

# Art Trail Programme

## **The Brutality Within** Koralegedara Pushpakumara



**6-9 February**  
**10:00 - 17:00**  
*Fort Printers*  
Art Exhibition

In 'The Brutality Within' Contemporary Artist Koralegedara Pushpakumara interplays material and metaphor in dissecting the violence and suffering that eclipsed Sri Lanka during the Civil War in the '90's. Utilizing mixed media, he prominently features 2 x 2 poles throughout his works as a compelling motif for brutalization, which the artist further disorients through contrasting subdued tones and bold vibrancy - capturing the consuming essence of paranoia that plagued the war-ravaged landscape.

## **Into The Mystique** Rajani Serasinghe



**6-9 February**  
**10:00 - 17:00**  
*Galle Fort Hotel*  
Art Exhibition

'Into the Mystique', an exhibition by Rajani Serasinghe, ARTRA's Emerging Artist | Best of 2024 unveils a luminous, almost otherworldly allure capturing the rapture of nature in intricate detail, evoking a dreamlike reverence for the island's flora and fauna. Crafted from glass and recycled materials, her mosaic works blends in the imaginative and the fantastical in the ordinary, capturing the myths and mysteries of the natural world.



## **The Tree Left Standing** Anushka Wijesinha & Nishan Perera



**6-9 February**  
**10:00 - 17:00**  
*The Heritage Hotel*  
Art Exhibition

'The Tree Left Standing', an exhibition of nature photography by Anushka Wijesinha and Nishan Perera is a profound exploration of humanity's relationship with the environment. Through striking photographs, this exhibition challenges viewers to consider the unseen worth of what remains untouched in the wild. Merging artistic vision with scientific insight, it venerates the interconnectedness of all living organisms, stimulating a novel dialogue on progress — one which harmonizes economic stimulus with the urgent need to conserve biodiversity.

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**Galle Fort in the Contemporary**  
The Streets of Colombo Photography Collective



6-9 February  
10:00 - 17:00  
*The Merchant*  
Art Exhibition

In 'Galle Fort in the Contemporary' symbolic structures and cultural iconography mirrored across the exhibit aims at presenting a visual narrative of the distinctive allure of Galle Fort's collective consciousness. The Streets of Colombo Photography Collective captures the dynamic nature of the Fort where the echoes of centuries past intertwine with the vibrant pulse of the present - reflecting the fusion of cultures underlining the rich tapestry of this historic space.

**Riches in Ruins**  
Kopalapillai Mathiskumar



6-9 February  
10:00 - 17:00  
*The Charleston*  
Art Exhibition

In 'Riches in Ruins' Mathiskumar interrogates societal norms, exposing the layered injustices of class and wealth embedded within society. Transitioning from traditional mediums like pigment ink, watercolor, and oils, he now breathes life into repurposed fabric scraps and polybags sourced from the slums of Lucknow, India. Rooted in mixed-media tradition, his vibrant, bold creations challenge perceptions of impoverished desperation, illuminating the intricate textures of life and community in the slums.

**Body is...**  
Kesara Ratnavibhushana + French Cowboy



6-9 February  
10:00 - 17:00  
*The Merchant*  
Art Exhibition

'Body is...' is a joint photography exhibition by Kesara Ratnavibhushana and French Cowboy, exploring the complex negotiation between the human body, mood and space. With the human form as a focal point, Ratnavibhushana and French Cowboy attempt to redefine how we think about culture, identity and their significance in queer lives. Additionally, the photography seeks to recast how we think about the body - woven in Selyn textile in enigmatic settings whilst also, portraying the wonder of Sri Lankan landscapes.



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The program summary is subject to weekly updates. Please refer to the online program weekly for the latest schedule.

