CROSSCURRENTS

Cultural Mentorship Programme

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

COLOMBOSCOPE
interdiscliplinary arts festival

EUNIC
EU National Institutes for Culture

WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2026

10:00am – 11:30am
Wonder

NATASHA GINWALA
Colomboscope

Where the Circles Overlap

In this session Natasha Ginwala will share her approaches on counter-institution making, circuits of collaboration and curatorial encounters composed through intuition, connection and site-responsive methods. Drawing on Colomboscope's work over the years as an autonomous regional platform as well as biennial initiatives that recenter collectivity, human as well as multispecies intelligence and living traditions

11:30am – 13:00pm
Wonder

JAN RAMESH DE SARAM
Cultural Program, Goethe-Institut Sri Lanka

Infiltrate Everywhere

Since gathering around a fireplace to share stories, rhythms and dance, set and setting play a crucial role for any cultural experience. While Jan had some of his own formative experiences in a tent pitched in the ruins of a bombed-out nineteenth century mall, this session will focus on how these early repurposing plunges have contributed to him being dedicated to a venue culture that is marked by repurposing, re-interpreting and sometimes even occupying spaces for people to come together. The session will touch case studies and anecdotes from Colomboscope's venue history including the Whist Bungalow, the former General Post Office, Rio Cinema Complex and Planetarium, sharing strategies used towards securing these venues

2:00pm - 3:30pm
Wonder

ASVAJIT BOYLE & NIGEL PERERA
Fold Media Collective

Building graphic identity and publishing basics for the arts sector

Drawing on a decade of working at the intersection of design, music and the arts, the co-founders of FOLD Media Collective will reflect on how graphic identity and publishing can shape the way cultural projects are seen and understood. The session considers design as a process of reasoning, where context and purpose guide decisions. It also looks at the role of personal aesthetics, and at negotiating between creative conviction and client expectations. Through selected projects from the arts sector, the session explores building a sustainable independent practice while balancing commissioned work with personal projects in an evolving cultural landscape

4:00pm – 5.30pm
Barefoot Gallery

SOPHIA SANSONI & VINDHYA ATTYGALLE
Barefoot Gallery

Enduring artist relationships and trust-building in gallery-patron relations

This session traces the history of the gallery, from its founding as the Colombo Gallery by Barbara Sansoni in 1966 to its reopening as Gallery 706 under Nazreen Sansoni in 1991. We will introduce key artists and touch on the gallery's ethos as a place that builds community around the arts, where poetry, film, performance, theatre and visual art remains vital over the years. We then look at what entails in running a gallery, with a day in the life and its challenges - from managing budgets to digitisation of invoices and maintaining our extensive archives. The session closes in conversation: what are the community spaces you work in, and what might collaborating beyond your own medium look like?

THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER 2026

10:00 am – 11:30am
Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute

JONATHAN EDWARD
Independent architectural designer

The Exhibition as a Format: Storytelling Through Space

How can space become a tool for storytelling? Through a series of exhibition case studies spanning performing arts, fashion, history and research, this session explores how spatial design can shape narratives, guide visitors and encourage engagement.Looking at the realities of producing exhibitions in Sri Lanka, we will explore how creative decisions respond to limitations of space, materials, budgets and time, and how these constraints can become opportunities for innovation and collaboration. The session concludes with a hands-on exercise where participants work in pairs to manipulate physical forms, exploring how simple spatial interventions can transform a space and communicate a story

11:30am – 1:00pm
Hector Kobbekaduwa Training Institute

ASANKA JAYASINGHE
University of Visual and Performing Arts

Introduction to Conservation of Cultural Materials Agents of deterioration and Preventive conservation measures

This workshop introduces the conservation of cultural materials, focusing on the agents of deterioration and preventive conservation measures essential for preserving paintings and other cultural heritage objects. The first section explores environmental, biological, physical, mechanical, and human related factors that cause deterioration, alongside practical strategies to minimise risks through appropriate handling, storage, environmental monitoring, display, and transportation. The second section is a practical session on painting documentation, introducing participants to systematic observation, condition assessment, and photographic recording. Participants will learn to identify visible damage, document a painting's condition, and recognise potential risks while understanding the importance of documentation in conservation practice. The workshop emphasises preventive care rather than restoration or complex treatments

