

museum of modern  
and contemporary art  
sri lanka

**Quarterly Newsletter #6 – January 2024**

2024 marks the MMCA Sri Lanka's fifth year in operation. We want to thank all our supporters near and far for helping us on our journey to establish the country's first museum of modern and contemporary art. We have many exciting plans afoot as we enter the next leg of the journey. Most importantly, all of our exhibitions and public programmes are free to all!

We go into 2024 with the opening of our first architecture-focused exhibition. As a museum in the making, we were keen to spotlight architecture early on in our exhibition programming, given the important role it has played in the country's modern and contemporary history. '88 Acres: The Watapuluwa Housing Scheme by Minnette De Silva' curated by Sharmini Pereira and Ritchell Marcelline, assisted by Thinal Sajeewa and Nimaya Harris opened on 30 November 2023.

We have attracted over 4,000 visitors to the exhibition so far and look forward to welcoming many more students from schools and higher educational institutes across the country. If you are in Sri Lanka, please pay a visit!

'88 Acres' will be open to the public until 7 July 2024 at the MMCA Sri Lanka located on the ground floor of Crescat Boulevard, Colombo 3.

Since our inception, public programmes have played a crucial part of our activities, offering audiences more ways to engage with the exhibitions. We are excited to announce that over 800 participants have joined our public programmes offered so far alongside '88 Acres'. The highlight of these programmes have been the Artists' Tours led by Irushi Tennekoon (b. 1989), Sumedha Kelegama (b. 1988), and Sumudu Athukorala (b. 1980) whose specially commissioned film 'is this an architectural documentary?' (2023) about the Watapuluwa Housing Scheme by architect Minnette De Silva (1918–1998) is currently on view in '88 Acres'.

For more information on our public programmes, please visit our website or the Instagram and Facebook pages linked above.

Please stay tuned for our first publication, 'Second Volume' which brings together the research from '88 Acres', along with previously unpublished archival photos and documents about the Watapuluwa Housing Scheme (1958) in Kandy, Sri

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Lanka. Published by the MMCA Sri Lanka and designed by Bangalore based Nia Thandapani, 'Second Volume' will be officially available for pre-order on 1 February 2024, followed by the launch on 10 February at the MMCA Sri Lanka located at Crescat Boulevard, Colombo 3. All are welcome!

We closed 2023 with an international art tour for Founding Patrons of the MMCA Sri Lanka who visited Kuala Lumpur and Singapore from 8–12 December. The trip included visits to Ilham Gallery, the Aliya and Farouk Khan Collection, National Art Gallery Malaysia, the National Gallery Singapore, Heritage Conservation Centre in Singapore, and the Singapore Art Museum (SAM).

Closer to home, we held a special Christmas edition of MMCA Afterschool from 18–21 December 2023 for children aged 6–10. The sessions included new activities related to '88 Acres: The Watapuluwa Housing Scheme by Minnette De Silva', with art/ object making, drawing, games, and crafts that led to the kids building their own Christmas village.