

# **Koralegedara Pushpakumara**

## **Artist Statement and Biography**

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### **Artist Statement**

My current works share a few visual traits with a trend that emerged with the art of the 90s, which is called 'Political Kitsch'. I began to work with kitsch material taking them as a particular system of knowledge production to intervene with contemporary social issues of Sri Lanka, especially in response to the war that ended in 2009 and the populist rhetoric that bolstered the idea of 'war'. In this work, my attempt is to capture the plight of the Tamil refugees that had to spend in refugee camps after the war and the apathy of the public in the south of Sri Lanka to this situation – apathy of the south to the suffering of the Tamils affected by the last days of the war. Here the 'barbed wires' are made to look 'pleasant' by illuminating them from inside, as if it is trying to hid its sinister reality.

## **Artist Biography**

### **Koralegedara Pushpakumara Sri Lanka**

1968, Born in Kandy, Sri Lanka  
Lives and works in Colombo, Sri Lanka

## **Education**

- 2012 Presently Following MA (Art History) postgraduate institute of Archeology, University of Kelaniya. Sri Lanka
- 2003 Diploma (archeology) postgraduate institute of Archeology, University of Kelaniya. Sri Lanka
- 1997 BFA (Painting and Sculpture) institute of Aesthetic studies, University of Kelaniya. Sri Lanka.

## **Work Experience**

- 2000 A founder member theertha international artist collective
- 1992 Set Designer – Theater, Production Designer

## **Solo Exhibitions**

- 2014 Red Dot Gallery, Borella, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2013 Hempel Galleries, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- 2009 Red Dot Gallery, Pitakotte, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- 2006 Bare foot Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2005 Finomenal Space Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2004 Paradise Road Galleries, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2002 Bare foot Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

- 2000 Kandalama Hotel, Dambulla, Sri Lanka
- 2000 Paradise Road Galleries, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 1997 Heritage Art Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

### **Group Exhibitions Participation (Selected)**

- 2014 Dhaka Art Summit, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 2013 Visual Arts Projects Hong Kong and The Hempel Galleries, Sri Lanka
- 2011 No, 1 Shanthi Road Studio Gallery Bangalore India.
- 2010 Artful Resistance 'traveling Exhibition, Curated by Sylvia S Kasprzycki.
- 2009 Works on Paper, Presented by National Art Gallery of Maldives.
- 2005 "Contemporary Sri Lankan Art", Museum of far Eastern Antiquities, Stockholm, Sweden
- 2004 "Exhibition of paintings and sculpture", Gallery 71, Galle fort, Galle, Sri Lanka.
- 2004 "Urban and the individual", Fenominal Art Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2004 "Aham Puram", Public Library, Jaffna, Sri Lanka.
- 2001 1st "VASL" International Art Exhibition, Amin Gulgee Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2001 REFLECTIONS "Four Artists " An Exhibition of Painting, Indian Cultural Centre. Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2000 "A New Visual Vocabulary in Contemporary Sri Lanka Art", Volspark, Enschede, The Netherlands
- 2000 "Four Artist" Exhibition of Painting & Sculpture Lionel Wendt Art Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2000 "An Art Exhibition for Peace and Reconciliation", Gallery 706, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2000 "Four Artists" Exhibition of Painting & Sculpture The Havelock Place Bungalow Colombo, Sri Lanka

- 1999 “No Order Group” Exhibition and Declaration of the Manifesto VAFA Gallery Ethul Kotte, Sri Lanka
- 1999 3rd International Art Exhibition, National Art Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

### **Art Biennale (Selected)**

- 2014 Colombo Art Biennale “Making History” Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2012 Colombo Art Biennale “Becoming” Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2009 Colombo Art Biennale “Imagining Peace” Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 1999 9th Asian Art Biennale, Gallery of Silpakala Academy Dhaka Bangladesh

### **Awards**

- 2001 Best Set Design State Drama Festival, Sub Committee Sri Lanka Arts Council Sri Lanka
- 1999 State Awards Festival 2<sup>nd</sup> Place for Installation & Sculptures, Sri Lanka
- 1999 State Awards Festival 1st Place for Painting, Sri Lanka
- 1999 Best Set Design State Drama Festival, Sub Committee Sri Lanka Arts Council, Sri Lanka
- 1998 Best Set Design State Drama Festival, Sub Committee Sri Lanka Arts Council, Sri Lanka
- 1997 Best Costume Design State Drama Festival, Sub Committee Sri Lanka Arts Council, Sri Lanka
- 1997 Best Set Design State Drama Festival, Sub Committee Sri Lanka Arts Council, Sri Lanka
- 1996 Best Set Design State Drama Festival, Sub Committee Sri Lanka Arts Council Sri Lanka
- 1996 State Awards Festival of Painting & Sculptures, Merit for Painting, Sri Lanka
- 1995 Youth Services Council Award Festival, 1st Place for painting, Sri Lanka

1994      Madya Rupa” Award ceremony (Poster Designs)