3:30pm – 5:30pm
Personal Residence

COLLECTION VISIT

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER 2026

10:00am – 11:30pm
Alliance Française de Colombo

CÉCILE HOORELBEKE
Alliance Française de Colombo

Audience building and community learning

How can cultural spaces foster a sense of belonging? What invisible barriers and threads weave our relationships with culture? How can we move beyond attracting audiences to creating opportunities for collective thinking? Combining theoretical perspectives from cultural sociology with practical exploration and reflections rooted in participants' own practices, this session will invite us to question how we approach cultural participation, community building, and the role of cultural spaces in bringing people together

2:00pm – 5:00pm
Alliance Française de Colombo

CLIMATE FRISK WORKSHOP

Far from a traditional conference or technical seminar, the Climate Fresk uses collective intelligence, dialogue, and creativity to help participants explore the causes and impacts of climate change in a format that is accessible to everyone — not only climate specialists Designed for professionals and decision-makers across sectors, the workshop creates space for meaningful exchanges, fresh perspectives, and conversations that connect climate issues to the realities of our work, societies, and everyday lives. More than 2 million people worldwide have already taken part in Climate Fresk workshops making it a truly global movement for shared understanding and action

FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2026

4:00pm – 5:30pm
Online Session

DANIEL FITZPATRICK
Aemi

THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2026

11:30pm – 1:00pm
Online Session

ADEELA SULEMAN
Vasl Artists' Association

The Interconnected Studio: Making, Teaching, and Managing in the City

This session explores the intersection of creative production, art education, and cultural leadership through the lens of working in Karachi. As a contemporary artist, my studio practice interrogates socio-political realities and collective memory using everyday materials. As an educator, I focus on cultivating critical thinking and nurturing the next generation of creative voices. Simultaneously, directing the Vasl Artists' Association allows me to build sustainable platforms for artistic exchange and community dialogue. Together, these interconnected roles form a holistic ecosystem where teaching, making, and arts management continuously inform, challenge, and enrich one another within a vibrant urban landscape

FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2026

11:00am – 12.30pm
Online Session

ZOE BÜTT
Intangible Institute

Cultural leadership, process-led curating and decentralized infrastructures

As artists and curators we ask, 'How does a creative practice become integrally mutual in benefit? Who do we need in our spaces of conceiving and giving value to the work that we do? Why is it critical that we understand and respect the need to attend and support the sites of production and display with equal measure? This session shares a particular case study from Southeast Asia, whereby the relationship between artist and curator has been of particular developmental focus, with significant results, in the building of careers with crucial contribution to local art ecologies and their determination of their own art history

FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2026

1:30pm – 3.00pm
Online Session

ÖZGE ERSOY
Asia Art Archive

Living archives: Focus on artist-centric history-telling and curation of documentation practices

Özge Ersoy introduces Asia Art Archive and its approach to collecting, preserving, and activating art histories across Asia. Using At 25: Artists' Early Worlds, AAA's recent 25th anniversary exhibition, as a case study, she will discuss how the lives, relationships, and communities of artists can offer ways of understanding their practices and their place in art history. The session will also consider how archival fragments, personal materials, and gaps in the record can shape the ways we tell and encounter history

MONDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2026

10:00 am – 11:30am
Geoffrey Bawa Space

SHANIKA PERERA & THILINI PERERA

Geoffrey Bawa Trust

Curating Connections: Architecture, Ecology and Cultural Encounters

How can cultural institutions forge meaningful networks between people, places and ideas? Drawing on the Geoffrey Bawa Trust's Open House Colombo and To Lunuganga programmes, Thilini Perera and Shanika Perera explore curating as a practice of cultivating connections. While Open House connects people across the city's architectural and cultural landscape, To Lunuganga invited deeper engagement with a place through its living ecologies and interdisciplinary perspectives. Together, these programmes offer ways to rethink public engagement with architecture, hidden histories and the natural environment through collaboration, shared knowledge and new encounters

12:00pm – 1:30pm
Embassy of the Netherlands

CHRYSHANE MENDIS

Embassy of the Netherlands

Acts of restitution and tools for decolonizing museums

3:00pm – 5:00pm
Mount Studio

LOJITHAN RAM

This session explores the importance of visual documentation and archiving within contemporary art practice, focusing on the documentation of artworks, exhibitions, processes, and projects. Drawing from my experience as an artist, archivist, and founder of Mount Studio, I will share practical approaches to photographing, organising, and preserving visual records. The session will consider artwork and exhibition photography not only as promotional material, but as an important part of an artist's archive and the long-term history of their work, Through case studies, practical exercises, and discussion, participants will consider challenges around documentation, metadata, and developing sustainable archival practices for future research, publications, and exhibitions

