



Laki's Currency Notes | In Conversation with Michael Meyler

In 1976, Laki Senanayake was approached by the Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Herbert Tennekoon to design a series of currency notes. Laki chose to design them with drawings of fauna and flora which evidently broke away from the convention of including temples and symbols of cultural significance. The artist's designs included only endemic species of flora and fauna, alongside the scientific name for each one whilst placing them in their respective habitats, creating a series of 38 unique species. Laki conducted extensive research for the project, visiting botanical gardens and forests, relying on reference works, and finally creating watercolor sketches for the designs. The result was a set of 12 beautiful, original designs, each a self-contained artwork, with an innovative vertical orientation for the reverse side, pushing the limits of color and minimizing text. Laki's artistic signature is evident in the striking reverse sides of the notes, particularly the 10, 20 and 50 rupee notes featured on pages 28 and 29 on ARTRA Magazine's Works of Laki Senanayake Edition (2023), showcasing his skill in capturing the beauty and detail of nature.

Click here for the full article

<https://artra.lk/visual-art/laki-senanayake-edition-lakis-currency-notes>



ARTRA Magazine Work of Laki Senanayake Edition e64

ARTRA Magazine's latest edition, Works of Laki Senanayake, Endowment 64 (2023) is now out at our purchase points Barefoot, Paradise Road, Gallery Café, Rithihi, PR, Good Market, Selyn, Design Collective, Odel, Charini's Studio, Aashkii and the ARTRA office at the 10th floor, Parkland, Park Street, Colombo 02 (Mon - Fri | 9am - 5pm with prior appointments) in Colombo, Sarasavi Bookshop, Nugegoda and Pedlar's Inn Cafe, Pedlar's Inn Gallery down Pedlar's Street & Exotic Roots in Galle Fort and Wild & the Sage Unawatuna.

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The Shortlisted Authors of The Gratiaen Prize 2023 | Isurunie Mallawaarachchi, Chiranthi Rajapakse, Shirani Rajapakse, Yudhanjaya Wijeratne

The evening of the Prestigious Gratiaen Prize Shortlist announcement was made in the company of literati recognizing prose & poetry of shortlisted authors Isurunie Anuradha Mallawaarachchi for 'Flowers Teach Me to Let Go', Chiranthi Rajapakse 'Keeping Time & Other Stories', Shirani Rajapakse for 'Samsara' and Yudhanjaya Wijeratne for 'The Wretched and the Damned' alongside longlisted authors at The British Council, Colombo on Wednesday, the 17th of May. As Prof. Neloufer de Mel, Chair of GT said, Sri Lankan Literature in the recent past has captivated readers and critics alike worldover, thus encouraging Sri Lankan writers to pursue their craft. Isurunie Anuradha Mallawaarachchi stated that her book of poetry was inspired mostly by the passing of her father as well as confrontations behind closed doors over what is socially accepted and what is not. Shirani Rajapakse's book of poetry talks about, as the title of the book aptly states, Samsara, or the cycle of death and rebirth, about each person's own individual journey, meeting and passing each other, sharing the sorrows and joys of each moment which is Samsara.

Read the full article

<https://artra.lk/written-art/the-shortlisted-authors-of-the-gratiaen-prize-2023>



The Riches in Poverty | K. Mathiskumar, ARTRA's Emerging Artist 2022

Kopalapillai Mathiskumar started his journey into the creative world of art when he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Visual and Technological Arts from the Eastern University (SVIAS) in 2015, with a first class. Upon graduation, Mathis was chosen to be a temporary lecturer from 2016 to 2017 at SVIAS after which he conducted an art class for a government school near Akkaraipattu, where he was born on the Eastern coast of Sri Lanka as an art teacher. His work then, reflected a sentimental view of nature and how it corresponded with the avarice of mankind. Currently, Mathis is completing his Master's degree in Creative Painting at the University of Lucknow, India. In Sri Lanka, he had worked with pigment ink and watercolor on board, oils on canvas and mixed media. He explored the pathos of nature, mankind's place on earth. Concentrating on the relationship between humanity, creatures and the environment, Mathis's main thought was on living amicably with the environment in a sustainable manner.

Read the full article

<https://artra.lk/visual-art/the-riches-in-poverty>

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In Conversation with Dimon John



Daily ARTRA's Live Session on the 5th of November invited ARTRA Magazine's Emerging Artist | Best of 2019, Film Director Dimon John who imparted his knowledge on the makings of a good short film. Where do you begin in the industry and what tools should you use? Dimon John shares his expertise. Inspired by directors such as Alfred Hitchcock, David Lynch and David Fincher, Dimon's competence in captivating his audience through cinematic narratives portray visually and emotionally arresting tales that allow spectators to comprehend details in vividly entrancing moments. His films have received both local and international accolades.

