

**20 thematic conversations to feature at Cinnamon Coloboscope 2016**

**Art, culture and technology experts to engage in a series of conversations under sub-themes: Kaleidoscopia, Under the Cloud and Deep Sensing.**

The fourth edition of Cinnamon Coloboscope, presented by EUNIC Sri Lanka together with Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts, will host a series of thematic conversations between artists and experts in the fields of art, culture and technology. This year's festival is titled *Testing Grounds: Art and Digital Cultures in South Asia and Europe* and will be held from 25 August to 1 September at the General Post Office, Fort, Colombo.

Coloboscope is a contemporary and multidisciplinary arts festival that takes place in Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo and evolves and changes shape with a new curator each year. *Testing Grounds* was conceived by German curator, Susanne Jaschko, a renowned expert in the field of media arts. This year, the festival will provide 'testing grounds' for a new liaison between contemporary arts and digital technology in Sri Lanka.

*Testing Grounds* has been curated under three sub-themes that offer different perspectives of how society, and contemporary art, is responding to the shift to digital technology in Sri Lanka, the South Asian region and Europe.

The theme 'Under the Cloud' addresses the physical and virtual conditions of the network, and bring to attention the current debate over the control of our data – its ownership, manipulation and surveillance. In an 'Under the Cloud' keynote, Urs Stäheli, Professor of Sociology at the University of Hamburg, Germany will discuss how, as connectivity has become imperative through the digitalisation, privacy can be rethought through the experimentation of new techniques and practices of disconnecting. (Saturday, 27 August, 12 am).

The keynote is followed by two thematic conversations, *Networked Life: Don't Worry, Everything Is Under Control* and *Fuzzy Power: Navigating the Dark Side of Tech*, which explore how we can protect our information and engage and negotiate with a new power that uses digital technologies to target individuals and groups, and disrupt society (Saturday, 27 August, 2 pm). Speakers include Sujit Christy, an information security adoption evangelist; Sam de Silva, Country Director for Internews; award-winning journalists Dilrukshi Handunetti and Nalaka Gunawardena; Fieke Jansen, Project Lead of Politics of Data at Tactical Technology Collective. (Saturday, 27 August, 4 pm)

'Kaleidoscopia', the second theme, highlights how digital communication technologies are shaping our identity and worldview, bringing together multiple voices, and making accessible the global archive of the Internet. In the Thematic Conversation *Rendering Realities*, British artist and designer Tobias Revell and Sanjana Hattotuwa from Groundviews will discuss how technology alters our assessment of the present, the re-examination the past, and their capture for posterity. (Sunday, 28 August, 2 pm)

In the 'Deep Sensing' stream, artists will discuss in a number of conversations how the developments in the informational environment and new digital technologies offer new ways sensing, feeling and perceiving the world and produce new relationships between material, information and our own physicality.

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**TESTING GROUNDS**  
*Art and Digital Cultures  
in South Asia and Europe*  
August 25 – September 1, 2016

More thematic and artists' conversations as well as information on the exhibition, the film programme, audio-visual performances, workshops, and the online exhibition can be found on the festival website ([www.cinnamoncolomboscope.com](http://www.cinnamoncolomboscope.com)).

The festival is organised and produced under the umbrella of the EUNIC Cluster, the network of European national cultural institutions – the Goethe-Institut, British Council and Alliance Française de Kotte – based in Sri Lanka, with contributions from the Swiss Embassy, Dutch Embassy, Turkish Embassy, German Embassy Teheran and L'Université Laval. This year, the festival is held in venue partnership with the Postal Department and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Research.

Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts is the title sponsor of the festival for the second time.

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