TUESDAY 1 DECEMBER 2026

10:00am - 11:30am
Chitrasena Dance Company

HESHMA WIGNARAJA

Chitrasena Dance Company

Building the legacy of traditional movement and dance in local and international contexts

1:00pm – 3:00pm
Department of Coffee

GROUP BRAINSTORMING SESSION

4:00pm – 5:30pm
Curado Art Space

COLLECTION VISIT

WEDNESDAY 2 DECEMBER 2026

Online session

MATTEO LUCCHETTI

Curator, art historian, and writer

In this mentorship session, curator Matteo Lucchetti draws on more than a decade of work with Visible, a curatorial platform dedicated to socially engaged artistic practices, to discuss how art can contribute to questions of social justice. The conversation will address the development of long-term projects with artists working in public and civic contexts, the relationship between cultural institutions and the communities they serve, and the responsibilities of cultural production in a time of climate crisis. Participants are invited to bring their own projects and questions, with attention to sustainable working methods, forms of collaboration, and the conditions that allow artistic practices to have lasting impact

MONDAY 7 DECEMBER 2026

2:30pm – 4:00pm
Online Session

MARK RAPPOLT

ArtReview and Rubaiya Qatar

Boundary-crossing art criticism, digital content, and editorial direction as vectors for strategic alliance building

THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER 2026

11:00pm – 12:30pm
Online Session

PRIYANKA RAJA & PRATEEK RAJA

Experimenter

Gallery model as a pioneering space for learning, building a network for production support and international collaboration

FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER 2026

10:00am - 11:30am
British Council Sri Lanka

MILAN LUČIĆ

British Council Sri Lanka

Building Support: Fundraising and Networks for Cultural Initiatives

How do we build lasting support for a cultural idea when resources are limited? Drawing on his experience in fundraising, festival development and international cultural networks, Milan Lučić will share practical lessons on connecting artistic ambition with the people, partnerships and resources that help it grow. The session will explore how to communicate a project's value, approach potential supporters and develop relationships beyond a single event or grant. Through a group exercise and open discussion, participants will map support for their ideas, practice making a clear ask and identify achievable next steps suited to their working contexts in Sri Lanka

2:00pm – 3:00pm
Flower Road Villa

COLLECTION VISIT

3:00pm – 5:00pm
Flower Road Villa

GROUP BRAINSTORMING SESSION 2

SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER 2026

10:00am – 11:30am
Hector Kobbekaduwa Training Institute

STEFAN WINKLER

Goethe-Institut Sri Lanka

Sustainable network building into cultural action

2:00pm – 5:00pm
Personal residence

RAKI NIKAHETIYA
sā Ladakh Biennial

From Regeneration to Practice

Drawing on Raki Nikahetiya's practice as an artist and his work in marine conservation, sustainable development policy, community-based initiatives and permaculture, this workshop explores different ways of understanding and engaging with place. Informed by his ongoing experience of developing and curating sā Ladakh Biennale, it considers regeneration as an evolving process of listening, learning and adapting, rather than a fixed methodology or finished model. The workshop offers an opportunity to reflect on how cultural initiatives might engage more thoughtfully with the places and communities they work alongside, learn from local knowledge, and contribute to the social and ecological conditions of which they are a part

TUESDAY 15 DECEMBER 2026

11:00am – 12:30pm
Online Session

V GEETHA
Tara Books

Illustrated and handcrafted publishing led by socially conscious and community-centred storytelling

Tara Books publishes for children and older people. We are known for our illustrated books for all ages, or the crossover picturebook, as it is called. Our bookcraft workshop has published over 30 silkscreenprinted and letterpressed titles and experimented with the risograph. We see our work as curatorial and collaborative. We bring together several creative impulses, of the writer, artist, designer, and the production team, and work to forge a distinctive language and form for each of our titles. In this talk, I will focus on the centrality of the book form to our publishing – and how we have worked to keep the physical book alive in an age busy writing its obituary

PUBLIC SESSIONS

6 November 2026
6:30pm Onwards
Musicmatters

SAVVY ZAAR

January 2027

ADEELA SULEMAN
Vasl Artists' Association

January 2027

ARTISTS' & EXPERIMENTAL MOVING IMAGE (AEMI)

