

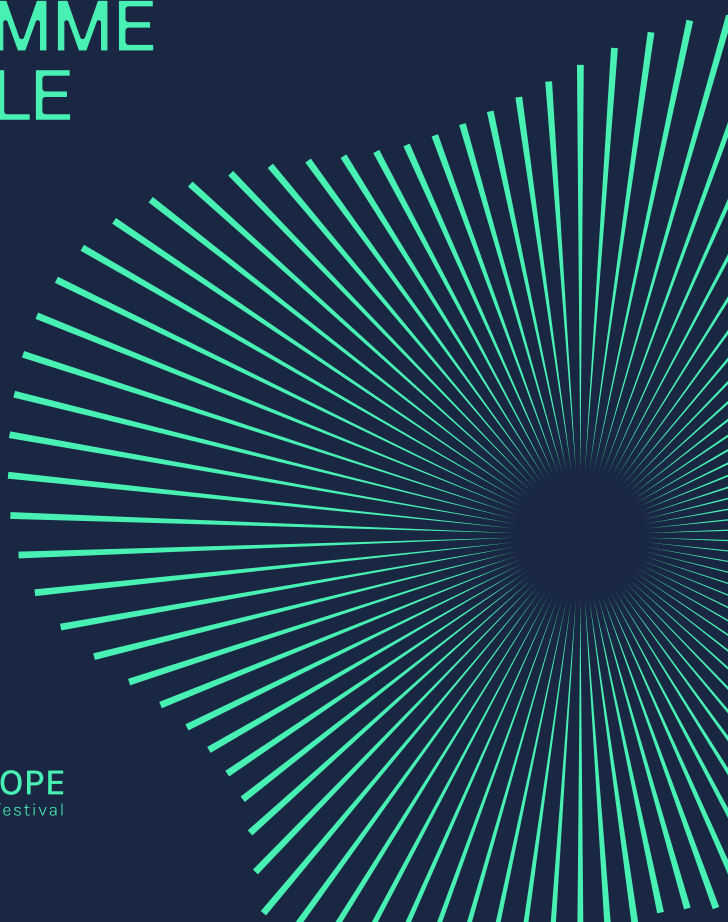
echoes and reverbs

PROGRAMME
SCHEDULE

RHYTHM
ALLIANCES



COLOMBOSCOPE
interdisciplinary arts festival



Thursday 22 January

3.00 pm – 3.30 pm

Curated Walk with Natasha Ginwala
at Soul Studio

3.30 pm – 4.00 pm

All Eyes Hear by Ayumi Paul
Performance at Soul Studio

In conjunction with her *Constellations* on view at Soul Studio, Ayumi Paul will offer insight into her methods of listening and composing—approaches that move beyond the acoustically perceptible and engage more subtle forms of resonance and attention. Grounded in her long-standing study of the capacity of all life forms to connect through sound, she has developed vocal practices that can be applied both in ceremonial contexts and in daily life. She will introduce selected exercises, and the gathering will conclude with a collective sound offering, inviting the audience to take part.

Supported by Goethe-Institut Sri Lanka

4.00 pm – 5.30 pm

As-Shams: A Journey Into the Sun by Atiyyah Khan
Listening Session at Soul Studio

As part of her ongoing sonic research tracing South African jazz histories, their creation and dissemination across the country and beyond, Atiyyah Khan will present a listening session on As-Shams ('The Sun'), the South African jazz label and its founder, Rashid Vally, whose work defied apartheid through sound, collaboration, and cultural exchange.

The session will examine how As-Shams emerged in the 1970s as the first South African label dedicated to Afrasian music, operating within severe restrictions on artistic production and interracial interaction. By contextualising As Shams within a vibrant jazz era shaped by an Indian immigrant community navigating apartheid's spatial and social boundaries, the session will highlight how listening and sounding functioned as political acts.

Limited capacity. Registration needed.

5.00 pm – 5.30 pm

Curated Walk with Hajra Haider Karrar
at Radicle Gallery

6.00 pm – 7.00 pm

F 'N' F (Face and Fingers) by Moe Satt
Performance at Radicle Gallery

Moe Satt is a Burmese visual and performance artist who explores identity, embodiment, and political resistance through his body as both subject and medium. His ongoing exploration of hand and facial gestures transforms anatomy into a language of quiet defiance, entangling tradition and empathy where movement becomes both expression and resistance. In this collaborative and participatory format, he will extend his embodied vocabulary with Sri Lankan performers Sangarappillai Priyasaravanan and Sneha Deshapriya.

Supported by Mondriaan Fonds and The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Thursday 22 January

7.00 pm – 8.00 pm

Reverberations of The Song of Ceylon

Film Screening at Rio Complex

A reimagined musical score for *The Song of Ceylon* (1934), Basil Wright's landmark documentary, this live performance at the Rio Cinema sets contemporary electronic music against the film's meticulously composed colonial gaze, placing modern sound in direct tension with images of early 20th-Century Ceylon: Kandyan drumming and dance by N. Ukkuva and R.W.G. Surambe, railway lines carving through mountains, plantation labour, coastal livelihoods, and cycles of ritual and festivity. Electronic musicians Asvajit Boyle and Nigel Perera, alongside several other musicians, respond to these scenes with a newly composed sonic landscape—one that resists illustration and instead introduces hints of friction, dissonance, and temporal rupture. Originally produced by John Grierson under the patronage of the Ceylon Tea Board, the film stands as a carefully constructed artefact of imperial observation and mercantile ambition. Nearly 90 years on, Walter Leigh's original score is displaced by contemporary electronic sound, allowing the images to be unsettled, re-read, and haunted—opening space for post-colonial reflection, sonic intervention, and the reclamation of presence.

