

EXHIBITION

DESTINATION ASIA

A Missionary Journey in Lego Bricks

November 30th, 2024 – July 5th, 2025



ME MISSIONS ETRANGERES
DE PARIS

128 rue du Bac - 75007 Paris - missionsetrangeres.com


VOLONTAIRE MEP

UNE EXPOSITION

HISTOIRE EN BRIQUES

IMAGINEE & CREEE PAR


EPICURE STUDIO

LEGO est une marque protégée du Groupe LEGO et il n'existe aucun lien entre Epicure Studio et Histoire en Briques d'une part et le Groupe LEGO d'autre part. LEGO est une marque du Groupe LEGO qui ne sponsorise pas, n'autorise pas ni ne cautionne les services offerts par Epicure Studio et Histoire en Briques.



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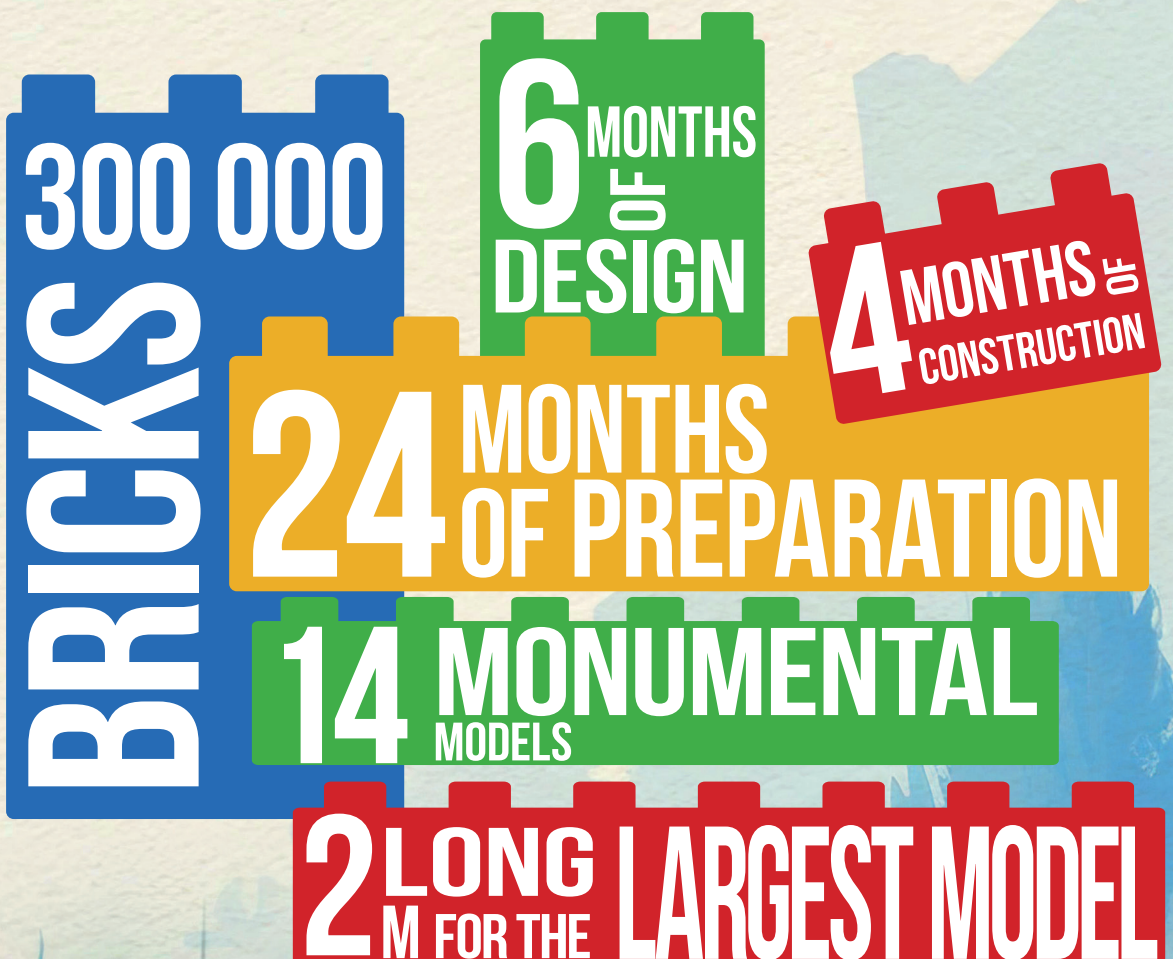
The exhibition **“Destination Asia, A Missionary Journey in Lego Bricks”** offers a multicultural journey, a bridge between France, Asia, and the Indian Ocean. Fourteen monumental Lego brick models take visitors from Japan to Madagascar, passing through China, Cambodia, Indonesia... A 12-country itinerary exploring the cultures, religions, and nations of this vast continent.

