

Tradition/Transformation? Craft, Practise and Discourse

10 - 12 May 2018

An Interdisciplinary and Trilingual Conference on Craft

DAY 1– Jaffna Public Library Auditorium

10 May 2018, 3.00–5.00pm

Inauguration: 3.00pm

KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Anaïs Da Fonseca - Tate Research Centre: Asia, London

'Transformation at the Heart of Tradition: A History of the Institutionalisation of Craft in South Asia'

Prof. Vijaya Ramaswamy - Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

'Vishwakarma Craftsmen, Guilds and Caste Issues in Pre-Colonial South India'

DAY 2–Faculty of Post Graduate Studies, University of Jaffna

11 May 2018, 9am–6pm

Registration: 8.30am

SESSION 1: Casting Craft

9.00am–11.00am

Chair: Prof. Vijaya Ramaswamy, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

1. 'The Ethnicisation of Kammalas as Vishwakarmas', Premjish, Curator, Writer and Translator, New Delhi
2. 'Dyed and Painted Cotton Fabrics from Sri Lanka, in Particular from Jaffna', Ebelkje Hartkamp-Jonxis, Textile Curator, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam
3. 'Surveying Lankan Chintz: Slavery, Aesthetics and Textile Production in Colonial Jaffna', Mark E. Balmforth, Columbia University
4. 'Identify/Erasure: Textile Weaving and Changing Caste Identities in Jaffna' (Tamil), Kirubalini Steven, Department of Fine Arts, University of Jaffna

Tea: 11.00–11.30am

SESSION 2: Mediated Craft: The State and Tourism

11.30am–1.30pm

Chair: Prof. Krishnaverny Norbert, Department of Fine Arts, University of Jaffna

1. 'The Making of the "Miniature Painting" as National Craft Heritage', Varunika Saraf,

Jawaharlal University, New Delhi

2. 'Tradition or Change: Craft and State Patronage in Sri Lanka' (Tamil), S. Sivagaran, National Craft Council
3. 'Changing Geographies of "Thanjavur Bronzes"', C.P. Krishnapriya, Artist, Curator, Chennai
4. 'From Ritual to Object: On Pilimathalawa Bronze Industry and Tourism', (Tamil), Subani Rajalingam, University of Jaffna

Lunch: 1.30–2.30pm

SESSION 3: Modernity, Craft and Identity

2.30–4.30pm

Chair: Prof. Jagath Weerasinghe, Artist and Professor, Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology

1. 'The Role of the Craft Designer in an Emerging South Asian Country', Ninel Fernando, Textile designer and Visiting Lecturer, University of Moratuwa, Faculty of Architecture, Department of Design in Traditional Arts and Crafts and Textile Design
2. 'New Methods for the Old? Modern Architecture, Craft and the Labors of Minnette De Silva', Dr Anooradha Iyer Siddiqi, Harvard University
3. 'The Transformation of God: Temple Wood Carvers and New Modes of Production', Dr. Francesca Bremner, Montclair State University
4. 'The Modern Utility of the Traditional Knowledge of Bulrush (*Pan*) Industry: The Study of Conventional Knowledge in the "Pannam Katura", Through the Bulrush Industry of the Dambadrure in Seeduwa (Sinhala)', U. D. R. Shehan Thilakarathna, Department of Archeology, University of Peradeniya

Tea: 4.30pm

5.00–6.00 pm

Visit to traditional woodcarvers' village, Thirunelveli

DAY 3–Faculty of Post Graduate Studies, University of Jaffna 12 May 2018, 9am–5pm

SESSION 4: Designs, Materials, Metaphors

9.00–11.00am

Chair: Dr Malathi de Alwis, Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo

1. 'The Ground of Wetness through The Practice of Muslin Weaving: Bengali People did not Settle they Wove', Labib Hossain, Cornell University
2. 'An Analysis of Traditional Mask Designs in Sri Lanka' (Sinhala), Chalana Thilakarathna, Department of Integrated Design, Faculty of Architecture, University of Moratuwa
3. 'Tradition and Change: A Reading of Jewellery Designs in Jaffna' (Tamil), Safna Iqbal, Department of Fine Arts, University of Jaffna
4. 'Gender Attributes of Vernacular Earthenware: A Study of the Relationship between *Kalaya* and Gender Biased References', Bhagya M. Nakandala, Department of Integrated Design, Faculty of Architecture, University of Moratuwa
5. 'Karnatic Thavil and the Kandyan Drum', Srilal Perera, Basnayake Nilame of

Kadadora Purana Pattini Devale, Ruwanwella

Tea: 11.00–11.30pm

SESSION 5: Stitched Histories and Handmade Stories

11.30–1.30 pm

Chair: Dr. Ayesha Abdur-Rahman, Art Historian, Founder Lanka Decorative Arts

1. 'The Material Edge - Looking for the Poetry in Craftsmanship', Cresside Collette, Textile weaver, artist and educator, Melbourne
2. 'A Socio-economic Analysis of Kashida and Baawan Buti of Bihar: The Illustrious Past, Contemporary Neglect and Hopes for the Future', Anshul Maudar, Harshit Rana and Kartikeya Bhatotia, Ashoka University, New Delhi
3. 'Flag Making in Kudikadatkaraiipalli, Kalmunai', Ifath Neetha, Swamy Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic Studies (SVIAS), Batticaloa
4. 'Riotous Needlework: Gendered Pedagogy and a Negotiated Christian Aesthetic in the American Ceylon Mission', Mark E. Balmforth, Columbia University

Lunch: 1.30–2.30pm

SESSION 6: Crafting Modernism in Sri Lanka; Architects, Designers and Artisans

2.30–4.00pm

Ismeth Raheem, Architect, Art Historian and Vice President, Sri Lanka National Trust in conversation with Sharmini Pereira, Curator and Art Historian

Tea: 4.30pm

5.00–6.00pm

Visit to a traditional metal workshop, K.K.S Road, Jaffna

DAY 4

13 May 2018, 9am–12 noon

Visit to pit loom weaving centre, Point Pedro