

museum of modern and contemporary art sri lanka

Quarterly Newsletter #10 – January 2025

The MMCA Sri Lanka is pleased to have welcomed 4,853 visitors during Rotation 1 of 'Total Landscaping', which closed on 1 December 2024. Our visitors included 244 students from schools and higher educational institutes, and 243 participants for 18 public programmes that we curated since the Rotation opened on 12 September 2024.

The workshop series conducted by the Fellows of the Dialogue and Civic Engagement Fellowship hosted by the MMCA Sri Lanka in partnership with the Supporting Effective Dispute Resolution (SEDR) project, were of special significance. Moderated by Kalyani Sundaralingam, Thamilini Siththiravadivel, and Bavaneedha Loganathan, these 14 workshops held at the MMCA Galleries invited participants to engage with the root causes of long-existing communal land conflicts in Sri Lanka through art. The workshops interacted with Jasmine Nilani Joseph's (b.1990) 'DS Waiting Room' (2024), Anomaa Rajakaruna's (b.1965) 'No Other Land' (2024), and Hanusha Somasundaram's (b.1988) 'நகரும் நிலங்கள்' (2024) which were commissioned for 'Total Landscaping' by the MMCA Sri Lanka.

Rotation 2 of 'Total Landscaping' opened on 15 December. Featuring works by nine contemporary artists from Sri Lanka, the exhibition continues to explore the broad, dramatic, and stirring ways in which landscapes have transformed in Sri Lanka. The featured artists include Abdul Halik Azeez (b.1985), Chandraguptha Thenuwara (b.1960), Danushka Marasinghe (b.1985), Dominic Sansoni (b.1956), Jasmine Nilani Joseph (b.1990), Koralegedara Pushpakumara (b.1968), Pala Pothupitiya (b.1972), Pradeep Thalawatta (b.1979), and T. Shanaathanan (b.1969).

Visitors to Rotation 2 of 'Total Landscaping' are invited to engage with two interactive artworks, that include Pradeep Thalawatta's 'You came to see me, and now I'm here' (2023), which is being exhibited for the first time. T. Shanaathanan's 'Drawers of War Transactions' (2019), an earlier version of which was first shown at the Sharjah Biennale in 2014, is the other interactive work that is on view in Sri Lanka for the first time. Drop by the museum on the ground floor of Crescat Boulevard to see these works, before the rotation closes on 2 March!

We also had the pleasure of hosting the Choir of S. Thomas' Preparatory School directed by Choir Master Harin Amirthanathan for our annual Christmas Carol event. The choir added to the festive cheer of the season in response to 'Total Landscaping'.

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