*With special thanks to the
British Film Institute (BFI)*

8.00 pm – 9.00 pm

NooN Concert

Concert at Rio Complex

NooN led by musician, performer and educator Nuwan Gunawardhana initially formed as Neo Papara Collective, expanding Papara through new ideas and techniques while integrating compositional and performance tools from music genres ranging from jazz, big band to folk traditions. Papara (also known as Papare, Molam or Kawadi) is a popular Sri Lankan music genre shaped as a blend of South Indian, Portuguese, Dutch and British historical influences and characterized by the vibrant use of brass and percussion instruments. Summoning an atmosphere of energy, jubilation, and ceremony, Papara is frequently performed at sports events, weddings and religious processions. Nuwan's research and musical alliances with a range of bandmates and artists unleash a bold and celebratory act that enlivens this legacy genre in fresh directions.

Friday 23 January

10.00 am – 11.00 am

Curated Walk with Hajra Haider Karrar
at Colpetty Town House

4.00 pm – 5.00 pm

**Daira by Sarah Kazmi, Mariama Ndure,
and Nuwan Gunawardhana**
Performance at Colpetty Town House

The performance will activate the installation “Lisan-ul-Haq” (Tongue of Truth), drawing on the concepts of recipe, wonderment, and offering, weaving together celestial metaphors, shared rituals, and oral traditions passed down through forebears across three geographical terrains: Pakistan, Gambia, and Sri Lanka. Performed in multiple languages, it will explore the symbolic significance of the circle central to various spiritual ideologies and devotional practices, as both form and method. The experience will unfold through a circular rhythm of listening, layered and textured with organic food morsels, water, and instruments that serve both as vessels for the material and sonic, as well as physical and spiritual nourishment. All elements will be looped live, including oral recitation of recipes inherited from our mothers, resonant tones of instruments such as the kalabash and the conch shell, and text that moves between poetry and prose. Together, they create a multisensory, meditative score that blurs the boundaries between voice, ritual, memory, and the act of offering.

*Supported by the Office of Contemporary
Art (OCA) Norway and Arts Council Norway
(Kulturrådet)*

11.00 am – 11.30 pm

Curated Walk with Natasha Ginwala
at Barefoot Gallery

5.00 pm – 6.00 pm

Curated Walk with Pramodha Weerasekera
at Radicle Gallery

6.00 pm – 6.15 pm

**lahgo adil'i dine doo yeehosinilgii
yidaaghi by Raven Chacon**
performed by Musicmatters Ensemble
Concert at Musicmatters Soundroom

Raven Chacon's composition piece is inspired by experimental composer Cornelius Cardew's *Treatise*, but more so by Navajo and Pueblo iconographies, particularly the ancient petroglyphs carved in the volcanic rock on the west side of Albuquerque. It equally challenges listener expectations while inviting subjective forms of reading and interpretation by a group of musicians. An award-winning Indigenous composer and artist, Chacon activates Indigenous symbols and a Navajo title as an act of liberation, expansion and dissidence.

Friday 23 January

6.15 pm – 7.00 pm

Stuttering Music by Yara Asmar

Concert at Musicmatters Soundroom

Stuttering music is a live performance by Yara Asmar, a musician and artist who creates unique compositions using broken instruments, field recordings and deconstructed music boxes to sculpt delicate and enchanting lo-fi compositions. Rooted in her ongoing exploration of the social and acoustic legacies of Beirut, the performance delves into sound and memory through improvised electro-acoustic music for accordion and metallophone. Named after her third album, *Stuttering Music*, Asmar's work responds to her home city and unfolds through her resonant approach to contemporary experimental music.

Supported by 421 Arts Campus

6.30 pm – 8.00 pm

Artist Encounters: Basir Mahmood, Dinar Sultana, Nina Mangalanayagam, and Seher Shah

Moderated by Hajra Haider Karrar

at Barefoot Gallery

This session foregrounds the ongoing arc of artistic thinking and research shaping new creative projects in Rhythm Alliances. Artists Basir Mahmood, Dinar Sultana, Nina Mangalanayagam, and Seher Shah share distinct approaches to cinematic storytelling, personal historiography, literary inspirations and embodied vocabularies, emerging from different regions of South Asia and its diaspora.