The Nazareth printing press in Hong Kong, the Great Mosque of Medan in Indonesia, the Benares stairs on the Ganges in India, or the mission of Tsarahasina in Madagascar: throughout these landmarks, the exhibition highlights the richness and diversity of the historical, cultural, religious, and human heritage in MEP mission countries.

Since 1658, our Society plays a significant role in intercultural, interfaith, and social dialogue in Asia and the Indian Ocean. During this journey, the visitors go through 360 years of adventures along the paths forged by the Paris Foreign Missions Society.

Alongside the exhibition, a rich cultural program prolongs the experience, including guided tours, concerts, workshops, and a contest for young audiences.

Press Kit



EXHIBITION

DESTINATION ASIA

A Missionary Journey in Lego Bricks

A UNIQUE EXHIBITION MADE WITH LEGO BRICKS

Why use Lego bricks for this exhibition?

The concept is modern, unifying, intergenerational, and multicultural. Lego bricks resonate with a wide audience and can be used by people of all ages, from 7 to 77 years old. This exhibition aims to tell the story of human heritage in a “different” way, while also showcasing extraordinary constructions. As a tool for contemporary artistic expression, building bricks are more than just toys – they become an innovative communication medium combining play, creativity, and education.

A total of 300,000 bricks were needed to create these models, with the largest measuring over 2 meters long. Every piece from the Lego repertoire and universe was used to create real works of art, as detailed and realistic as possible. Decorative elements and figurines help contextualize the models by recreating the environments and the places represented. The creative process, including design and software modelling, is also highlighted in the exhibition.

HISTOIRE EN BRIQUES & EPICURE STUDIO

A Key Partner

Mission 128 entrusted the realization of this exhibition project to **Histoire en Briques®**, which has extensive experience in the museographic and scenographic design of Lego brick exhibitions.

To date, **Histoire en Briques®** has:

- + Over 2 million visitors across all their cultural, educational, and tourist exhibitions
- + More than 4 million bricks used each year

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EXHIBITION

DESTINATION ASIA

A Missionary Journey in Lego Bricks

THE WANDERINGS OF AN MEP VOLUNTEER IN ASIA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN

Accompanied by an MEP volunteer, immerse yourself in the heart of the history of the Society and discover the first missions of the MEP. Dive into the cultures and religions of Asia. Experience social and educational action firsthand. Share faith while respecting cultures.

In the Footsteps of the First “Bridge Builders”

The exhibition begins with the history of the founding of the MEP, from the establishment of its seminary to the first missions in Asia. It notably addresses the instructions that define the missionary work of MEP priests, as well as their role in the dissemination of written works in Asia.



Model of the Nazareth
Printing House in Hong Kong
Dimensions: 110 x 60 x 23 cm
13 845 bricks

©Histoire en Briques

The Nazareth Printing House was established in Hong Kong in 1884 by Fathers Jean-Joseph Rousseille and François Monnier. One of the primary objectives of the MEP has always been to develop the local Church while respecting cultures. Books and publications were essential, and the Nazareth Printing House became a central institution in the process of disseminating these works translated into various Asian languages.

Press Kit



EXHIBITION

DESTINATION ASIA

A Missionary Journey in Lego Bricks

On the Path of Dialogue

Asia is marked by the great diversity of its people, heirs to very ancient cultures. The continent is the birthplace of the three major monotheistic religions. It is also the cradle of Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, and many other religions and spiritual traditions. The exhibition explores interfaith dialogue within its Asian context (Mission – Dialogue – Harmony) and the question of coexistence. The major religions practiced in Asia are presented through five emblematic models representing each faith.



