

Pradeep Chandrasiri

Artist Statement and Biography

Artist Statement

For about two decades, social violence has been a major factor that has driven my art practice. The bloody 30 year ethnic war and the political turmoil of youth uprising and its ruthless crackdown in the past were realities, which I could not evade and from which I cannot escape forever.

This work is a retrospect of that violent history. And I bring in my memories of extremely personal and close encounters from that era. As the title of the work says, this work is about 'Things I Told, Things Not Heard & Things I Tell Now!' Under a light bulb, on a mountain of 'charred debris of violence' an eerily motionless interrogation is embedded. The backdrop is a giant scar on the head just above the ear. This is my deafening visual voice!

In a way, this is also a memorial space for concealed violence. In a time when violence has taken new forms. I am making history... with things I told, things not heard and things I tell now!!!

Artist Biography

Pradeep Chandrasiri Sri Lanka

b. 1968 in Kandy, Work & Live Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Pradeep Chandrasiri is a visual artist. He was born in 1968, in Kandy, Sri Lanka. Chandrasiri graduated with a BFA in painting from the Institute of Aesthetic Studies of the university of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka. After graduation, he held two solo and many group exhibitions. He has also participated in many artist programs internationally and locally since 1998, among them the Second Fukuoka Asian Art Triennial, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan in 2002, and 1st, 2nd and 3rd Colombo Art Biennale in Sri Lanka. He received the Commonwealth Art and Craft Award in 2003.

Chandrasiri, belongs to the '90s Trend', a group of artist that professed a new ideological position in art production in Sri Lanka. He came into prominence within this discourse. His works are in many ways about autobiographical memories of his experiences in Sri Lanka. Pradeep Chandrasiri is interested working on theatre set Design and production, and has won number of Awards from National Theatre festival of Sri Lanka.

Education

- 1997 BFA (Painting and Sculpture) institute of Aesthetic studies, university of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.
- 2003 Diploma- Archaeology postgraduate institute of Archaeology. University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.
- 2011 MA- History in Art -Postgraduate institute of Archaeology. University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

Work Experience

- 2000- 2012 Visiting Lecturer [Scenography]
- 2000 A founder member Theertha International artist collective.
- 1992- 2013 Scenographer [Set designer] theater, Production Designer, Cinematographer

Solo Exhibitions

- 2011 "[de]inscribed memories", Hempel Galleries, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- 2007 Art of Pradeep Chandrasiri, Red Dot Gallery, Pitakotte, Sri Lanka.

- 2004 Black Cloud Wall, Exhibition of Installation, Long Gallery, University of Wollongong, Australia.
- 2000 Exhibition of Paintings, Alliance Fran9aise Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- 1997 Broken Hand, Exhibition of Paintings and Installation, Heritage Art Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Group Exhibitions Participation (Selected)

- 2014 3rd Colombo Art Biennale, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- 2012 Sethu' Exhibition 4, 1Shanthi Road gallery & Studio, Bangalore, India.
- 2012 "Becoming", 2nd Colombo Art Biennale, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- 2011 Theertha@ 1 Santhi Road, 1 Santhi road gallery, Bangalore, India.
- 2010 'Sethu' Exhibition I, Red Dot Gallery, Baddagana. Sri Lanka.
- 2009 Imagining Pease, 1'1 Colombo Art Biennale, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- 2008 Artful Resistance (crisis and creativity in Sri Lanka) travel Exhibition in Europe, Organized by FOr Volkerkunde Wien/ Museum of Ethnology, Vienna, Austria.
- 2007 Images of Globalization, Curated by Jagath Weerasinghe, @ National Art Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- 2007 Arte Curiosa An exhibition on art as curious object, Curated by Jagath Weerasinghe, @Red Dot Gallery, Baddagana, Sri Lanka.
- 2005 Contemporary Sri Lankan Art, Artists' for Peace, at National Art Gallery, Colombo. Sri Lanka.
- 2005 Contemporary Sri Lankan Art, Museum of far Eastern Antiquities, Stockholm, Sweden.
- 2004 Aham Puram, an Exhibition of Contemporary Visual Art, Public Library, Jaffna, Sri Lanka.
- 2004 Contemporary Sri Lankan Art, G.T.Z. Office, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- 2003 Serendipity-New Art from Sri Lanka .The October Gallery, London, UK.

- 2002 The second Fukuoka Asian Art Triennial, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan.
- 2002 Crafty Thoughts, Art of South, Asia Liverpool University gallery, London UK. The first International programme of visual culture from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan & Sri Lanka.
- 2000 A new Visual Vocabulary in Contemporary Sri Lanka, Volspark Enschede, Netherlands.
- 2000 Artist for Peace- Flag Exhibition, Selected Public Places, Sri Lanka.
- 2000 An Art Exhibition for Peace and Reconciliation, Gallery 706, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- 1999 No Order Group Exhibition and Declaration of the Manifesto VAFA Gallery Ethul Kotte, Sri Lanka.
- 1999 State Art Festival Exhibition, National Art Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- 1998 Exhibition of Painting Kandy Art Council Kandy Sri Lanka.

Awards (Selected)

- 2013 Best Set Design, National Theater Festival, Sri Lanka.
- 2008 Best Set Design & Best Costume Design National Theater Festival, Sri Lanka.
- 2005 "Kalashuri Honor Awards' as a painter for contribution of Sri Lankan arts. Sri Lanka
- 2003 Commonwealth Arts And Crafts Award for sculpture, The Commonwealth Foundation, UK.
- 2004 Visiting Artist Program, Creative arts faculty, University of Wollongong, Australia.
- 2001 Best Set Design, State Drama Festival, Sri Lankan Arts Council, Sri Lanka.
- 1999-1995 Best Set Design, State Drama Festival, Sri Lankan Arts Council, Sri Lanka.
- 1998 1st place for Painting Competition Connection with the Commemoration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights [Organized by Alliance Frangaise, Sri Lanka].