SAARC Artists Camp 2018

4th to 6th December 2018
Negombo, Sri Lanka
SAARC Cultural Centre is a regional centre established on a decision made by the Heads of State of Governments of SAARC countries, to promote cultural co-operation in order to bring the people of South Asia closer and to project the distinct identity of South Asia. With this in mind, the SAARC Cultural Centre organizes events and research projects every year covering the arts, bringing together artists, performers, film makers, scholars from the SAARC Region.

In keeping with the SAARC Agenda for Culture, emphasis is placed on acknowledging diversity in culture and reflecting the expressions of richness of culture found in the region of the SAARC. The Heads of States/Governments at the Thirteenth SAARC Summit held in Dhaka in November 2005 recognized the “crucial role of culture in bringing the peoples of South Asia closer”. They underscored that Culture could play a major role in promoting relations and understanding among South Asian countries and eventually a common identity for South Asia. With this backdrop, the SAARC Agenda for Culture will focus on

- The Promotions of SAARC Culture online visit our website for more information www.saarcculture.org
- The Promotion of Cultural Source Materials on South Asia – Read our newsletter, regular reports and journals for more information, also visit our Resource Database Online
- Cooperation with Organizations with which SAARC has MOUs
- Establishing linkage between culture and other sectors in attaining social and economic development
- Several programs and events are organized regularly including cultural festivals. Visit our website for more information

Currently the centre is based in Colombo, Sri Lanka and is intended to function as a major meeting point for the artistic communities of the Member States. The Centre will provide the necessary facilities and conditions for individuals and groups of various fields of interest to meet and interact. It is intended to cater to all forms of art (e.g. dance, music, drama, theatre, puppetry and folk culture), visual art (painting, sculpture, film making, photography) and literature as per the provisions made in the SAARC Agenda for Culture.
“Art is a nation’s most precious heritage. For it is in our works of art that we reveal to ourselves, and to others, the inner vision which guides us as a nation. And where there is no vision, the people perish” - Lyndon B. Johnson.

I am pleased to issue this message to mark the “8th SAARC Artists Camp and Exhibition of Paintings of 2018”. This year we have the pleasure of hosting the SAARC Artists Camp in Sri Lanka, with official nominations from the SAARC Member States of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The participating Artists will have the opportunity to create art work on the theme “South Asian Splendour and Vibrant Tranquility”.

Through the medium of Art, Artists are able to express their imaginative, conceptual ideas and it is a powerful form of expression that can bring people together. In this light, the SAARC Artists Camp is an important event keeping with SAARC’s main objective of promoting cultural cooperation amongst the Member States. As Art reflects a nation’s most precious heritage, the Artists Camp will enable the Artists to showcase the heritage of the Member States. It will also serve as a platform for the Artists to build interregional relationships and enhance artistic collaboration. The Artists will not only have the opportunity to showcase their talents but also to share their experiences and knowledge.

I am confident that the SAARC Artists Camp and Exhibition of Paintings of 2018 will encourage new cultural ties, promote regional unity through cultural integration and intercultural dialogue and contribute towards preservation, conservation and protection of South Asia’s cultural heritage through Art.

On behalf of the SAARC Cultural Centre, Sri Lanka I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Governments of the Member States and all others who assisted in numerous way to ensure that the SAARC Artists Camp and Exhibition of Paintings of 2018 is a successful and memorable event.