8.30 pm – 9.30 pm

Harbour Performance

at Arka Kinari docked at Sail Lanka Pier

Subversive, immersive, and partially submerged, Arka Kinari transforms into a floating stage for a bespoke multimedia performance by Filastine & Nova, using music to sound the alarm for the climate crisis and cinematic visuals to imagine a post-carbon future. A strange ship has appeared on the waterfront, painted in evocative patterns, streaked with rust, and battered by storms. It came from a distant island somewhere in the Indo-Pacific, a place where rising seas have already made life on land impossible. As the sun dips below the horizon, a lone figure sings out to gather a crew and begin a voyage. Expressed through an otherworldly musical mix of traditional Javanese melodies, hypnotic polyrhythms and contemporary electronic beats by the musicians Filastine & Nova, Arka Kinari is at once peaceful and urgent, meditative yet menacing. It stands as both a warning of the coming storm and an invitation to sail into an alternative future. The Arka Kinari performance has been shared among audiences in the ports of more than 25 countries, from prestigious international festivals to remote stilt villages. Tonight, their performance marks the first engagement of Colomboscope with the contested extension to Colombo: Port City.

Supported by Goethe-Institut

Saturday 24 January

10.00 am – 11.00 am

Curated Walk with Pramodha Weerasekera and Ricarda Hommann
at Colpetty Town House

11.00 am – 12.00 pm

Curated Walk with Natasha Ginwala accompanied by artist Pinaree Sanpitak
at Barefoot Gallery

This conversation and special tour will focus on the pioneering Thai artist Pinaree Sanpitak, addressing elements of her conceptual practice as well as how it touches on communal labour and aesthetics of the hand-made, spiritual genealogies, hospitality, and Pan-Asian feminist philosophy.

10.00 am – 11:30 am

Laboratory of Sustainability 1
Workshop at Arka Kinari

A ship is the world in a microcosmos. But how can we sustain life in a tiny floating world? For the Laboratory of Sustainability and the Sea, visitors are welcomed on a guided tour onboard Arka Kinari to peek behind the curtain. Together with the crew, visitors will learn how Arka Kinari travels on the wind, makes electricity from the sun, desalinates water, manages food, and reduces waste. Some of these solutions can be scaled up for life on spaceship Earth. In fact, the future demands it.

Limited capacity. Registration needed.

12.30 pm – 2.00 pm

Reception and Exhibition Tour, Plucking the Stars I நட்சத்திரங்களை பறித்தல் **with Arulraj Ulaganathan**
Partner Event at Curado Art Space

This solo exhibition by Arulraj Ulaganathan evolves new suites of artistic work engaging with biographical and social narratives around colonial legacies of the hill country, economic and ecological extractivism evidenced in daily experiences of plantation labour across tea estates. The artist hones in on communal perspectives of Malaiyaha Tamils through kin and neighbours, visualizes historical and current encounters of political neglect, suspended belonging, and dispossession. The tea plant is treated as material and symbolic capital networked into generational experience, forced movement, global trade and national power. Driven through emotional cartography, record keeping, and a surrealist space of drawing, Arulraj expands from his earlier series exhibited at the eighth edition of Colomboscope, Way of the Forest.

3.00 pm – 3.30 pm

Curated Walk with Hajra Haider Karrar
at Radicle Gallery

4.00 pm – 5.30 pm

Laboratory of Sustainability 2
Workshop at Arka Kinari

Limited capacity. Registration needed.

Saturday 24 January

4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

**Satellite Sick/ Returning Sounds:
Spoken Word Poetry Workshop with
Tashyana Handy and Sakina Aliakbar
at Radicle Gallery**

In this workshop, participants will explore how language moves through the body, breaking apart, reshaping, and returning as sound with Handy and Aliakbar. Paying close attention to sensory detail and collaborative experimentation, the session will encourage writing from instinct, discovering subtle frequencies, textures, and interruptions that shape how we read, speak, and hear. Together, everyone will experiment with performance and the art of shaping spoken work. This workshop is open to anyone curious about the intersections of language, the body, and sound, and to those eager to explore the many ways a poem can come into being.

**Limited capacity. Registration needed.
No previous experience in writing or public
speaking needed.**

4:00 pm

Echoes of the Kankariya
Concert at Musicmatters Soundroom

Leading percussionist, music educator and ethnomusicologist Sumudi Suraweera with master musician Susantha Rupathilaka enter a new chapter of enduring innovative study and music composition inspired by the Kohomba Kankariya ritual performed to invoke devotional blessings and protection from deities, originating in the Kandyan Kingdom. This new live act will incorporate contemporary elements influenced by jazz, electro-acoustic sonic textures, and multi-instrumental improvisation woven together with traditional Sri Lankan harmonics.

5:30 pm

**Dum, Tak, Tak, Dum, Tak, S
by Imaad Majeed**

Performance at Rio Complex

In *Dum, Tak, Tak, Dum, Tak, S* Imaad Majeed turns to the percussive heart of Sri Lanka's Sufi traditions. Drawing from a growing archive of devotional recordings as part of the KANNOORU project, the performance listens closely to the drums that carry these lineages: the daf or tambourine among the Rifai, the darbuka among the Naqshbandhi, and the tabla among the Mufliseen. Informed by conversations with Sufi practitioners, Majeed explores how each instrument shapes distinct rhythmic sensibilities of devotion. The performance reconsiders the archive not as a static repository, but as a living percussive field: one that continues to move, vibrate, and rupture. Majeed invites us to listen closely to the archive and its reinterpretation, tracing how devotion and electronic music technology can find common time.