Click here for the full video
<https://youtu.be/29ZSi1vPEz8>

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ARTRA's Emerging Artist



An Insight into Kamala Vasuki's Art | Kamala Vasuki

Kamala Vasuki was born in 1966. Through numerous tribulations, Kamala grew up in Jaffna, observing. She witnessed the tragedies of war and the tsunami transpire in front of her own eyes. She experienced these and many other misfortunes and survived to transform into a deeply thought out, exceptional artist. Her artwork creates a tremendously unique blend of trepidations and uneasy fears with fragility, kindness, forgiveness and compassion. The suffering expressed, especially in her early works, are so true, yet they are suspended in such merciful mystery that the allure of the painting supersedes. The incredible harshness of the subjects of her works are made subtle, almost subliminal, by the gentleness of her colors and strokes.

Click here for the full article

<https://artra.lk/visual-art/an-insight-into-kamala-vasukis-art>

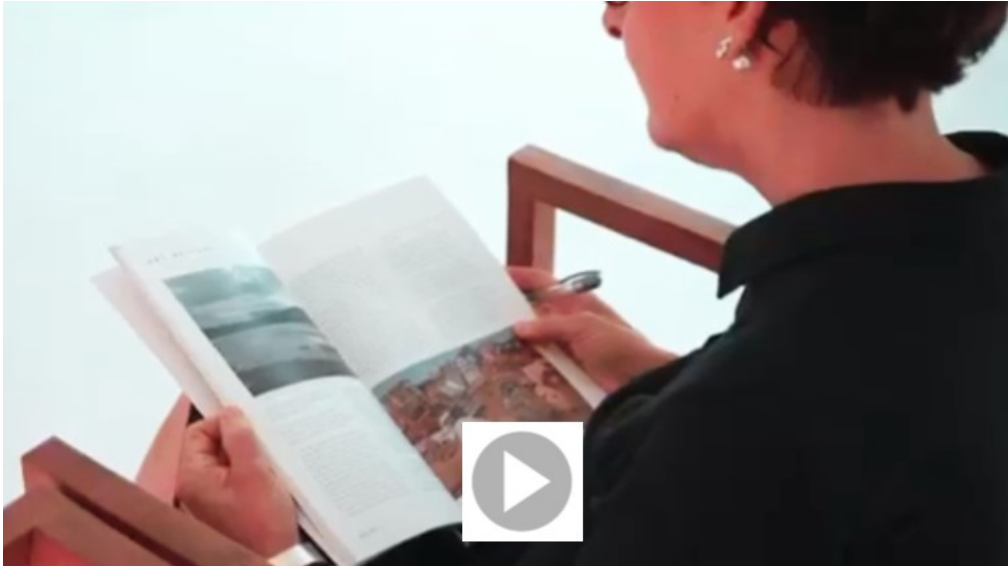
ARTRA's International Eye



Over The Under | Emin Mete Erdoğan | Anna Laudel Bodrum

Combining technical painting with classical painting techniques on daily concepts, Emin Mete Erdoğan invites art lovers to deepen their vision by providing conceptuality through constant repetition. Inspired by mythological stories and dialectical thinking, Erdoğan's works bring together different genres with a unique way of expression and disrupts the historical and cultural flow. Emin Mete Erdoğan's solo exhibition 'Over the Under' features paintings, reliefs, sculptures and video works that the artist has produced since 2021 and will be on display for the first time, as well as works from his previous exhibitions, including 'AD 4.000.000.000' and 'Plants, Animals and Buildings'. Through his works, Emin Mete Erdoğan creates a space to purify, heal and re-personalise the past and present, east and west, and many other dichotomies with the power of majority and wholeness. In order to encourage the audience to question the existential ground that is pre-assumed and defined in a certain manner, Erdoğan manages to keep his compositions outside of the norms and conventional choice of images.

Click here for the full article
<https://artra.lk/visual-art/over-the-under>



ARTRA Magazine is an amalgamation of concepts galore, from nature and art to technology's influence on art mediums and presentation; be it for a collector or the corporate world, each edition is multifaceted in its perspective, exploring diverse mediums and ideologies. Curate your own collection, or gift a customized collection for a friend. Contact us on +94 77 570 1891 for a consultation, or drop in to our office at Level 10, Parkland Building, Colombo 02 with prior appointments.

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