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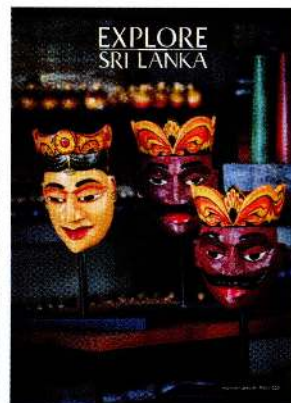
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Photo: Menaka Aravinda



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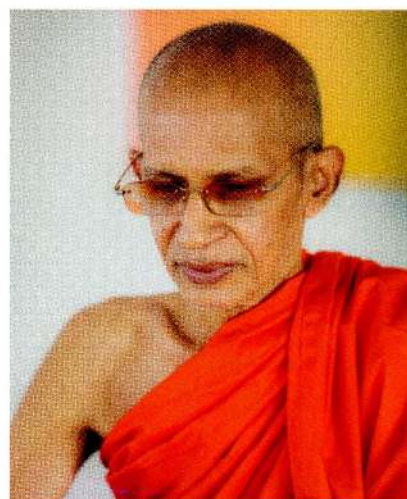


WELL-BEING AND INNER PEACE WITH PIRITH



The recital of Pirith or Paritta is known as a form of blessing and protection. By listening to Pirith, inner peace and well-being are inculcated as it can be a form of meditation as well. Ven Diypattugama Revatha Thero, Chief Incumbent of the Siriwardhanaramaya Temple, Colombo 3, explains the significance and benefits of Pirith. In today's world where people experience stress, anxiety and depression, listening to Pirith will provide overall protection and peace.

Words Udeshi Amarasinghe. | **Photography** Menaka Aravinda.



Ven Diypattugama Revatha Thero, Chief Incumbent of the Siriwardhanaramaya Temple, Colombo 3.

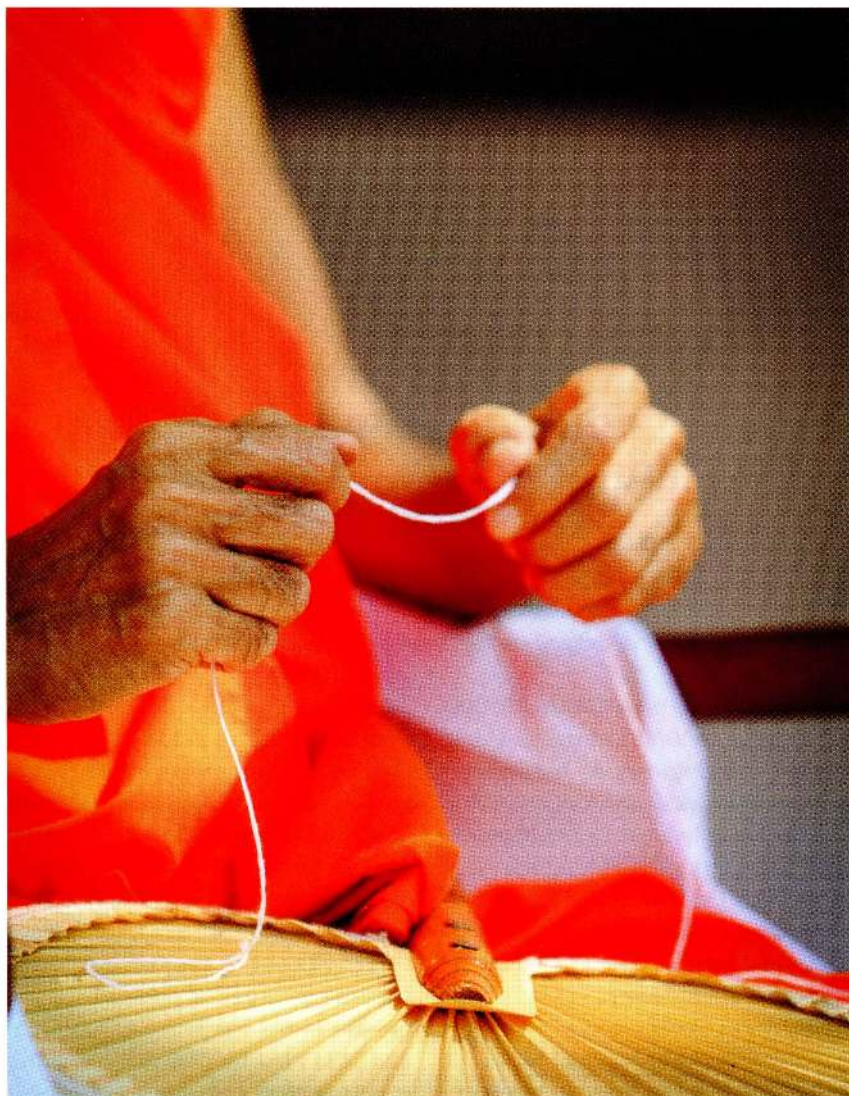
The practice of recital and listening to Pirith also known as Paritta in Pali (meaning protection) began very early in the history of Buddhism. The definition of Pirith in Pali is “Pari Samanthatho Thāyathi Rakkathi Thi Pariththang Antharayang Parihanthang Thayathi, Thi Pariththang Paritho Wa Sambuddhawatho Thayathi Thi Pariththang”. This means that Pirith will provide protection from all forms of sadness, fear and illness, danger, and disasters including accidents. The first sermon by the Buddha was the Dhammachakka Pawaththana Sutraya, which narrates the Dhamma and the Chathurarya Sathya (Four Noble Truths). The Karaniyametta Sutraya

denotes loving and kindness and was taught by the Buddha to Buddhist Priests who had difficulty meditating as the Devivaru (deities) in the trees were creating scary forms. By reciting the Sutra, the Buddhist Priests were able to focus on love and kindness (Maithriya) to the deities who left them in peace thereafter. These are examples of the reciting of Sutra during the Buddha’s time.

The beginning of Pirith is believed to have been in Visala Maha Nuwara in India. There had been a pandemic in the city, and the Buddha had taught Ananda Maha Rahathanwahanse to recite the Rathana Sutraya throughout the city, thereby providing protection from the pandemic. In Sri Lanka, Pirith

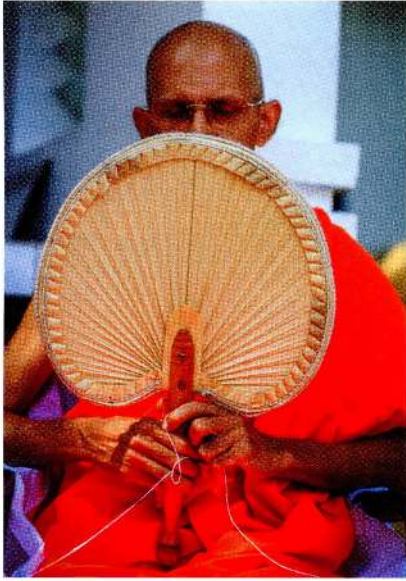


The Pirith Pan Kalaya – when Pirith is recited, the water within absorbs the positive energy.