Model of Longshan Temple
in Taipei
Dimensions: 71 x 71 x 50 cm
18 547 bricks

©Histoire en Briques

The Longshan Temple in Taipei was built in the 17th century and is one of the oldest temples in Taiwan. It is dedicated to Guanyin (the Buddhist goddess of compassion) as well as to various Taoist and ancient deities that are part of the Chinese folk religion pantheon.

Helping Those in Need

From Madagascar to Vietnam, the exhibition highlights the social work of missionaries from past to present, especially their actions in favour of education and health. The remarkable work accomplished over 30 years of mission in Madagascar is showcased through the monumental model of Tsarahasina, with particular focus on the commitment of MEP volunteers. The essential role of women's congregations, such as the Lovers of the Holy Cross, is also acknowledged.

EXHIBITION

DESTINATION ASIA

A Missionary Journey in Lego Bricks

Inculturation at the Heart of the Message

To conclude, the exhibition addresses an essential pillar of the MEP's work: inculturation. For missionaries, inculturation involves integrating the languages, customs, and artistic traditions unique to each country. This requires a deep understanding of everything that constitutes the culture and religion of a people and society. What better way to illustrate and understand this principle than with an inculturated nativity scene?

ADDITIONAL VISUALS AVAILABLE FOR THE PRESS



Model of Myeongdong Cathedral in Seoul
Dimensions: 103 x 60 x 67 cm
16,333 bricks

©Histoire en Briques

Model of Buddha,
Cambodia
Dimensions: 40 x 52 cm
7,802 bricks

©MEP



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EXHIBITION

DESTINATION ASIA

A Missionary Journey in Lego Bricks

A COMMITMENT BEYOND THE EXHIBITION



Volontariat MEP - MEP Volunteer Program

- 19 countries
- 130 volunteers sent per year
- 80 projects supported on the ground

Nowadays, volunteering has become essential in building a more equitable and inclusive world. Everyone has unique talents and skills they can be proud of and put to use in the service of others.

There are numerous and varied needs in countries in Asia and the Indian Ocean. Young people are a powerful force providing additional support to the local Church, local partners, and vulnerable communities.

The MEP Volunteer Program projects and the remarkable work accomplished by the volunteers are showcased in the exhibition: teaching, activities for children, support for people with disabilities, medical aid, civil engineering, sustainable development... It's an invitation for all young people to get involved!

The Solidarity Shop: Support Associations Working in Asia and the Indian Ocean

As a bridge between France, Asia, and the Indian Ocean, this exhibition is also an opportunity to give visibility and support associations working closely with local communities.

Throughout the exhibition, a solidarity shop will open at the MEP and offer artisanal products made locally. By visiting the exhibition and the solidarity shop, you support the actions of partner associations dedicated to youth education, vocational training, social integration, healthcare and sustainable economic development.



EXHIBITION

DESTINATION ASIA

A Missionary Journey in Lego Bricks



AVENIR CAMBODGE

Avenir Cambodge supports development projects led by the Apostolic Vicariate of Phnom Penh, particularly focusing on the “Village of Peace” in Choumkartieng, Takéo region. For over 20 years, this village has fostered inclusive professional development, aiding those with disabilities, women, and the impoverished. Key projects include traditional silk and cotton weaving and creating 100% recycled products like soaps and sandals. Education is also a priority, with the Apostolic Vicariate offering training programs. At Saint Paul’s University, students cultivate Kampot pepper, a spice with a Protected Geographical Indication (PGI), celebrated for its unique flavor and historical value.



ÉCOLES DE MADAGASCAR (Schools of Madagascar)

Founded in 2010 by former volunteers of the Paris Foreign Missions and Father Bertrand de Bourran (MEP), *Écoles de Madagascar* funds the construction of schools in northern Madagascar, allowing more children to access education.



HOWRAH SOUTH POINT (HSP)

After living for nine years in a slum in Kolkata, Father François Laborde, from the Prado, founded the association *Howrah South Point* (HSP) in 1976. Six years ago, Father Laurent Bissara (MEP) took over, continuing and revitalizing the association’s mission with dedication. HSP tirelessly works to promote human dignity by assisting the poorest and supporting people with disabilities. Active in Bengal, Jalpaiguri, Asansol, and Howrah, the association has developed programs in four areas: providing children’s homes, education, healthcare, and social support. At the core of its mission, HSP manages nine social homes, 11 schools, health programs, and initiatives for rehabilitation and training. HSP directly impacts the lives of over 2,000 families each year, not to mention the 220 employees, who themselves come from the poorest backgrounds. The handicrafts available for sale in the Solidarity shop are produced at the Maria Basti home, by young women with disabilities.



