

"Sri Lanka Through Lens and Brush"

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By two Sri Lankan American Deaf Artists:

Photographer: Chetana Senadhira
Painter: Thushara T. Wijetilaka

Opening Reception with Refreshments:
Saturday, March 23, 2024
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

RSVP info@gandhimemorialcenter.org

Exhibit may be viewed:
Fridays and Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Or by appointment, through April 27



Gandhi Memorial Center
4748 Western Ave, Bethesda, MD 20816
gandhimemorialcenter.org



Thushara T. Wijetilaka



"Paintings That Bring Joy to the Soul"

Thushara steps into the beauty of nature, where each brushstroke tells a story of emotion and depth. Born Deaf, Thushara discovered a latent talent for painting that speaks to the soul. Thushara attempts to preserve the fleeting beauties of nature in Sri Lanka. As a painter, she finds that trying to capture nature's effervescence and beauty is truly a challenge, and so she takes on the challenge with joy.

All of Thushara's paintings are visual journals from her travels to Sri Lanka and their resulting memories. Wildlife, river, valley, people, and ruins are some of the obelisks that connect us to our collective ancient past.

These small paintings, titled "Paintings That Bring Joy to the Soul," mostly of mixed acrylic, crayons, watercolor, ink, and pencils, are paintings of wilderness, waterscapes, landscapes, and working peoples.

She loves her motherland Sri Lanka and loves living in America and working for the federal government.



Chetana N. Senadhira

Born in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Chetana Senadhira (Cheti) and her parents moved to Geneva, Switzerland when she was ten months old. Not hearing any sounds of her world, she soon discovered a visual path to communicate. It all started with her first click while walking by Lake Genève at age two. Photography became her first mode of communication. She would photograph anything and everything that fascinated her. Having traveled the world, she continues to click fascinations of her silent world.

At age 6, Cheti and her family moved to the United States. While continuing her formal education, she continued to enjoy expressing herself through the lens of her camera. At age 10, one of her photographs won an award at a Montgomery County Youth Artists' competition. In summer of 2009, a new chapter opened in Cheti's life. Her parents printed blank note cards of her photographs for sale. Having completed an internship at one of the Schools for the Deaf in Sri Lanka, Cheti decided to commit 10% of the proceeds of the sales to purchase hearing aids for economically disadvantaged children. She had an opportunity to have a fundraiser exhibition in Sag Harbor, NY which enabled her to buy several pairs of hearing aids for the school. She continues to sell her cards and support the deaf community in Sri Lanka.

Each visit to her birth country fills her heart with excitement and jitters knowing that she once belonged there. With a communication barrier with her extended family and friends, she creates memories and bonds with this fascinating culture through her lens.

Each one of her photographs tells a story woven through the magic she feels. What she is sharing with you today is a cross section of her fascination of a culture she is eager to soak in.