The Pirith Noola (protective thread) absorbs the power of protection of Pirith.

The beginning of Pirith is believed to have been in Visala Maha Nuwara in India. There had been a pandemic in the city, and the Buddha had taught Ananda Maha Rahathanwahanse to recite the Rathana Sutraya throughout the city, thereby providing protection from the pandemic.



Reciting of Pirith.

Listening to Pirith and also Buddhu Guna, will create positive thoughts. It is a form of meditation that will bring peace and happiness. You will feel devotion and peace of mind by listening to Pirith.

had become a more organized form during the Dambadeniya Period. Further, the Buddha during his visit to Sri Lanka in his ninth month after enlightenment had recited Pirith for the protection of the country. It is also believed that when Gautama Buddha was a Bodhisattva, he had recited the Mora Paritta.

Pirith is recited from the Pirith Potha (book) known as the Piruwana Poth Wahanse, which consists of Sutra that have been extracted from various sections of the Tripitaka. Buddhist Priests have to study and memorize all the Sutra for the recital of Pirith. Reference of this is made in the stone inscriptions in Abhayagiriya of King Kashyapa V states that a Samanera (novice) priest should study Pirith. The Pirith Potha consists of four sections known as Sathara Banawara. Each Banawara (section) has a number of Sutra, the first Banawara being the longest with 11 Sutra and five other sub-sections. Within Pirith, you have the Deshana (sermons) and Dhamma as certain Sutra focus on the Dhamma. For example, the Dasa Dhamma Sutra focuses on the Dhamma. Pirith is complex in its composition and has great value in meaning and spirituality.

Seth Pirith and Maha Piritha are the two forms of Pirith. Seth Pirith is mainly to infer blessings and can be recited in one session in the morning



Once the Pirith ceremony is concluded, the Pirith Noola is tied on the devotee's hand.

(around 6.30am) or as a Waru Piritha, where it is recited in three sessions within a day either at 6.30am or 6.30pm. Mangala Sutra, Rathana Sutra and the Karaniyametta Sutra together with a few other Gatha form the Seth Pirith. This Pirith is recited for special occasions such as birthdays, weddings, and laying of Foundation Stone and other such events.

The Maha Piritha is recited by 12 Buddhist Priests throughout the night and is generally from 9.30pm to 5.30am. The Pirith ceremony has to

conclude before sunrise. For the Maha Piritha the entire Sathara Banawara are chanted and the Buddhist Priests are allocated accordingly as the Pirith is recited all night. The Maha Piritha too is a form of blessing and protection. It will dispel any evil or Butha Dosa. It is held in remembrance of those who have passed away, for birthdays, special occasions as moving into a new home or building, and it is also recited prior to state events such as Independence Day. It is said that Buddhist Priests should

Maha Pirith – Sathara Banawara

First Banawara

Saranā Gamana

*Taking refuge in the Buddha,
Dhamma, Sangha*

Dasa Sikka Padha

Ten precepts

Samanera Pañha

*Ten questions to be answered by
novice monks*

Dvattimsakara

32 parts of the human body

Paccavekkhana

Contemplation of five rules

Dasa Dhamma Sutra

Mangala Sutra

Ratana Sutra

Karaniyametta Sutra

Khandha Paritta

Mettanisansa Sutra

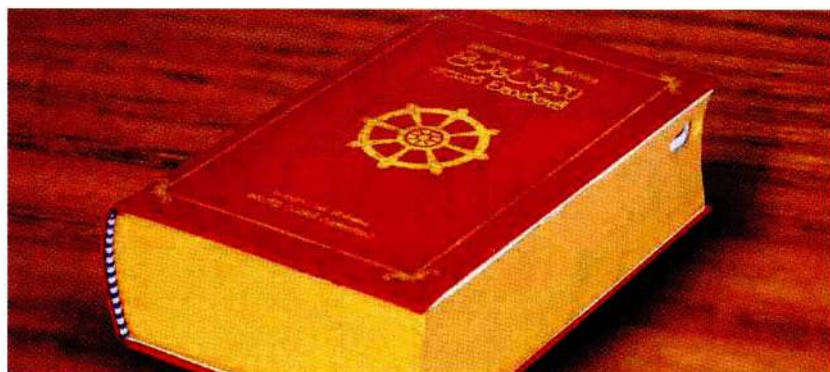
Mittanisansa Sutra

Mora Paritta

Chanda Paritta

Suriya Paritta

Dhajagga Paritta



Pirith Potha.

Second Banawara

Maha Kassapa Thera Bojjhanga

Maha Moggallana Thera Bojjhanga

Maha Chunda Thera Bojjhanga

Girimananda Sutra

Isigili Sutra

Third Banawara

Ātānātiya-i: Deva Bhashithaya

Fourth Bawawara

Ātānātiya-ii: Buddha Bhashithaya

Additional Sutra:

Dhammacakkappavattana Sutra

Maha Samaya Sutra

Alavaka Sutra,

Kasibharadvaja Sutra,

Parabhava Sutra,

Aggikabharadvaja (Vasala) Sutra

Saccavibhanga Sutra

recite Pirith in the same manner as Ananda Maha Rahathunwahanse. Furthermore, prior to reciting of Pirith, an invitation is extended by the Buddhist priests to the devotees to listen and they too repeat the Gathawa after the priests.

The Maha Piritha is recited within the Pirith Mandapaya (a special platform made for the purpose of the Pirith ceremony). It is generally made in white with elaborate motifs or with gok kola (coconut leaves). All items that are placed within also have a significance that enables protection and blessings. Areca nut leaves, young Na leaves and Betel leaves, pori and punkalas, and other such items are placed within. Furthermore, a kalaya (clay water vessel) filled with water is kept while Pirith is recited as it absorbs the positive energy. The Pan Wathura (blessed water) is thereafter given to the devotees or kept in the temple. Furthermore, the Pirith Noola (protective thread) is also held by the chanting priests and those who are

listening so that the power of protection is absorbed by the thread as well.

To receive blessings from the Sutra that are chanted during Pirith, those who listen should also be kind and good-hearted people. Furthermore, there is a greater effect if those listening believe in it and have an understanding about Pirith. The chanting of Pirith creates positive energy in the form of sound waves that provides peace and well-being.

Pirith enables spiritual, psychological, and scientific benefits. During this COVID-19 pandemic, the Rathana Sutraya is chanted as a protection against illness. Furthermore, with lockdowns people are feeling stressed, anxiety, and depression. Listening to Pirith and also Buddhu Guna, will create positive thoughts. It is a form of meditation that will bring peace and happiness. You will feel devotion and peace of mind by listening to Pirith.

