



A Portrait of Barbara Sansoni

Barbara Sansoni was born amongst the mountainous regions of Kandy, Sri Lanka in 1928 on the twenty-second day of April to Bertha Daniel and R. Y. Daniel of the Ceylon Civil Service. Barbara grew up amidst varying cultural experiences of Ceylon as a result of her father's occupation as Assistant Government Agent. His postings took him to Batticaloa, Mannar, Matara, Kurunegala and Kandy, taking them from one town to another in succession. She was educated at a boarding school in Kodaikanal, South India after which she studied for a year at St. Bridget's Convent for her Higher School Certificate in 1945. She then went on to study in England for five years at the Regent Street Polytechnic. In 1952, Barbara married Hildon Sansoni, and gave birth to their children, Simon and Dominic. In 1981 after the demise of Hildon in 1979, Barbara married Dr. Ronald Lewcock. Despite her perpetual movements during which she hardly committed to a fixed location, she grew with a community of artists, designers, architects and friends who were likeminded, and many are now regarded as icons of Sri Lankan art and architecture, such as Geoffrey Bawa, Ulrik Plesner and Laki Senanayake to name a few.

Click here for the full research article

<https://artra.lk/visual-art/barbara-sansoni-edition-a-portrait-of-barbara-sansoni>



Art, Design & Cultural Idiosyncrasies | Canadian High Commissioner David McKinnon & Victoria Walker

How does art stimulate a wider conversation of cultural engagement in living spaces? Canada House, situated in Bauddhaloka Mawatha Colombo 7, home to High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and to Maldives David McKinnon and Victoria Walker epitomizes an exquisite experience of living with art & heritage. An abode of whimsical splendour, as one enters the sprawling garden, one notices the neatly cut terraces, luscious vistas and Canada House itself turned inside out into a space characterizing cultural diversity in grandeur. Canada House, home to Canadian envoys since 1955, draws a variety of tangible cultural artefacts across a circle of artists, painters, designers and craftsmen from diverse nationalities and periods, which brings forth Alan Collier Hills in Alberta to Anoma Wijewardena's wondrous horizons. Intrigued by the works that adorned the walls, some of which are from the official collection while most belong to the current occupants, in our conversation with High Commissioner David McKinnon and Victoria Walker, we explore the manner through which art plays a role in reflecting the deeper consciousness and identity of a nation.

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<https://artra.lk/visual-art/art-design-&cultural-idiosyncrasies-2>

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Art & Living



Co Founders, James Balmond Creative Director of Balmond Studio & Azara Jaleel, Editor-in-Chief of ARTRA Magazine talk about Art & Living.

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ARTRA's Emerging Artist



Artistically Interweaving Cutting-edge Design | Amesh Wijesekera

Amesh Wijesekera is an embodiment of the avant-garde. We found his recent collection that was showcased at Fashion Scout 2017, an international showcase for fashion pioneers during London Fashion Week culminating a colorful and symbolic play of Sri Lankan motifs presented through global standards of high fashion. This collection titled 'SRI' creatively conjoins local craft with modern techniques such as dip dyeing and screen prints to enhance the visual narrative which we found discerningly embedded throughout the collection. The seeds of Amesh's imaginative impulses took root in an upbringing surrounded by creative personalities primarily engaged with architecture and interior design. His mother, an interior designer, played a pivotal role in allowing the future icon to understand the particularities of material dynamism from an innocuously young age.

Click here for the full article

<https://www.artra.lk/applied-art/artistically-interweaving-cutting-edge-design>

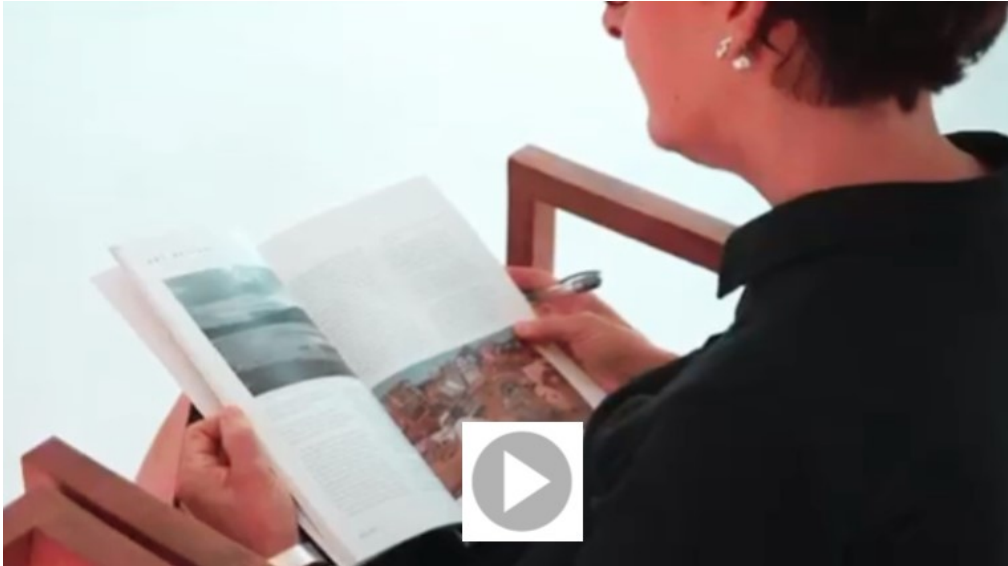
ARTRA's International Eye



In The Library | Saul Steinberg

In 1942, the Romanian-born Steinberg emigrated to New York from Italy, having spent a year in Santo Domingo awaiting a US visa. In New York, he became an integral part of American Modernism. He married the artist Hedda Sterne, who was already connected to the city's pioneering artists. Sterne was one of the so-called "Irascibles" pictured in the infamous 1950 group portrait by Nina Leen. Establishing himself in New York's avant-garde community, he earned critical acclaim for his inventive drawings, prints, paintings, collages, and sculptures, which defied categorization by reflecting a multiplicity of artistic styles, rendered with characteristic intellect. Steinberg became best known to the public for his drawings in *The New Yorker*. Among his most famous images for the magazine was the March 1976 cover known as *View of the World from 9th Avenue*, which wryly comments on the solipsism of New Yorkers by depicting the majority of the United States as a thin strip of land sandwiched between the Hudson River and the Pacific Ocean.

Click here for the full article
<https://www.artra.lk/visual-art/in-the-library>



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