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

**Artist Encounters with Kaimurai,
Sabeen Omar, Jovita Alvares, and Mekh
Limbu with Priyankar Chand**
Moderated by Pramodha Weerasekera
at Barefoot Gallery

This session foregrounds the artistic thinking and research shaping new creative projects in Rhythm Alliances. Artists Kaimurai (Abishek Ganesh Jayashree), Sabeen Omar, Jovita Alvares, and Mekh Limbu with Priyankar Chand speak to Pramodha Weerasekera about their aesthetic methods, cultural approaches to kinship and familial memory as well as Indigenous activism. Each artist develops a personal take on acoustic and textile elements in their artworks, conceiving sensory environments and shared experiences.

Saturday 24 January

7.30 pm

Melodies in My Head:

Thomas Burkhalter and Daniel Jakob

Performance at Rio Complex

Melodies In My Head tells stories of what it means to be an artist today, through an intriguing and emotionally charged experimental format. This 60-minute audiovisual journey evokes joy, anger, trauma and doubt—offering both an emotional escape and a raw confrontation with the pressing truths of our time. Formed by anthropologist and audiovisual performer Thomas Burkhalter (founder of Norient) and musician/producer Daniel Jakob (Dubokaj, Dejoj, Filewile), the duo dives into the lived and imagined experiences of artists from Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and Switzerland. Some lyrics stem from 15 years of ethnographic interviews, others from fictional characters. The sound blends pop, underground club music, kitsch, and trash.

Supported by Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia

Sunday 25 January

10.00 am – 10.30 am

Curated Walk with Pramodha Weerasekera

at Colpetty Town House

11.00 pm – 5.00 pm

Marine Intersections

& Coastlines as Webs

Convening, dialogues, performance workshop and walk at Radicle Gallery

Organized by TBA21 and Colomboscope as part of 'The Current V: Ancestral Ocean' an initiative by TBA21-Academy, curated by Natasha Ginwala

The inaugural convening of The Current V: Ancestral Ocean is a coming together of artists, Indian Ocean thinkers, as well as conservationists, dynamically engaged in the historical crossings, Afrasian cultural confluences and maritime stories formed and held in these waters. The Current V: Ancestral Ocean is set to cultivate site-responsive artistic and conservation practices across island and coastal nodes, fostering situated learning and creative exchange. Supporting engagements within culturally rooted contexts that encourage slow, conscious mobility and deep listening, the programme aims to cultivate long-term relationships across the Indian Ocean basin, expanding TBA21's long-standing commitment to pan-oceanic alliances.

For the full programme between 25–27 January at venues Radicle Gallery, MusicMatters, Soul Studio and other sites, check the Colomboscope website or TBA21 via this QR code:



Sunday 25 January

1.00 pm - 2:00 pm

**Curated Walk with Ricarda Hommann
and Mandira Ranatunga**

at Radicle Gallery

11.00 am – 11.30 am

All Eyes Hear by Ayumi Paul

Performance at Soul Studio

In conjunction with her *Constellations* on view at Soul Studio, Ayumi Paul will offer insight into her methods of listening and composing—approaches that move beyond the acoustically perceptible and engage more subtle forms of resonance and attention. Grounded in her long-standing study of the capacity of all life forms to connect through sound, she has developed vocal practices that can be applied in ceremonial contexts as well as in daily life. She will introduce selected exercises, and the gathering will conclude with a collective sound offering, inviting the audience to participate.

Supported by Goethe-Institut Sri Lanka

11.30 am – 1.00 pm

Laut Loud by Arka Kinari

Listening Session at Soul Studio

On each sailing season, the crew of Arka Kinari collaborates with local curators and filmmakers to archive rare and disappearing musics and music-driven rituals from barely charted ports across the Nusantara archipelago. Ranging from politically-controversial traditional dances to avant-garde underground raves, they reposition these sounds on performances atop the sea and amplify hyper-local expressions of sound in a free online archive. Enter the vinyl library of Soul Studio, a space designed for listening, and let Laut Loud curator Raka Ibrahim take you on a sonic journey along coastal communities of the archipelagos.

Limited capacity. Registration needed.

Supported by Goethe-Institut

5.00 pm – 6.00 pm

Guided Tour by Sign Network LK

at Colpetty Town House

Join the team members of Colomboscope's long-term collaborators, Sign Network LK, an organisation fostering awareness, understanding, and supporting individuals with hearing impairments. In this tour, the network members will use sign language to describe and engage with the artistic projects and ideas on view.

Sunday 25 January

4.00 pm – 5.30 pm

Pirate Strategies: Reclaiming Our World with Grey Filasteen, Nova Ruth, initiators of the Arka Kinari, Thomas Burkhalter, founder of the decolonial music network Norient, and Asvajit Boyle

Moderated by Sumugan Sivanesan
Conversation at Rio Complex

A conversation between Grey Filasteen, Nova Ruth, initiators of the Arka Kinari, Thomas Burkhalter, founder of the decolonial music network Norient, and Asvajit Boyle, the driving force behind Pettah Interchange and SNAFU among other initiatives, about tips and tricks on how to redefine the norms of festival making, touring, music production and living.

Limited capacity. Registration needed.