Furthermore, scientifically it has been proven by Japanese scientist

Masaro Imatho and German scientist James Belaro, that the appearance of water molecules changes with the chanting of Pirith through the positive sound waves. Therefore, the positive energy soothes the mind, which results in better health and happiness where immunity is enhanced and ailments are prevented.

The reciting of Pirith has been a part of Sri Lankan culture for centuries. It has provided blessing and protection to the people of the country and should be continued. ®

Information provided by:

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THE PASSION PLAY OF DUWA AND THE MAGNIFICENT STATUE OF JESUS CHRIST

The Church of Our Lady of Good Voyage in Duwa, Negombo stands as a sentinel of protection for fishermen. Within its confines lies the statue of Jesus Christ that had been specially commissioned by the people of Duwa in the 19th Century from Cochin, India. This Church is especially famed for the yearly 'Pasku' (in Sinhala) or Passion Play on Good Friday, which displays this magnificent statue of Jesus Christ.

Words Udeshi Amarasinghe. | **Photography** Menaka Aravinda.



The Passion Play of Duwa is a massive production that is performed yearly on Good Friday.

In the beginning, the Church of Our Lady of Good Voyage had been a structure with a roof thatched with coconut leaves. With time the Church had been developed to the beautiful building we see today, that was built in 1894 during the time of Fr M J Laplace. However, the history of the Church and the performance of the Passion Play dates back centuries.

Said to have been performed for over 400 years, the first Passion Play had been showcased in 1728 with a script developed by Fr Jacome Gonzalvez based on the 'Nine sermons' in the Dukprapthi Prasangaya. Puppets and statues were used to narrate the story of the Passion, the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. As the years passed, the people of Duwa wished to have a statue of Jesus Christ for the annual pageant.

The fishermen of Duwa were known to travel to Cochin, India in their catamarans with goods laden for trade. And, on one such journey three brothers – Mihindukulasuriya Pedro Fernando, Mihindukulasuriya Domingo Fernando as well as Mihindukulasuriya Juan Fernando approached the great master sculptor Jokeenu Maistri to make a statue of Christ for the Duwa Passion Play. Time passed, and the people of Duwa were impatient to bring the statue to Duwa and were urging the great sculptor to finish the statue. In the season of Lent in 1838, a group from Duwa sailed to Cochin to bring back the statue of



Fr Roshan Chaminda Fernando, Parish Priest, Our Lady of Good Voyage, Duwa.

Christ. The statue had been just painted thus, the Jokeenu Maistri had advised them to stay another week so that the paint would completely dry. However, the group was impatient and thus, the statue was prepared for voyage. As the great sculptor could not travel himself, he sent his most senior student to accompany the statue to Duwa.

Upon arrival in Duwa in 1839, the people welcomed the statue with great ceremony. However, once they opened the box and removed the cloth, they were upset to see that the paint had been smudged. As the great sculptor's student had traveled to Duwa, he immediately requested the people to bring about 70 gold coins. These coins were rubbed on



Our Lady of Good Voyage, Duwa provides protection to fishermen and the community.

With time the Church had been developed to the beautiful building we see today, that was built in 1894 during the time of Fr M J Laplace. However, the history of the Church and the performance of the Passion Play dates back centuries.



The magnificent statue of Jesus Christ that was specially commissioned for the people of Duwa from Cochin, India.



Scenes from the Duwa Passion Play.

a stone until they became a fine powder, which was then used to make the required paint to be applied on the statue. To this day, the statue of Jesus Christ in Duwa has a gold tinge that glistens in the sun. The statue of Jesus Christ is displayed to the public on the first Friday of every month.

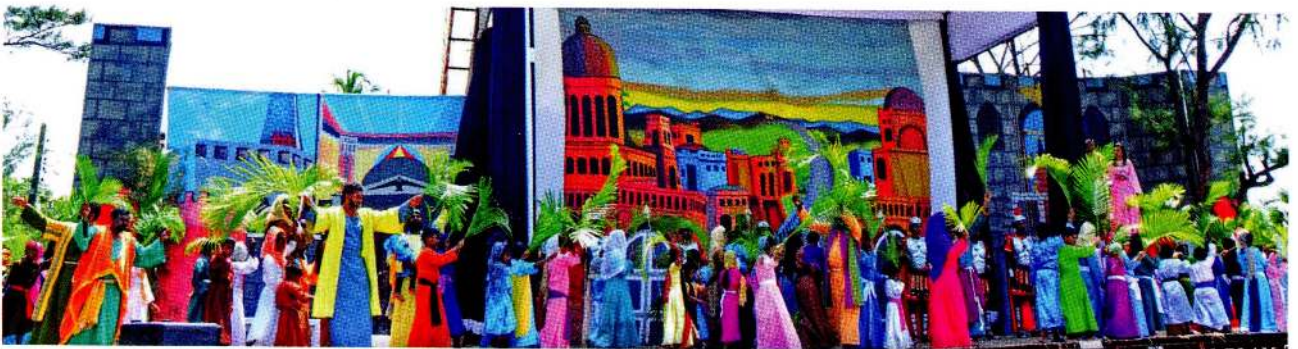
The great statue of Jesus Christ became the highlight of the Duwa Passion Play, which continued to use puppets and statues for the performance. It was in 1939, the Priest of the Parish, Fr Marcelline Jayakody decided to do the Passion Play based

on the book, 'Born to be King' with real-life actors. In the 1970's, human actors were introduced even for Christ.

The Duwa Passion Play has become a production of about 200 people, with beautiful and elaborate costumes and make-up artists that create a mesmerizing performance. The play is performed on the massive platform known as the 'Pasku Maduwa'. The grand finale is the unveiling of the magnificent statue of Jesus Christ on the crucifix. Hundreds of people from around the country come to witness the Duwa Passion Play, and many even arrive in

boats taking the sea route to witness this massive production. Starting from 12 noon on Good Friday, the Passion Play is performed till late evening and, it is a day dedicated to spirituality and prayers.

The Passion Play of Duwa begins with songs of lament described in Sinhala as '*Pasan Geethika*', which are soulful renditions that describe the looming suffering and death of Jesus in song. The prelude to the Passion Play begins with scenes from the Garden of Eden, when Adam and Eve, the first human creations of God



fall from their Creator's favor by descending into sin.

Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on a colt is another poignant display, where the glory moment that he enjoyed briefly from a crowd that would later call to crucify him before Pontius Pilate is played out with pomp and pageantry. The actors representing the Jewish people lay their clothes on the ground to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem as they shout "King of Israel".

