

Gandy gallery

[Chapter 1]

DENETH PIUMASKHI WEDAARACHCHIGE

Underneath my second skin

March 11 – May 22, 2020

Textile is our second skin
It represents who we are
It divides who we are
It judges who we are
It expresses emotions one feels
It takes a message across the continents
It tell the stories of those voiceless
It weave us together
It tears us apart
It fades away..

This series of art works mainly focuses on things that cannot be seen by the naked eye – memories, hope, the unconscious mind and the voices of the inner heart. I attempt to give strength to the viewer's imagination by depicting powerful icons and heroic figures. My subject matter is influenced by my desire to heal broken or incomplete things that were once useful.



« Je parles le France... ? »

This work has inspired me during my French lesson. As an immigrant learning French language to 'fit in' to the French society is a challenging mission. By direct translation of a sentence from Singhalese (my mother language) to French I am trying to explain myself to a French person through this work.

(Mix-media on canvas – 2018)



« Mother of God »

Current conflict between Islam and the World had arouse my inner fire. This discriminative and racist patterns has infected every country.

This work represents a praying mother for his lost family, She has become almost an invisible person. The prayers are comforting her to let pass the agony & sorrow. The cut off textile flowers represents her prayers that will guide her for a hope of living.

(White pigment on Cheetha textile – 2019)



« Mind »

This work represents our human mind that is always judgmental, not in a good way. We do not only judge by our eyes but from ears, nose and mouth and action. We never stop judging.

(Textile acrylic on Cheetha textile - 2010)



« The War is over »

When the War is over, a soldier's soul sits and wait. Who will chose him? Will he become an angel in haven and his soul will be free or Will he be chosen to go to Hell, Hell which is right here on earth, where he still holds on to his gun.

(Textile acrylic on Cheetha textile – 2009)



«The Man I know »

The ‘Man’ I know is always suspicious, judgmental and constructing new ideas to destroy the planet. The flowers are representing the nature. The nature that is very powerful than the man and it is going to overtake his mind. This is a work previously exhibited at the World Bank, Washington DC in 2012 on solo exhibition.

(Textile acrylic on Cheetha textile – 2012)



«The Soldier»

In May 2009 The Civil war between two main ethnic groups, ‘Sinhalese’ and ‘Tamil’ had ended in Sri Lanka. When I heard the news, the first thought came to my mind was ‘Freedom.’ Freedom of the Tamil women soldiers who were forced to fight the war on the side rebels. They no longer need to fight, their souls were freed and carried by the seagulls.

(Textile acrylic on Cheetha textile – 2009)



« Within »

In Hinduism and Mahayana Buddhism the color blue is a color of healing. I intend to give hope and cure myself as well as the viewers through these series of work. This works also inspired by artist Yves Klein’s blue and Henri Matisse’s cut-paper collages.

(Blue pigment on Cheetha textile – 2014)

Born in 1980 and grew up in the city of Kurunegala, Sri Lanka. Living in the French Alps and working between Paris, Basel and Kurunegala.

I have been educated not to follow trends or rules in life and in artistic practices. Therefore first school of arts was at home. Later on I studied fine arts in Kathmandu Art University in Nepal and in New York school of arts in Colombo (now it has renamed as Academy of design) in Sri Lanka.

The subjects I chose to work are the focus on social issues such as immigration, identity, refugee crises, women and children in conflict zones in political aspects. My artistic practice runs along a thin line which separates art and activism; it is my intend to play with that tension. For example, the new performance work is entitled Your faith is in your hand. Poetry, pain and real life stories of those who faced long term violence, discrimination and manipulation have inspired me.

Audio, Video & photography installations and textile works are the main mediums I work with. Since 20 years I have been working with ‘Cheetha’, a traditional Sri Lankan printed textile. This fabric carries a disappearing part of the Sri Lankan culture. It can be seen only in few villages or among the older generation because of the phenomenon of western fashion trends and mass made clothes from China. While the majority of the Sri Lankan population considers it low class and kitschy to wear clothing made from Cheetha, this material is highly nostalgic for me – it carries my childhood and the weightlessness of life as a kid.