Supported by Goethe-Institut Sri Lanka and Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia

9.00 pm

Just Wanna Live Some by Perera Elsewhere

Concert at Liberty by Scope Cinemas

Perera Elsewhere (aka Sasha Perera) is a Berlin-based, UK-raised, Sri Lankan-rooted electronic artist, producer, DJ, lyricist, and trumpeter known for a genre-defying sound spanning experimental pop, dub, rap, and her self-described “doom folk”. Her 2025 album *Just Wanna Live Some* balances raw emotion, poetic lyricism, and bass-driven atmospheres. Despite her anti-genre approach, her music remains deeply human. In 2011, she first performed in Sri Lanka with Jahcoozi, presented by the Goethe-Institut and Bang Bang, in a legendary Mount Lavinia beach concert during a cyclonic storm.

Supported by Goethe-Institut

Monday 26 January

3.00 pm – 5.00 pm

Rotations of Bismillah by Atiyyah Khan

Listening Session/Workshop at Soul Studio

A part-listening session, part-workshop around the creation of ‘Bismillah’, an award-winning 2019 zine created by South African sound scholar and DJ Atiyyah Khan, accompanied and inspired by Sufi sonics, field recordings, and library records from Africa. This workshop will include a breakdown of DIY methods behind the creation of the zine, using sound and visual materials. It will also reflect on her ongoing research of Islamic practices in Africa, where music has been an integral part of rituals and spiritual cosmology; examining colonial legacies of field recordings, understanding digging as an archival practice, but also visually decentralising what we mean when we speak of the continent by embracing oceanic and acoustic currents.

Listen to this mix via the QR code for the best experience of the event:



Within the framework of Marine Intersections and Coastlines as Webs Convening organised by TBA21-Academy and Colomboscope as part of Current V: Ancestral Ocean

Limited capacity. Registration needed.

Monday 26 January

6 pm – 7 pm

L25 by KMRU

Performance at Musicmatters Soundroom

L25 functions as an études of space and time. It is a speculative sonic journal of social architectures and environments transversed throughout 2025 from Indian Ocean archipelagos to Highlands in Oceania and beyond. The performance unfolds between live improvisation, modulating textures, drone and field recordings. Sonic passages here are arguably abstracted in ways that exceed a mode of representation that cannot be grasped immediately; as a wilful tool for obscurity.

Within the framework of Marine Intersections and Coastlines as Webs Convening organised by TBA21-Academy and Colomboscope as part of Current V: Ancestral Ocean

8.00 pm – 9.00 pm

My Sound My Journey

by Wael Sami Elkholy

Concert Musicmatters Soundroom

Wael Sami Elkholy is a composer, singer and performer. His work reflects a personal journey of awakening and cross-border movement, unfolding through oud, voice and electronic sound. In his oeuvre, tonalities range from melancholic to rebellious, shaped by diverse tonal worlds and rhythmic sensibilities rooted in wide-ranging cultural influences. Through an interplay of composed and improvised elements, his performances plot immersive sonic narratives exploring identity, movement, and transformation.

Supported by Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia

9.30 pm – 11 pm

Rhythm Kino

Film Screening at Liberty by Scope Cinemas

Sudan, Remember Us (2025)

Directed and written by Hind Meddeb
2025 | 78 mins | English, Arabic

Sudan, Remember Us portrays a young generation of Sudanese who turned poetry into revolution. Through words, chants, and dreams, they rose against decades of dictatorship, confronting a corrupt military and militias guilty of war crimes. The film combines personal stories with the urgency of a country in turmoil, capturing moments of a poetic revolution where imagination becomes resistance and freedom begins with the power of the voice.

Tuesday 27 January

10 am – 11.30 am and 4.00 pm – 5.30 pm

Laboratory of Sustainability 3

Workshop at Arka Kinari

Limited capacity. Registration needed.

5.00 pm – 6.00 pm

Observing Omens Drawn by Lightning by Zarina Muhammad

Performance at Barefoot Gallery

Observing Omens Drawn by Lightning is a new, iterative live work unfolding through breath, sound, gesture, and mythic embodiment. Rooted in shared fieldwork and reciprocal making, the performance centres on the co-creation of masks as spirit interfaces, as objects that mediate between human and elemental, ancestral and ecological worlds. Drawing from healing and protective traditions, these masks will emerge through collective experimentation rather than formal choreography. The performance will take place adjacent to Muhammad's installation, offering a quiet terrain of rest and resonance, a space composed of scent bowls, textiles, sound-producing objects, and ephemeral materials that shift and respond over time.

Muhammad will be joined by collaborators Hanaa Cassim, Malith Upendra, Sarita Abeysondere, and Sneha Deshapriya.

*Supported by the National Arts Council
Singapore (NAC)*

6.00 pm – 6.30 pm

Curated Walk with Hajra Haider Karrar at Radicle Gallery

2.00 pm – 5.00 pm

Reverb of Memory: Listening as An Archive

Listening Session/Workshop at CoCA Symbiosis

Reverb of Memory transforms the CoCA Symbiosis Listening Room, crafted entirely from reclaimed and donated materials, into a participatory archive of sound, memory, and material. Drawing from vintage Sinhala songs from the 1950s to 1980s on vinyl and cassette, the listening session invites participants to listen together, bring objects or garments imbued with personal sound memory, and share their stories. The Listening Room's bespoke sound system accommodates multiple sources, including vinyl, cassette, and live contributions, enabling a seamless interplay between recorded and participant-generated sound. Through these shared acts of listening and offering, Reverb of Memory enacts a rhythm of collective memory, forging alliances between individual and communal soundscapes. Contributions may remain in the CoCA archive, creating a living repository that continues to evolve beyond the festival.