D.K.R. Ekanayake
Director – SAARC Cultural Centre
2018
AFGHANISTAN
Dr. Yousef Asefi completed his higher education at Kabul Medical Institute and achieved his M.D. from the same institute. In 1981, he learned the fundamentals of painting from his teacher the honourable Nasrullah “Sarwari” who was one of the most successful teachers of painting. As he was inspired to be an artist, he worked on improving his art, and not only did he put in much effort and enthusiasm to this, but also considered it an inseparable part of his life. He has now painted more than thousands of valuable, charming and attractive paintings, and is considered as one of the most talented painters of Afghanistan. He has participated in many Artists competitions, and held many exhibitions in his country and abroad. He has also participated in many artist exhibitions, camps and competitions organized by the Ministry of Culture and Information, and in many instance won the first prize for his paintings. Dr. Asefi is a member of painters in the Central of Consul of Artists Association, a member of the Inspection Committee of Art Contests of Information and Cultural Ministry, Member of the Afghanistan National Gallery, Member of the Afghanistan High Council of Artistic Directors of the Art Gallery (AAG) and member of the Cultural Centre of Germany (Ducomenta).
BANGLADESH
Prof. Sushanta Kumar Adhikary holds a PhD from the Department of Painting, Kala Bhavana, Visva Bharati, Santiniketan, India, MFA Department of Painting, Kala Bhavana, Visva Bharati, Santiniketan, India, BFA Department of Oriental Art, Institute of Fine Art, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. He currently serves as the Professor and Chairman – Department of Painting, Oriental Art and Printmaking, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh. An acclaimed artist with several awards to his credit, he won the Govt. of India (ICCR) for PhD research at Santiniketan, India. Some of his other awards include the best award for Experimental Oriental Painting, Annual Art Exhibition, Institute of Fine Art, University of Dhaka in 1995, Artist Quamrul Hassan Memorial Award for Oriental Painting, Annual Art Exhibition, Institute of Fine Art, University of Dhaka in 1994, Class Best Award on Water Colour Painting, Annual Art Exhibition, Khulna Art College in the years 1992 and 1990. He has travelled to Australia, Japan, Germany, India attending over fifty workshops and exhibitions since 1994. Some of his notable collections are available at the National Art Gallery Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka, Prime Minister Office, People’s Republic of Bangladesh, Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhaka and at many private collections at home and abroad.
Najmun Nahar Keya is a freelance artist and she completed her MFA from Tokyo University of the Arts and Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka. Najmun compares the entire incidence of her memory that she passed, with her present feelings in this current society. She is also curious about the dichotomy of human behavior and society. Besides drawing and Painting, Keya also has been experimenting with different martials and media such as video, 2d animation, print making etc. She has exhibited her works in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, France and other countries. Najmun has also participated in artist in residency program in Nepal and South Korea. Keya received a fellowship from Aminul Islam Trust 2006 and 2007. She won the Grand award in Young painters exhibition-2010 organized by Berger paints Bangladesh limited. Keya is working with Britto Arts Trust, the first non-profit artist run organization in Bangladesh since 2008. She received Japanese government scholarship in 2012, in 2018 she won the Charles Wallace professional visit fellowship, UK and Honourable mention award in the 18th Asian art biennale.
Samina Nafies is a professional visual artist and holds a Master of Fine Arts (painting) from the University of Chittagong. Being inspired from the memories of her childhood, she works with oil and mixed media collage and still life experimenting with different motifs. She mostly follows the Folk Artists and their creations. She has done eight solo exhibitions and took part in numerous exhibitions both in home and abroad. She has illustrated for several books for under privileged children and other story books. She has written two books in Bangla titled Surrealism in Painting and Drawing and Reading of Pictures. She is currently serving as Professional Visual Artist and Honorary Researcher, Folk Arts and crafts, UDECO Ltd.
Ashraful Alam Paplu holds a BFA and an MFA from the Department of Drawing & Painting, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. He has held two solo exhibitions to his credit and has participated in over 65 national and international exhibitions at home and abroad. His work is displayed at many a prestigious institutions including the Prime Minister’s office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh, Biman Bangladesh Airlines, Public Works Division of Ministry of Works, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkhya (RAJUK), Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (National Tourism Organization), Bangladesh National Museum, The Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Bangladesh, Foreign Ministry of Sweden, Prime Minister of Bhutan, Prime Minister of Italy, Prime Minister of India, Foreign Minister of India, Bangladesh High Commission in Sri Lanka and High Commission of India in Zimbabwe. Besides these many are with private collections in different countries including the USA, Canada, India, and Pakistan. He has won several awards to his credit including the Media Best Award (academic award) at the annual art exhibition of the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka in 1994, 2nd Prize on Water color, Annual cultural week, University of Dhaka. He is presently serving as the Director, Department of Fine Arts, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.
