

museum of modern and contemporary art sri lanka

Regional Friendships Newsletter– April 2023

Building regional friendships

2023 kicked-off with two of our curatorial team, Sandev Handy and Ritchell Marcelline, going to Singapore for the EX-SITU: Art Spaces Residency at the Singapore Art Museum (SAM) from 10 January to 6 February 2023.

In February, our Chief Curator Sharmini Pereira and Development Assistant Onella Perera accompanied a group of our Founding Patrons to the India Art Fair and Asia Arts Game Changer Awards 2023 in New Delhi. During their visit the patrons also visited several art and culture institutions, including the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art and KHOJ, as well as private collections and residences of Indian art patrons. We look forward to further international art trips over the course of the coming year!

In March, Pramodha Weerasekera, Assistant Curator of Education and Public Programmes, spoke at the conference 'Beyond Theory: Mapping Feminist Practices in the Contemporary' from 24-25 March 2023 organised by the Museum of Art and Photography (MAP) in Bangalore, India.

Onwards and upwards

Between January and March, the MMCA Sri Lanka successfully conducted Terms 2 and 3 of MMCA Afterschool, with the participation of 60 children. We also held our first ever writing workshop, conducted by Kanya D'Almeida, as a series of four sessions from 4–12 March. Curated for writers of all levels and genres who are looking for guidance and inspiration to write about the personal and the political, the workshop facilitated 13 participants who developed their own piece of writing in response to the artwork on display in 'Encounters' Rotation 3. Keep an eye out for the pieces of writing from the participants!

On 19 March our second exhibition titled 'Encounters' came to a close. Viewed by 20,866 visitors, the exhibition has helped to establish our presence at Crescat Boulevard and bring our work to many new audiences. Curated by our Chief Curator, Sharmini Pereira, and Curator, Sandev Handy, 'Encounters' consisted of three Rotations and featured 59 loaned artworks, by 15 artists from across the

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country and Berlin. You can find out more about the artworks in the exhibition soon on our website. A huge thank you to all the artists, lenders, and funders that contributed to making 'Encounters' such a success!

The MMCA Sri Lanka also kicked off a fundraising campaign to provide cultural entrepreneurship, leadership development, and financial management skills and opportunities to women, in partnership with Selyn and the Selyn Foundation. The collaboration launches a limited edition series of sarongs and scarves inspired by two George Keyt (1901–1993) paintings, created as part of Design for Impact. These unique hand-crafted fabrics are must-have pieces for all art lovers! Want to get your hands on one? Contact us on Facebook or Instagram.

We are excited to announce that our next exhibition 'the foreigners' will open on 4 May 2023. Curated by Sandev Handy and Sharmini Pereira, this exhibition will be contemporary artist focused, and bring together 16 artworks ranging from paintings, photographs, performances, video artworks, and drawings. Mark your diaries, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

The Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art Sri Lanka is currently closed to the public, as we prepare the museum space for our next exhibition opening on 4 May 2023.