Among the most passionate scenes of the Play is Jesus's agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, where He, accompanied by Peter, James and John, breaks down before God, a heartbreaking moment that skillfully portrays the fragile human nature in the face of suffering. All the while Jesus' most trusted disciples lay asleep oblivious to their Teacher's pain and fear of the impending agony. Then enters Judas, accompanied by the High priests, the scribes and soldiers to deliver the historic 'kiss of betrayal', yet another agonizing display in the Duwa Passion Play. Jesus, as described in the Gospels is led into trial, first before Annas, the former High Priest, then taken to the house of Caiaphas, where he endures a night of horrific abuse and beating.

The Passion Play also displays the scene where Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor, asks Jesus, "Are you the king of Jews?" while the crowds in the background shouted crucify him. Thereafter, the Way of the Cross is performed in the Passion Play with the grand finale being the unveiling of the magnificent statue of Jesus Christ on the Cross displaying the Crucifixion.

These are not mere scenes that are acted out by the villagers of Duwa; they are moments from history that people prepare to relive with great piety as well as depth. The entire story is about giving life to every character, where the actors are able to convey the complexity of behaviors to the audience.

There is a tradition of the people of Duwa, where the statue of Jesus Christ

is kept at the Church of Our Lady of Good Voyage in Duwa for two years, and on the third year it is taken to St Peter's Church in Negombo. This is because members of the community married and settled in Negombo and they too had requested for the statue to be availed to them for worship. However, the Passion Play, is held only in Duwa. This year, the statue of Jesus Christ was taken to St Peter's Church in a special ceremony in the month of February.

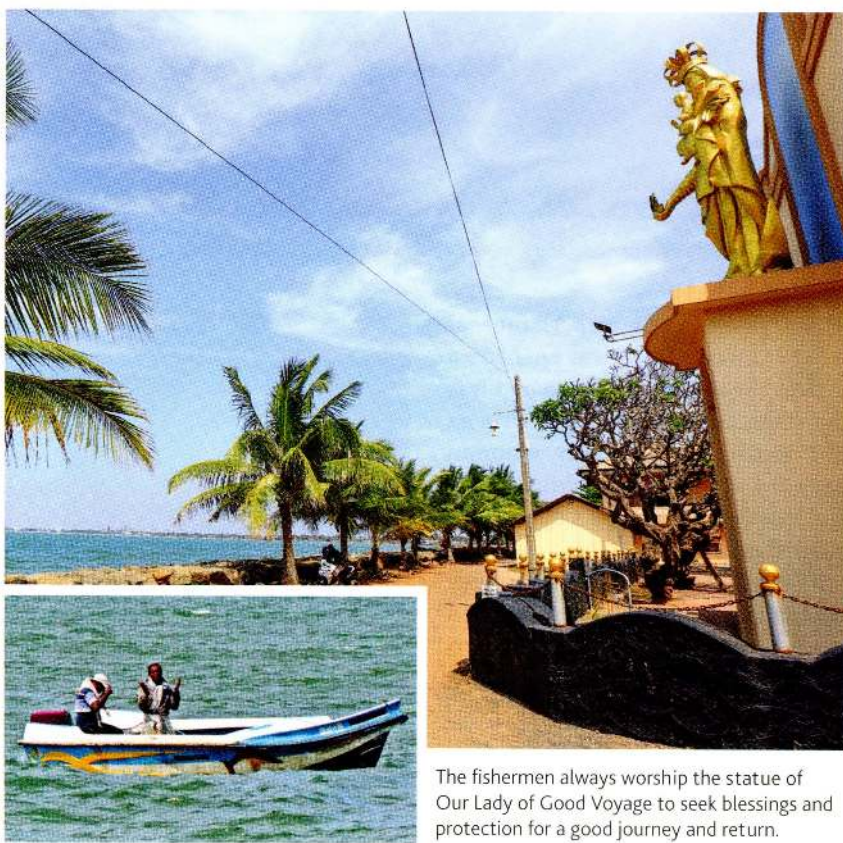
The whole ethos of the Duwa Passion Play transcends beyond reliving years of tradition; it is an attempt to remind believers of the profundity of a selfless act that even today is significant for its redemptive message. The Passion Play of Duwa is a much look forward to event in the calendar. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Passion Play will not be held this year. Yet, in the future it is hoped that the Passion Play of Duwa is resumed for posterity.

Information provided by: Abdon Mihindukula, Parishioner, The Church of Our Lady of Good Voyage, Duwa. ®



The box in which the statue was brought to Sri Lanka, some of the fabric that was used to cover the statue, the pillowcase, and the stone in which the gold coins were rubbed to fine powder can still be seen today. The water basin that is used to wash the statue is the same that has been used from the beginning.

Interestingly, the responsibility of taking care of the statue is that of the Peiris family of Duwa (who are believed to be the descendants of sculptor's pupil) and the task has been passed down from generation to generation. And, today it is Mihindukulasuriya Joseph Shalitha Peiris of the same ancestry that continues to perform this task.



The fishermen always worship the statue of Our Lady of Good Voyage to seek blessings and protection for a good journey and return.

MLESNA TEA CENTER AND TEA KIOSK

Step into a world of Ceylon Tea at Mlesna, Liberty Plaza where their two outlets; the Tea Center and Tea Kiosk offer a range of premium Ceylon Tea and exquisite gift items.

Words Udeshi Amarasinghe. | Photographs Menaka Aravinda.



With wooden and stone finishing the Mlesna Ceylon Tea Center at Liberty Plaza.

The Mlesna Tea Center at Liberty Plaza was opened on September 25, 1985 and it is their first outlet. The interior has an old world charm with wooden paneling and stone finishing. Rows and rows of a variety of Ceylon Teas are displayed within.

Mlesna was the first to introduce Ceylon Tea as gifts, with beautiful and ornate packaging. Thus, at the Tea Center you would find a range of gift items such as exquisite ornaments, tea sets, wooden chests with a choice of tea and much more. Eye-catching on display are the 22 karat plated gold and platinum tea sets.



The quaint Mlesna Tea Kiosk.



The extensive range of Ceylon Tea and gifts at the Mlesna Tea Center.

The range of tea offered include black tea, green tea, flavored tea and infusions as well as herbal teas. Representing all tea growing regions of Sri Lanka – Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Uda Pussellawa, Uva, Dimbula, Sabaragamuwa and Ruhunu – customers have a choice of tea to select from at the Mlesna Tea Center.

The Loolecondara tea produces the strongest brew and another popular variety is the Adam's Peak tea. Silver Tips, which is the most expensive tea is available in tea bags or loose tea.

In this present day, herbal teas such as ginger tea, soursop, chamomile, rooibos and mint have gained greater popularity. Green teas are also available in flavored and herbal varieties. Furthermore, fitness tea is another product that has gained much interest. The daily use black tea varieties are Strong Brew and Rich Brew.