VENUE INFORMATION

WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2026

Wonder
250 Park Road, Colombo 5

Barefoot Gallery
704 Galle Road, Colombo 3

THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER 2026

Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute: Lecture Hall
114 Wijerama Mawatha, Colombo 7

Personal residence
Torrington Court, 29 Independance Avenue
Colombo 7

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER 2026

Alliance Française de Colombo
11 Barnes Place Colombo 7

FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2026

Musicmatters
141/6A Vauxhall Street Colombo 2

MONDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2026

Geoffrey Bawa Space
42 /1 Horton Place, Colombo 7

Embassy of the Netherlands
25 Torrington Avenue, Colombo 7

Mount Studio
10/15, 1/1 Lake Road, Maharagama

TUESDAY 1 DECEMBER 2026

Chitrasena Dance Academy
590 Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 5

DEPARTMENT OF COFFEE
10A Philip Gunawardena Mawatha,
Colombo 07

Curado Art Space
302 Park Road, Colombo 5

FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER 2026

British Council
49 Alfred House Gardens, Colombo 3

SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER 2026

Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute: Lecture Hall
114 Wijerama Mawatha, Colombo 7

Flower Road Villa
1B 28th Lane, Off Flower Rd, Colombo 3

MENTOR INFORMATION

Adeela Suleman

Adeela Suleman is the founding member and director of Vasl Artists' Association in Karachi, Pakistan. With a background in fine art, Suleman has exhibited at Grosvenor Gallery, Barracks Art Museum, Queensland Art Gallery of Modern Art, Busan Biennale, Singapore Biennale, Fukuoka Asian Art Triennial, and more. She is also a founding member and director of Odd Bird Art, Singapore, Pakistan, and a founding member and director of Suleman Annual Grant for Arts – SAGA, Karachi, Pakistan.

Asanka Jayasinghe

Asanka Jayasinghe is an art historian, educator, curator, and conservation practitioner based in Sri Lanka. He holds a Master of Visual Arts in Art History and Aesthetics from Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, India, and a First-Class Bachelor of Visual Arts from the University of Visual and Performing Arts. He currently serves as a Temporary Lecturer in the Department of History and Art Theory, Faculty of Visual Arts, University of Visual and Performing Arts. His extensive curatorial practice includes exhibitions at major galleries and cultural institutions in Sri Lanka and India. Since 2016, he has also worked in art conservation, with experience in mural and paper conservation and the preservation of cultural heritage.

Asvajit Boyle and Nigel Perera

Asvajit Boyle and Nigel Perera are co-founders of FOLD Media Collective, a multidisciplinary collective of designers, audio-visual artists and filmmakers. Established in 2019 to formalise a network of creative professionals from the tropical island of Sri Lanka, FOLD pairs contemporary tools and frameworks with traditional principles of design and visual communication. Boyle is an audio-visual artist, graphic designer and composer of electronic music with a special interest in long-form design. He has over a decade of experience overseeing the design and production of commercial publications in collaboration with theatre repertoires, cultural festivals, magazines, and international organisations. Nigel Perera is a graphic designer with an inclination toward generative visual compositions, with experience in VJ and digital content creation showcased at numerous electronic music performances and festivals.

Cécile Hoorelbeke

Cécile Hoorelbeke is Director of the Alliance Française de Colombo and Coordinator of the Alliance Française network in Sri Lanka and the Maldives. She studied political sciences and cultural management, and began her career in cultural development in France, working in the public sector in both urban and rural areas. She has always been interested in bringing people, places and ideas together, especially when they come from different worlds. She enjoys working in the field and developing projects where art can meet education, research, public policy and local communities, creating encounters in places where they are not always expected. After moving to Asia, she continued this work through collective cultural and educational projects in South India. In 2019, she joined the French Institute of Pondicherry as General Secretary, working with its heritage and collections and encouraging links between research, artistic practices and new audiences.

Chryshane Mendis

Chryshane Mendis is a researcher in history and archaeology with a focus on military landscapes. As an undergrad, his passion project on Colombo Fort led him to document and survey the remains of the fort of Colombo, documenting eight locations at present. These findings, together with the built history of the fortifications will be out as a monograph soon. He has moved on to more thorough archaeological surveys of fortification sites such as Balana and Sitavaka, employing digital tools like GIS and LiDAR data. He holds an MA in Archaeology from the University of Amsterdam, and is the Policy Officer - Cultural Affairs at the Embassy of the Netherlands.