Limited capacity. Registration needed.

Tuesday 27 January

3.00 pm – 5.00 pm

Storytelling and Game Development with Chamindika Abeysinghe and Mahesha Kariyapperuma

Workshop at Radicle Gallery

Artists Chamindika Abeysinghe and Mahesha Kariyapperuma delve into game development as storytelling and building alternative worlds with unique characters, landscapes, and narrative arcs. In this workshop, participants will be exposed to various methods in which they can begin visualising a digital or analogue game based on a subject they enjoy.

Recommended for teenagers/young adults aged 13 to 18. Limited capacity. Registration needed. No previous experience in game design needed.

6.00 pm

Bread Modular

Performance at Musicmatters Soundroom

Bread Modular is a modular synthesiser platform built from the ground up, designed and assembled in Sri Lanka. Traditionally, modular systems are extremely capable but also expensive and bulky. Bread Modular takes a minimalistic approach that makes it portable and affordable, while still introducing modern features. It is fully open source, including schematics, design files, software, and even part sourcing. In this performance, they will show what is possible with Bread Modular for creating soundscapes, live techno and real-time 3D visualizations.

9.30 pm – 10.30 pm

RHYTHM KINO

Film Screening at Liberty by Scope

The Silk Road of Pop

Directed by Sameer Farooq and Ursula Engel | 2012 | 53 min | English, Uyghur, Chinese

The Silk Road of Pop takes viewers deep into the heart of Xinjiang, where the Uyghur Muslim minority uses music as a form of identity and resistance. Through the story of Ay, a young Uyghur woman torn between tradition and modern life, the film reveals a dynamic underground scene where hip-hop, heavy metal, and ancient folk melodies collide. Set against a backdrop of cultural repression and rapid change, the documentary captures how music becomes both a refuge and a voice for a generation striving to be heard.

Wednesday 28 January

10.00 am – 11.30 am

Laboratory of Sustainability 4

Workshop at Arka Kinari

Limited capacity. Registration needed.

3.00 pm – 4.30 pm

PARAMPARA:

**From generation to generation
a collaboration between the Chitrasena
Dance Company and reVerb Collective**
Performance at Kamatha (BMICH)

Limited capacity, Registration needed.

7.00 pm – 8.30 pm

PARAMPARA:

**From generation to generation
a collaboration between the Chitrasena
Dance Company and reVerb Collective**
Performance at Kamatha (BMICH)

PARAMPARA—‘from generation to generation’ in Sinhala—portrays three generations of female professional dancers who, despite social and political obstacles, developed and upheld a traditionally male-centric ritual dance form through the island’s turbulent post-independence history. In an immersive video installation with live dance, archival material from three generations of the Chitrasena family is overlaid with imagery from the rapidly changing present, set against the backdrop of Sri Lanka’s political and economic shifts across three distinct eras. The dancer’s body and the rhythm of the drum, fed by a millennia-old form, combine as a moment of resistance. What is the future of the dance?

Limited capacity, Registration needed.

*Supported by the International Coproduction
Fund of the Goethe-Institut*

7.00 pm – 9.00 pm

**Colomboscope x Barefoot Garden Cafe's
Pub Quiz with Quizmaster Lihan Mendis**
Quiz and Gathering at Barefoot Gallery

The Pub Quiz at the iconic Barefoot Garden Cafe adjacent to the gallery is a whimsical bi-monthly affair that features trivia-based rounds covering a range of topics, including current affairs, art, music, pop culture, science and very obscure areas of interest to quizmaster Lihan Mendis. This special pub quiz will include an additional round dedicated to Rhythm Alliances!

Limited Capacity. Registration needed

(Group participation preferred).

Dinner and drinks for purchase from the cafe.

6.00 pm

Curated Walk with Hajra Haider Karrar
at Rio Complex

7.00 pm

**Pluriversal Interstitia_Interfluid
Localities by Houïda**

Performance at Rio Complex

Pluriversal Interstitia_Interfluid Localities is a transdisciplinary, immersive performance that explores pluriversal localities, memory work, entangled temporality, and cultural frequency through collected, imagined, and recorded sound, an expanded notion of language and memorized movements while also delving into quantum field theory. Inspired by the concept of ‘pluralistic realism’—the idea that the world is both one and many, unfinished and yet to become—this performance positions the Mediterranean Sea as a space of coexisting realities.

Wednesday 28 January

8.00 pm

Dizzi Geetha Live Set

Performance at *Rio Complex*

Through layered compositions with acoustic and electronic instruments, Dizzi Geetha will create powerful soundscapes weaving together Dub, Asian influences, African Tech, Psytrance, and nature sounds. As a creator, producer, multi-instrumentalist, theatre maker, DJ and ceremonial facilitator from Sri Lanka, based in the Netherlands, Dizzi Geetha's work is largely shaped by their love for ecology as well as their history of displacement and finding roots through sonic place-making. Their work is rooted in building sonic journeys informed by contexts of healing, energetic transformation, and re-connection with a planetary pulse.

