

museum of modern and contemporary art sri lanka

Quarterly Newsletter #9 – October 2024

The Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art Sri Lanka (MMCA Sri Lanka) opened Rotation 1 of our new exhibition 'Total Landscaping' on 12 September. Curated by Sandev Handy and Thinal Sajeewa, the exhibition is free and open to the public. Drop by the museum located on the ground floor of Crescat Boulevard, to see Rotation 1 of 'Total Landscaping' before it closes on 1 December!

'Total Landscaping' explores the broad, dramatic, and stirring ways in which land has been transformed in Sri Lanka. The exhibition brings together 29 contemporary artists whose works go beyond traditional illustrations of landscapes. Instead, their works register the different ways in which perceptions of land have been constructed and contested. 'Total Landscaping' unfolds as a sequence of changing displays that elicit an all-out renegotiation of our relationships to land.

For our younger audiences, we held a Children's Day weekend on 5–6 October. Over 60 children took part in Curator's Tours, Workshops, and Kids' Activity Sessions. Adding to the celebrations, the lobby at Crescat Boulevard was abuzz with face painting, nail art, and a candy floss station.

We are thrilled to announce that Sandev Handy, Senior Curator at the MMCA Sri Lanka was selected to participate in 'Art Exchange: Moving Image' in the UK. Designed for early to mid-career visual arts curators from Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, the programme is supported by the British Council and organised by LUX, the UK agency for the support and promotion of artists working with the moving image and Art South Asia Project (ASAP).

Meanwhile, 'is this an architectural documentary?' (2023) by contemporary artists Irushi Tennekoon, Sumedha Kelegama, and Sumudu Athukorala, specially commissioned for our previous exhibition '88 Acres', was screened at the Victoria and Albert Museum on 11 September in collaboration with World Monuments Fund. A panel discussion followed the screening, between Dr Christopher Turner, the V&A's Keeper of Art, Architecture, Photography, and Design, and Sumayya Vally, architect, founder and Principal of Counterspace.

During September, the MMCA Sri Lanka's Founding Patrons joined a curated art tour to Hong Kong. The visit began with a specially organised tour by Suhanya Raffel, Director of M+, Asia's first global museum of visual culture. During their stay, the Founding Patrons were hosted by M+ Patrons, Asia Art Archive, and Para Site. They were also welcomed by

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other institutions such as Tai Kwun Contemporary, Hauser & Wirth, David Zwirner and Center for Heritage, Art, and Textile (CHAT).

We also held a Vegan Pop-Up on 2 November in partnership with Meatless Monday Sri Lanka and EthicalX. Held at the lobby of Crescat Boulevard, Colombo 3, the Pop-Up featured a lineup of eco-conscious local vendors, and promoted vegan products that reflect the MMCA Sri Lanka's commitment to fostering community engagement around our relationship with land and the need to re-think our lifestyle choices in more sustainable ways.

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/)

'Second Volume: The Watapuluwa Housing Scheme by Minnette De Silva' is also available for purchase at the Museum and through our Instagram and Facebook pages. Designed by Bangalore-based Nia Thandapani and edited by Sharmini Pereira and Kaumadi Jayaweera, this publication is the perfect gift for an architecture enthusiast!

Don't forget to grab a single or a bundle of notebooks made from paper cut-offs from the production of 'Second Volume'.

Tamil and Sinhala language versions of the publication available as free downloadables on our website.