

Chandraguptha Thenuwara

Birth: Galle, Sri Lanka (1960)

Nationality: Sri Lankan

Medium: Painting, Sculpture, Mix Media Installation

Lives and Works in Colombo, Sri Lanka

He is particularly noted for his ongoing series titled 'Barrelism' that incorporates barrels and camouflage in a variety of forms and media. Trained in Sri Lanka and the former Soviet Union, an inciter of the '90s trend, Thenuwara's work helped revitalize Sri Lankan art over the past two decades, through his painting and, more significantly, installation works.

PUBLIC MONUMENTS

2001 'Monument for Neelan Thiruchelvam', Colombo, Sri Lanka

2000 'Monument for the Disappeared', Raddoluwa Junction, Sri Lanka

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2012

Drawings by Chandraguptha Thenuwara & Jagath Weerasinghe, Saskia Fernando Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Drawings by Chandraguptha Thenuwara & Jagath Weerasinghe, Breeze Little Gallery, London

2011

Contemporary Art From Sri Lanka, Asia House, London

2010

Visual Responses During the War: Selected Artists' Works, Lionel Wendt Gallery & Harold Peiris Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

2009

Imagining Peace, Colombo Art Biennale, Park Street Mews, Colombo, Sri Lanka

One Year Drawing Project, Devi Foundation, New Delhi, India

One Year Drawing Project, SAVAC (South Asian Visual Arts Centre), UTAC (Uni. of Toronto Art Centre), University of Toronto, Canada

2008

Big in Falkirk, Scotland National Street Arts Festival, Falkirk

2007

Shanghai Zendai Museum of Modern Art, Shanghai, China

[The National Museum of Poznan, Poland](#)

2006

[Common Goods, Melbourne Museum, Melbourne, Australia](#)

2003

Un-commemorative Commemoration, VAFA Gallery, Kotte, Sri Lanka

Artists for Peace, Charles Hall, Batticaloa, Eastern Province, Sri Lanka

2002

John Moores University, The University of Art Collection Gallery, Liverpool, UK

Art Peace, Lionel Wendt Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Moving Collection, Japan

2001

[Theertha International Artists Workshop, Barefoot Gallery, Sri Lanka](#)

2000

Art Exhibition for Peace & Reconciliation, Neelan Thiruchelvam Commemorative Programme, 706 Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

1999

1st Asian Art Triennial (The 5th Asian Art Show), Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan

Cities on the Move, KIASMA, Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland

Third International Artists' Camp Exhibition, National Gallery, Sri Lanka

[Cities on the Move, Hayward Gallery, London, UK/PS1 Gallery, New York](#)

Cities on the Move, Louisiana Museum, Denmark/CapsMuseum, Musee d'art contemporain de Bordeaux, France/Vienna Secession, Austria

1998

Khoj Artists Workshop Exhibition, Modinagar, New Delhi, India

In Dependence, Lionel Wendt Art Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

1997

The 1st Annual Exhibition of VAFA, The National Art Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

1996

Women in Art, The Mount castle Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

1995

7th Asia Pacific Biennial, Dhaka, Bangladesh

1993

The National Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

1994

The Academy of Arts, Moscow, Russia

1992

International Symposium on Open-air Sculpture, Izhevsk City, Russia

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2012

The Monument and Other Works, Lionel Wendt Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Thorn & other Images, Hivos, 16 Raamweg, Den Haag, Netherlands

2011

The Wall and other works, Lionel Wendt Gallery, Colombo Sri Lanka

2010

Vigil and Other works, Lionel Wendt Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Black Paintings & Other Works, Lionel Wendt Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

2009

Post-Barrelism: Erasing Camouflage, Lionel Wendt Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

2008

Dhammapada & Other Works, Lionel Wendt Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

2007

Neo-Barrelism, Lionel Wendt Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

2006

Wall of Death & Other Works, Lionel Wendt Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka
Barrelism:Camouflage, Maroondah Gallery, Victoria, Australia

2004

Camouflage and other works, VAFA Gallery, Ethul Kotte, Sri Lanka

2001

Recent Paintings, Paradise Road Galleries, Colombo, Sri Lanka

1999

Camouflage, VAFA Gallery, Ethul-Kotte, Sri Lanka

1998

Barrelism, The Heritage Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

1997

Barrelism & Other works, The Heritage Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

1995

In Spacetime, The National Art Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

In Spacetime, The British Council, Kandy, Sri Lanka

Drawings, The Union Gallery, Izhevsk City, Republic of Udmurtia, Russia

1992

The City Gallery, Izhevsk City, Republic of Udmurtia, Russia

Moscow Paintings, The National Art Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

1991

Retrospective of Paintings, Lionel Wendt Art Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

1983

Paintings & Drawings, Soviet Cultural House, Colombo, Sri Lanka

1978

First Exhibition, Samudra Gallery, Colombo, Sri Lanka

MERITS

- 2002 Artist in Residence, Liverpool School of Art and Design, UK
- 2001 Theertha International Artists Workshop, Lunuganga, Sri Lanka
- 1999 Fukuoaka, Fukuoaka Asian Art Museum
- 1999 International Artists Camp, Hikkaduwa, Sri Lanka
- 1998 International Artists Camp, Habarana, Sri Lanka
- 1998 Khoj Artists Workshop, Modinagar, New Delhi, India
- 1997 International Artists Camp, Kandalama, Sri Lanka
- 1997 Bunka Prize for special achievement in painting, Japan-Sri Lanka Cultural Fund
- 1992 Open Air Sculpture Symposium, Izhevsk, Russia