9.30 pm – 11.00 pm

RHYTHM KINO

Film Screening at Liberty by Scope

Electro Chaabi

Directed and Written by Hind Meddeb
2013 | 77 mins | Arabic w/ English subtitles

Electro Chaabi plunges into the vibrant, chaotic streets of Cairo, where a new musical revolution is unfolding. Blending folk melodies, electronic beats, and rap-style chants, this raw and energetic genre gives voice to Egypt's disillusioned youth. Born from street parties and wedding celebrations, Electro Chaabi channels frustration, rebellion, and joy into a pulsing sound that defies social and religious taboos. Director Hind Meddeb captures this underground movement with the same passion that Buena Vista Social Club brought to Cuba, revealing a generation dancing its way to freedom.

Thursday 29 January

10.00 am – 10.00 pm

Weather Reports: Sounding Sri Lanka's Climate Across Diaspora and Homeland

Talks, workshops, skill-sharing, zine-making, collaborative creations, and performances at Barefoot Gallery

Weather Reports: Sounding Sri Lanka's Climate Across Diaspora and Homeland is a collaborative trilingual sound and performance project bringing together Sri Lankan artists from both the island and the UK diaspora, creatively responding to climate change in Sri Lanka. At the conclusion of a 10-day creative residency, it has brought together ten Sri Lankan artists: Imaad Majeed, Mayun Kaluthantri, Tashyana Handy, Dinoj M, SajaS, Toulip Wonder, Suren Seneviratne, Kavitha Balasingham, Ushara, and Seth De Silva, for a programme of talks, workshops, skill-sharing, zine-making, collaborative creation and performances. The programme will also include guest talks and workshops by Shayna Fonseka, Anousha Payne and Deepthi Wickramasinghe, with further guest contributors to be announced.

This project is supported by the British Council's Connections Through Culture Grant, KACHA KACHA, DreamSpace Records, Colomboscope, and the AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership scheme. It was developed by Toulip Wonder and Imaad Majeed, with support from Suren Seneviratne.

Thursday 29 January

3.00 pm – 4.30 pm

PARAMPARA:

**From generation to generation
a collaboration between the Chitrasena
Dance Company and reVerb Collective**
Performance at Kamatha (BMICH)

7.00 pm – 8.30 pm

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Limited capacity. Registration needed.

*Supported by the International Coproduction
Fund of the Goethe-Institut*

7.00 pm – 8.00 pm

Cosmogony by Mawongany

Performance at Musicmatters Soundroom

Blending èlè heritage with contemporary digital arts, Martinican artist Mawongany will present an immersive musical performance, Cosmogony. Through sound, ritual, and futurist storytelling, it imagines humanity's rebirth as mycelium to journey toward a new world. Mawongany engages in sonic expression and collective pedagogies especially resonant in Caribbean ancestral knowledge, particularly the Bèlè rhythmic tradition and the communal agricultural tradition of Lasotè, to explore decolonial ecologies and resistance. He has founded Permactivie, an association based in Fonds Saint-Denis, focused on youth learning initiatives, agronomy, ethical principles of permaculture and artistic practice through the values of koudmen—mutual aid, earth care, and

collective abundance. Through a long-term partnership with the Spore Initiative in Berlin, Mawongany is part of the collective project Welto and the Sacred Bush—Learning from Caribbean gardens.

*In partnership with and
supported by Spore Initiative*

9.30 – 11.30 pm

RHYTHM KINO

Film Screening at Liberty by Scope

GROWTHesque

Kehelmala Studios

2022 | 45 mins | English

GROWTHesque is a cinematic rendition of a solo play depicting a Sri Lankan teenager's coming of age during the 2022 economic crisis in the country. The play combines political commentary, comedy, fusion songs, dance, and memorable character sketches into a 45-minute rollercoaster ride through its protagonist's lived experience. GROWTHesque debuted as The One TEEN Show at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August 2022. It was rechristened and staged in November 2022 at the world's largest solo play festival, United Solo, in New York City, where Singhage won the award for Best Emerging Actor.

Kehelmala is a creative film studio that seeks to inspire and sustain audiences through impactful storytelling that pushes past boundaries, embraces diversity, and provokes thought.

Written and performed by Leeth Singhage
Dramaturgy and produced by Nishantha de Silva and Kehelmala Studios.

Thursday 29 January

Unplugged

Directed by Mladen Kovacevic

2013 | 52 mins | Serbian, English, French
with English subtitles

In the forests of Serbia, Josip, Vera, and Petar transform leaves into musical instruments, exploring the subtle melodies hidden in nature. From whistling and flute-like tones to coaxing sounds from supermarket plastic, their passion turns everyday objects into music. *Unplugged* is a gentle, intimate documentary that celebrates the quiet harmony between humans and the natural world, capturing the art, curiosity, and dedication of these leaf virtuosos.