At Mlesna Tea Center, items that are used for the making of tea such as tea strainers and infusers are also available. The collection of tea

Providing premium Ceylon Tea to the discerning tea consumer, Mlesna Tea Center and Kiosk at the Liberty Plaza will provide you with a wonderful choice of Ceylon Tea offered in attractive packaging...

available at Mlesna Tea Center is expansive providing tea for any moment or purpose.

On the same level at Liberty Plaza, a few stores away is the Mlesna Tea Kiosk. It is a charming outlet with stained glass windows, and wooden finishing. It is reminiscent of a plush tea boutique during colonial times. At the Kiosk, single estate teas are available in loose leaf packs. Furthermore, green tea as well as flavored tea are also available in loose form. These are all unblended tea varieties.

Providing premium Ceylon Tea to the discerning tea consumer, Mlesna Tea Center and Kiosk at the Liberty Plaza will provide you with a

wonderful choice of Ceylon Tea, offered in attractive packaging that will be suitable for any occasion. ☺

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday: 9.30am to 4.30pm;

Saturday & Sunday: 9.30am to 4.00pm

Mlesna Tea Center

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LOOK LIKE A BARBIE LEAD LIKE A BOSS

Jessica Minh Anh explores Asia's high society before returning to the West.



Jessica Minh Anh at Gemasolar in Spain.

International supermodel as well as producer, Jessica Minh Anh, made an impressive return to the high-society fashion scenes in impeccable haute couture. Instead of her usual backdrops of Paris and New York, where she hosted iconic catwalks atop the Eiffel Tower and One World Trade Center, or her most recent “Runway on the Runway” at JFK airport, Jessica is joining the elite in Ho Chi Minh city.

The exotic beauty appeared on the red carpet at Harper’s Bazaar’s “The Stars’ Night” celebrity party as a modern goddess in a structured silver dress, an oversized sparkling bow, and matching highlighted hair. Jessica Minh Anh switched from Barbie glamor to boardroom chic the next day at Top 100 International Business Style Awards.

As she was named “The Pioneer” in the field of fashion and beauty, the innovative entrepreneur graced the stage in a long black couture dress teamed with a dramatic designer head piece to receive the prestigious award.

There was no departure from haute couture between events as Jessica was dressed exclusively by New York fashion house, Marchesa. To ensure a record-breaking delivery of fewer than three days across the continent, DHL Express US’ General Manager was personally on call until 4am for the special shipment. The strong relationship between Jessica Minh Anh and the sustainability-driven logistics company was established after her “Runway on the Runway” at JFK airport right before the pandemic, which successfully promoted the globally sustainable supply chain.

An advocate for sustainability, Jessica has continuously made history by transforming renewable energy sites, such as Hoover Dam and Gemasolar power plant, into the world’s most innovative runways. She also highlighted bioGreen technology, upcycling, and build awareness for a multitude of green logistic solutions atop a solar-wind-hydro powered vessel and luxury resorts across the five continents.



Jessica Minh Anh wins The Pioneer – Top 100 Business Style Award.



At the Paris agreement celebration.



Jessica Minh Anh in Rami Kadi haute couture New York.

Jessica Minh Anh was named “The Pioneer” in the field of fashion and beauty, the innovative entrepreneur graced the stage in a long black couture dress teamed with a dramatic designer head piece to receive the prestigious award.

As a result of her work, she was chosen to appear alongside an esteemed list of international public figures in the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs’ campaign to celebrate the five-year anniversary of Paris Agreement on Climate Change in December 2020, this included Mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo; Canadian Minister, Catherine McKenna; Japanese astronaut, Naoko Yamazaki; and Korean actor, RYU Junyeol.

Despite the recent challenges faced by live events globally, this is shaping up to be an exciting year for Jessica Minh Anh as she diversifies her portfolio into movie and television.



Jessica Minh Anh appeared alongside Mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo; Canadian Minister, Catherine McKenna; Japanese astronaut, Naoka Yamazaki; Argentina's First Lady, Fabiola Yanez; French football player, Olivier Giroud; Korean actor, Ryu Junyeol; Australia's surf champion, Lane Beachley; and CEO of Schneider, Electric Jean Pascal Tricoire.



Jessica Minh Anh on R4W Vessel in VUNGOC & SON.




Jessica Minh Anh on Hoover Dam USA.

Besides her acting debut in a film to be released later this year, the savvy businesswoman is producing a travel-based Reality TV Show titled "Jessica Minh Anh – Coming Home". The series, which is set to be broadcasted in 14 countries, follows Jessica's epic adventure across Vietnam with multiple twists and turns to keep viewers on the edge of their seat. "I want to inspire a new generation to embrace domestic travel, encourage sustainable living with the show and present my positive outlook on the future," said Jessica Minh Anh.

Jessica Minh Anh's upcoming international projects are being kept

under wraps, but she is also preparing for a huge 2021, while responsibly navigating the changing and necessary new approaches to her industries.

Like all her history-making productions, this unprecedented venture will include a mind-blowing catwalk to announce the return to normalcy, and a US network mini-series that leads viewers to explore an exciting new world. In the meantime, one can follow Jessica's journey for a glimpse into the luxurious world of the innovative and environmental-conscious young generation in Asia. 

CREATIVE TEAM

Model: Jessica Minh Anh

Designer: Marchesa, VUNGOC&SON,

Nguyen Minh Tuan, Hoang Hai

Accessory: Tran Quoc Dung, Cristina Sabatini

Shoes: Nguyen Doan Yen Xuan, Gucci

Makeup: Linh Jace, Jay Ng

Hair Style: Concept Coiffure

Hair Color: KMS Vietnam

Nail: MERCI

Video: A Flying Andrew

Photo: Sam Nguyen, Kiengcan

Logistics: DHL Express US

Venue: Harper's Bazaar's head office, Cochin Zen Hotel, Adora Center

"THE PLACE TO BE"

Arugambay ROCCOS

Arugambay Roccas is a chic and modern cube-style hotel. The 22 Cubes (upper and lower) provide air-conditioning and offer either balconies or verandahs. The restaurant, The Square and The Space, upstairs, offer panoramic views of the Water Cube (swimming pool) and the Indian Ocean.

Arugambay Roccas, Main Street, Arugambay, Pottuvil
(+94) 718 10 99 99
info@arugambayroccos.lk | arugambayroccos.lk



ENJOY A FABULOUS VACATION UNDER THE WARM SUN IN THE SOUTH EAST COAST. EACH MOMENT CREATES YET ANOTHER UNFORGETTABLE MEMORY.

PAPER MOON Kudils



Enjoy barefoot luxury at the oceanfront Paper Moon Kudils. With 20 spacious and fully AC Kudils located in two sections (pool/restaurant side and garden side). This unique property has a swimming pool (Water Hole) and restaurant (Kusini) serving delicious cuisine made using garden fresh produce.

