

# museum of modern and contemporary art sri lanka

## **Quarterly Newsletter #11 – June 2025**

The Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art Sri Lanka (MMCA Sri Lanka) is pleased to announce that it has moved from its temporary premises at Crescat Boulevard, Colombo 3 in order to focus on the next phase of the museum's development!

Our free exhibitions and learning events will continue, as part of a more wide-ranging line-up of local and international events. Over the next two years, we will also accelerate the research, training, and capacity-building required to open, staff, and operate a museum of modern and contemporary art. The MMCA Sri Lanka looks forward to increasing engagement with schools and the artistic community to build wider audience awareness about the role museums play today.

On 10 and 11 March we conducted the third edition of our Museum Intensive (MI 3), a training programme designed to build professional capacity across Sri Lanka's museum sector. MI 3 focused on Integrated Pest Management (IPM), and the cleaning and storage of archival material.

Developed in close partnership with World Monuments Fund, this two-day workshop was conducted by Nicola Walker ACR, Tutor at the City & Guilds of London Art School, UK and Senior Conservator in Paper and Photography at the National Trust, United Kingdom.

In addition to members of the MMCA Sri Lanka team, the workshop included staff from National Art Gallery, Collective for Historical Dialogue and Memory, Lionel Wendt Art Centre, Curado Art Space, Foto Design, Sri Lanka Archive Of Contemporary Art, Architecture & Design, and University of Jaffna, along with independent conservators based in Sri Lanka.

We are delighted to announce that the animated documentary 'is this an architectural documentary?' (2023) by Irushi Tennekoon, Sumedha Kelegama, and Sumudu Athukorale was awarded the prestigious 2025 SAH Award for Film and Video by the Society of Architectural Historians (SAH). A short version of the film is on display as part of the Qatar national pavilion at the 19th Venice Architecture Biennale. The pavilion titled 'Beyti Beytak, My home is your home, La mia casa è la tua casa' is open at the Palazzo Franchetti until 23 November 2025.

The animated documentary was supported by the British Council Digital Collaboration Fund, which supports UK and overseas cultural partnerships to develop digitally innovative ways of collaborating. Research and Development support for the documentary was provided by Forensic Architecture, UK.

Continuing our Founding Patrons Curated Art Tours, the MMCA Sri Lanka organised a visit to the United Arab Emirates from 16–20 April. Participants had the opportunity to visit one of the region's major biennales and art fairs, with meetings and tours by Art Dubai, Alserkal Foundation, Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, Louvre Abu Dhabi, Sharjah Arts Foundation, and Jameel Arts Centre amongst others.

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