
\$10 per pair
(Parent + child)
Additional pax at \$5

Fort Sanctuary

#02-01/03, Esplanade Mall



Hi-Art

Family Flower Craft – Parent-Child Workshop

2, 9, 16 & 23 Nov, Sun
1.30pm – 3pm or
3.15pm – 4.45pm
\$23 per pair
(max. 4 pairs per session)

Hi-Art

#02-05/07, Esplanade Mall

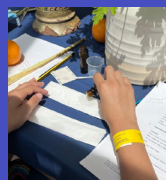


Lee Wei Song Music Academy

Sing Your Gratitude – Parent-Child Vocal Workshop

22 & 23 Nov, Sat & Sun
1pm – 2pm
\$20 per parent-child(ren) group
(max 10-12 pairs per session)

Lee Wei Song Music Academy
#02-12, Esplanade Mall



The Naturalist Grandeur

Little Noses, Big Scents – Parent-Child Scent Discovery Workshop

15 & 16 Nov, Sat & Sun
10am – 11.15am
\$35 per pair
(includes \$10 The Naturalist Grandeur voucher)
Additional pax \$18 each.

PIP's PLAYbox

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Pen your thank you notes on our virtual or physical Gratitude Tree from 1 Nov – 31 Dec 2025! Tag us on IG @esplanadesingapore and #WonderHere to stand a chance to win some special gifts from us!

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4.3K

activities took place at Esplanade.



70%

 Free

30%

 Paid

3.75M

people attended our live and online activities.



93%

of surveyed audiences were satisfied with their Esplanade experience.



66%

reported a positive impact on quality of life and wellbeing.

*Figures for Esplanade's activities from Apr 2024 to Mar 2025.



670

 Activities

17.1K

 Participants

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To find out more, email us at donations@esplanade.com or speak with us at 6828 8321.

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Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay is a charity, a not-for-profit organisation and Singapore's national performing arts centre.

We seek to entertain, engage, educate and inspire through the arts. We thank everyone who has helped us bring positive impact to Singaporeans by supporting the arts and Esplanade.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes especially to our Donors and Sponsors, for their steadfast belief in our mission and for their generous contributions.

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Gift

Imagination, empathy, creativity—the arts both embody and inspire these human qualities that help us make a better society.

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Your donation opens up opportunities for the young to experience and be inspired by the arts. It also supports the aspirations of emerging Singapore artists to create and express their vision for the future.



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“

Reading Offstage is one of the best things ever!
I devote all my free time to the videos, articles
and podcasts about music, dance, theatre, visual
arts... it is absolutely life-changing. Five stars.

”

Totally Anonymous Person
(who is not related to Offstage)

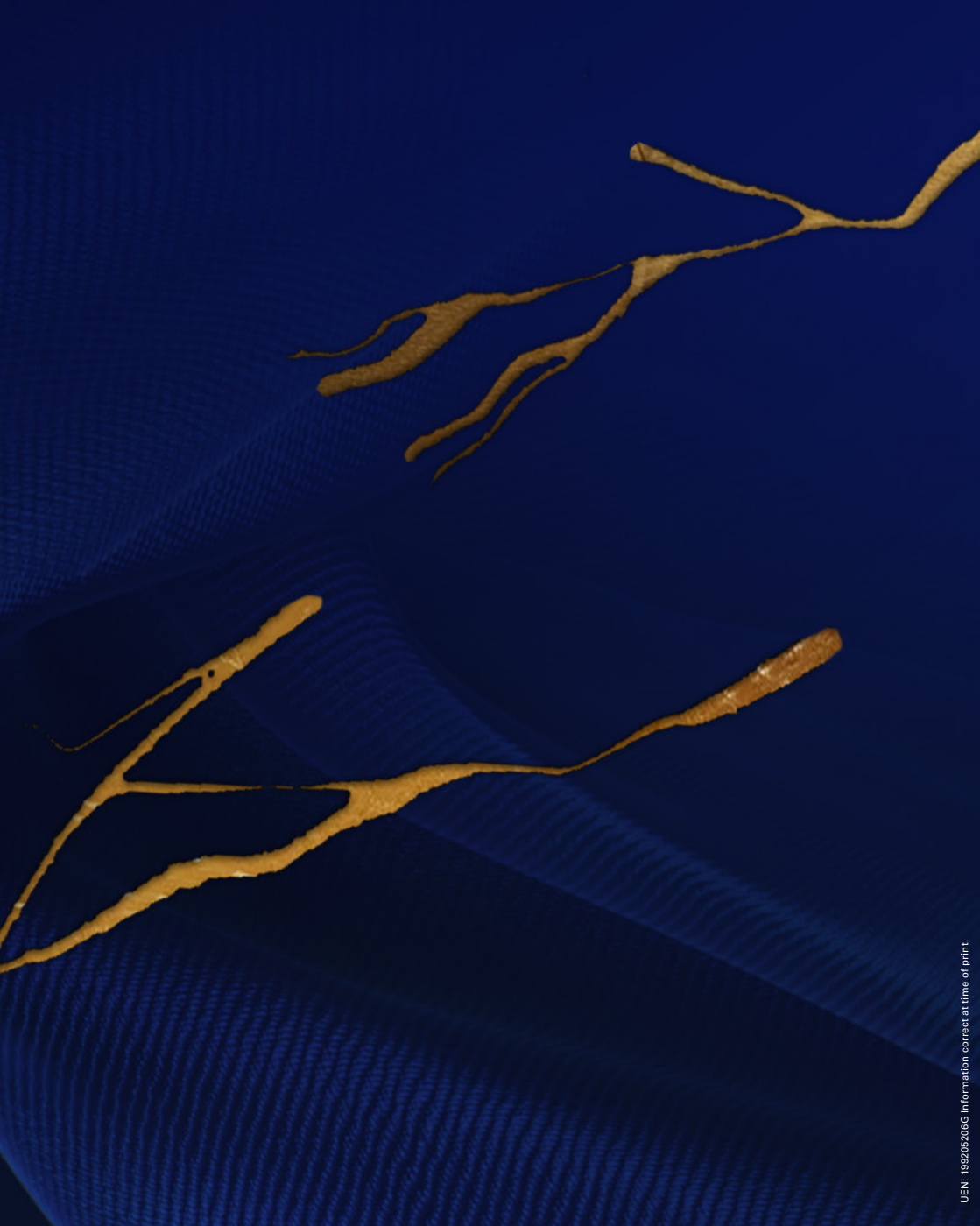




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