

Lionel Wendt

Sri Lankan Modern

Born 1900, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Died 1944, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Lived and worked in Colombo, Sri Lanka

Lionel Wendt occupies Sri Lanka's vanguard position of a Modernist whose photography showed great technical rigours and experimentation. He was also instrumental in forming the 43 Group in Sri Lanka, the most formidable Modernist art collective in the island. His subjects range from male bodies to Lankan landscape, instituting different discourses of identity and politics. He was greatly influenced by Surrealism and other avant-garde photography techniques.

Selected Exhibitions

2003 "Ceylon by Wendt", Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Japan

2000 "A Centennial Tribute, Lionel Wendt", Lionel Wendt Art Centre, Colombo

1999 Ton Peek Gallery, Utrecht, Netherlands

1999 Paradise Road Gallery, Colombo

1998-1999 Paris Photo Fair

1996 "Camera Works", Gallery 707, Colombo

1994 Lionel Wendt Memorial Art Centre, Colombo

1970 Town Hall, Colombo

1959 Lionel Wendt Memorial Art Centre, Colombo

1938 Camera Club, London

Text

Feature Lionel Wendt, Niru Ratnam, Art Review: Asia, Inaugural Issue, Spring/Summer 2013

Report The House that Lionel Wendt Built, Neville Weeraratne, The Sunday Times, November 2010

Overview A Man with a Vision, M. Fonseka, The Sunday Times, November 2000

Video

Collaboration Song of Ceylon, 1934 (Producer: Basil Wright)

Overview Lionel Wendt (Director: Pandula Godawatta)

Views Filmmaker Lester James Peries on Lionel Wendt, 'I am' Project, Sri Lanka

Selected Images

Lionel Wendt, *Boy and column, 1938*, vintage toned gelatine silverprint, 7.9 x 9.9".

Lionel Wendt, *Title unknown, 1941*, vintage silverprint/ solarised.

Lionel Wendt, *Near the Beach (detail), 1940*, vintage gelatine silverprint, 14.5 x 10.2".

Lionel Wendt, *Young Man with Fishingnet, 1938*, vintage toned gelatine silverprint, 9.8 x 11.8".

Lionel Wendt, *Boy (detail), 1936*, vintage toned gelatine silverprint, 9.4 x 12".

Lionel Wendt, *Title unknown (Boy With Palm Leaf)*, date uncertain (1934-38?), photograph.

Lionel Wendt, *Title unknown (Male Nude Draping Black Vetti)*, date uncertain (1934-38?), photograph.

Lionel Wendt, *Title unknown (Sleeping Male Figure in Black Vetti)*, date uncertain (1934-38?), photograph.

Lionel Wendt, *Title unknown, 1934-35*, photograph.

Lionel Wendt, *Title unknown (Standing Figure in Sarong)*, date uncertain (1934-38?), photograph.

Lionel Wendt, *Title unknown (Male Torso with Folded Sarong)*, date uncertain (1934-38?), photograph.

Lionel Wendt, *Title unknown (Portrait of a Man with Flowers)*, 1933-39, photograph.

Lionel Wendt, *Title unknown (Husking Coconuts II)*, date uncertain (1933-35?), photograph.

Lionel Wendt, *Title unknown (Ship's Funnel and Ventilator)*, 1934-35, photograph.

Lionel Wendt, *Title unknown (Rope on a Ram's Horn Hook)*, 1934-35, photograph.

Lionel Wendt, *Title unknown, 1939-40*, photograph.

Lionel Wendt, *Untitled (Preparation for the Montage 'And the Moon was Shining Clearly')*, 1940, photograph.

Lionel Wendt, *And the lonely owl my marrow, 1938-39*, photograph.

Lionel Wendt, *The Silent Place II*, 1938, photograph.

Lionel Wendt, *Portrait from Memory (Bromide)*, 1936, photograph.

Lionel Wendt, *Miss Miriam Pieris, Portrait in Outline*, 1934-36, photograph.