

Dimithi (Hanging earrings) 2020

Gouache on archival paper

Source: National Museum Kandy Collection

The studs of the *Dimithi (Hanging earrings)* in this drawing represent the lotus rosette, while the hanging elements are shaped in the form of an overturned cup. The drawing is based on an early Kandyan earring showcased in the Kandy National Museum, Sri Lanka.

Karapatiya (Throatlet) 2020

Gouache on archival paper

The *Karapatiya (Throatlet)* is composed of a choker and a pendant. The choker is made of repetitive crescent-shaped gem-set elements known as *niyapothu*. *Karapatiya* is the first necklace among the seven necklaces of traditional Sri Lankan bridal regalia.

Makara maalaya (Dragon necklace) 2020

Gouache on archival paper

Source: Chitra Bandaranayake Collection

The *Makara maalaya (Dragon necklace)* is regarded as a rare necklace. It consists of three strands of pearls, known as *koodu pota*, which are punctuated at intervals with *palakka ata* (a gem-set bead). The necklace is embellished with a unique type of pendant known as a *makara* (dragon) that hangs from the *koodu pota*.

Bherunda pakshi padakkama (Double head bird pendant) 2020

Gouache on archival paper

Source: Patrick and Mayanthi Nugawela Collection

The *Bherunda pakshi padakkama* (*Double-headed bird pendant*) is a large pendant worn on a long chain with identical metal loops or beads. The padakkama interprets the symbol as one of collaboration between the wedded couple. The motif is an icon in both Eastern and Western cultures.

Agasthi maalaya (Agate necklace) 2020

Gouache on archival paper

Source: Patrick and Mayanthi Nugawela Collection

The *Agasthi maalaya* (*Agate necklace*) is composed of agate beads and delicate filigree beads made with wire work known as *pus ata* (hollow seeds). Producing the intricacy of the filigree beads is a highly skilled and time-consuming craft.

Gedi maalaya (Seed necklace) 2020

Gouache on archival paper

Source: Antique Jewellery Collection, W.F. De Silva Co Ltd., Kandy, Sri Lanka

The *Gedi maalaya* (*Seed necklace*) is traditionally made of handmade metal beads that are designed to represent various seeds. The drawing depicts a *gedi maalya* (seed necklace) composed of *aralu* (inknut) seed beads.

Haritchiya (Brooch) 2020

Gouache on archival paper

Source: Patrick and Mayanthi Nugawela Collection

The *Haritchiya* is a brooch worn on the shoulder of the *osariya* or Kandyan saree. The design of this brooch is formed as a lotus rosette, and the lotus petals are set with garnet cabochons.

Ketchagama (Armlet) 2020

Gouache on archival paper

Source: Chitra Bandaranayake Collection

The *Ketchagama (Armlet)* is only worn by brides. It is believed that the *ketchagama* is an amulet that provides protection from evil powers.

Gedi walalu (Seed bangles) 2020

Gouache on archival paper

Source: Patrick and Mayanthi Nugawela Collection

The *Gedi walalu (Seed bangles)* are composed of metal beads that are inspired by an ayurvedic medicinal fruit known as 'nelli' (*Phyllanthus Emblica*) and coral beads.

Seri walalu (Broad bangles) 2020

Gouache on archival paper

Source: Anula Malwathugoda Collection

The *Seri walalu* (*Broad bangles*) is made up of three distinct segments that are embellished with intricate wire work, which is traditionally known as *surulu weda*.

Kalagedi walalu (Thin bangles) 2020

Gouache on archival paper

Source: Patrick and Mayanthi Nugawela Collection

The *Kalagedi walalu* (*Thin bangles*) are embellished with intricate traditional Sri Lankan floral motifs.

Havadiya (Girdle) 2020

Gouache on archival paper

Source: Aira Herath Collection

The design of this *Havadiya* (*Girdle*) is composed of flat metal flower motifs linked together in a lattice design.

Memory chain 2022

Gouache on archival paper

The *Memory Chain* is made of 22 karat gold that is coupled with blue, green, orange, red, white and yellow glass beads. The colours of the beads symbolise the cultural identity of Tamil Sri Lankans.

Mango haram necklace 2022

Gouache on archival paper

The *Mango haram* necklace preserves a traditional Tamil design that is composed of repeated mango motifs, the basis of paisley patterns. The mango tree symbolises love, fulfilment, and fertility according to Hindu culture.