**Kesara Ratnavibhushana and French Cowboy**  
with Shan de Silva

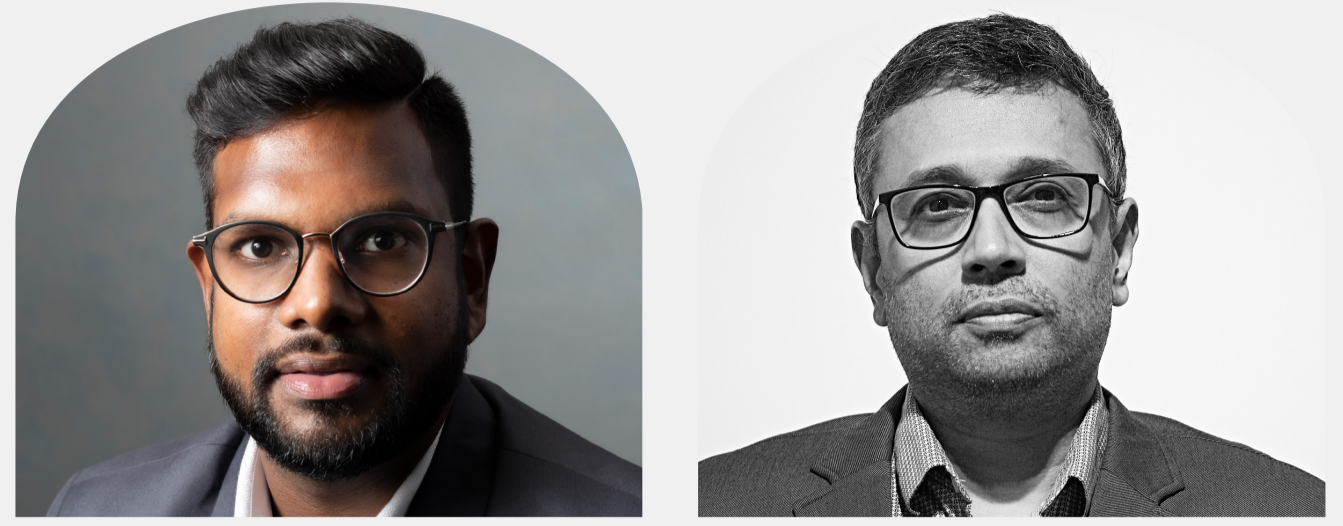


**6 February**  
**14:30 - 15:30**  
*The Merchant*

**Meet The Artist**

In this segment, Kesara Ratnavibhushana and French Cowboy artists Mia Macfarlane and Julien Crouigneau will delve into their artistic processes, and share insights into their respective approaches to photography. They will also examine the background of their collaborative exhibition, *Body is...*, and elaborate on the context underpinning the visual narratives of the human body presented in that exhibition.

**Anushka Wijesinha & Nishan Perera**



**7 February**  
**10:00 - 11:00**  
*The Heritage Hotel*

**Artist Walk**

Join Anushka Wijesinha & Nishan Perera as they delve into the hidden stories behind their striking photographs, featured in their exhibition 'The Tree Left standing', where they will share insight into the profound message of valuing nature beyond exploitation, invigorating a fresh perspective on progress, conservation, and humanity's interconnected bond with the natural world through photography.

**The Streets of Colombo Photography Collective**



**7 February**  
**16:00 - 17:00**  
*The Merchant*  
**Artist Walk**

Join The Streets of Colombo Photography Collective for this captivating artist walk led by featured photographers. This guided walk will unveil the exhibition's striking visual narrative, where the Galle Fort's timeless cultural iconography intertwines with contemporary life. Through dynamic compositions, the artists illuminate the Fort's layered history, and the artistic practice behind their work.

**The Launch of ARTRA Magazine's South Asian Contemporary Art Edition**

Ali Kazim, Tayeba Lipi, Anoli Perera & Azara Jaleel



**7 February**  
**18:00 - Onwards**  
*TBA*  
**Magazine Launch**

A social soiree of artists, authors and art lovers gather to reflect and revel in the poignancy of South Asian Contemporary Art wherein featured artists of the edition Anoli Perera (Sri Lanka), Tayeba Lipi (Bangladesh) and Ali Kazim (Pakistan) will be in conversation with Azara Jaleel, Editor-in-Chief discussing the representation of the body, its cultural memory and gender performativity in an intimate setting amidst art, both ethereal and evocative.

Cocktails and canapes shall be served.