Heshma Wignaraja

Heshma Wignaraja is Artistic Director at the Chitrasena Dance Company and School, leading the way into a new era while ensuring the traditional roots and legacy remain since the institution was built by Gurus Vajira and Chitrasena in the 1960s. As a member of the third generation of the family, she is now rearticulating that legacy as she works to preserve and build on the foundation laid by her grandparents.

Jan Ramesh de Saram

Jan Ramesh de Saram is a Berlin-Sri Lankan cross-cultural hybrid. Born and socialized in Berlin, he studied Ethnology and Economics at the Freie Universität Berlin and graduated in the Berlin nightlife underground of the 00's. After rematriating to Sri Lanka in 2007, he has worked on various non-commercial festivals including the Galle Literary Festival (2009 and 2010), coordinated the Jaffna Music Festival (2011), Colombo Art Biennale (2012), Soundcamp South Asia (2012) and Pettah Interchange before joining the Goethe-Institut as cultural coordinator in 2013. In this role, he has been actively implementing numerous projects in all fields of arts and cultural exchange, most notably the Bordermovement project, Pettah Interchange and has been holding together the Colomboscope strings since its inaugural edition in 2013.

Jonathan Edward

Jonathan Edward has a formal background in Architecture and has created a niche for himself with a specialisation in exhibition design following several successful design implementations with the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art Sri Lanka. His spatial design concepts range from limited spaces to open public spans, in which he has tackled complex bodies of artwork in sensitive, sustainable and context-appropriate methods. Following an apprenticeship with well-known female Architect Amila de Mel, Jonathan established his own practice and focuses on domestic, cultural, community and commercial spaces. His most recent exhibition designs were for the Aluwihare Heritage Center, Chitrasena Dance Company, as well as at Barefoot Gallery.

Lojithan Ram

Lojithan Ram is a multidisciplinary artist from Batticaloa and based in Colombo, exploring ideas of non-belonging and memory primarily through lens-based mediums and alternative printing processes. Ramanathan is a graduate of Ramanathan Academy of Fine Arts, University of Jaffna and the founder of Mount Studio & Analogue Film Lab, Batticaloa Photo History Archive and co-founder of We Are From Here project. Mount Studio by Lojithan is an independent artist-led art space and photographic platform that brings together photography, analogue image-making, moving image, archival practices, artistic research, exhibitions, workshops and public programmes.

Mark Rappolt

Mark Rappolt is the Editor-in-Chief of ArtReview magazine. He founded its sister publication, ArtReview Asia, in 2013. His writing has appeared in several publications, ranging from The Times and Die Zeit to i-D and Citizen K, and includes exhibition catalogues on artists such as Lee Bae, Matthew Krishanu, Ha Chong-Hyun, Bharti Kher, Wang Guangle, Yuko Mohri and Liu Xiaodong. Exhibitions include Before the Cockerel Crows (2021) and La Bella Estate (2025), co-curated with Tom Eccles and Liam Gillick in Guarene; Breaking the Waves (2021) in Shanghai and Hong Kong; and One Tiger or Another (2022), co-curated with Tom Eccles in Doha. He is one of four curators of Unruly Waters, the flagship exhibition of the forthcoming quadriennial, Rubaiya, in Doha, Qatar.

Matteo Lucchetti

Matteo Lucchetti is a curator, art historian, and writer. Since 2026, he has been Head of the artistic project at ParCO in Parma, and since 2022, he has been Curator of Contemporary Arts and Cultures at MUCIV - Museo delle Civiltà in Rome. Since 2011, together with Judith Wielander, he has curated Visible, a research and support project for socially engaged artistic practices in a global context—initiated by Cittadellarte-Fondazione Pistoletto and Fondazione Zegna and supported since 2024 by the Zegna brand—which has led to the creation of an immaterial collection of more than 200 artistic projects and the first European award for socially engaged artistic practices. He is also the guest curator of the project Pompeii Commitment. Archaeological Matters. He worked as curator of exhibitions and the public programme at BAK in Utrecht from 2016 to 2018, and was curator of the 16th Quadriennale di Roma in 2016.