SEE MORE

Review: Groudviews, Harriett Doble, February 2013	http://groundviews.org/2013/08/02/chandraguptha-thenuwaras-beautification/
Overview: Judith Staines, culturebase.net	http://www.culturebase.net/artist.php?831
Overview: Colombo Art Biennial, 2014	http://colomboartbiennale.com/chandraguptha-thenuwara/
Interview: World Socialist Web Site, Darshana Medis, 1999	https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/1999/11/barr-n25.html
Interview: Nelum Pokuna, Vikalp.org	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3je54LV0tg
Interview: Smriti Daniel	http://smritidaniel.wordpress.com/2013/08/15/chandraguptha-thenuwara-space-to-protest/
Blog post: artaholicblogdotcom	http://artaholicblog.com/2012/10/02/drawings-by-chandraguptha-thenuwara-jagath-weerasinghe/
Collection: Art Asia Archive	http://www.aaa.org.hk/Home/Search?keyword=Chandraguptha%20THENUWARA
News: Taylor Francis Online, 2013	http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09528822.2013.772354#.UoG9BPiVNIQ
News: cultura.lk, July 2013	http://www.cultura.lk/event/beautification-an-exhibition-by-chandraguptha-thenuwara
Video: Interview, vimeo	http://vimeo.com/48761359
Overview: Art Radar Asia, October, 2012	http://artradarjournal.com/2012/10/24/rare-simultaneous-showing-of-sri-lankan-drawing-exhibitions-london-colombo/
Synopsis, Kadirgamar Institute,	http://www.kadirgamarinstitute.lk/events/event_16052013

Colombo	/doc/Mr.Thenuwara-bio.pdf
Review: Beautification	http://oneislandtwonationsblogspotcom.typepad.com/blog/2013/08/chandraguptha-thenuwaras-beautification.html
Overview: YAMU, October 2012	http://www.yamu.lk/event/drawings-by-chandraguptha-thenuwara-and-jagath-weerasinghe.html
Overview: Art Asia Pacific	http://artasiapacific.com/Magazine/Almanac2013/SriLanka
News: Kalise, October 2012	http://kelise72.com/tag/chandraguptha-thenuwara/
Project: Khoj, Modinagar, 1998	http://www.khojworkshop.org/project/1313
Overview: Craft, March 2010	http://www.craft.org.au/Learn/Craft_Culture/chandraguptha-thenuwara/
Interview: Tumbler, Sept 2012	http://srilankaoneislandtwonations.tumblr.com/post/30885548181/in-conversation-with-chandraguptha-thenuwara-art
Video: Overview: Plus 10 Tsunami	http://tsunamiplus10.org/post/32463073936/more-on-chandraguptha-thenuwara-post-barrelism
Overview: Earth and Elsewhere	http://visualarts.qld.gov.au/earthandelsewhere/files/assets/basic-html/page79.html
Overview: Blogspot.in	http://chandraguptha-thenuwara.blogspot.in/
Overview: Artslant	http://www.artslant.com/global/artists/show/104941-chandraguptha-thenuwara
Project: 30 years ago	http://30yearsago.asia/
Overview: The White Review, Josephine Breeze	http://www.thewhitereview.org/art/sri-lankan-contemporary-art/
Review: Daily Mirror, Oct 2011	http://print2.dailymirror.lk/life/132-life/51539.html
Video: Interview, Ikvisiontv	http://www.lakvisiontv.co.uk/watch.php?cat=27&vid=11110
News: ysmencolombo	http://ysmencolombo.wordpress.com/2013/06/08/despite-severe-gales-weather-top-lankan-artist-chandraguptha-dehiwela-youth-join-hands-for-arts/
Press Release: Exhibition	http://lnwnewsbackup.files.wordpress.com/2012/07/chandragupta.pdf
Blog: Amila Galapatthi	http://amilag.wordpress.com/tag/chandraguptha-thenuwara/
Overview: jdsrilanka, November 2013	http://www.jdslanka.org/index.php/2012-01-30-09-31-03/media-a-culture/164-we-live-in-the-age-of-nomadic-hunters-chandragupta-thenuwara
Blog: No War Zone	http://yatvsrilankatoday.wordpress.com/tag/chandraguptha-thenuwara/
Press Release: Breese Little Gallery	http://www.breeseLittle.com/#/past-drawings/4566732771
Review: The Guardian, Sri Lanka	http://www.srilankaguardian.org/2013/07/beautification.html
Review: humanityshore.com	http://humanityashore.com/ha/archives/59
Overview: theertha	http://www.theertha.org/arttoday/changing-dynamics-in-contemporary-sri-lankan-visual-art-by-anoli-perera-1
Overview: Post Barrelism	http://post-barrelism.blogspot.in/
Blog: Boondi Lexicon	http://boondilexicon.blogspot.in/2012/07/memories-in-form-of-monuments-and-lines.html
Blog: Peace and War	http://peaceandwar-ha.blogspot.in/2007/07/neo-barrelism-exhibition-of-paintings.html
Interview: The Sunday Times	http://www.sundaytimes.lk/100829/Plus/plus_13.html
Video: Overview, The Monument	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Be55GKRYVbc

and other works	
Video: A portrait of Thenuwara	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JN97csh0c-l
Video: Beautification	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25FcmucftE1
Bio: Raking Leaves Organisation	http://www.rakingleaves.org/artists/#candraguptha-thenuwara
Review: Sunday Times	http://www.sundaytimes.lk/070812/Plus/pls15.html