

LOAMA ART GALLERY

Loama Art Gallery is affiliated with the National Art Gallery, Maldives, and shows contemporary art from the Maldives. It offers a valuable platform for artists to exhibit and sell their work to a local and international audience. Contemporary art in Maldives has seen significant changes in themes and style over the last few decades.

On the Path of a Dream brings together the work of contemporary artists whose diverse and surprising themes examine their innate senses borne while living in the Maldives. These artists have works that span decades and explore their subjects in-depth, visiting and revisiting ideas that form the identity of people inhabiting these islands.

Loama Art Gallery aims to hold four exhibitions annually and the current exhibition at the over-water art gallery features five Maldivian artists who we are proud to present.

Afzal Shafiu Hassan, b. 1975

Afzal Shafiu Hassan (Afu) is an artist proficient in several media, although he works mostly with oil and water colors. In 1994, at the age of 18, Afu began his professional career as a postage stamp designer at Maldives Post Limited. And in 1997, he received a scholarship in Graphic Design,



where he majored in illustration. Since then he has continued working at the Post Office as well as an art director / designer at a private advertising agency.

In 2001, with two other colleagues, Afu had his first group exhibition titled 'Reflected Illusions', at Esjehi Gallery, Male', where he exhibited work produced using a variety of media including oils, water color and acrylic. Always experimenting with new styles, his works accommodate various influences including traces of traditional South Asian miniature paintings as well as Cubism. A talented draftsman, Afzal also attended a SAARC artist camp sponsored by the Indian NGO Seher in January 2007. And in 2008, his first solo exhibition 'Visual Memories', was held at

the National Art Gallery.

According to Afu, he wishes to develop his art to 'reflect my views and opinions about myself and the environment I live in, to express my thoughts in its purest form and to contribute to the wave of positive change through my art'. Afu now lives and works in Sri Lanka



Eagan Badheeu , b. 1973

Impressionist landscapes and seascapes depicting the culture and lifestyle of the Maldives are his signature subjects. Noted for their vibrant saturated colour, Eagan's work captures people as subjects in candid dispositions whilst engaged in their daily life. Details are freely suggested and brushed in allowing the subjects to blend in with their surroundings.

He earned initial recognition in the year 2000 when his works were exhibited in "Funooas" (the beginning of southwest monsoon) Art exhibition held at Esjehi Gallery in Malé. Since then, he has exhibited his works with various groups as well as solo exhibitions both in Malé and abroad.

Eagan's most significant works include 18 triptychs commissioned by the National Art Gallery which were displayed in 2008 in a solo exhibition "Theyokulain Dhivehi Raajje". (Maldives in Oil Colour). Eagan works mostly at home in Male'.

Aminath Hilmy, b. 1956

As a young girl her playground was sea hibiscus groves by the beach on Thinadhoo, Gaaf Dhaal Atoll. Her mother, Fathimath Hussain, was a Kasabu (embroidery) maker and a tailor. These skills were induced to young Aminath Hilmy and is reminiscent in her style of work. Hilmy's signature style with lines on white paper has been her choice of expression.

Drawings made on journals throughout Aminath Hilmys' life became a serious endeavour for her only in her late 40's. Her private writing and doodling eventually becoming works of art for the public eye.

Although her practice is only a decade old at most, her style and theme had been established early in her career. Her unique way of perceiving and representing sets her work stylistically in a realm of its own among her contemporaries in Maldives. With her intricate and, at times, complex lines in her work depict landscapes that seem to float on white paper. In some of the pieces there are figures intertwined in intricate lines, generally in groups or as couples are just but a few identifiable features in her work. The groups are mostly looking at the same direction making them seem like they are on a journey. Sea hibiscus flowers are a recurring element in her work and to this day she is an avid gardener.



Aminath Hilmy has shown her work in Esjehi Gallery and National Art Gallery in Male. Now in her late 50's she is a prolific artist continuously producing work in her home in Malé, Maldives.

Sabina Manik

Most of all a mother. A lover. A thinker. A gardener. A healer.

Sabina Manik felt a hankering for the Orient ever since childhood.

Born into the hilly green lands between the Swiss Alps and the Lake of Constance, she has been living in Malé ever since, by a simple twist of fate, she put foot there as a freshly graduated translator (she masters six languages) in her twenties. Ah... Love!

She brought up eight children living much like Rapunzel, mostly in her little luxuriant roof garden. In her own words: “*There isn't much that hasn't happened to me... I feel rich. I feel free.*”