Cinematography: Pablo Ferro | Sound: Aleksandar Protic | Editing: Natasa Damjanovic | Music: Nemanja Mosurovic
Production: Horopter Film Production, Helmi Films | Distributor: Taskovski Films Ltd.

Friday 30 January

2.00 pm – 5.00 pm

Reverb of Memory: Listening as Archive

*Listening Session and Workshop
at CoCA Symbiosis*

Reverb of Memory transforms the CoCA Symbiosis Listening Room, crafted entirely from reclaimed and donated materials, into a participatory archive of sound, memory, and material. Drawing from vintage Sinhala songs from the 1950s to 1980s on vinyl and cassette, the listening session invites participants to listen together, bring objects or garments imbued with personal sound memory, and share their stories. The Listening Room's bespoke sound system accommodates multiple sources, including vinyl, cassette, and live contributions, enabling a seamless interplay between recorded and participant-generated sound. Through these shared acts of listening and offering, Reverb of Memory enacts a rhythm of collective memory, forging alliances between individual and communal soundscapes. Contributions may remain in the CoCA archive, creating a living repository that continues to evolve beyond the festival.

Limited capacity. Registration needed.

Friday 30 January

3.00 pm – 5.00 pm

Stories of Marine Species: Claymaking With Tissa de Alwis

Workshop at Soul Studio

In this special workshop designed for children, sculptor Tissa de Alwis infuses wonderment and curiosity around marine species endemic to Sri Lanka's waters as well as endangered ocean life.

This workshop will be hands-on, involving plasticine clay to build scenes and lively characters.

Recommended for children aged 8 - 12.

Limited capacity. Registration needed.

5.00 pm – 10.00 pm

Matri-Anarchy: Stomping Sisters

at Rio Complex

As the festival tempo soon rounds off, gathering for an evening of dance grooves and 'Matri-Anarchy' with selectors across generations arriving together for a first ever session of funky basslines, trip-hop, and femme heavy electronica from Mother Perera and Sunara to Kaftan and Kahli Selecta.

5.00 pm

Weathering Grounds

Follow MeshGround and Colomboscope social media and websites for updates.

Weathering Grounds is a choreographic research residency led by MeshGround, supported by the British Council's Connections Through Culture Programme, and developed in collaboration with ClimArts and Alleyne Dance, working with artists across Sri Lanka grounded in dance and movement.

Rooted in choreographic research, embodied practice, and climate justice inquiry, the residency engages rhythm as duration - through slowness, repetition, endurance, and cycles of care and collapse — responding to lived ecological and social precarity.

This informal gathering offers a glimpse into ongoing research and movement explorations emerging through the residency. It is not a performance, but an open moment of witnessing process,

Saturday 31 January

10.00 am - 11:00 am

Curated Walk with Hajra Haider Karrar
at Colpetty Town House

12.00 pm - 1:00 pm

Curated Walk with Ricarda Hommann
at Barefoot Gallery

2.00 pm

**Curated Walk with
Pramodha Weerasekera**
at Radicle Gallery

4.00 pm - 6.00 pm

It's a Universal Musical Struggle

A procession of sound makers, performers, cultural workers across Colombo from Town Hall in Cinnamon Gardens through the neighbourhood of Kompannavidiya (Slave Island) towards the former 'agitation site' by the Galle Face Green, this cultural parade of blending genres, styles and movements reclaims public space for a moment of united celebration and together rounding up the festival cycle through rebellious and celebratory Rhythm Alliances.

Visitor Information

FESTIVAL DATES

21 - 31 January 2026

Colomboscope venues for exhibitions and events are free and open to the public. Some events require prior registration.

EXHIBITION VENUES

These venues are open from 10 am - 7 pm during the festival period.

Barefoot Gallery

704 Galle Road, Colombo 4

*This venue is wheelchair accessible.
Parking available.*

Colpetty Townhouse

355 R A De Mel Mawatha, Colombo 3

*Part of this venue is wheelchair accessible.
Limited street parking / hired ride preferable.*

Radicle Gallery

De Mel building, Chatham St. Colombo 3

*Part of this venue is wheelchair accessible.
Parking available.*

Rio Complex

60 Kumaran Ratnam Road, Colombo 2

This venue is semi abandoned, entry at your own risk. Limited street parking / hired ride preferable.

Soul Studio

22 Buthgamuwa Road Rajagiriya

*This venue is wheelchair accessible.
Parking available next to the Asiri Medical Lab.*

ECHOES & REVERBS

These venues will be open during specific times for events. For more information, please refer to the printed handout and festival website.

Kamatha at BMICH

Buddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7

*This venue is wheelchair accessible.
Parking available.*

Liberty by Scope Cinemas

35 Srimath Anagarika Dharmapala Mawatha, Colombo 3

*This venue is wheelchair accessible.
Parking available.*

Musicmatters

141/6A Vauxhall Street, Colombo 2

*This venue is wheelchair accessible.
Street parking available.*

CoCA Arts/Symbiosis

33 Gothami Road, Colombo 8

*Part of this venue is wheelchair accessible.
Street parking available.*

Arka Kinari

Sail Lanka Pier, Port City





COLOMBOSCOPE

interdisciplinary arts festival