Milan Lučić

Milan Lučić is a cultural manager and dramaturg with three decades of experience across theatre, music, film and international cultural cooperation. He has served as Director of Belgrade's Dom omladine cultural center, the Belgrade Jazz Festival and the Serbian Film Centre, and until recently was the Head of Arts Western Balkans with the British Council. His experience includes revitalising cultural institutions, fundraising for major infrastructure improvements, developing artistic programmes and building international partnerships. He co-founded the Centre for New Theatre and Dance with Jovan Ćirilov and served on the board of the international performing arts network IETM. Drawing on his practice and his fellowship at the DeVos Institute of Arts Management, Milan brings a practical perspective on connecting artistic ambition, audience engagement and lasting support for cultural work.

Natasha Ginwala

Natasha Ginwala is a curator, researcher and writer. She has been artistic director of Colomboscope in Sri Lanka since 2019 and curator of Current V: Ancestral Ocean at TBA21—Academy (2026-28). She previously served as Associate Curator at Large at Gropius Bau, Berlin (2018-2024) and was also co-artistic director of the 13th Gwangju Biennale (2021). Ginwala was part of curatorial teams of Sharjah Biennial 16 (2025), Contour Biennale 8, documenta 14(2017), 8th Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art (2014), Taipei Biennale 2012, and other international exhibitions at e-flux, Hamburger Bahnhof - Museum für Gegenwart, ifa Gallery, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, L'appartement 22, Sharjah Art Foundation, Muzeum Sztuki w Łodzi, MCA Chicago, 56th Venice Biennale, SAVVY Contemporary and Zeitz MOCAA. Ginwala is a widely published author on contemporary art, visual culture, and social justice.

Özge Ersoy

Özge Ersoy is Executive Director of Asia Art Archive in Hong Kong, an independent nonprofit organisation dedicated to documenting and reimagining the recent histories of art in Asia. Her work spans institutional leadership and curatorial practice, drawing on experience across nonprofit art institutions, biennials, and cultural foundations in Hong Kong, Gwangju, Venice, Cairo, New York, and her hometown of Istanbul. She joined AAA in 2017 as Public Programs Lead and later served as Senior Curator before becoming Executive Director. Recent curatorial projects include In Our Own Backyard (2025) and Countering Time (2024) at AAA's library. Her writing on cultural institutions, archives, and contemporary art has appeared in multiple publications.

Prateek and Priyanka Raja

Prateek and Priyanka Raja are the co-founders of Experimenter (@experimenterkol). Along with a diverse team, they run an ambitious contemporary visual arts programme that incorporates their personal interests and long-term vision, reflecting a nuanced reflection of the current moment. They sit on several advisory and steering committees. Prateek is a founding member of the International Gallery Alliance (IGA) and a selection committee member of Art Basel, Basel, while Priyanka sits on the selection committee of Art Dubai. The Rajas are ardent supporters of creative endeavours, seek voices of dissent and dialogue in artistic practices and live and work between Kolkata and Mumbai, India.

Raki Nikahetiya

Raki Nikahetiya is an Austrian-Sri Lankan artist whose practice spans traditional craft, photography, painting, site-specific installations, and scientific methods. His work explores memory, migration and regeneration through socially and ecologically engaged practices. Before dedicating himself fully to art, Nikahetiya spent over a decade in international development, including roles with the United Nations and the Zoological Society of London, focusing on sustainable development and environmental conservation. He is the co-founder and director of the sā Ladakh Biennale, the world's highest-altitude regenerative art biennale, which brings together site-responsive artistic practices at the intersection of climate, culture, and community. The inaugural edition of sā Ladakh was held in August 2026.

Shanika Perera

Shanika Perera is Curator of Public Programmes at the Geoffrey Bawa Trust in Sri Lanka. She has delivered public programmes for Bawa 100 (2019-2022, Colombo, Bentota), To Lunuganga (2023-2024, Colombo and Bentota), and Geoffrey Bawa: It is Essential to be There (2022, Colombo; 2023, New Delhi). Since 2022, she has curated Open House Colombo, the only Open House Worldwide city in South Asia, engaging the public with Sri Lanka's architectural and creative contexts through talks, tours and workshops. From 2016 to 2022, she played a key role in producing multiple editions of the interdisciplinary contemporary art festival Colomboscope.

Thilini Perera

Thilini Perera is Director for Curatorial Affairs at the Geoffrey Bawa Trust in Sri Lanka. Bringing over 15 years of experience across design, exhibition-making, and cultural practice, she has played a central role in shaping how Bawa's work is researched, exhibited, and positioned within contemporary architectural discourse. She has conceived, designed, and delivered major exhibitions and publications that interpret Bawa's architectural and landscape legacy through the lenses of ecology, material culture, and spatial practice.

