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## Flowers of Distortion & Decay | In Conversation with Anusha Gajaweera

The ideology of identifying a nation through symbols allows such emblems to be personified by the character of a nation. Anusha Gajaweera's works of art then attempt to exist ambiguously yet robustly, unidentifiable yet candid. He does not share the landscape of a nation's identity yet creates an alternate political space that probes and questions the objectives of pre-existing identities. The works of visual artist Anusha Gajaweera in this edition of ARTRA Magazine, '(In)Complete Flowers', is a series of black and white distorted flowers that attempt to transpire the political context of today's society. We find Anusha's works of art presenting a refreshing perspective of political aspects in his subversion of flowers; those intending to present the dark and melancholic rigidity of the sociopolitical environment and its effect on one's soul. His canvas of distorted and outlandish flowers are symbolic in expressing the idea of human destruction while boldly conveying its association with political contexts.

Click here for the full article

<https://artra.lk/visual-art/flowers-of-distortion-and-decay>

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<https://artra.lk/subscribe/magazine/2021/e61>

## ARTRA Magazine Archives



We help client/s source literature on related content on Sri Lankan Art, Culture & Heritage through a series of interviews, conversations with artists, academics, archeologists, historians, collectors, curators etc. This service will help client/s understand the scope of artistic expression to the degree they require. ARTRA provides knowledge on, and accessibility to authenticated information on Modern and Contemporary Art and artists, as well as resources from ARTRA's website archives, collection of magazines, books specialized in relevant content. For queries call +9477570 1891 or email [artservices@artra.lk](mailto:artservices@artra.lk).

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## Tao Tossed Thoughts I by Rohan De Soysa

The book launch of 'Tao Tossed Thoughts' by Rohan de Soysa took place at the Sapumal Foundation on the 25th of November, amidst a group of art & literary lovers. In expanding upon the the author's perceptions of Buddhism, Taoism and the Natural World, his thoughts and photographs were the primary stimulus for artist Prasad Abu Bakr's visual works of mixed media, that are currently exhibited at the space. Dynamic in character, and earnest in approach - the writing and visual works collectively reflect the author's understanding of multiple disciplines, influenced by each other to impart a sincere & spiritual way of life inspired by a life well lived.

Rohan de Soysa is currently active in the fields of art and the environment, and he has also been involved in photography, teaching at St Martin's School of Art in London, agriculture, industry, and trade. He became a trustee of the Sapumal Foundation in 1981, and he has been chairman since 2011.

Read more about Slow Cooked Thoughts

<https://artra.lk/written-art/art-and-nature-through-slow-cooked-thoughts-2>

Read more about art & culture in Sri Lankan Modern Art

<https://www.artra.lk/visual-art/art-and-culture-in-sri-lankan-modern-art>

## In Conversation with Dr.F.R.Senanayake



What is the relationship between art and environment? We find out in conversation with Dr. F. Ranil Senanayake, who is currently working on alternate models of development, sustainable agriculture, and food sovereignty in envisioning the progress of Sri Lanka, who hails from the old respected family of D. S. Senanayake.

Click here for the full video

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=429048728002802>

Click here to read the full article

<https://artra.lk/visual-art/designing-natures-palette>

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## ARTRA's Emerging Artist



### Living in Vogue | Pumudu Welikanna

Theatre is a medium designed to awaken the minds of audiences. In Shakespeare's times, young men played female characters as women were not allowed to perform on stage. Today, performance is more nuanced, with actors being brave enough to explore beyond their comfort zones, with women playing men and vice versa, blurring the lines between conventional gender roles prescribed by society. Ashini Fernando, one of Sri Lanka's well known and multifaceted actresses spoke to ARTRA about how her role in 'The Pillowman' (2018) that explored the theatrical practice of neutralizing the gender of a character through the clever manoeuvring of the corporal, costuming and makeup.

Click here for the full article  
<https://artra.lk/applied-art/living-in-vogue-2>

## ARTRA's International Eye



### Juxtapositions of Contrasting Traits in Design | Shanti Bell

Fashion design and its core design principles are often utilized as social tools for advocacy and activism; the facilitation of sustainable and ecological methodologies through observations of the study of circularity and implementing initiatives to empower those practices; defying gender boundaries through redefining and redesigning the conventional human body and its forms. Fashion designer Shanti Bell exposes the contrast between strength and masculinity in delicate yet robust silhouettes, fluidity and rigidity intertwining as she confronts the roles placed upon the youth of men in society and the weight afflicted upon their shoulders. We explore the origin of this concept and the design motifs behind its creation with Shanti Bell. Her latest designs for Netflix's original TV Series 'Bridgerton' becomes an alternate shift as she designs for the female silhouette while embodying the relationship between the characters and depicting their personality traits.

Click here for the full article

<https://artra.lk/applied-art/juxtapositions-of-contrasting-traits-in-design>



The visceral narrative of ARTRA Magazine's Modernist Works of '43 Group edition, includes over 60 works of art by the collective, reflecting the spiritedness of the artists and their artistic chemistry within their works that collectively bring out the instinctual, especially of love, truth, beauty, form and spirit. Whilst the pages of the magazine begin with Ivan Peries's stickly figure in quiet contemplation and introspection, it is juxtaposed with Justin Daraniyagala's whimsical nightmare to set the tone for the visual narrative, presenting the '43 Group's explicit understanding and paradoxical responses to the nuances of the spirit, emotions, relations and of course, the human condition.

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