



## BORDERS: REAL AND IMAGINED

SRI LANKA GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE



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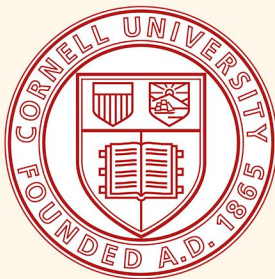
FRIDAY • NOVEMBER 9

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM | History of Art Gallery, Goldwin Smith Hall

SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 10

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM | Guerlac Room, A. D. White House

Co-sponsored by the American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies



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## Friday November 9

Ruth Woolsey Findley History of Art Gallery, Goldwin Smith Hall

### 4:30-6:00 pm | The Disappearance of Disappearances

Artist Talk and Reception with P. Pushpakanthan (Visual & Technological Arts, Eastern University, Batticaloa, Sri Lanka and South Asian Studies Fellow, Cornell University).

Pushpakanthan Pakkiyarajah is an artist from Batticaloa, Sri Lanka, whose subject matter has been heavily influenced by the prolonged civil conflict that permeated his youth. His powerful, emotionally-raw and meticulously-executed drawings, paintings, video art, installations and performance engage with issues about which there has been mostly silence. The work speaks of physical and mental suffering, conditions he equates with both the deep pain his country experiences as it continues to emerge from decades of civil strife, and global suffering connected to questions of identity, agency, and gender.

As an artist, Pushpakanthan expresses his generational outlook, a subtle feeling of being trapped by the burden of a tragic history, of being in search of reconciliation, and experiences of cultural in-betweenness. His work seeks to create a space for marginalized voices, for remembering and healing a silenced past, and for initiating honest discussions about what reconciliation means. Pushpakanthan studied at the Ramanathan Academy of Fine Arts at the University of Jaffna. He has exhibited widely in Sri Lanka, India and the UK, and is represented by Saskia Fernando Gallery in Colombo.

## Saturday November 10

Guerlac Room, A. D. White House

### 9:00 - 9:15 am | Welcome and Introduction

Iftikhar Dadi (History of Art & South Asia Program, Cornell University)

### 9:15 - 11:00 am | State Borders

*Forging Home and "Righting" Rights in Postwar Sri Lanka: Internal Displacement and Mnemonic Citizenships*

Dinidu Karunanayake (English Literature, Miami University)

*Occupying Weli Oya: Frontier Politics and Post-war Sri Lanka*

Thiruni Kelegama (Geography, University of Zurich)

*Land Resisters and Transformative Justice in Sri Lanka*

Tara Quinn (Trust, Peace & Social Relations, Coventry University)

Discussant: Anne Blackburn (Asian Studies, Cornell University)

### 11:15 - 12:30 pm | Colonial Borders

*Desire and Despise: Analysing the aftermath of Great Depression and Ceylonese Nationalism on Indian Migrants, Material and Mobility to Ceylon (c. 1930-40)*

Ritesh Kumar Jaiswal (History, University of Delhi)

*Kulankai Tampiran's Tinnai Pallikkutam: A Dialogue Between Texts and Bodies, Memory and Domination*

Mark Balmforth (Religion, Columbia University)

Discussant: Philip Friedrich (Religious Studies, Hamilton College)

### 12:30 - 1:45 pm | Lunch

### 1:45 - 2:15 pm | Resources for Sri Lankan Studies

Bandara Herath (Asian Studies, Cornell University)

Daniel Bass (South Asia Program, Cornell University)

### 2:15 - 4:00 pm | Bodily Borders

*From System to Context: Rethinking the Borders of Caste*

Dominic Esler (Anthropology, University College London)

*Interconnected Barriers to Community Participation: Women and Disability in Sri Lanka*

Carmen Britton (Human Development & Family Studies, University of Connecticut)

*Writings on the Wall: Recovering Designs for Sigiriya*

Divya Kumar-Dumas (Architectural History, University of Pennsylvania)

Discussant: Vasuki Nesiah (Law, New York University)