Sophia Sansoni and Vindhya Attygalle

Sophia Sansoni and Vindhya Attygalle represent the Barefoot Gallery, a Colombo-based platform for artists, musicians, poets and filmmakers. It began as the Colombo Gallery in 1966 in a building designed for Barbara Sansoni by architect Ulrik Plesner. That space closed in the early 1970's. Nazreen Sansoni reopened the doors in 1991 as 'Gallery 706 Colombo.' In a salon-like atmosphere, Gallery 706 hosted several exhibitions in the 1990s by artists such as Anoli Perera, Anoma Wijewardene, Chandraguptha Thenuwara, Jagath Weerasinghe, Kushan Majusri and Muhanned Cader. Since then, Barefoot Gallery has exhibited works by Channa Ekanayake, Druvinka Puri, Laki Senanayake, Mahen Chanmugum, Nelun Harasgama, Layla Gonaduwa, Thabendran Krishnapriya, Sanath Herath, Prasad Hettiarachchi, and more.

Stefan Winkler

Stefan Winkler, born in Mannheim, Germany, holds a Master in Middle Eastern Studies and German Studies from the University of Bamberg, completed the Arabic Language Program at the American University in Cairo and the Persian Language Program at the University of Tehran. In 1997-98 he was a fellow of the Robert Bosch Fellowship for International Affairs with a project in Iran. In 1998-2003 he worked as lecturer for the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) at the University of Aleppo/Syria. After a stint at the Foreign Office of Germany in Berlin he joined the Goethe-Institut in 2004 as Director Goethe-Institut Alexandria/Egypt. He has worked in different positions in Munich, Cairo and Karachi and was appointed Director Goethe-Institut Sri Lanka in Colombo on 1 November 2020. He concerns himself with cultural and intellectual discourses in the Middle East, South Asia, and beyond, but his main work is in cultural cooperation. Among the projects he initiated or supported in recent years was a mobility scheme for Arab countries, residency programs for artists in Pakistan, an exhibition 'Seeking Home. The Afghan Narrative of Displacement, Identity and Integration', a 'Film Talents' training program with participants from Sri Lanka and Pakistan, a bilingual theater performance in Kandy and Jaffna based on Heiner Müller.

V. Geetha

V. Geetha has been editorial director of Tara Books (Chennai, India) for over 30 years. A historian and translator, Geetha works closely with authors, illustrators and designers to see books through to press. She is a writer as well, and has worked with local as well as international artists and designers to create a number of Tara's experimental books, including visual texts for adults. Geetha's work includes whetting manuscripts, undertaking background research for books, and working closely with design and production. Tara Books is a creative collective of writers, designers and bookmakers, publishing illustrated books for children and adults. Tara has also won over 80 international awards, including the Bologna Ragazzi award for the Best Children's Publisher in Asia and the London Book Fair International Book Industry Excellence Award.

Zoe Bütt

Zoe Bütt is a curator, writer and educator. Her practice fosters historically conscious artistic communities, encouraging critical dialogue among cultures of the globalising souths. Possessing an extensive exhibition, publishing and public-speaking history globally, Zoe is the founding Artistic Director of deCentral, a forthcoming social enterprise for the arts in Thailand, founded by Central Group, opening in 2027. In 2022, Zoe founded 'in-tangible institute' in Thailand, a not-for-profit committed to mentoring the growth of locally responsive curatorial talent in Southeast Asia. She holds a PhD from Published Works, Center for Research and Education in Art and Media, University of Westminster. She has worked on projects with Kadist Art Foundation, Chulalongkorn University Bangkok, Factory Contemporary Arts Centre Ho Chi Minh, Long March Project Beijing, and Sharjah Biennial 14.