Paper Moon Kudils, Whisky Point, Arugambay.
(+94) 719 97 97 97
info@papermoonkudils.lk | papermoonkudils.lk



Arugambay PodBay



Arugambay PodBay is a novel concept that comprises compact convertainers (NapPods) in pastel hues, HomePods, and Bay rooms. The seaside hotel has one of the largest swimming pools in the area (WaterPod), and the restaurant PotPod serves a range of cuisine and beverages in an area ideal for relaxation.

Arugambay PodBay, Main Street, Arugambay, Pottuvil
(+94) 718 10 99 99
info@arugambaypodbay.lk | arugambaypodbay.lk

MODERN RUSTIC ELEGANCE AT KALAYA

Established in 1996 by two friends, Darika Ellawala and Nilo Pestonjee, who had been inspired by the crafts in India, Kalaya brings together Sri Lankan traditional art and crafts as interior decor with a contemporary spin on it thereby creating modern rustic style.

Words Udeshi Amarasinghe. | Photographs Menaka Aravinda.



Kalaya's product range is a blend of modern and rustic elegance that caters to indoors and outdoors.

Naming the lifestyle store, Kalaya, which is the traditional clay water vessel that was used in every home in the past, it reflects the useful purpose and the pleasing shapes of the beautiful products displayed at the premises. As Darika Ellawala explains, "We look at things in a different way to produce our own designs." Furthermore, recognizing the talents of Sri Lankan craftsmen, Kalaya also supports small cottage industries by providing them the designs and the guidance to manufacture products. Kalaya prides itself in offering unique Sri Lankan made products. Inspiration is drawn from



A fusion of earthen tones and simple designs.



Vibrant range of batik to enhance living spaces.

nature and organic forms such as leaves and seashells, from Sri Lankan heritage as well as from different cultures experienced on their travels abroad.

As you step into Kalaya, the beautiful shapes and earthen shades give a sense of tropical and vernacular atmosphere. The colors and textures of the products at Kalaya give a rustic feel. "We experiment with the finishes so that there are various textures and layers. We also use natural materials in our products", explained Darika. Kalaya offers solutions for both exteriors and interiors where coordinated designs could be selected.

The lifestyle store consists of three levels. On the ground floor, there is a selection of ornaments made using cement, metal and other materials, furniture, carpets made using natural materials, large lamps made of cement, linen such as cushion covers, table runners, and bed sheets made of cotton, paintings, as well as wall hangings that have been inspired by the ocean, ancient coins and different cultures. Furthermore, there is a selection of books featuring Sri Lankan authors as well as art and design. Kalaya also offers a selection of infusions and organic teas.

On the first floor, there is a collection of beautiful items to select from. There is a collection of crockery that includes plates, dishes and cups in blues and black that are simple and stylish. Furthermore, there are bathroom amenities, oil burners, candle holders created in vivid shapes and



Aesthetic and attractive selections.



Kalaya's range of items reflect a Sri Lankan heritage.



Second floor is dedicated to lighting solutions.



Intricate light shades that exudes charm.

candle stands, vases, glasses and much more. Kalaya offers a range of Batik products, a line which they started in 1996. The designs are unique and contemporary and made only for Kalaya. Batik products include cushion covers, table linen, bed spreads, and sarongs.

Lighting solutions of any shape and form, and size are displayed on the second floor. This space has been

dedicated entirely to lighting solutions. Light shades made of cane and kitul in various shapes and sizes as well as in pastel shades are on display here. The designs are unique and eye-catching.

Darika says that the product offerings at Kalaya are modern and rustic because these would be suitable for any space. On customer's request Kalaya also provides customized furniture, Batiks and lighting solutions. With much to offer, Kalaya emphasizes on using raw materials in different ways to produce the most unique products to adorn your homes. [©]



Ornaments that add beauty to home space.

Kalaya

Opening hours:

Sunday and Monday; 10am to 6.30pm

Tuesday to Saturday; 10am to 7.30pm

(Closed on Mercantile holidays)

260/A, Pannipitiya Road

Pelawatta, Battaramulla

(+94 11) 278 6886

kalayahomeware@gmail.com,

kalayasrilanka.com

A CREATIVE JOURNEY FROM MUSIC TO ART

Sri Lankan born, Grammy award winning musician Hussain Jiffry has stepped into another creative medium of expression using vibrant colors to create abstract art.

Words Udeshi Amarasinghe.



Herb Alpert Lani Hall Band Live at SF JAZZ (Photo credit: Xander Smith).

Featuring themes that vary from abstract shapes to musical instruments, Hussain Jiffry uses bright colors to evoke feelings of hope and happiness. Drawing inspiration from the beauty of nature, the four seasons, music, art, animals, friends, and family, Hussain considers himself as an abstract artist.

However, Hussain's creative journey started with music, where he became

a world renowned bass player. From a very young age, Hussain was drawn to music and was surrounded by the rich traditional music from Sri Lanka, but he also listened constantly to Pop, Jazz and R & B that was on the radio. Born and raised in Colombo, as a child Hussain would always listen to his siblings playing the piano, which led to his mother buying him a piano accordion at the age of 12. Thus,



Hussain Jiffry (Photo credit: Jennifer Daigle).

Hussain's musical journey began and by 17 years of age he was playing the electric bass.

In 1982 while performing with Galaxy in Sri Lanka, Hussain was offered to tour Europe with Fame, an R & B band, where he played keyboard for three years, and thereafter played bass for the band Grace for another three years. After Grace disbanded in 1987, Hussain decided to move to Los Angeles to study music at the Musicians Institute in Hollywood where he graduated in March 1989, receiving the school's highest award, the Vocational Honors Diploma.

Following his graduation, Hussain decided to live in Los Angeles to try his luck at being a session and touring musician. He gradually became popular as his reputation grew as a musician, enabling him to travel the world many times playing with some of the most renowned artistes such as Sergio Mendes (1996-2014); Al McKay (1997-2007); Yanni (2004-2005); Dave Weckl Band (2003-2004); and Herb Alpert (2007-Present).

Working with Herb Alpert, Hussain eventually became the sound engineer at Herb's "Vibrato Grill Jazz" Jazz club and eventually became the club's Artistic Director. Having recorded many albums with Herb, they won the Grammy in 2014 for the album "Steppin' Out". Hussain played bass and engineered the Album and he



Hussain with his wife Neluka and George Benson. (Photo credit: Michael O'Neill)



The Sweetest Rendezvous.

Hussain explaining the manner in which art and music have come together in his life explains, “I believe that all art is connected, whether it is dance, poetry, music, sculpture or painting.”



Hussain with Herb Alpert Lani Hall band in NAPA. (Photo credit: Xander Smith)



Low Vibration.

received the Grammy award for engineering the album as well.