**Ticketed Event**

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### Ali Kazim



**8 February**  
**10:00 - 11:00**  
*Galle Fort Hotel*  
[Meet The Artist](#)

In this segment, Ali Kazim will share insights into the compelling narratives that shape his renowned practice, as he explores the artifacts and remnants of the ancient Indus Valley Civilization in compelling dialogue with the contemporary cultures of Pakistan today, in the presence of his masterful portraiture works, which are featured in global collections such as the Tate, British Museum and Ashmolean Museum, among others.

### Rajani Serasinghe



**8 February**  
**11:30 - 12:30**  
*Galle Fort Hotel*  
[Artist Walk](#)

Join ARTRA's Emerging Artist | Best of 2024 Rajani Serasinghe for an intimate walkthrough of her mesmerizing exhibition, 'Into the Mystique'. Delve into the stimulus behind her stunning mosaic sculptures that capture the rapture of Sri Lanka's landscapes and wildlife. Serasinghe will share her creative journey, from sourcing reclaimed materials to crafting intricate, iridescent forms that celebrate nature's splendor.

### Tayeba Lipi



**8 February**  
**14:00 - 15:00**  
*The Charleston*  
[Meet The Artist](#)

In this segment, Tayeba Lipi, renowned for her compelling sculptures and video installations, offers a rare opportunity to engage with her artistic vision and her critical exploration of gender and culture in contemporary Bangladeshi society, amidst a selection of her works of the years. Her creations, which are featured in global collections such as the Tate Modern U.K and Solomon R. Guggenheim NYC among others, are crafted from razor blades and safety pins, and explore themes of gender identity, femininity, and the performative nature of gender.



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**Gihan de Chickera**



**9 February**  
**10:00 - 11:00**  
*Fort Printers*  
 Meet the Artist

In this segment, Gihan de Chickera will delve into his artistic process as a political cartoonist, and the evolution of his craft over the years. Characterized by the contributions of Sri Lankan cartoonists Aubrey Collette and Bevis Bawa in the 1940s, de Chickera will spotlight the enduring relevance of political cartoons in journalism today, its evolving space in the political landscape of contemporary Sri Lanka and the power of satire in art.

**Koralegedara Pushpakumara**



**9 February**  
**11:30 - 12:30**  
*Fort Printers*  
 Artist Walk

Join revered contemporary artist Koralegedara Pushpakumara as he shares insight into his artistic process behind his exhibition "The Brutality Within" and his poignant use of symbolism, exploration the haunting accounts of Sri Lanka's Civil War and his interpretation of our nation's scarred psyche.



**Anoli Perera**



**9 February**  
**14:00 - 15:00**  
*The Charleston*  
 Meet the Artist

In this segment, contemporary artist Anoli Perera will discuss her symbolic use of the body across her work, whilst also sharing her artistic process, maternal heritage and her feminist readings within patriarchal structures amidst an informal setting showcasing a select few pieces of her work. Having exhibited in 4th Kochi Muziris Biennale, India and the Dhaka Art Summit, Bangladesh, Anoli will also share insights on some of her seminal work informed by traditional craft practices during this segment.

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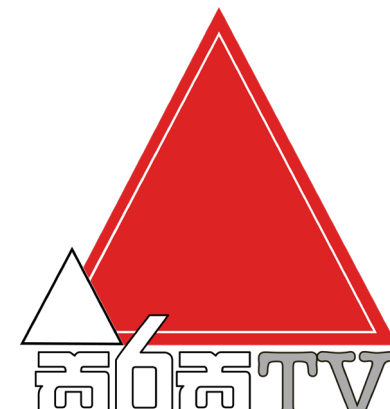
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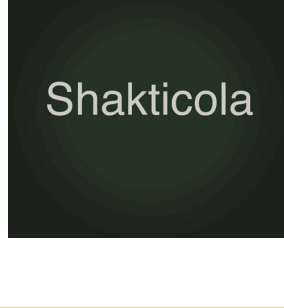
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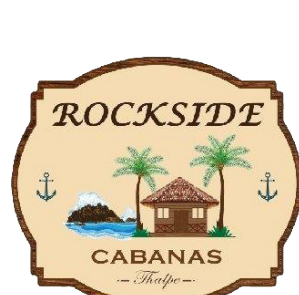
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