



## George Keyt's Women | Critical Essay by Qadri Ismail

Keyt's paintings depict many denuded women, including Vihara Maha Devi, but no denuded men – at least not frontally, displaying their penis. There are naked gods; one boy with his pre-oedipal, unthreatening organ; even a Buddhist monk, albeit with his book to the reader. But Keyt, though a priapic painter, could not confront a cock. Jagath Weerasinghe, who addresses the question of male nudity in Sri Lankan art, informs us that "Buddha statues with... clear indications to the presence of... copulatory organs" exist in Sri Lanka, dating centuries. Despite this, "Sri Lankan modernists have not looked much at male body/nudes with any deep intellectual feelings or emotions...except.. Lionel Wendt.." Weerasinghe attributes the lack "to inhibitions acculturated by Victorian values during the British rule." The 'inhibition' is of a particular kind, as Sunil Goonasekera's *George Keyt: Interpretations* (1991), the only book-length study of Keyt by an academic, reveals. It analyses the production of this "unique phenomenon" at length, giving every decade from the 1920s to the 1970s a separate chapter.

Click here for the full article

<https://www.artra.lk/visual-art/george-keyts-women>

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## Wendt on Wendt | At Harold Peiris Gallery

"What is most thrilling about the exhibition 'Wendt on Wendt' is its conveyance, in my opinion, to broader interpretations to Lionel Wendt's intimate relations - polemic to popular opinion upon his sexual orientation and preference. In fact, the Gladys Forbes Collection of Mementos presents a selection of letters that also reflect the artist's love for language - which is ornate in delivery, its emotive impulse and mostly a sense of earnesty. In other words a spiritedness, unadulterated by clinical dissection. Whilst the format is non-linear in style, the exhibition presents works of Lionel Wendt in an orderly fashion. Certainly an exhibition one must visit to understand the persona of the artist, who chiefly spearheaded the formation of the '43 Group, thereby Modernism in Sri Lanka."

Editor-in-Chief

Read the main essay of Lionel Wendt on ARTRA Magazine  
<https://www.artra.lk/visual-art/lionel-wendt-edition-a-portrait-of-lionel-wendt>

Click here to purchase the digital copy of the Lionel Wendt edition of ARTRA Magazine  
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## Art on Table Tops



Curate your own collection of art for your table tops, from accounts of celebrated artists to perspectives of abstract compositions to spur riveting conversations between guests and friends - ARTRA Magazine's archive of editions from the year 2021 celebrated renowned artistes and their legacies, beginning with Lionel Wendt, Barbara Sansoni, Architecture of Anjalendran and more. You can also now reserve your copy of ARTRA Magazine's Modernist Works of the '43 Group Edition 63. For queries call +9477570 1891 or email [artservices@artra.lk](mailto:artservices@artra.lk).

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## In Conversation with Channa Daswatte



Exploring the scope of architecture in preserving culture and heritage, Channa Daswatte, cover personality of the August edition unravels riveting insights.

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## ARTRA's Emerging Artist



### Trumphing the Unorthodox | Amanda Jayatissa

Amanda Jayatissa is celebrated as ARTRA's Emerging Artist for her imaginative and steampunk novel 'The Other One' in delving deep into contemporaneous themes in stylistic fashion. Taking on the roles of both author and publisher, we applaud Amanda for her courageous attempt at self-publishing this riveting novel, withstanding the challenges they pose for a first time novelist. Amanda was Daily ARTRA's first feature artist for the year, and 'The Other One' was the recipient of the prestigious Fairway National Literary Award 2018 presented at the Galle Literary Festival in February this year.

Click here for the full article

<https://www.artra.lk/written-art/trumphing-the-unorthodox>

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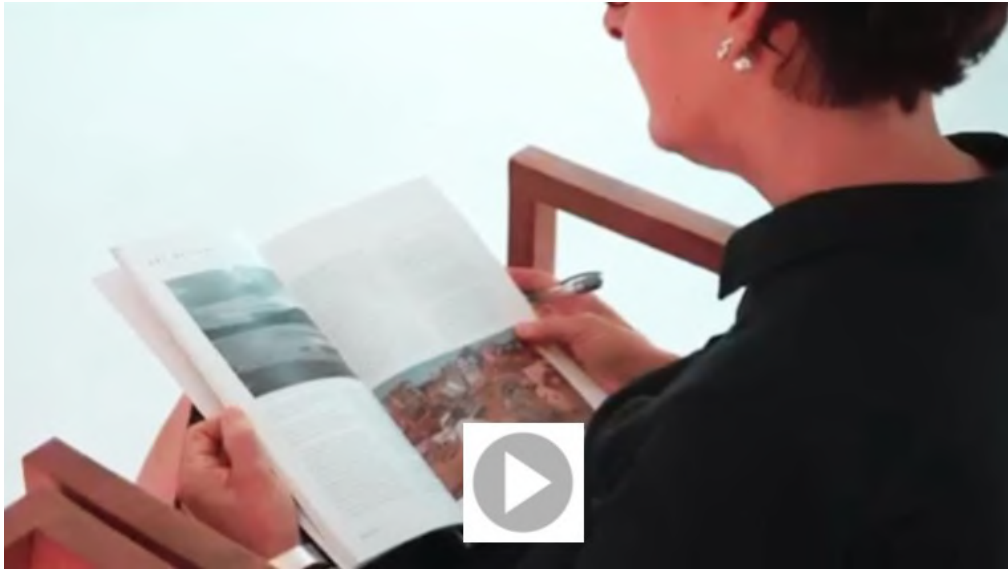


### Mamut Art Project | Istanbul's Contemporary Art Exhibition

Mamut Art Project is the biggest art event and first fair dedicated to providing a dynamic platform for independent & emerging artists and to the concept for attainable art since 2013. Turkey's unique art event is dedicated to provide a dynamic platform for undiscovered creative talent and engaging them with new and established collectors, galleries, curators and art lovers. Mamut is a rent free platform, offering undiscovered artists the opportunity to professionally showcase their works in their own personal exhibition space. As well as providing curatorial guidance, PR support and network opportunities during the exhibition, Mamut Art Project is also proud to give professional advice on the careers of each participating artist after the exhibition.

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





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