

museum of modern
and contemporary art
sri lanka

Quarterly Newsletter #5 – November 2023

‘The Foreigners’ at Frieze Week London

The MMCA Sri Lanka is thrilled to announce that we held a sold out evening of artists’ films from our last exhibition ‘The Foreigners’ in London on 12 October. The event took place at and in partnership with The Photographers’ Gallery, and featured the works of Dinelka Liyanage, Hania Luthufi, Imaad Majeed, Nina Mangalanayagam, and Sumudi Suraweera. The screenings were followed by a conversation between Sharmini Pereira, Chief Curator and Sandev Handy, Curator at the MMCA Sri Lanka and artists Mangalanayagam and Reginald S. Aloysius, led by the UK based curator, writer, and researcher Hammad Nasar. This evening of screenings and discussion took place during this year’s Frieze Week (11–15 October).

‘The Foreigners’ Reaches a Successful End

Meanwhile, ‘The Foreigners’ exhibition ended on 22 October after a six-month run which attracted 10,377 visitors. The 64 public programmes we hosted included nine Gallery Talks, eight Workshops, five Reading Groups, 11 Curator’s Tours, three performances, a Book Reading for children, and an activation of Danushka Marasinghe and K K Srinath Chathuranga’s performance ‘Text-ing-Be-ing’ (2019) exhibited in ‘The Foreigners’. What we are most excited by, however, are the visits by 518 students from schools and higher educational institutes across the country, including the National Youth Services Council.

As always, the Visitor Educators of the MMCA Sri Lanka played an indispensable role in engaging our visitors with the exhibition, and conducted 805 Spotlights, 63 Display Tours, and 95 Exhibition Tours for ‘The Foreigners’.

What’s more, ‘The Foreigners’ was featured in the ‘Arts & Culture’ section of [‘The National’](#), UAE last month. A huge thank you to Shaahima Fahim for this wonderful review.

To celebrate Children’s Day we held some special public programmes on 30 September and 1 October, which included four Kids’ Activity Sessions, a workshop, and a Special Children’s Day Curator’s Tour by our Chief Curator Sharmini Pereira. Thank you to all those who participated!

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A Special Visit by Collector Anojie Amerasinghe

We were also pleased to host the London based collector Anojie Amerasinghe, who generously supported 'The Foreigners', at the museum on 24 August for a talk entitled 'Who's Afraid of Contemporary Art' with our Chief Curator Sharmini Pereira. Anojie and Sharmini spoke about new forms of art patronage, what makes an ideal patron, and how to get involved in supporting contemporary art.

Early Christmas Gifts

Gift your loved ones limited edition sarongs and scarves this Christmas! These unique hand-crafted fabrics created by Selyn and the MMCA Sri Lanka have been inspired by two George Keyt (1901–1993) paintings. What better Christmas gifts for yourself or your loved ones, than these must-have pieces for all art lovers? To order your limited edition scarf or sarong, send a direct message on MMCA Sri Lanka's Instagram page [instagram.com/mmcasrilanka/](https://www.instagram.com/mmcasrilanka/) or Facebook page [facebook.com/mmcasrilanka/](https://www.facebook.com/mmcasrilanka/)

'88 Acres: The Watapuluwa Housing Scheme by Minnette De Silva'

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce that our next exhibition titled '88 Acres: The Watapuluwa Housing Scheme by Minnette De Silva' will open on 30 November. Curated by Sharmini Pereira and Ritchell Marcelline, assisted by Thinal Sajeewa and Nimaya Harris, '88 Acres' is the MMCA Sri Lanka's first solo exhibition and will look at the Watapuluwa Housing Scheme by pioneering Sri Lankan architect Minnette De Silva (1918–1998). It is also the first exhibition of a modern architect in Sri Lanka to receive the endorsement of the World Monuments Fund.

'88 Acres' will also feature the premiering of an artists' film titled 'is this an architectural documentary?' (2023) by Irushi Tennekoon (b. 1989), Sumedha Kelegama (b. 1988), and Sumudu Athukorala (b. 1980), which focuses on the Watapuluwa Housing Scheme. This artists' film has been supported by the British Council Digital Collaboration Fund, which supports UK and overseas cultural partnerships to develop digitally innovative ways of collaborating. It has been commissioned by the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art Sri Lanka with Research and Development support provided by Forensic Architecture, UK.