Md. Harun-ar-Rashid Tutul holds an MFA and a BFA in Graphic Design from the Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka. He has won several prestigious awards to his credit: Best Award at the World Youth Art Festival 2017, From Woo Won sik, Congress man from Government Republic of Korea Organized by (WCAA) World Culture Artists Association Inc. in the Republic of Korea, Grand Award - 22nd National Art Exhibition 2017, Organized by Bangladesh National Art gallery, Grand Award - 17th Asian Art Biennale, Bangladesh 2016, Organized by Bangladesh National Art gallery, Best Award - Best award in Graphic Design, Annual Art Exhibition 2000, Faculty of Fine art, University of Dhaka. He has participated in over twenty workshops and exhibitions. He presently serves as Asst. Professor, Department of Graphic Design, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.
Dr. M.S. Amarnath holds a PhD in Cultural Studies from Jain University, Bangalore. MFA (Painting) Faculty of Fine Arts, M.S. University, Baroda, BFA (Painting) from Karnataka Chitralakaparishat, College of Fine Arts. He specializes in in Painting, Visual Arts &Basic Design. He has won several awards to his credit including Special Gold medal for PhD received from Vasavi Union, Bangalore, Karnataka State Shilpakala Academy Award-2000, INLAKS Scholarship from London – 1993, National Scholarship Award from Dept. of Culture- 1988, Mysore Dasara Award-1987, Karnataka State Lalithkala Academy Award-1986. He has held three solo and has participated in several group art exhibitions, workshops, and camps since 1988. He served as Faculty in Dept. of Architecture, MIT, Manipal – 1993-1997, Assistant Professor in R.V.College of Architecture, Bangalore, from 1997 to 2011 and he is presently serving as Associate Professor in R.V. College of Architecture, Bangalore.
Dr. Anita H. C holds a PhD in Painting, Visual Arts and MPhil in Painting, Visual Arts from the Jain University, Bangalore. She has held five solo exhibitions and has participated in group exhibitions and artist camps since 2002. Some of her collections are on display at the University College of Fine Arts, Davanagere, Jnana Bharathi, Bangalore University, Lalit Kala Akademy, Bangalore, Department of Kannada & Culture, Bangalore, Police Head Quarters, Infantry Road, Bangalore, Dhvanyaloka, Mysore, Shantivanam Art Foundation, Trichy, Saraha Art Gallery and private collections. She was the camp co-ordinate: ‘Art in Society’, Dhvanyaloka, Mysore and art curator: Saraha Art Gallery, Jamuna Nagar, Haryana.
MALDIVES
Ifhal Ahmed is the co-founder and the general secretary of the Maldivian Artist Community working in the field of art for more than 15 years. During his career as an artist, he has explored diverse media and applied different techniques to build his confidence in the field of art. He is the first Asian artist to paint underwater and exhibited it for public. He has participated in many Solo and group Exhibitions in the Maldives and abroad including the Maldives Contemporary exhibitions, SAARC Artist camps, Gahuva at Culture Heritage Institute, Sharjah Kaafage Vaahaka. He is also a sand artist who performed at ITB Berlin Fair, Germany.
Hussain Atheek is a self-taught artist who started painting at the age of 9 and now has more than 10 years of experience as an inspiring and talented artist. In 2011, he started exhibiting his work and since then has participated in a number of national and international art festivals and exhibitions. He also serves as the treasurer of the Maldivian Artist Community (MAC), a non-governmental organization formed in 2016. He likes to explore and experiment with contrasting forms of art, such as digital art, portraits and concept art, and uses media ranging from soft pastels, acrylic, and oil colour. He uses various colour palettes and textures to imprint what he sees in the mind onto the canvas. His artwork focuses on portraits and concept art, while his art style for portraits depicts hyperrealism. His concept art portrays not just the image, but also encompasses powerful and beautiful messages for the viewer. Prior to the founding of the Maldives Artist Community, which gained him nationwide exposure and public presence, Atheek’s work largely consisted of freelancing for niche markets, in particular, souvenir shops.
Mohamed Zain Riyaz has been working with a variety of Media Including Painting, Drawing, Graphic designing and video animating. He holds a diploma in graphic design and is pursuing a degree Creative Media. Zain’s current works takes its form in painting, experimenting with various styles and media. He draws his inspiration from the natural and coastal surrounds and his innate affinity with the ocean. He is also an avid supporter of other artists and surrounds himself with drawing inspiration from their many different art forms.
SRI LANKA
Anil Atapattu holds a BFA degree in painting from the University of Visual and Performing Arts – Sri Lanka. He was a mural painter for a mural painting documentary programme in Dambulla cave temple under the UNESCO Sri Lanka Cultural Triangle project from 1990-1993. In 2005, he was appointed as a member of Art and Sculpture Panel, Art Council of Sri Lanka, Ministry of Culture and the Art. From 2006 to 2010 he served as the coordinator of the State Children’s Art Festival. He has held two solo exhibitions and has taken part in several group exhibitions to his credit. He is currently an Advisory Committee Member of Visual Art Panel, Department of Cultural Affairs, Sri Lanka.