KARUNA CAMBODGE

Karuna Cambodge supports schools across Cambodia, providing children with education, defending their rights, helping them achieve their dreams, and breaking the cycle of poverty.



OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN

This association supports Southeast Asian women in achieving their entrepreneurial dreams, enabling them to thrive through traditional crafts. With a focus on environmental sustainability, *Opportunity for Women* helps fund materials, develop responsible products (like cushions, placemats, accessories), and create lasting markets in France and Europe.



TERRES KARENS

Founded in 2010 by former volunteers, *Terres Karens* supports the Karen ethnic minority in northern Thailand, particularly around Maesot. The association preserves traditional weaving techniques, supporting women’s work, combating rural exodus, and fostering local economies. *Terres Karens* has established a yarn cooperative and sewing workshop, with finished products sold in France to benefit Karen women artisans and to expand the project to new villages.

EXHIBITION

DESTINATION ASIA

A Missionary Journey in Lego Bricks

OUR PARTNERS

ARILIM



ARILIM ASSURANCES is a family-owned insurance brokerage firm with offices in Lyon, Paris, and Toulon. Specializing in property and business risk insurance, ARILIM ASSURANCES supports its clients in selecting personalized insurance solutions. With a team of experts and a client-focused approach, ARILIM ASSURANCES is committed to providing tailored services to meet each client's needs.

ART SACRÉ II



The association *L'Art sacré 2* aims to raise awareness of the artistic and symbolic value of sacred art, both contemporary and traditional. It is intellectually affiliated with the Dominican Province of France, inspired by the renowned journal *L'Art sacré* led by Fathers Couturier and Régamey from 1935 to 1969. Its main mission is to promote sacred art, support initiatives that preserve religious heritage, and foster exchanges with artists. This mission is carried out through conferences, publications, concerts, symposia, educational events, and tours, targeting all audiences. With the support of *La Sauvegarde de l'Art Français*, a foundation of public interest, the association also works to preserve the architectural and artistic heritage of religious buildings and monuments.

CENTRE CULTUREL DE TAIWAN



Founded in 1994 and part of the Taiwanese Ministry of Culture, the CCTP has two main missions: to showcase Taiwan's major cultural achievements and trends in France and Europe, and to facilitate cultural exchanges with French and European partners. This helps offer Taiwanese artists and culture international exposure.

FONDATION NOTRE DAME



A public-interest foundation since 1992, Fondation Notre Dame channels generosity toward those most in need. For over 30 years, it has promoted solidarity, supporting people across all life stages. In 2023, the foundation and its 59 affiliated

foundations allocated €32 million across 670 projects, focusing on six main areas: poverty, vulnerability, family, job integration, culture, media, and heritage. Since its inception, it has directed 286 million euros toward these efforts in France and some foreign countries, entirely funded by private donations without public subsidies.

INSTITUT DE RECHERCHE FRANCE-ASIE (IRFA)



IRFA is dedicated to preserving, enriching, and promoting the heritage of the Paris Foreign Missions (MEP), a society of Catholic priests founded in 1658 and active in 15 countries across Asia and the Indian Ocean. This heritage, reflecting four centuries of cultural exchanges and research, is housed in Paris and available to the research community, offering resources to explore the history of the MEP in Asia.

TOWN HALL OF THE 7TH ARRONDISSEMENT



Since 1865, the *Town Hall of the 7th arrondissement of Paris*, located in the *Hôtel de Villars*, has served as a central venue for Parisians' civic life and important community events in the district: birth registrations, school enrolments, census, marriage, death, commemorative ceremonies, and public voting. Since 2008, Mayor Rachida Dati has made the town hall and its gardens accessible for cultural events and community gatherings, making the arrondissement a welcoming space for all. Culture is seen as a way to transcend limitations, foster individual journeys, and build connections among diverse people. Reflecting the richness of French culture, the classic architecture of the *Hôtel de Villars* represents both heritage and a continuous openness to the present.

Rachida Dati, Mayor of the 7th Arrondissement, is committed to ensuring that every generation, along with the district's many visitors, can discover and help share this example of the immense wealth of our heritage.

