

Workshops on digital art and the control of data at Cinnamon Colomboscope 2016

The fourth edition of Cinnamon Colomboscope, presented by EUNIC Sri Lanka together with Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts, will host a series of workshops by experts in art, culture and technology as part of its extensive programme. 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 (GPO), Fort, Colombo.

Cinnamon Colomboscope 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.

To artists and creatives, the festival offers two workshops that will introduce participants to the making of electronic and digital art. 'Making Your Own Net Art by Using User-Generated Content' is a hands-on workshop on media hacking, conducted by Swiss artist, Marc Lee. In a laboratory setting, participants can learn basic tools for working with live and interactive media as well as content grabbing, and how to use these in artworks. It will use Lee's exhibited work, *Pic-Me* as an example. This workshop takes place on Thursday, 1 September from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm at the Theertha Red Dot Gallery, Colombo.

'Video In – Video Out' is designed to give participants an insight into the world of visual jockeying. It is conducted by Dhanya Pilo aka VJ DECOY, a filmmaker and visual artist based in Mumbai, India. The workshop takes place at Abans PLC, Colombo 3 thus inviting participants to relook and re-appropriate the possibilities of art practices in unconventional exhibition or performance venues. This workshop takes place on Monday, 28 August from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm, followed by a public viewing from 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm at the workshop venue.

Testing Grounds focuses on the ways in which art and society are responding to the digital shift in Sri Lanka as well as South Asia and Europe, and draws attention to current debate over the control of our data – its ownership, manipulation and surveillance. Four hands-on workshops by Tactical Technology Collective, a nongovernmental organisation based in Berlin, Germany, help smart phone and Internet users to better understand their presence in the digital landscape.

'WTF (What the Facebook)?' allows participants to explore tactics for minimising their digital trace when using popular online services on Friday, 26 August from 6.30 to 7.30 pm; 'Mastering Your Mobile' introduces participants to apps, browsers and operating systems they can use securely on Sunday, 28 August from 12.00 noon to 1.00 pm; 'Disrupting Your Digital Shadow' invites participants to experiment with tools to create, modify or minimise our 'digital shadow' on Monday 29 August from 5.00 to 6.00 pm; and 'De-Googlize Your Life' takes participants through a mini tour of the Google empire and teaches them how to 'diversify' the services they use on Wednesday 31 August, from 5.00 to 6.00 pm. All four workshops take place at GPO.

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

All workshops at Cinnamon Colomboscope 2016 are free-of-charge, but have limited capacity. To register and see requirements for a specific workshop, visit www.cinnamoncolomboscope.com.

Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts is the title sponsor of Cinnamon Colomboscope 2016 and the event is organised by EUNIC Sri Lanka comprising of the British Council, Goethe-Institut and Alliance Française de Kotte. The festival is supported by the John Keells Foundation, Cinnamon Life, Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau, MBC/MTV, iFilm Sri Lanka, Debug, Embassy of Switzerland, Embassy of the Netherlands, Turkish Embassy, German Embassy Teheran and the Université Laval. The festival is held in venue partnership with the Ministry of Post and Postal Services.

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