Vandana Malshani Bandara is a first year student at the University of Visual Communication Design. She has participated in several competitions and workshops including SAARC Artist Camp 2016, All-island Inter Cultural Centers Competition-2016, Hapan Art Competition 2016-Uva Province (1st place), All-island Weediy Nilla Art Competition 2017 (Watercolor and pencil drawing)-1st place.
Witharamalage Dayananda is an award-winning national artist. He is a recipient of Prathiba Pranama Award. He is also a member of Sri Lanka National Artists and has 18 years of teaching experience at divisional cultural centres.
Chaminda Gamage is a visiting lecturer at the University of Visual and Performing Arts, Colombo, Sri Lanka. He holds a Master of Philosophy and a Masters in Mass Communication from the Department of Mass Communication, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting, Institute of Aesthetic Studies, Faculty of Art and Sculpture, University of Kelaniya. He has held a number of solo and group exhibitions both at home and abroad. Some of his awards include; State award for the outstanding painter of the year, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Sri Lanka-1996, Sri Lankan entry to the Coca Cola Bottle exhibition (1996), USA for 1998 Olympics, Merit Award, Annual Art Exhibition, The George Keyt Foundation-1995, Figure Composition Award and Graphic Art Award, The Ceylon Society of Arts, Sri Lanka-1992, 2nd Place, National Youth Award, National Youth Council, Sri Lanka-1991, 2nd Place, National Heroes Day Competition, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Sri Lanka-1991, 1st Place, Shilpa Kala Art Competition -1990, Youth Merit Award, Rotary Club and YMCA Colombo, Sri Lanka-1987, 1st Place, All Island Art Competition, Gam Udawa, Hingurakgoda, Sri Lanka-1986.
Vajira Gunawardena is an award-winning artist and has exhibited his works at a number of solo and group exhibitions both in the country and abroad for the past twenty years. He has travelled to UK, Cuba, and Germany attending group exhibitions, artist camps and workshops. Some of them include to the United Nations office – Geneva, Tanzania, Netherlands, 798 Art District in China, Austria, India and Bangladesh. He has also created large-scale paintings for public and private spaces. In 2012, he installed a large commissioned canvas of 200 x 2145 cm, in the Chaaya Tranz Hotel in Hikkaduwa. In 2016, he created six pieces of his work for Bogala Village Hotel in Ruwanwella and his work is also displayed in several private residences in Sri Lanka. Vajira’s works is collected by private and co-operate galleries worldwide. His works are characterized by the use of rich color harmonies and bold, fluid drawing, combining natural, representational elements with abstract, organic forms and pop images stated to walk the line between the real and the imaginary. His works address issues and questions about culture and identity.
Dr. Manoranjana Herath holds a PhD from the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka, MFA (Sculpture) College of Art – University of Delhi, India, BFA (Sculpture) – Institute of Aesthetic Studies, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka. He has held 20 solo exhibitions and over 20 group exhibitions to his credit. He currently serves as Senior lecturer -Department of Sculpture, University of Visual and Performing Arts, Colombo. Sri Lanka. From 2015-2017, he served as the head, Department of Sculpture, University of Visual and Performing Arts, Sri Lanka. He was also a visiting lecturer at the Institute of Aesthetic Studies, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka from 2002-2003.
Hapuarachchige Gihan Mihiranga has won lot of awards at school, district, provincial and all-island levels. His favourite painting application is watercolor. He aspires to become a landscape painting artist or a sculpture artist.
Hetti Arachchige Gayan Pushpakumara holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Ceramic Designing (Special), 2016 from the Department of Ceramic, University of the Visual and Performing Arts, Colombo, Sri Lanka. He is a ceramic artist with extensive experience ceramic throwing, ceramic modeling, ceramic sculpturing, ceramic designing, drawing and painting.
Jagath Ravindra is a senior lecturer at the Department of Painting, Faculty of Visual Arts, University of Visual and Performing Arts, Sri Lanka. Presently, he serves as the Head, Department of Multi-Disciplinary Design. He received his B.FA from the Institute of Aesthetic Studies (Former institute of the University of Visual Performing Arts) in 1990 and he earned the Postgraduate Diploma in Archeology in 1991, as well as his MSSc in Philosophy from the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka in 2014. After completing his B.FA, he worked in several private organizations and in the advertising industry. In 2006, he was appointed to the Faculty of Visual Arts, as a permanent academic member in the Department of Painting. Jagath is working in several other universities as a visiting lecturer. Jagath Ravindra has held nineteen solo exhibitions and has participated in numerous international group exhibitions, international artist camps and workshops. He is a recipient of many awards, which includes the Honorable mention Award at the 12th Asian Art Biennial, 2006 and merit award at the 21st Korea Art International Exhibition, 2014. Jagath Ravindra was the former chairman of Art and Sculpture panel of the Art council of Sri Lanka (2005-2009).
Sanduni Lakshika Weerasinghe just finished her Advanced Level Examination in the Arts stream and is waiting for her results. She is into portrait painting and has won in the all-island art competitions.
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