It was by being a member of Herb Alpert's quintet, that Hussain was exposed to a variety of art. Herb himself is an amazing artist and sculptor and Hussain would see him at work in his studio. It was Herb who encouraged Hussain to paint and was a great inspiration to him.

One day while shopping in an Arts and Crafts store, Hussain bought some framed canvas, brushes and acrylic paint and started painting. Thus, a new journey in another creative medium began. Hussain's paintings are colorful and inspires happiness in the beholder.

Hussain explaining the manner in which art and music have come together in his life explains, “I believe that all art is connected, whether it is dance, poetry, music, sculpture or painting. I find that abstract art is a very free-form of art and it gives me so much freedom to create. I am not tied down by rules or technique, it is just me and a blank canvas! I may have an idea on the starting point and from there on it's pure improvisation.”

OSC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2021



The Overseas School of Colombo (OSC) being the only school in Sri Lanka to offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program from Pre-school to Grade 12 aims to provide an educational setting that is focused on developing each student to achieve their full potential. OSC ensures excellence through highly qualified teachers committed to the needs of all students on a campus, which balances nature with state of the art technology, facilities and resources.

The school's learning environment embeds several values including flexibility and adaptability that helps to promote healthy relationships, ethical responsibility, and personal challenge to foster in a diverse environment.

Among the multitude of benefits that The Overseas School of Colombo offers within its multinational English medium international school setting is the 'OSC Scholarship Program' that seeks highly capable students who are ready to contribute to the community, excel academically, and grow personally, to join its student population.

The scholarship program is available to Sri Lankan students who exhibit exceptional academic ability, critical thinking, and strong leadership skills.

It is also a remarkable opportunity for those who can contribute academically, since it allows them to enjoy the multiple benefits available to all the other students at OSC.


The scholarship recipient joining the OSC's student community will have the opportunity to become active learners, while being encouraged to understand how they learn, how they connect learning, and how they apply learning.

The scholarship program seeks to empower exceptional Sri Lankan nationals, aged 14-18 who exhibit extraordinary academic ability and social responsibility. It is a gateway to a comprehensive academic program that enhances student's knowledge, critical thinking, and leadership skills for the future.

The students selected for the program are entitled to follow the globally recognized International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma, which has the widest reach for entry to all national university systems world-wide, and is much sought after by the world's best universities. It also allows the student to engage in a range of extracurricular activities that encourage student-initiated projects and compete in inter-school sporting events in the South



Asian and Middle Eastern region. Scholarship offers will be made on the basis of results at an entrance examination, formal interview as well as an analysis of past academic results. The potential for special contributions back to the OSC community and English Language proficiency are also essential. In addition to that, the success in the IB Program will be assessed including commitment to studying a broad range of subjects and enthusiastic involvement in the Creativity – Activity – Service program.

Closing date for scholarship applications: March 20, 2021. 



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- Hotel Riff, No.870 Galle Road, Thiranaganama, Hikkaduwa.

QR Code

f i s t i n



Kalaya
DESIGNER HOME STORE

260/A, PANNIPITIYA ROAD,
PELAWATTA, BATTARAMULLA. TEL : 2 786886

DHARSHAN MUNIDASA APPOINTED AS 'JAPANESE CUISINE GOODWILL AMBASSADOR'

Renowned Chef and Restaurateur Dharshan Munidasa, who for the past 25 years has been dedicated to promoting Japanese cuisine and cooking philosophies in Sri Lanka, received the honorary title of "Japanese Cuisine Goodwill Ambassador" by the Japanese Government in January 2021.

Dharshan Munidasa was honored with the title of 'Japanese Cuisine Goodwill Ambassador' by the Japanese Government. The country's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries bestows this title on professionals engaged in Japanese cuisine capable of providing appropriate consultation on the dissemination of Japanese food and dietary culture. Both foreign nationals and Japanese nationals residing overseas are eligible, and well-known past recipients of this title include award winning chefs Nobu Matsuhisa, 2016 (Nobu Restaurants and Hotels) and Tetsuya Wakuda, 2019 (Tetsuya's in Australia and Waku Ghin Singapore).

Dharshan has contributed towards the introduction and dissemination of Japanese cuisine in Sri Lanka over the past two decades through Nihonbashi, his participation at Japanese Festivals held in Sri Lanka and via his TV show: Culinary Journeys with Dharshan, where half the episodes were filmed in Japan. Dharshan ensures that the philosophies of Japanese cuisine are preserved at the Ministry of Crab Colombo, by employing Japanese knife skills, the use of soy sauce and dashi when creating his signature Mud Crab and Freshwater Prawn dishes. These philosophies are also stringently practised at the Ministry of Crab outposts situated in Shanghai, Manila, Mumbai, Maldives and Bangkok.

On receiving this recognition, Dharshan states, "I am honored to be



Chef and Restaurateur Dharshan Munidasa.

recognized by the Government of Japan and I am humbled to receive this title not only for myself but also on behalf of my teams at Nihonbashi and Ministry of Crab who understand the philosophies of Japanese cuisine and continue to create high quality, authentic dishes by employing these philosophies daily."

Dharshan is the first Japanese Cuisine Goodwill Ambassador to be appointed from South Asia. He has also received The Minister's Award for Overseas Promotion of Japanese Food from the Japanese Government in 2014, becoming one of the five people in the world to receive the award that year. ☺

businessstoday.lk



August 2020



September 2020



October 2020



November 2020



December 2020



January 2021

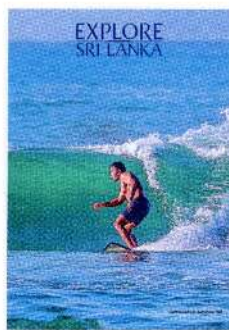


February 2021

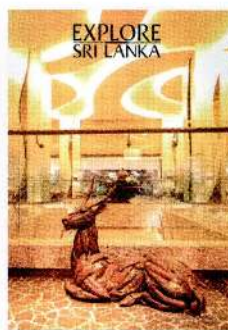


March 2021

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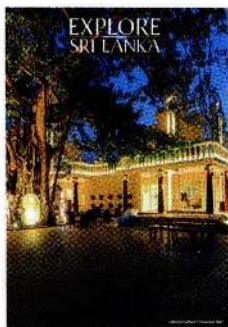
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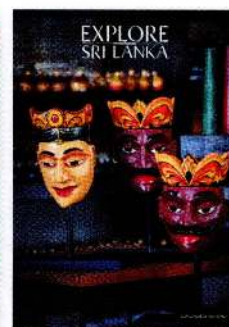
December 2020