Nawarathna pendant 2022

Gouache on archival paper

Nawarathna, or the nine gems, represent the nine planets – Sun, Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, Saturn, Rahu (the ascending lunar node) and Ketu (the descending lunar node) – of Indian Vedic astrology. The centre of this *Nawarathna pendant* is set with a citrine and the surrounding gemstones, clockwise from the top, include a spessartite garnet, pearl, blue sapphire, diamond, yellow sapphire, pink sapphire, emerald and a catseye.

Wedding necklace 2022

Gouache on archival paper

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Silver girdle 2022

Gouache on archival paper

The design of this *Silver girdle* is a hip chain that is composed of tiny symbols of the lūnu mala (onion flower) that are linked with silver strips. The jewellery piece epitomises Southern Sinhalese jewellery culture.

Hansa puttu padakkama (Entwined swan pendant) 2022

Gouache on archival paper

Hansa puttu padakkama (Entwined swan pendant) is made of 22 karat gold and set with diamonds and blue sapphires. The swan motif is employed in the design of padakkam (pendants) of the traditional Sri Lankan bridal regalia. The swans symbolise the unity of the wedded couple.

Thali 2022

Gouache on archival paper

The *Thali* is traditionally known as the sacred bridal necklace of Hindu culture. The groom ties the Thali around the bride's neck during the wedding ceremony.

Wedding necklace 2022

Gouache on archival paper

The *Wedding necklace* made of 22 karat gold holds a 60-year-old history. A geometric floral pattern forms the central motif of the necklace. The chain of the necklace is composed of abstracted bitter gourd seeds.

Topaz pendant 2022

Gouache on archival paper

The pendant is set with a yellow topaz gemstone and embodies the long history of European colonial influences in Sri Lanka. The large, faceted topaz gemstone is mounted on a 22 karat gold frame that includes a crown design in the centre of each ridge.

Konda koora (Hairpin) 2022

Gouache on archival paper

Konda koora (Hairpin) is set with rubies and pearls. As is typical of Konda koora, one end is arrow-shaped while the other is shaped as a boteh finial.

Wedding photograph 1959, printed 2022

Photographic print on archival paper

Source: Collection of Karunarathna Banda Malwathugoda and Leelawathie Kumarihamy

Wedding photograph 1979, printed 2022

Photographic print on archival paper

Source: Collection of Patrick and Mayanthi Nugawela

Wedding photograph 1993, printed 2022

Photographic print on archival paper

Source: Collection of Ajith and Menoji Harasgama

Aralu (Inknot) garland 2022

Copper electroformed aralu seeds, natural aralu seeds

Aralu (Inknot) garland includes a variety of aralu seeds (inknuts) that have been converted into electroformed aralu beads and assembled as a large loop resembling the gedi maalaya (seed necklace) of the traditional Sri Lankan bridal regalia. The large loop made with various types of aralu seeds expresses the wider cosmopolitan network of the Indian Ocean region.

Aralu padakkam maalaya (Inknot pendant garland) 2022

Copper electroformed aralu seeds, Bherunda Pakshi Padakkama (electroformed) with synthetic blue sapphires

Aralu padakkam maalaya (Inknot pendant garland) is composed of electroformed inknuts and a pendant. The pendant reimagines the bherunda pakshi (double-headed bird) motif. The various patinas of the aralu beads express the layered and diverse cultural influences that have shaped the cosmopolitan history of craft culture in Sri Lanka.

Aralu ata maalaya (Inknot seed necklace) 2022

Silver and gold-plated beads

Aralu ata maalaya (Inknot seed necklace) showcases two varieties of aralu seeds cast into metal beads as an expression of the abstract qualities of traditional Sri Lankan jewellery design.

Nivithi Vine (Spinach vine) 2022

Silver-plated beads, pearls

The silver beads of the *Nivithi Vine (Spinach vine)* necklace are inspired by the traditional palakka bead (nivithi or spinach fruit) and symbolise the growth of the nivithi vine. The necklace conceptually expresses a renewal of the historical cosmopolitanism of Sri Lankan crafts.