EXHIBITION

DESTINATION ASIA

A Missionary Journey in Lego Bricks

MAISON DE LA CULTURE DU JAPON EN FRANCE



Since 1997, the Maison de la Culture du Japon à Paris has shared Japanese culture, both traditional and modern, with a wide audience. Its activities present a diverse view of Japanese culture, including exhibitions, live performances, cinema, conferences, and a library. Recently, there's been a growing emphasis on promoting the Japanese language, as well as hands-on classes like tea ceremony, calligraphy, ikebana (flower arranging), origami, and manga.

MVAC 7



The MVAC 7 is a community center in the 7th arrondissement, dedicated to local associations, their volunteers, and residents. It fosters partnerships and enhances local life, offering information on civic participation. MVAC 7 serves as a resource for discovering local sports, solidarity, and cultural associations, with a range of free programming open to all, including workshops and lectures in a friendly and welcoming environment.

ODEIA



Odeia is a travel agency specializing in cultural trips and Catholic pilgrimages, taking travelers to significant Christian sites around the world to connect with Christian communities globally.

PRIONS EN ÉGLISE JUNIOR



Prions en Église Junior offers young readers the complete readings for Sunday Mass, with beautiful illustrations and explanations of difficult words, plus a Gospel activity section for deeper understanding. This resource guides children in joyful Christian life with sections like «Prayer Corner» for reflection, inspiring stories, and a lively comic that explores the lives of saints. Published by Bayard Jeunesse, it's designed for ages 7 to 11.

TRÉSORS DE PARIS



The mission of Trésors de Paris is to introduce young people to Christian heritage, inspiring them with its beauty and providing them with interpretative tools. The guides organize interactive tours for children and youth, revealing the insights of Christian heritage through art. Conducted by passionate experts in sacred art, these small-group tours use engaging booklets as educational tools to capture the attention and memory of young visitors.



EXHIBITION

DESTINATION ASIA

A Missionary Journey in Lego Bricks

AROUND THE EXHIBITION

Saturday, December 14th, 2024

Kolam and Tamil Calligraphy Workshop
with the association *Les Comptoirs de l'Inde*

Thursday, February 13th, 2025

Screening of the film "*Inside the Yellow Cocoon Shell*" by Pham Thien An, 2023

Saturday, March 15th, 2025

Conference "Ancestor Veneration Rituals in Catholic Practice in Taiwan" by Eva Salerno

Saturday, March 29th, 2025

Conference "Mission Madagascar: A Young and Vibrant Church"
by P. Bertrand de Bourran, MEP

Saturday, May 24th, 2025

Khmer Dance Introduction Workshop
with the association *Selepak Khmer*

Saturday, June 7th, 2025

Ikebana Art Introduction Workshop
with *Ikebana International Paris*

LEGONIGHTS

Evening Exhibition Visit, Activities,
and Guest Speakers
for Ages 18 to 35

Thursday, January 23 / Thursday,
March 27 / Thursday, May 22, 2025
7:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Information and reservation:

<https://missionsetrangeres.com/agenda/>

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Opening times and Access

Open from November 30th, 2024,
to July 5th, 2025
Tuesday to Saturday, 10 AM to 6 PM
Late openings until 8 PM on December 6th
and December 13th
At the Paris Foreign Missions,
128 rue du Bac – 75007 Paris

Admission:

- Full price: €8
- Reduced price: €6
- Group rate for children: €5

Guided Tours:

Guided tours with an MEP guide: every
Wednesday at 3 PM, and every Saturday
at 10 AM and 3 PM

Reservations:

<https://missionsetrangeres.com/evenement/destination-asie-un-voyage-missionnaire-en-briques-lego/>

For group tours, contact us:
[animation\(a\)missionsetrangeres.com](mailto:animation(a)missionsetrangeres.com)
01 44 39 10 40

Cultural Mediation

Enhance your visit and explore cultures,
religions, and the history of the MEP:

- Adult Visitor Guide
- Visit/Game Booklet for young visitors, in collaboration with *Les Trésors de Paris*
- Play Zone: Lego brick-building workshop with *Histoire en Briques*
- Youth Contest in partnership with *Prions en Église Junior*

Press Contact

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Press Kit

