

## Laki's Portrait I by David Robson together with C. Anjalendran

Laki Senanayake was born in 1937, the seventh of the eight children of Reginald and Florence Senanayake. Both his parents were active in left-wing politics and campaigned for workers' rights. Reginald was a planter and a founder member of the Marxist Lanka Sama Samajist Party (LSSP). In 1942 he was imprisoned by the British for his political activities and died soon after his release in 1946. Left with eight children, Florence

Senanayake stepped into her husband's shoes, taking over the management of a coconut estate near Chilaw. In 1947 she became Sri Lanka's first woman member of parliament. Laki received his only formal education at Colombo's Royal College where, by his own admission, he was regularly 'in absentia'.

Something of a free spirit, he was not academically minded and quit school early. As well as drawing unceasingly, he became obsessed with powerful motor-bikes and loved swimming and high diving. His first design project was to construct a diving board at the Otters' Swimming Club in Colombo.

Click here for the full article

<https://artra.lk/visual-art/laki-senanayake-edition-lakis-portrait>



## ARTRA Magazine Work of Laki Senanayake Edition e64

ARTRA Magazine's latest edition, Works of Laki Senanayake, Endowment 64 (2023) is now out at our purchase points Barefoot, Paradise Road, Gallery Café, Rithihi, PR, Selyn, Good Market, Design Collective and the ARTRA office at the 10th floor, Parkland, Park Street, Colombo 02 ( Mon - Fri | 9am - 5pm with prior appointments).

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## Beyond a Revolt & Basked in The Instinctual | The '43 Group Edition

The Modernist Works of the '43 Group were a revolt against the status quo, reflecting the evolving civilization and country of the late colonial to post independence times of Sri Lanka. Their works sought to reconstruct and renew forms and styles to define and express new impulses in content, ambience, line and color in contrast to the sanctimonious, Western styles of academism promoted by the dominant Ceylon Society of Arts led by the academic doyen Gate Mudaliyar A.C.G.S Amarasekara (1883 - 1983). The latter ensured the growth and sustenance of the naturalist tradition of the 19th century through the Royal Academy and British Art schools until the arrival of C.F Winzer (1886 – 1940), the AngloPolish painter who was appointed Chief Inspector of Art in schools in 1921.

Read the main essay of The '43 Group Edition on ARTRA Magazine

<https://artra.lk/visual-art/the-43-group-edition-beyond-a-revolt-basked-in-the-instinctual>

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## In Conversation with Safiya Sideek



We sat down with artist Safiya Sideek to talk about her journey and inspiration. From recollections of her memories of the ocean and stories from her childhood, how she uses art to raise awareness of daily workers and their stories before the pandemic, Safiya divulges what inspires her and what it means to be an artist.

Click here for the full video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOkb0H-PdW0>

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## ARTRA's Emerging Artist



### Exploring The Digital Landscape of Music | Yazmin Yousuf

The local English music scene in Colombo grew exponentially over the last two decades, with the rise of the internet in tandem with developing radio stations and personalities, propagating promotional expertise. Yazmin Yousuf, now an eminent radio personality arrived in Sri Lanka during the latter half of the 1990s, after having grown up in Dubai, to experience her first genuine taste of local music. It was the time where she would begin work on what would become a long-standing career in the music industry. Passing successively through a slew of radio stations such as EFM, SUN.FM, TNL Radio, KISS.FM and YES.FM, places her as a prime vocality in discussing the changes the local scene underwent as waves generated by the combination of analogue and digital technologies took place across the world.

Click here for the full article

<https://artra.lk/performance-art/exploring-the-digital-landscape-of-local-music-2>



## ARTRA's International Eye

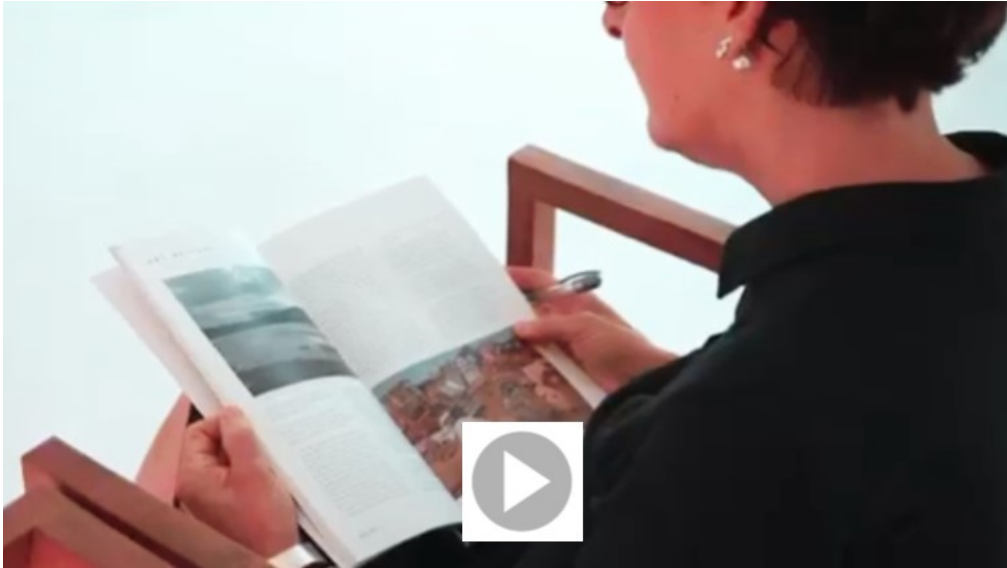


### Weaving an International Dialogue | Kiran Nadar Museum of Art

The Kiran Nadar Museum of Art in collaboration with the Sharjah Art Foundation is delighted to announce the opening of the new exhibition, *Pop South Asia: Artistic Explorations in the Popular*, presenting the works of around 50 artists from different parts of the world. Organised by Kiran Nadar Museum of Art and Sharjah Art Foundation, *Pop South Asia* is curated by Iftikhar Dadi, artist and John H. Burris Professor at Cornell University, and Roobina Karode, Director and Chief Curator of KNMA. Initiated and displayed first at the Sharjah Art Foundation, the exhibition is now presented at KNMA with additional works and parallel projects located in both the Saket and Noida spaces of the museum.

Click here for the full article

<https://artra.lk/visual-art/weaving-an-international-dialogue>



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