Palakka ata maalaya (Nivithi fruit garland) 2022

Gold-plated bead set with garnet cabochons, pearls

Palakka ata maalaya (Nivithi fruit garland) contains a single bead set with garnet cabochons portraying the traditional palakka bead (nivithi fruit) of Sri Lanka. The garland is composed of potato rice freshwater pearl beads. The subtle differences between the pearls celebrate the multiple imaginaries of contemporary craft culture in Sri Lanka.

Kirindhi chain (Job's tears / Adlay chain) 2022

Kirindhi seeds, gold, silver, and copper-plated beads

Kirindhi (*Coix lacryma-jobi*) seeds are produced by a tropical Asian grass that originated in South and Southeast Asia. Jewellery and ornaments made with kirindhi seeds form part of traditional Sri Lankan craft culture.

The length of the *Kirindhi Chain (Job's tears / Adlay chain)* is based on that of the longest chain of the traditional Sri Lankan bridal regalia, a chain of flat metal flower and petals motifs, known as the pethi maalaya.

Kirindhi ata maalaya (Kirindhi seed necklace) 2022

Gold and silver-plated beads

Kirindhi ata maalaya (Kirindhi seed necklace) is composed of a single gold-plated handmade bead on a strand of silver-plated cast beads. The necklace represents the coexistence of tradition and modernity in contemporary Sri Lankan crafts.

Tangled garland 2022

Gold and silver-plated beads, kirindhi seeds

Tangled garland expresses the complex interweaving of the cultural diversity of Sri Lanka crafts. The hues of the kirindhi beads range from white to black, and the silver and gold cast beads represent the labyrinth of cosmopolitanism in Sri Lankan crafts culture.

The beaded maze 2022

Gold, silver, copper-plated beads, kirindhi seeds

Knitted kirindhi beads are formed in *The beaded maze* and the necklace extends the concept of the labyrinth of cosmopolitanism as a maze.

Holi (Festival of colours) 2022

Watermelon tourmaline beads, brass tube beads

The vibrant range of colours in the *Holi* necklace reimagines the Holi festival of the Hindu communities of Sri Lanka. Holi celebrates Spring and rebirth and is known as the 'Festival of Colours'.

Amid and in between 2022

Electroformed karandamungu (cardamom) pendants, silver tube beads

The necklace *Amid and in between* is made of silver tube beads from which hang electroformed cardamom pods. The electroforming process does not eradicate the natural aroma of cardamom that emanates from the necklace. The aroma creates a sensorial space around the body that evokes memories of home for the Sri Lankan diaspora in Australia.

Unforgotten legacy 2022

Gold-plated nelli seed beads, agate beads, bherunda pakshi padakkama (electroformed) with synthetic blue sapphires

The necklace *Unforgotten legacy* combines traditional Sri Lankan beads based on the seed of the ayurvedic medicine plant nelli (*Phyllanthus emblica*) and agate beads. The central pendant articulates the bherunda pakshi (Double-headed bird) motif.

Sacred lotus 2022

Gold and silver-plated lotus beads, rose quartz and moonstone cabochons

The necklace *Sacred lotus* employs beads resembling the lotus rosette. The lotus is considered a sacred flower in both Buddhist and Hindu religious-cultural spaces. The design epitomises how the Sri Lankan diaspora in Australia maintain connections with their homeland through religious, spiritual and metaphysical practices.

Nalalpata (Headdress) 2021

Gouache on archival paper

Source: Patrick and Mayanthi Nugawela Collection

The *Nalalpata (Headdress)* is considered the most important piece of Kandyan bridal regalia and is the first item placed on the bride during preparations for the wedding ceremony. The form of the bridal headdress is strongly influenced by the traditions of South Indian jewellery.

Ira-Handa (The Sun and the Moon) 2021

Gouache on archival paper

Source: Patrick and Mayanthi Nugawela Collection

The *Ira-Handa (The Sun and the Moon)* are hairpins that are placed on either side of the bride's head in preparation for the wedding ceremony. As symbols of longevity, the sun and the moon represent the enduring relationship between the couple. The designs are influenced by South Indian jewellery.

Konda maala (Hairpin) 2020

Gouache on archival paper

Source: Patrick and Mayanthi Nugawela Collection

The design of this *Konda maala (Hairpin)* is based on a lotus motif. The lotus rosette is a feature of Indian and Sri Lankan traditional art. The lotus is considered a sacred flower in both Buddhist and Hindu cultures.