January 2021



February 2021



March 2021

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WHAT'S ON

MARCH 2021

Colombo Hilton Colombo

*All day club; daily; *SunsetBlu*; 8am–12am
 *High Tea Platters; daily; L.A.B; 3pm–6pm
 *Dinner at Sri Lankan and Seafood restaurant; daily; *Curry Leaf restaurant*; 7pm–12midnight
 *Dinner buffet; daily; *Graze Kitchen*; 7pm–11pm
 *Endless High Tea; Sunday, Poya days and Mercantile holidays; *Graze Kitchen*; 12.30pm–2.30pm, 3pm–5pm
 *Live entertainment; Wednesday to Saturday; L.A.B; 8pm–12midnight
 *Happy hour; daily; L.A.B; 5.30pm–7.30pm
 *Café Kai; daily; 8am–12midnight
 *L.A.B (Lounge and Bar); Monday to Thursday and Sunday; 8am–1am
 *L.A.B (Lounge and Bar); Friday and Saturday; 8am–2am

*Pool Bar; daily; 10am–7pm
 *Stella Karaoke Lounge; Monday to Saturday; 7pm–4am

Ramada Colombo

*Chill O' Clock; live music event with live food action stations, bottle offers on along with cocktails; March 7; 4pm–8pm; *Secret Garden, Bank Freeze* (Ticket: LKR 1,500)
 *Full Moon Vege Buffet; March 28; *Gardenia Coffee Shop*
 *Moghul Dinner Buffet; Fridays; *Alhambra Restaurant*

Negombo

Lords Restaurant Complex

*30% discount on all food and beverages
 *Buy 2 margaritas cocktails and get one free
 *Face painting for children
 *Barbeque Burger Promotion
 *Sri Lankan Street Food Promotion
 *Beer promotion

*Local crafts and gift stalls, live music entertainment,
 *Sri Lankan Street Food Kottu; Friday; 6pm till late night
 *Live music; Saturday


Hikkaduwa

Riff Hikkaduwa

*Presidential suite with stunning private plunge pool overlooking the Indian Ocean is officially open
 *Special full board offer for local citizens and residents, starting at LKR 19,500 deluxe and superior rooms



Theme Resorts




*Book half board, stay full board offer (vouchers.themerestorts.com) for: Maalu Maalu Resort and Spa (starting LKR 15,300), Tea and Experience Factory (starting LKR 16,200), Scottish Planter Bungalow (starting LKR 15,800), Wild Glamping Knuckles (starting LKR 13,500)



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Diving Village Trincomalee



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Till March 3

Eyes Only



Gayan Prageeth's exhibition looks at the developments of post-war generation in the context of political corruption, enforced disappearances and ethnic conflict. View his work at Saskia Fernando Gallery.

Till March 4

Talking Pictures



Sanjeewa Kumara's exhibition grapples with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic: its immediate impact on our everyday lives, its revelations about inequalities that had escaped notice or been hidden away from the

public eye, and the fear of the unknown that we have all become much too familiar with. The artist surrenders himself to the physical moment of painting, eschewing formulation, planning and pre-sketching to mimic the upheaval and loss of orientation all of our communities are facing today. His alien dreamscapes are the product, not of his hand or mind, but of his unconscious. His work is featured at the Paradise Road Galleries.

March 20 and 21

Art Exhibition



To support local Sri Lankan artists, Lords Restaurant Complex, Negombo is featuring T V S Menaka's work at their art gallery. Buyers can avail to discounts up to 50 percent for all paintings and sculptures. Visitors can get their designs created on black canvas as well. Self abstract portraits are available too.

Till March 21

Kala Pola 2021 (Online Edition)



Sri Lanka's annual visual art fair continues till March 21 featuring over 200 artists, over 4000 paintings and sculptures, panel discussions and workshops by art experts. This time, the art fair is featured as an online edition. Visit srilankanartgallery.com/kalapola.

March 27 onwards (for four weeks)

2020 Group



A group of senior artists of different disciplines, practicing distinctive styles of their own, have banded together under the theme 2020 Group, in order to shift the spotlight back to Representational Art. Representational Art straddles several sub-styles all of which require a solid foundation of study and practice before an artist finds his or her own unique method of expression. It represents something that already exists. The concern for the preservation and development of Representational Art in Sri Lanka brought this eclectic group of artists together. They are committed to work towards the upliftment and education of representational art by taking on a planned and structured approach. They hope to re-ignite interest and passion for this art form and to seek international recognition for Sri Lankan artists who are immersed in it.

Artists Gunasiri Kolambage, Brindley Jayatunga, Nihal Sangabo Dias, Baratha Liyanage, Basil Cooray, Anupa Perera, Charitha Lay, Senani Senanayake, Dillai Joseph, Shanaka Kulathunga, Wasantha Siriwardena, Sachith Graham De Silva and Sunil Katugampola's works will be featured. Visitors can view the exhibition at the Colombo Art Gallery, Statford Avenue and Plate Loft Gallery.

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Apple Fitness+ features a team of celebrated, charismatic, and passionate trainers who are specialists in their fields, working together to create outstanding fitness content for everyone. From left to right: Gregg Cook (Cycling, Strength, Core, Mindful Cooldown); Ben Allen (Dance); Anja Garcia (Rowing); Molly Fox (Yoga, Strength); Kim Ngo (HIIT); Tyrell Désean (Cycling); Jessica Skye (Yoga, Mindful Cooldown); Jamie-Ray Hartshorne (HIIT, Treadmill); Emily Fayette (Cycling, Treadmill); Betina Gozo (Strength, Core); Sam Sanchez (Strength, Core, Treadmill); Kym Perfetto (Cycling); Dustin Brown (Yoga, Mindful Cooldown); Jhon Gonzalez (Dance); Sherica Holmon (Cycling); Bakari Williams (Cycling, HIIT, Core); Kyle Ardill (Strength, Core); Scott Carvin (Treadmill); Josh Crosby (Rowing); LaShawn Jones (Dance); and Amir Ekbatani (Strength, Core).



20-2/1 Lauries Place, R A De Mel Mawatha, Colombo 4
Contact: (+94) 719 198 198



DOLBY ATMOS

KCC MULTIPLEX

DOLBY SURROUND 7.1

KCC operates in compliance with COVID-19 safety guidelines advised by WHO and Ministry of Health – Sri Lanka

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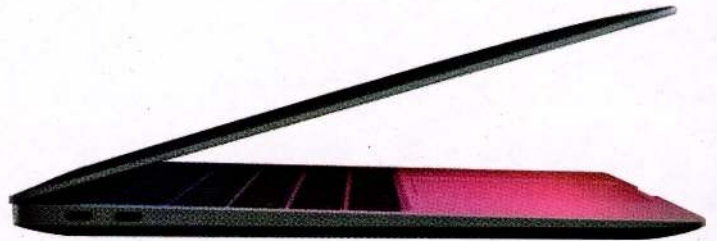
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