CODE OF CONDUCT

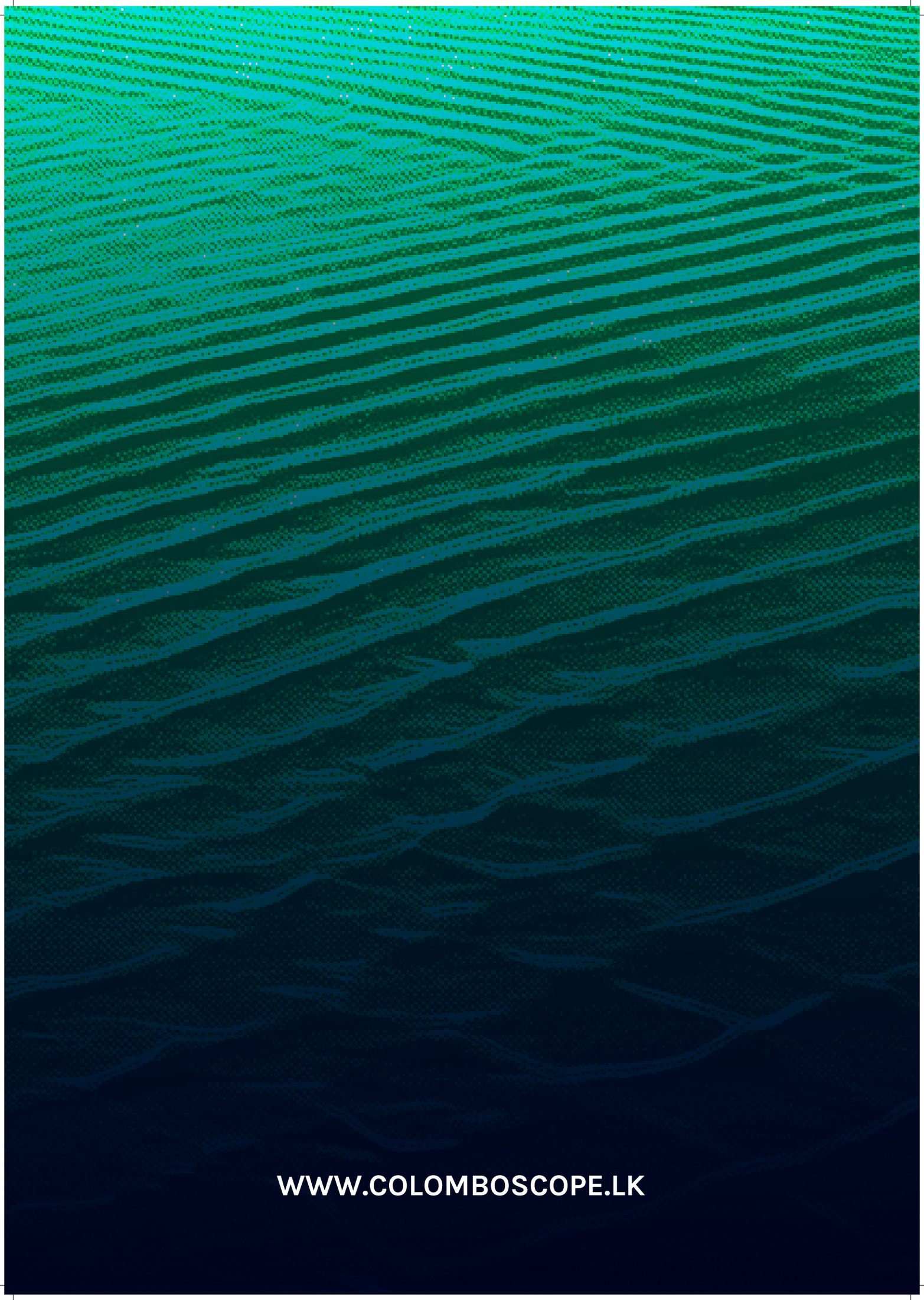
As you prepare to join us for the Crosscurrents cultural mentorship Programme led by Colomboscope in partnership with EUNIC Sri Lanka this year, we ask that you endorse this code of conduct to ensure a safe, respectful, and enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

Colomboscope is dedicated to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for all participants as well as for the local community that graciously hosts us.

The programme will not tolerate harassment, discrimination, or intimidation of any kind — whether physical, sexual, verbal, emotional or digital. This applies regardless of gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age, appearance, marital status, religion, ethnicity, ability or any other personal characteristic. All mentors and participants deserve to feel safe and respected at any time of day or night at all gatherings.

Should you witness any inappropriate behaviour, we ask that you do not remain a silent bystander. Offer support in the way that feels safest and notify a member of the team immediately who will be able to listen, provide assistance and intervene where necessary. Should Colomboscope be notified of inappropriate behaviour, we may revoke access and further engagement.

This code is not meant to restrict joy or creativity. It simply ensures that no one's experience comes at the expense of another's safety or dignity. Together, we can make Colomboscope a space of mutual respect, creative celebration, and community.


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